

Revival & Reformation

Lesson 1 – Revival: Our Great Need

Lesson Notes online

Revelation 3:20 NKJV “ *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me* ”.

Michelle Funk was only left alone for a few minutes that day in June 1986. It was long enough. She fell into the icy, runoff swollen waters of Bell Canyon Creek, which winds through southeast Salt Lake County near her parent's home. Sixty-six minutes later, when a diver pulled Michelle from the creek approximately 150 feet from where she had fallen in, she was lifeless, her small body frozen by the 40-degree water. It was the icy temperature of the water, along with its cleanliness, that allowed Michelle to be saved by doctors at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City Today, Michelle is a normal 27 year old, and shows no signs of her traumatic experience. The 66 minutes Michelle spent in the creek was "the longest documented submersion with an intact neurological outcome,"

Jeremiah 8:5 (NKJV) ⁵ *Why has this people slidden back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit, They refuse to return.*

Hosea 11:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him.*

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs.”—*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121.

Laodicea is the last church in Revelation's sequence of seven churches. The name means, is also a fitting symbol for God's last-day people.

Laodicea Means... Antiochus II colonized it between 261 and 246 B.C., and gave it the name of his wife, Laodice. It had received from Rome the title of free city, and its wealthy citizens embellished it with beautiful monuments. Laodicea's name signifies either "**Just people**," or "**the judging of the people**"; signifying this church will live during the first phase of judgment.

Their problem is not immorality, or idolatry or heresy Their sin is more subtle. Their sin is lukewarmness. Jesus means is that they are indistinguishable from the world around them, slumbering in their materialistic spiritual stupor.

1 Peter 4:17 says: “*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*”

Ezekiel 9:4–6 and the Lord said to him, “*Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.*” ⁵ To the others He said in my hearing, “*Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity.*” ⁶ *Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.*” So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17–22 (NKJV) *Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*” ¹⁹ *You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.” Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

Hope for Lukewarm Laodiceans The Problem **Read Revelation 3:14-22**

Revelation 3:14–15 (NKJV) “*And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:’*” ¹⁵ “*I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.*”

Hot or Cold?

***Revelation 3:15–16** (NKJV) “*I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.*” ¹⁶ *So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.* Hot mineral water is good for bathing. Cold water is great for quenching thirst but lukewarm is neither refreshing or therapeutic.

They simmer but never boil, smug, tepid, unenthusiastic, indifferent, Like carbonated drink that has gone flat

Smug indifference is more offensive to God than apostasy or hypocrisy. Some soup made hot, some served cold.

Mat 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.* **Luke 18:10–14** *“Two men went up to the temple to pray...”*

Rev 3:16 *So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.* *em-eh'-o - to vomit: spue, spit, eject, expel.* I have a friend who had a cruel prank played on him in elementary school. He was tricked into drinking a small carton of very sour curdled milk that had been in someone's warm gym locker for a month. Have you ever started to drink something then realized it tasted very wrong?

Matthew 27:33–34 *And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.* **I ate a hot pepper in Indonesia that I should have spit out.**

2Cor 7:11 *For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge!*

***2 Chr 7:14, 15** *"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. "Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.*

John 3:10–11 (NKJV) *Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?”¹¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.*

First Creator

Revelation 3:14 *And to the angel of the church of the Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the (beginning, Chief, Head) of the creation of God, says these things: (MKJV)*

Colossians 1:13–17 (NKJV) *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

***Hebrews 1:1–2** (NKJV) *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

Ephesians 3:9 (NKJV) *...and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;*

If Jesus Made all life only He can revive it

A Loving Rebuke

Proverbs 3:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ *My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction;¹² For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Hebrews 12:7–11 (NKJV) *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

***Job 5:17–18** (NKJV) *“Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.*

Psalms 94:12 (NKJV) *Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, And teach out of Your law,*

Perception and Reality

To be seen of men...?

Matthew 24:1–2 (NKJV) *Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.² And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”*

Matthew 25:1–13. What are the similarities between the foolish virgins and the members of the church at Laodicea?

The Divine Remedy

2 Peter 1:3–4 (NKJV) *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

***2 Corinthians 1:20** (NKJV) *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

Zechariah 3:1–5 (NKJV) *Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. ⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.*

The gold he offers is without alloy, more precious than that of Ophir; for it is faith and love. "The white raiment he invites the soul to wear is his own robes of righteousness, and the oil for anointing is the oil of his grace, which will give spiritual eyesight to the soul in blindness and darkness.

"Jesus knocks; He doesn't break down the door and force His way in. What this means is that, in the end, regardless of what God is willing to do for us, we must make the choice to let Him in."

A man was driving through a mining region one Sunday when he noticed a large number of mules in an open field. When he inquired about this unusual sight, he was told that the work animals had been brought up from the dark passages below to preserve their eyesight. Unless they were regularly exposed to the sunlight, they would eventually go blind.

A woman named **Rose Crawford** had been blind for 50 years. "I just can't believe it!" she gasped as the doctor lifted the bandages from her eyes after her recovery from delicate surgery in an Ontario hospital. She wept for joy when for the first time in her life a dazzling and

beautiful world of form and color greeted eyes that now were able to see. The amazing thing about the story, however, is that 20 years of her blindness had been unnecessary. She didn't know that surgical techniques had been developed, and that an operation could have restored her vision at the age of 30. The doctor said, "She just figured there was nothing that could be done about her condition. Much of her life could have been different."

A Relentless Love

Song of Solomon 5:2–6 (NKJV) ² *I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night." ³ I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them? ⁴ My beloved put his hand By the latch of the door, And my heart yearned for him. ⁵ I arose to open for my beloved, And my hands dripped with myrrh, My fingers with liquid myrrh, On the handles of the lock. ⁶ I opened for my beloved, But my beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when he spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.*

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. ... The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.

In many of the revivals which have occurred during the last half century, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future. There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived. In the light of God's word it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God's blessing is not bestowed." GC 464

So What Does A Revival Look Like?

A Full Church? No, You can give away free donuts and fill a church. A revival may not always mean the church grows. Sometimes a revival will shrink a church before it grows.

Feelings of ecstasy? No, chemicals and drugs can do that

Hundreds of Baptisms? I have seen evangelists bribe for baptisms.

When separated brethren forgive each other.

When strained marriages are healed and restored.

Holiness, godliness, spiritual power Hunger for the Word...

- Revival is the predictable outcome of God's people turning to him with fasting, prayer, and repentance. - Charles Finney
- We cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again. - G. Campbell Morgan
- Billy Sunday "The church today is like a squirrel in a cage. Much activity, but no progress."
- Indifference and Apostasy are opposite of revival and reformation.

1. Realize Your Condition- & Pray

Hag 1:7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways!

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Complacency is the deadly enemy of spiritual health. The stationary soul is the stagnant soul.

2. Read The Word Of God. & Pray

Acts 6:4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

3. Assemble with Christians & Pray

Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. To desire revival, for instance, and at the same time to neglect prayer and devotions is to wish one way and walk another.

4. Humbly Confess, Repent and forsake your sins. & Pray

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Prov 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

It is our wretched habit of tolerating sin that keeps us half-dead.

5. Right Whatever Wrongs Possible

Mat 5:24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

If you owe a debt, pay it, or at least have a frank understanding with your creditor about your intentions to pay. If you have quarreled with anyone, go as far as you can in an effort to achieve reconciliation.

6. Share your Experience

James 5:19, 20 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. The only way to keep a revival is to give it away!

7. Believe In God and Seek First His Kingdom

Mat 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and **His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you. **Keep Christ Central!**

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Begin to expect. Look up toward the throne where your Advocate sits at the right hand of God. All heaven is on your side. God will not disappoint you.