

Revival - Part 1

by L.E. Maxwell

Revival is a new beginning of obedience to God on the part of God's children, characterized by a sense of wonder, a new beginning of obedience, and the reproduction of spiritual life.

Duration: 50:28

Scripture: Psalm 126:5-6, Isaiah 6:8, Joel 2:25-26, Matthew 28:19-20, John 4:35, Romans 10:14-15, James 1:22

Topics: "Revival", "Awe Of God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of having a sense of wonder and awe towards God. He explains that when people lose this sense of wonder, they are in need of revival. The preacher then refers to the story of Peter and John healing a man at the temple, highlighting how Peter disclaims any power or holiness of their own and attributes the miracle to God. He concludes by urging for an awakening and unusual visitation of God in the present day, so that the heathens may also recognize and proclaim the great things God has done.

Transcript

In Joel chapter 2, we find a very pertinent scripture. Joel chapter 2, Therefore also now saith the Lord, 212, 212 of Joel, Therefore also now saith the Lord, Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning, and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful. Slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breast. Let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests and ministers of the Lord weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them.

The margin says, Use a byword against them. Wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Why, isn't that a good scripture for awakening and revival? Now, I had thought of our having just a little group here this morning. I didn't know there'd be a crowd this size at all.

But it comes to me that we don't need our first or immediate need, put it that way, is not a lot more heavy, deep Bible teaching, have made alive that which we already know. The words I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life. And if you, those of you who were here the other day, the other evening, you'll recall that those who gave testimony, and that minister who gave testimony Sunday morning, you will have noticed that there was a great deep lot of already known truth back of their lives, unacted upon, unresponded truth, unresponded to.

They knew a whole lot in the head. They had a lot of hearsay. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee.

That's the difference. And there's so much truth known today. We have enough truth to sink a battleship, I often say.

But it has so little practical living reality, so that I felt that we ought to have a little concern, a real living concern with revival. Revival is, in a sense, beginning to touch the country. I sometimes wish I had known in the days of the Lowry meetings what I have learned since.

We, I believe, could have made a far greater scoop of souls in those days. And we did, because you could go anywhere in the country and announce a meeting in the schoolhouse, and some souls would come to Christ. That's something.

That is something, especially in the country districts where, as a rule, people hadn't been thinking of God and caring little about God. And yet people would come together, they talked about the Lowry meetings, his messages, in the restaurants and on the streets, and I expect in the pool halls and bar rooms and everywhere else. Well, that is a spirit settling on the country in answer to prayer.

Because when I first came here in 1922, 22, 23, along in there, it was a rare thing to hear of a soul being saved in the country. Maybe in some camp meetings an odd soul would be saved, but very, very few. Just a very odd thing to hear of souls being saved.

And during the Lowry meetings and for some time after that, it was rather a common thing to hear of, in a country district, several souls being saved. Well, the word revival. Now, I'll be saying things that are new and old, but what difference does it make if it gets over to us? Spirit of faith and expectation for God's mighty moving and working.

The word revival has been greatly misunderstood as though it were a season of special meetings. I think you've been impressed lately, have you not, that the Sutera twins are looking for reviving work, and not merely to deliver some evangelistic messages. There's such a difference, really, between a series of evangelistic messages and meetings and what we would call revival breaking out.

Billy Graham says he's an evangelist doing the work of an evangelist. He says, I'm a candidate for revival. Now, he makes the distinction that we ought to make.

The word revival has been greatly misunderstood, though, and what are called revival services. I think that's a misnomer. It's misleading.

Dr. Ironsides tells about a time when a certain church was having difficulty getting a certain speaker for a series of meetings. He was coming. He couldn't come.

And he could, but he couldn't. And finally, the poor pastor, in distraction, came to church to announce that because so-and-so was not coming, there would be no revival this year. Uh-huh.

So we have evangelistic services, pre-publicized and pre-scheduled special meetings, special nights when they bring the oldest grandmother or the most kids. And so every night is a kind of a special, especially induced something to get a crowd, hoping they'll get more church members and the budget will step up a little and so on and so on. Oh, these are pathetic situations.

Now, the word revival suggests there has already been life. Revive. Again, life.

That's what you're saying. Life again. Life has been imparted already, but that life is ebbing, is on the way, has suffered eclipse and decline.

So Charles Finney was quite right in saying nothing else, revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God on the part of God's children, just as in the case of a converted sinner. The first step is deep repentance in a certain sense, repentance on the part of believers, getting down in deep humility, forsaking of sin. That's the ongoing and the stepping up of the Christian life, reviving again the dying embers on the altars of revival.

Of course, there can be no reviving where there's been no life to revive. But whenever Christians are revived, there will always be, there will always follow the conversion of sinners. They will step aside to see this great sight, to see what it is.

Surely God's in their midst. I wonder if we couldn't turn to a psalm. What is that psalm? Psalm 100.

Now I am stuck. We'll find it. I know where it is on the page here, if I can get the right page.

All right, 126, that's right. When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dreamed. Amen.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with singing. Then said they, now notice, Then said they where? Where? Anybody? Among the heathen. Then said they among the heathen.

The Lord hath done great things for them. Listen to what the heathen are saying. The response is what now? Let's read it all together.

The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad. Well, amen. Gladdening effects of deliverance from captivity.

Amen. All right. Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. And the margin says, In singing, he that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. My, that would make a good psalm for a good deliberate consideration.

I'd be tempted to turn aside and take that instead of the one I've got, the portion I have this morning. Well, there will always be the conversion of men. They will say among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them, whereof they are glad.

We need that kind of an awakening. That is an unusual visitation of God. Not just the usual.

There are times of visitation and then consolidation afterwards. Consolidation of ground already gave. But there are seasons of special manifestation and visitation.

I don't know that you can have the same heavy, mighty, unusual visitation all the time year round. I think it would wear out of its effect. Familiarity, in a sense, would breed contempt.

Well, but there are times when we need special visitation. And I think we're in one of those times now. I really do.

Because the heathen are saying today, Where is their God? The God is dead movement and all that. Don't you see? The heathen are saying it. But why should they be able to say it? Lord, turn again our captivity, that the heathen may have to say, The Lord has done something there again.

Ah, that's what we want. All right. The time has come that judgment must begin where? 1 Peter 4 and 18, I think it is.

The time has come that judgment must begin at the house of God. Sin judged by the believer, his own sins, and sinners feel the impact. When the saints feel the wickedness of sin, the worldly man says, Well, if they feel like that about it, what's going to happen to me? I thought so-and-so was a saintly fellow.

And he's bewailing his imperfections and his sins and his failures. Well, if he's crying like that over his condition, what must my condition be? Now, that's the way the impact works. And if the judgment first begin at us, what shall be the end of them that know not God and that fear not God? What shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel? If judgment has to begin with us, see, which it does.

Revival in them means God manifesting himself through human life, through spirit-filled channels and vessels, his redeeming power bursting forth in fruits and praise and righteousness and holiness, the reproduction of spiritual life, and the flesh incarnation of the gladness and rapture of the gospel. People intoxicated with new wine and a heart cry for redeeming power in God's visitation of man. Oh, beloved, you know that revival is the only possible answer to the situation of the present day.

Otherwise, there's no hope. We're just more or less marking time, going in circles and keeping our Churchianity head above water. That's about all we're doing.

We're getting a little done, but there's no impact. The heathen are not saying, the Lord has done great things for them whereof they are glad. They're not saying that yet.

I like this place. Turn to Acts 3. I love this passage. Acts chapter 3. Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer being the ninth hour, and a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple, which is called Beautiful.

Such Peter fastened his eyes upon him with John and said, Look on us. I'm glad he wasn't so ultra-humble that he couldn't say that. You know, some of us are so humble.

I don't want you to look at me. I don't want you to see me. I want you to just see the Lord.

Well, hallelujah! Very well. So far, so good. But why shouldn't they see the Lord if they look on you? What are you so humble about? I don't want you to look on me.

I just want you to look at the Lord. What you mean is, I don't want to have the Lord so living in me that if they look at me they're going to see the Lord. Come on.

Come right out of your hole now. Some of the people said, Good. Peter fastened his eyes upon him with John and said, Look on us.

Look here. Here. Right here, please, your attention.

Right now. Look here. Look on us.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. He's looking for a copper. And Peter said, Silver and gold have I none, but what I have, that I give.

You can't give what you don't have. Huh? Such as I have, give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get on your feet and get going.

Christianity puts people on their feet, by the way. And if you've got anything worth giving, it puts people on their feet. And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God, and all the people saw. Uh-huh. Saw him walking and praising God, and they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the beautiful gate of the temple.

And they were filled with wonder and amazement at the fact which had happened unto him. And as the lame man which was healed, hailed Peter and John. Can't you see the fellow? He had one apostle in his left hand and another apostle in his right hand.

And he had, he'd laid hold of these two fellows. Look here, these two guys. I could just see him leaping on both his feet and had an apostle in each hand.

Wasn't he going places? Oh, amen. Ha, ha. He was worrying.

He was going on all fours, wasn't he? Amen. As the lame man which was healed hailed Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the course that is called Solomon's greatly what? Wondering. That's twice over to talk about wonder.

When people lose a sense of wonder, now listen, put positively, when you finally come to have a sense of the wonder-working of God and have an awareness of God, that's revival. When you lose a sense of wonder, you need to have revival. These were wondering.

And when Peter saw it, now look, look at the good combination here. When Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this, or why look ye so earnestly on us? Now, now, he's disclaiming any and all honor. Ha, ha.

A minute, a moment ago, look on us, come here, give me your attention. In the name of Jesus, get up and get going. And the people come admiring now, admiring Peter and John.

Ha, ha, look, these men are the servants of the Most High God. They do miracles. Wonderful fellows, these.

Why are you talking about, why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power and holiness we'd made this man to walk? God has glorified his Son, Jesus Christ. That's what, that accounts for all this. You see, he's identified, in the first instance, he dissociates himself from all glory and honor in the second.

That's a good wholesome position, isn't it? That's identification, using the authority of the name of Christ, dissociating himself so completely that God gets all the glory. Is that a good combination? Amen. What a sense of wonder.

Reminds me of the incident that I so often tell in connection with Revival, about a fellow by the name of Williams. I think I have his article someplace stashed away under the dust heaps of my stuff. But he was a man that could write on anything from a needle to a threshing machine at a moment's notice.

Quite a columnist. And when the Wales Revival broke out, his editorial seniors told him to go down to Wales and write up the Revival. They knew what it was, just so much emotion, and so on and so on.

But the rumor was running over the country about the Wales Revival. It was so mighty a revival that even the mules down in the mines wouldn't work anymore because they were used to swearing and clubbing and cursing and kicking. And the saints down in the mines had become so civil and so sensible and so saintly that they didn't kick and curse and club the mules anymore, and the mules wouldn't work.

Yes, that's the history of the Wales Revival. So even the mules got the effect of it down in the mines. Well, this fellow, this fellow, and the preacher, his preacher, one of these no-good parasites, his preacher went down to write up the Revival.

Well, they all knew what it was. And so the preacher, the preacher's mother was down there in the center of the Revival. So they naturally went to her house.

They got there about ten o'clock at night. Uh-huh. Now, where's mother? says the preacher.

Oh, she's down at the meeting. Ten o'clock? What? Meeting? This time of night? Nah. No.

And this man, Williams, this columnist that was sent there to write up God, he decided, he says, this is what we came here for. I'm going to meet you right now. Now we're going to see this thing.

We're going to see. They wouldn't be there until ten o'clock at night unless you see motion, and that's what it is. I'm going right down there.

No, I'm going to bed, says the preacher. Well, the two of them, I guess, finally went. And the columnist dragging the preacher along, and they went down there, and there they were sitting there, and the local preacher was sitting there in tears in the midst of a lot of young people.

It was a young people's meeting, and the kids were sitting there all glowing, happy, tearful, rejoicing, and sharing and so on. And finally the preacher looked up. Brother, have you a word from the Lord for us? A word from the Lord.

He says, if he'd asked me to make a speech, I could have done that. But to put it like that, have you a word from the Lord for us? He said, that was a question that was baffling. And he says, if he'd asked me, and he was such a man that he could have spoken on most any subject on a moment's notice.

He was just so versatile, clever. He became head of a mission later after he got right with God. Well, there he was, and he looked at all those children, and their eager, expectant faces.

What is the stranger going to give us now? Eyes all turned on him, and he looked at them, and he says, I opened my mouth, and a thing would come out. Well, everything came out that was in. He says, and opened my mouth, and the most eloquent sermon I ever preached in my life.

I said, nothing. My, I look back in the time in Kansas City when I was asked to teach a Sunday school class before I was saved. I was earnest, and I wanted to do better.

And I got to that Sunday school class, and I can still see and feel the way I felt. Those two or three boys there, and I literally had nothing to say. Couldn't open my mouth without putting my foot in it.

And so there I was, and there this fellow was, and finally, do you know what he said? He looked at all these tear-stained faces and all these hungry little youngsters, and he said, oh, children, pray for me. And they all gathered around him and pulled his coat. God bless you, mister.

We'll pray for you. Wasn't that, wasn't that being caught nicely? Just imagine that high-brow piece of machinery going to write up God, and the kids come around, a little child shall lead them, and tug at his coat. God bless you, mister.

We'll pray for you. Well, he went, he went, finally he went back. He was all confused yet, of course.

He went back to the house and couldn't sleep a wink that night. And then the preacher accounted for that. You know, you're unstrung.

You shouldn't have gone to that meeting too late. I guess the preacher went to bed and slept the sound as a dead onion would. He didn't have any, he had no convictions about anything.

But this man, Williams, couldn't sleep all night, didn't sleep a wink. He was so absolutely convicted but not converted yet. The next morning they got up and took a train where they heard that Evan Roberts was the head of the, he was the nominal head of the Wales Revival.

And so they took a train where he was. And on the train they wondered if they were going to get off the right station, I guess. So he, Williams said to the porter, where's Evan Roberts? I don't know, he says.

I don't know. Well, porter, where's the Revival? I don't know, but it's in me. Porter on the train.

He was being revived in his own soul. And so they got off the place, supposedly, and went to the church. And there the church was packed full of people early in the morning.

Early in the morning. When did this meeting begin? Last night, six o'clock. And there they were, and he walked in, and they were singing, The Lamb, the Lamb that died for me, as only the Welsh could sing it.

Such harmony, such glory. He says, I saw it all. And there he was gloriously converted and became an out-and-out leader in the Church of Christ in Wales.

And he was the head of the Northeast India General Mission for years. Well, a sense, and he's the one that, he's the one where I got that phrase about Acts 3. When you lose a sense of wonder, that's what overcame him that night, just a sense of wonder, the awe, the grandeur, the glory of the inescapable

divine presence. That's what we need.

We had a little of it the other night, but, oh, beloved, nothing as it might be yet, nothing as it may be. I'll give you more of that as we go along. We need a sense of awe, a sense of wonder, a sense of the divine presence.

One of the biggest things we need, which a real sense of real revival will bring, a holy reverence and an exposure of immorality and sin. That's what we're going to see. Until we see that, we haven't got much of a spiritual revival.

The holiness of God hates this sin business. And we've got it on every bookshelf, on every newsstand, and in every paper, and over the radio, the four-letter words that are used all the time. And less than ten years ago, they'd have been put off the air for using the very words they're using now.

And nobody's saying a word now. Nobody's caring. We need a sense of reverence and a sense of the awareness of God.

Somebody has put it like this. When God is going to do something wonderful, He begins with a difficulty. And when He's going to do something very wonderful, He begins with an impossibility.

Amen. That's God doing strange and wonderful things. Now, one of the best expressions for revival you find in Acts 3.19. Times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

That's revival. Times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3.19. In the Wales revival, I had with me on my first mission field out here in the West, a man by the name of Young.

He was an oldster, about 65 or 70 at the time. Well, that's getting up to middle age. Anyway.

And he told me about the Wales revival. Marvels of the Wales revival. He'd seen it.

And he had the language. He was a good evangelist. And I said, Mr. Young, it must have been easy to preach in those days.

He said, preach? You felt like crawling in a hole, brother. You see how little... I had not been through such a thing. I didn't understand it.

That's just how little people who haven't been through revival, how little they understand what revival is. I said, must have been easy to preach in those days. Lots of the Spirit, easy to preach.

He says, no, you don't feel it. Nobody wanted to preach. He said, meetings were held and there hardly was any preaching at all.

The awareness of God. People getting right with God. Confessing their sins and sharing their life and joy.

That was revival. That's what he said, the Wales revival. Now revival, strictly speaking, here's what a man of God says.

Joseph Kemp of New Zealand was a great man of God. He said this, revival, strictly speaking, means the reanimating of that which is already living but is in a state of declension. It has to do principally with the church as a whole and Christians as individuals.

See this? Evangelism in our usage of the word as well as in its derivative sense refers primarily, evangelism refers primarily to the proclamation of the gospel to the unsaved. To make evangelism a synonym of revivalism is untrue to the teaching of the New Testament. The church is responsible for evangelism, for revival in the last analysis we are cast upon the sovereign grace and mercy of God.

Revival is of God. Now that doesn't mean there are not conditions for revival. There are plenty of them.

We have to meet them. But after all, revival is from God. The Holy Ghost sent down from heaven.

Amen. In Hezekiah's day, they rejoiced in all the people that God had prepared the people for the thing was done suddenly. Sovereignty of God is the divine side of revival.

The human conditions which must be met in prayer and confession, repentance and faith and so on, that's the human side of revival. But both sides are true. If you're going to just sit down and wait for God to send a kind of a bombshell from heaven, no, you're not meeting the conditions.

You'll find that in revivals in the book of Acts, nearly every one of those many revivals in the book of Acts and in the Old Testament, revival is invariably accompanied by a session of waiting, confessing, getting right with God on the human side. Prayer, much prayer. Now the need for revival.

Wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? The need for revival. The meaning of revival we've seen a little bit of. Now the need.

It's easy to exaggerate, but it can perhaps be truly said that as far as Christendom is concerned, we are in desperate need. The one answer to the situation is revival. Either it is revival in our hearts, somebody says, you will have revival in your hearts or revolution in your streets.

We're getting the revolution in our streets because there's very little revival. It's very scattered, just a little bit here and there. The thing I noticed, pardon me, the thing I noticed is that if there's a little bit of revival in Ashbury or Prince George or Abbotsford or Prairie or someplace like that, there's just a little bit.

Well, praise God, we've got a big revival in the country. Oh brother, you're getting satisfied too easily, too quickly. Next to nothing as compared to real awakenings.

It's supposed that Charles Finney single-handed won a half a million souls to the Lord in about 12 months' time. What do you think of that for revival? A hundred thousand Christians were added to the churches in a very few weeks. That's a real moving, isn't it? And what's going on in Indonesia now? Oh, it's hard to sift it out just to get to the facts.

But it looks, and a Mr. Cook who writes on revival in Indonesia, quite a book, he says that, there's not a doubt, but he says this is the greatest thing since the days of Pentecost, where an odd case has actually risen from the dead and marvels and wonders are taking place and people being swept into the kingdom, even a lot of Mohammedans who are the unconvertibles, supposedly. Well, it's revival in our hearts or revolution in our streets where there's no vision. Listen to this.

I want to write this up for the Overcomer one of these days, just a little World Today item. Where there's no vision, the people perish or they throw off all moral restraint. Is that a picture of the modern day? Are people throwing off all moral restraint? What's the matter? Among God's people there's no vision.

No moral restraint anymore then. The salt is losing its flavor. The earth is rotting with a vengeance.

Just yesterday I had an interview. The CBC gave me the once over. I don't know how much they're going to put on the air, but I don't care.

But they asked me, what about this moral slump and what do you mean by that and so on? What do you think it's going to be? Will it get better or worse and so on? Well, I said, Jesus likened the church to salt and if the salt loses its flavor, the earth's going to rot. And I said, we haven't enough salt in the country to stay the corruption. The salt has lost its flavor.

And I said, there's nothing, there's no hope for us but further moral corruption and slump. Human nature being what it is, there's nothing for us but that. And so I just told them frankly, that's exactly what it's going to be.

But if you get enough born again people, to make salt, the salt will have a keeping effect, a saving, conserving, non-corrupting effect. It'll keep from corruption if the salt has not lost its flavor. Then I used the illustration, I used the illustration from Rochester, New York, where Charles Finney held a series of meetings in Rochester many years ago, way back over a century ago now.

Many of the business people in that place were converted, leading men. Finney was a lawyer and a fearless man if there ever was. And he so preached that many believed.

And many years after that, the attorney, the county attorney who had the prosecution of crime in that area came to Mr. Finney and he said, Do you know the effects of that revival years ago? Rochester has grown to three times its size as a city. But there is not now one-third as much crime in Rochester as there was before the revival, which meant 900% change. Well, that's the effect of salt.

It stays the corruption. And with the increasing corruption that we've got today in crime, the only one answer, it's God's people with enough savor, sweet savor of the salt, to stay the corruption. But if not, we're in for it, we're in for it.

Listen, you want another instance of it? In the days of the Westleys in Britain, the Westleys in Whitfield when they came on the scene in Britain, here's a characterizing little sentence. Death in the churches, rottenness in public morals, infidelity coming in like a flood. That was in the days of the Westleys.

Death in the churches, rottenness in public morals, infidelity everywhere. In fact, it's something like it is in Philadelphia. People are having to move out of the city of Philadelphia, a lot of them, get out of the place because crime is so rampant in the city of Philadelphia.

I was there just a block away. I was at the OMF for dinner, the Overseas Missionary Fellowship for dinner, and then right around the corner I stayed with the Gordon Duns, just a block away. And they said, here's the key to the house now so you can go and come, but whatever you do, be sure the door is well locked because robbers walk right into the daytime here now.

And it's right in the area, nice, decent-looking area, but you can just expect maybe to get waylaid in the middle of the day or the house invaded. They just walk in. And haven't you noticed now you hear about eight and nine, ten-year-old little gangs that are robbing houses, robbing houses, robbing houses, nine and ten-year-olds.

What in the world? One of them daddies and mothers. Oh, oh, oh. My, you ache, and that kind of thing is going to increase.

The human heart, I said to CBC yesterday, the human heart being what it is, it's going to get worse. Nothing to stop it, nothing to stop it. You see, the wicked notion today is that human nature is unfortunate, physically a little something wrong, nervously needing psychiatric treatment, and so the psychologists and the physiologists and all the rest of the philosophers all gang up that this dear boy that did this, he meant well, even though he killed his mother-in-law with a club.

He's just unfortunate. He's not a criminal. Well, what in the world are we coming to? All based on our stupid ignorance of the depravity of the human heart.

Do you get it? I could make a prescription that would settle a lot of this crime business in a hurry if they'd listen, but they won't. I don't expect them to. The world couldn't take it.

The world wouldn't take it. Give them 40 lashes, save one, and they wouldn't have a lot of penitentiaries to build and support and a lot of psychiatrists to pay and the taxes to know in. Give them 40 lashes, they'll quit it.

They'll quit it so fast, it'll surprise them as well as others. That's the last thing in the world a criminal wants is 40 lashes. They tell me that they often faint and drop as good as dead before they get 10.

It's so terrible. Oh, the way it cuts them up. But that is what crime deserves, and they ought to get it.

If they won't learn by grace, let them learn by law. That's God's remedy. But where there's no vision, God's people have lost their vision, then there is no moral restraint.

That's Proverbs 29.18, if you wish it. Proverbs 29.18. Now, the cry of Isaiah sets forth this desperate need in the midst of our appalling moral darkness and spiritual deterioration. Isaiah 64, 1 to 3. You can write that down if you like.

It's a great revival scripture. It is terrible things which we looked not for. Thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence.

The last thing in the world that can happen to a mountain is to flow down. And yet that's the kind of thing, when God moves, say unto this mountain, be thou removed. Oh, that thou would rend the heavens and come down.

Let the mountains flow down. Consider the feeling today, beloved. Consider the feeling everywhere of uncertainty and instability today.

The future holding no sure promise of peace or safety, much less of prosperity. We're just being torn asunder seven ways in suspicion. Look at the suspicion now that's being gendered between Canada and the United States.

And here's Britain sending back 105 spies to Russia and Canada flirting with Russia and entertaining her rulers. And flirting with Red China. And, oh, what's it all about? We don't know what we're doing.

Cross currents of the worst type upon the earth, distress of nations with perplexity, men's hearts failing them for fear, looking after those things coming to pass on the earth for there shall be great distress of nations. Ah, we're there. I was telling, I gave them on the CBC, I gave them this yesterday.

I said, I've got a text of scripture. Nation was destroyed of nations, for God did vex them with all adversity. I said, that's what God's doing.

Because, I said, the only remedy for departure from light is judgment. That's what I told them. Judgment's the only remedy when the nation's turned out.

I said, the Orient hasn't had as much light as we've turned down. We've turned down more light than they ever have. And we're going to get it.

The results are going to come on us. As it was in the days of Noah, I told them, so it shall be in the days of the coming of Christ. As it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.

What, you're preaching to unsaved men? Well, amen. What difference does it make? They're the fellows that need it, aren't they? Amen. Oh, hallelujah.

I don't mind falling into the midst of some of these fellows. It gives me a good chance. Take no thought in that hour what you're going to say.

It shall be given you. Amen. Amen.

I've had some good times with these boys. Oh, these were easy yesterday as compared to others. Now, in recent years, there's developed so much change and unreliability and instability that all the classes of people share the same fears and express the same doubts and wonder, what is coming next? The U.S. News and World Report had a big article a year or so ago, The World in a Mess, and doomed to get messier.

That's where it is now. All right. Death in the churches, rottenness in public morals, infidelity coming in like a flood.

We ought to feel much at home as it was in the days of the Westleys. Huh? And getting worse so that you can't walk out safely at noontime either. Don't lock yourself in your house if you ought to keep from getting robbed.

Then they'll bang the door in and get you. Now, there's little, listen, there's little moving in of God so that people want to live holy lives. Among God's people, there's very little invasion of God to make God's people want to live holy lives.

Now, that's a condition that's rife everywhere. Do you know what's happening? Audiences sit and listen week by week to lots of good teaching without any evidence of being transformed, without any desire to live spiritual lives, no evidence of having met with God, no transformation of life. I've heard that down on the West Coast a lot of preachers, evangelical fundamental preachers, are quitting.

They're going to go into business. At least they're going to do something because they're just preaching to a lot of people with a pneumonia week after week after week after week after week and getting nowhere, getting no results. Now, I blame the preacher.

He shouldn't quit. But nevertheless, they're discouraged. They're defeated, and they don't have the answer.

The answer is personal revival and then some Elijahs and John the Baptist to point out God's people, their sins, and get some results, even if you have to sift them out and send the most of them away and then start again. But at least get something done. Not being able to get anything done, they're just quitting because they're just going through the motions and drawing their salaries and drawing their breath.

But here's a man who experienced revival in his church in Ohio. He writes this. Stephen Offord quoted this.

I am very often in a spirit of mourning over the state of American church. America has a leading part in the Christian world and sends out many missionaries, but they can never rise above the spiritual level of their home church. Unless you have true revival here, this man was a missionary himself in India.

He says, unless you have revival here, we in the foreign lands are going to be hit hard if you keep sending out missionaries to us. Your shallowness will reflect on us. Now, beloved, don't wonder if we're trying to uphold some standards here.

We're trying to save a situation, and we're trying to train disciplined soldiers for Christ. And the RCMP can discipline them, make them line up, and the Marines still do some of it. But if you try to do a little of it in God's church, then the saints begin to howl, Oh, Mr. Maxwell, your regulations are so unnatural.

What you mean is they don't make too much room for the flesh, and you want it. That's about all it is to it. And what shall we say about a growing number of ... They tell me the growing number, with the growing turn and trend in a lot of educational circles to higher training, higher learning, and all that, the missionary output and volunteers are falling off correspondingly.

You'd think they ought to go up, wouldn't you? Better qualified? Better qualified, therefore more missionaries. Ah, look out. If you cater to the flesh, to the high-brow-ism, good education's a good thing.

If it's well sanctified, but you've got to kill them all first. Yes, the lesser of the dead that die in the Lord. But you can't educate the flesh and reap in the Spirit.

Did you hear that? Some of you haven't. You don't dare hear it. Surely it will require a revival and a fullness of overflow if ever the need for missionary personnel is to be forthcoming.

The demand for higher academic training, yet a fall off in consecrated soldiers for service. Isn't that something? Now, we'd better quit right there in order to give you proper time, a little lap between here and the next meeting, and we'll maybe begin right here. I got about halfway through this morning.

Amen.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/2/SID2828.mp3>
Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/le-maxwell/revival-part-1/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net