

JULY 4TH 2015

>>>>This pst wk, I was reading an article in USATdy ab theupcoming 2016 presidential election

*It pointd out tht Prs. Harry Truman (1945-1952)often called America a “Christian nation”

*But tht in 2006, Pres Obama said:
“We are no longer a Christian nation—at least, not just. We are ..also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, & a nation of non-bel’vers

*The article went on to say tht Amer’s
”who report no religious affiliation --the ‘nones’—are increasing.”

*& thus, candidates no longer need to appeal to God...or end their speeches with “Gd bless Amer”..in order to get elected

*Article ends with Dr. Molly Worthen (prof of history at UNC-CH)...

*Noting tht aetheists & agnostics—

including French President
Francois Hollande—have won
national elections in W. Eurpe

*Thn says:“Look at W Eupe. Soonr
or ltr, tht’s whre we’re headed

>>>>Now—it was this final quote tht
really hit me

*We all know tht W. European soc is
in serious trouble these days

*Wht U may not know—is tht in 2004

**Whn the EU was finalizing its
constitution

**Some delegates wanted to
mention Europe’s Chr heritage
in the preface of the constit’n

**But thn-Frnch-pres Valery Giscard
d’Estaing led the charge agst this

**He: “Europeans live in a purely
secular polit systm, whre religion
does not play *any* impt role.”

**& his position carried the day

*James Gannon (Is Gd Dead in Erpe?)

“Wstern Erpe, the cradle of modern
Chr’ty, has become a ‘post-Chr’n
society’ in which the ruling class &

cultural ldrs are anti-religious & Christophobic.”

*Concludes:“Erpe is showing us whre this path leads--& it is not the right path for America.”

>>>>This is why Dr. Worthen’s comment (“Look at W Eupe. Sooner or ltr, tht’s whre we’re headed”)scares me to death

*Partly bec of what tht mns fr Amer

*& partly bec I think she’s right

>>>SHE’S “RIGHT”—THT IS—UNLESS...

*Gd steps in & brings revival to Amr

>>So as we look forward to July 4th 2015

*This is wht I want us to talk ab tdy

SAY:“Lon, this=wht U tlkd ab last Jly 4th

A: U’re right!

*& I’m gonna keep talking abt it

*& I’m gonna keep praying for it

*& I’m gonna keep hanging onto Gd

*BEC—my fellw Amer’s—it’s the only hope we’ve got left

I-WHT EXCTLY IS A REVIVAL?

A. A “revival” = a pwrful moving of HS upon ple—tht ovrwhelms entire chches colleges/cities/even entire nations

B. A **“revival”** is a *supernt'l* event...

1. It's not the result of hmn planning
or programming or organizing

2. But it's the result of Gd's sov will

ILLUST: Authur Wallis (In the Day of
Thy Power)-“Revival is divine

intervention in the normal course of
things. It is Gd revealing Himself in
awful holiness & irresistible pwr.”

*“In revival, the chrch is awakened,
carnality & worldliness are slain,
the lukewrm are made hot, the ple
of Gd begin to purify thmslves...&
evry segment of society is affected”

C. This is wht separates a true “revival”
frm the nrml evrydy wrk of the chrch

1. “Revival” is not just leading ple to
Christ & discipling them

2. “Revival”= like a spirit'l tsunami!

*Leaving in its wake...

*A righteous trnsfrmtion of sciety
tht last fr decades

ILLT: It's like a “sp tsunami”!!

SAY: “Lon—nice thot—but rcally poss?”

A: “Absolutely! Gd's done this before!”

II-Let's go bck to colonial America

A. The chch occupied a pre-eminent role in the Amer colonies of the 1600's...

B. & the chrch used tht role to exert a powerful influence on Amer society

C. But by 1740's—tht role was gone

1. Amr'n soc'ty had drifted into deism

*Whre Gd's unconnectd to pple

*Whre a pers relat w/Chst is

unheard of

*& "being brn again" is unpreachd

2. Imorality became rampant

3. Harvard/Yale/Dartmouth...

*Once bastions of true Chr'ty...

*Where gdly preachers had been trained by the 100's...

*Became the breeding-ground for liberral theology

*Fillng America's pulpits with uncnvrtcd ministers

*Who led 1000's of colonists to hell

D. George Whitefield (Journal 1740): "Fr

I am persuaded tht the generality of preachers in America now talk of an unknown & an unfelt Christ"

1. “& thus, [I LOVE THIS] the rsn why congregations are so dead is bec they have dead men preaching to thm; fr how can dead men beget living children?”

E. & so what did Whitefield DO??

F. Well--beginning in 1739—he began going right to the Amer’n people

1. Preaching up & dwn the colonies—
in the open air—for 30 yrs!
2. W’d rode ovr 250Kmi on horsebck
3. He preached ovr 18K sermons
4. Calling pple to confess their sins/
give their lives to a personal Gd
5. 1000’s upon 1000’s came to Chst
6. All of Amr’n society was changd

ILLT: Benj Franklin(didn’t come to Chst):
(re: Phila)-“It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manner of our inhabitants.

*”Frm being thotless or indifferent ab religion, it seemd as if all the whole wrld were growing religious, so tht one cld not walk thru the tw’n in the evening w/out hearing psalms being

sung in diff families along the way”

IL: Jnathan Edwards-“Thre was as much accomplished sp’lly in a day or two as ordinarily might be done in a year”

ILT: Historian Wm. Dallimore: “The G.A. exerted a force whch left the colonies alterd frvr..the civil rghts dmnstrtions, campus disturbances, & urban riots of the 60’s all put tgether did not mke the impact on our national life tht G.A. did

G. The G.A. was followed in America by:
 1. The 2nd G. Awakening (1800-1803)
 2. Revival of 1830-31 w/Chrles Finney
 3. The 3rd G. Awakening (1858-99) led by ministry of Dwight L. Moody

III- SO WHAT (NICE HIST’RY LSN)

A. Whu it comes to “revival”—the hvns’ve been relatively quiet fr last **125yrs**

B. But I’m convinced Gd doesn’t want the heavens to stay that way!

C. I’m cnvinced HS wants to do it again

D. But as we’ve sccn-revivl is a wrk of HS

E. We don’t plan/prgrm/schedule/mnge it

F. **BUT**—there’re 3 things we as F’sOC must do to prepare the soil for it

G. 2 Chr 7:14-“If My ple, who are calld by My name, will(1) **HUMBLE** slves & (2) **PRAY** & seek My face &(3) **TURN** frm their wicked ways...then I will hear frm hvn & will forgive their sin & will heal their land”

H. #1-“If My ple, who are called by My name, will **HUMBLE** thmselves...”

1. 1st-Gd will **NOT** send “revival” onto arrogant soil

2. Brokn hrts ovr sin=whre rev starts

3. Joel 2:12-“‘Threfore,’ says the Lrd, ‘turn to Me w/all yur hrt; with fasting, weeping, & mourning; & tear yur hrts & not yur clothes

4. Ps. 51:17-“The sac’s of Gd are a brken spirit; a brken & a contrite heart, O God, U will not despise.

5. Whn=last x we HUMBLED slvs bfre Gd
*& poured out our hrts to Him in brokenness over our sins?

*& over the sin of our city/nation?

*Humility & brokenness over sin are essential pre-requistes fr revival

J. #2-“If my..& **PRAY** & seek My face...”

1. 2nd-Gd will **NOT** send “revival”
onto prayerless soil

2. Gd has nvr sent a revivl anywhre
*whre pple weren't praying fr it
*& I dn't mn “prayng fr it” lightly

ILLU: Ple in Mass(J. Edw's chrch) prayed
constantly...for revival...for 5yrs...

bfre GWhitefld shwed up in Amer &
the G. Awakening began

*2nd G. Awaking began only afr 3yrs
of prayer by the churches of KY

*3rdG.A. undr Moody bgan w/a men's
lunch-time pryr mtg in NYC led by a
laymn: Jeremiah Lanphier in 1858

**1st wk-only 6 men shwed up

**In 6 mo's—10K mn gatherng

*By x Moody died in 1899--over 3
mil pple had come to Chst

PT: “Revival” is birthed in prayer

*Persistent prayer/prevailing pryr

3.This is why we're working so hard
to become a church of pryr selves

4.& uniting w/other chrches of pryr

5.This is why: 30 min's bfore/elders/
staff/days of pryr & fasting/grps

6. Why: as yur pastr--I'm pleading w/U to get serious ab pryr in yur own life

7. Prayer/prayer/prayer

8. The greatest sin of the modern chrch.. is our prayerlessness!

[BUT WAIT—THERE'S 1 MORE THNG]

K. #3-“& TURN frm their wicked ways..

1. Folks-Gd sends “revival” onto unholy SOCIETIES !!

2. It's jst tht He won't send “revivl” onto unholy CHURCHES !!

ILLUST: McChcync: “The sin of 1 Achan troubled the whole camp of Israel.”

*”If any of U as Gd's c'ren willfully continue in some old sin, U will trouble our camp”

APPL: Whch mns—the biggest thng U/I can do (here at MBC)to hasten “revival” is fr US to get serious ab per'l holinss

*To cultivate sensitive cns'nces

*To call sin “sin”in our lives/excuses

*To ask HS to help us hate it in our

*To “confess/repent of it” quickly

3. The 2nd greatest sin of the mderen church...is our lack of purity

CONCLUSION

- >Flks--thre's a price to be paid fr revival
 - #1-Humility & brknss ovr our sin/city
 - #2-Unyielding/prevailing prayer
 - #3-Dealing w/sin in our lives
- >As yur pstr--I'm calling on us as a
 - chrch fam to pay this price
 - *Can't promise U it will bring revival
 - *But can promise U...it'll bring Gd's blessing on our lives/church
- >>So Q wanta ask U tdy: "R U w/me?"