

# *Bill Chapman* *Evangelistic Association*



## **Proclaimer Archives 2008**

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## The Other Shoe

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**Volume 31****January 2008****Number 1**

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Beloved:

As we begin the year 2008, we do so waiting (as in hoping) for THE OTHER SHOE to drop (Fall). The FIRST shoe dropped in November 2007 when Billy Hybels, the Church Growth GURU and Senior Pastor of the Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois, admitted to have "MADE A MISTAKE" (Failure) in regards to leading Thousands of Pastors and Churches to follow their FLAWED (Failed) PARADIGM (Model-Pattern) for CHURCH GROWTH: The Seeker-Sensitive Movement (See Psalm 119:103-104).

The OTHER SHOE I make reference to is THE PURPOSE-DRIVEN CHURCH MOVEMENT. By now all America knows this movement has as its PIED PIPER Rick Warren, who is the Senior Pastor of the Saddleback Valley Community Church located in Orange County, California.

Warren, with his uncanny (satanic) ability to mix TRUTH with ERROR, is leading thousands of Pastors and Multiplied Thousands of Church members into the BLACK HOLE of NEOLIBERALISM (new liberalism). It is a PRACTICAL (obtained through practice) LIBERALISM that undermines HISTORIC EVANGELICAL DOCTRINE. Never in my 55 years of Preaching have I witnessed a Church Movement that has SPLIT more churches and has been more DETRIMENTAL to the Local Church as has Rick Warren's Pattern for "DOING CHURCH" (Proverbs 14:12).

You see, it is NOT just Major League Baseball that has a PROBLEM with STEROIDS (Performance Enhancing DRUGS). These two FLAWED CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENTS have been providing their own BRAND of STEROIDS (Wonder Drugs for "Quick Fixes" and "Performance Enhancing" SUCCESS) for the past twenty years or so. And, as a RESULT, they are producing CHURCHES ON STEROIDS.

Dear Ones, ONLY a TRUE REVIVAL at the LOCAL CHURCH level can provide the CURE needed for these CHURCHES ON STEROIDS.

Please PRAY for my meeting with the Post Falls Baptist Church in Post Falls, Idaho, January 27-February 1. This will be the 15<sup>th</sup> year I have been with Pastor Bill Hohenstreet and his dear People. Thank YOU for YOUR FAITHFUL HELP. I am COUNTING on YOU in '08. This Preacher loves YOU dearly.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **Isaiah 41:10**.

## The Ultimate Request

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Volume 31

February 2008

Number 2

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Beloved:

Recently, while going through "SECURITY" at several airports, I was reminded once again of such words as SEARCH, INSPECTION and EXAMINE, all three of which come into play when one travels by AIR in today's World. Although ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, it is the least enjoyable event at any Airport.

The SEARCH, INSPECTION, and EXAMINATION at the Airports are NOTHING when COMPARED with THE ULTIMATE REQUEST of King David in Psalm 139:23-24, where we find these words:

"SEARCH me, O God, and know my heart: try me  
and know my thoughts: and see if there be any  
wicked way in me, and lead me in the way  
Everlasting."

What a REQUEST!!

The word for the SEARCH that David is requesting is a VERB (a verb is a word of ACTION or state of BEING). Every Verb must have a SUBJECT. And who is the SUBJECT of the verb SEARCH that King David is REQUESTING? It is none other than THE SOVEREIGN, HOLY GOD of Scripture. God's SEARCH (David's REQUEST) is a MINUTE INVESTIGATION and a DIVINE SCRUTINY.

In the first eighteen verses of Psalm 139, King David knows that the GOD who will be doing the SEARCHING is (1) OMNISCIENT (all knowing) v. 1-6, (2) OMNIPRESENT (all seeing) v. 7-12, and (3) OMNIPOTENT (all powerful) v. 13-18. Because of these ATTRIBUTES of GOD, CONCEALMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE in regards to GOD'S SEARCH.

In the matter of a GOD-SENT REVIVAL among God's People, is not King David's ULTIMATE REQUEST the GREAT NEED of THE HOUR? Dare we ever expect to witness GOD'S FIRES OF REVIVAL within the LOCAL CHURCHES without this SEARCH?

In conclusion, may I remind us the Reason for the SEARCH was NOT for God's BENEFIT but rather for OURS! God's Searching Questions in the Scripture (see Genesis 3:9) are NEVER for HIS BENEFIT but for OURS!

Beloved, please know that I pray for YOU and YOURS daily. THANK YOU for all that YOU are doing with YOUR Love, Prayers and Gifts. I Love YOU dearly in our Wonderful Lord Jesus.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **Psalm 27:14.**

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## An Uncertain Sound

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Volume 31

March 2008

Number 3

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Beloved:

I Corinthians 14:8 (Please read this) is one of those RARE Verses in the Bible that WILL NOT BE HARMED when taken out of CONTEXT. It is used here in the Scripture as an EXAMPLE (Illustration) and can be APPLIED to Various TRUTHS in Scripture as well as in CHURCH LIFE. And is there any doubt we are living in an HOUR of CHURCH LIFE we might call...AN HOUR OF UNCERTAIN SOUNDS? To ask the Question is to ANSWER it.

In the Bible TRUMPETS were used for: (1) WARNING (Watchmen) to warn of APPROACHING DANGER; (2) WAR (Warriors) to give INSTRUCTIONS; and (3) WORSHIP (Worshippers) to call to WORSHIP.

I Corinthians 14:8 speaks of THREE TERRIBLE POSSIBILITIES:

- (1) AN UNFIT TRUMPETER (PREACHER), who is unfit when he is UNRELIABLE. What kind of Trumpeter (PREACHER) MUST we have in this Sad Hour? He must be:
  - a. FACTUAL (TRUTH: the way God THINKS).
  - b. FEARLESS (He is often Exposed to DANGER while doing his DUTY!).
  - c. FORCEFUL (LOVE: the way God ACTS).
- (2) AN UNCERTAIN SOUND is a FALSE sound! What's the BIG DEAL about Uncertain Sounds? When dealing with TRUTH there is NO ROOM for UNTRUTH!
- (3) AN UNPREPARED SOLDIER. Unprepared Soldiers are like Blind Watchmen—USELESS in the time of CRISIS (DANGER).

Having stated the above, let us NOW take the ONE Word that is on the FRONT BURNER of our day...that word being CULTURE. What are THE SOUNDS in CHURCH LIFE today in regards to POP CULTURE (POPULAR CULTURE)? I believe there are three Major Ones: (1) EMBRACE it (HUG LOVINGLY), (2) ENGAGE it (Involvement in, to Mix and Mingle), and (3) CONFRONT it (Face Boldly).

No Dear Ones, in regards to POP CULTURE, this is NO TIME for UNCERTAIN SOUNDS in CHURCH LIFE. Be ASSURED we shall NEVER witness the REVIVAL we NEED in the LOCAL CHURCHES as long as we TOLERATE (put up with) THE UNCERTAIN SOUNDS that are EMBEDDED in CHURCH LIFE TODAY.

BELOVED, as always I thank YOU from the depths of my heart for YOUR Love, Prayers and Gifts. I love YOU dearly in our Wonderful Lord Jesus.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **Isaiah 58:1.**

## The Comatose Church

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Volume 31

April 2008

Number 4

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Beloved:

Remember the old Tarzan Movies? Remember BOY (the baby boy found in a plane crash that grew into the person in the Tarzan Movies known as BOY)? I recall in one of these movies how one day BOY went to sleep on a Giant Lilly Pad while DRIFTING down a jungle river. As he slept, the Movie Camera showed a DEADLY WATER FALL in the river on which the Lilly Pad and BOY drifted UNAWARE of the present danger. Unless he was AWAKENED, he was SURE to go over the very dangerous Falls to his DEATH. I remember as a young boy myself almost CRYING OUT in the Theater in an attempt to get BOY to WAKE UP before he went over the DEADLY FALLS.

Dear Ones, I ask YOU...is not the above a PRESENT DAY PICTURE of CHURCH LIFE in America? And may I remind us...HE IS NO ALARMIST who seeks to AROUSE THE COMATOSE (Sleeping) CHURCH of our day as SHE drifts toward THE JUDGMENT OF GOD.

Vance Havner was no ALARMIST when he stated, "Both America and the CHURCH have GROWN RICH in what MONEY can buy, but they are BANKRUPT in what MONEY can't buy. Our PROBLEM is MATERIAL PLENTY and SPIRITUAL POVERTY."

A.W. Tozer was no ALARMIST when he wrote, "The GLORY OF GOD has DEPARTED from THE CHURCH as the FIERY CLOUD once lifted from the door of the TEMPLE in the sight of EZEKIEL the Prophet. The GOD of Abraham has WITHDRAWN HIS CONSCIOUS PRESENCE from us and ANOTHER god whom our Fathers KNEW NOT is making himself at HOME among us."

So, will THE COMATOSE CHURCH be AWAKENED before it's TOO LATE? Will SHE realize that REVIVAL and REVIVAL ONLY can AWAKEN HER TO HER Present Danger? Make no mistake about it...compared with REVIVAL, everything else happening in the CHURCH today is like REARRANGING THE FURNITURE WHEN THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE! When Oh When will we SERIOUSLY address the DESPARATE NEED of TRUE REVIVAL in the LOCAL CHURCHES? REALLY, what else MATTERS?

The Apostle Paul on one occasion (2 Corinthians 1:24) called himself a "HELPER OF YOUR JOY" to the Church at Corinth. Beloved, I want YOU to KNOW that YOU are exactly that (A Helper of My Joy) to this Preacher and Revival Ministry. YOUR FAITHFULNESS in YOUR Love, Prayers and Giving Bless this Preacher's Life. THANK YOU, THANK YOU! I love YOU dearly in our Wonderful Lord Jesus.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **1 Chronicles 16:8.**

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## Sackcloth and Ashes

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Volume 31

May 2008

Number 5

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Beloved:

In Scripture SACKCLOTH and ASHES both SPEAK OF and PICTURE People in REPENTANCE. It was an OUTWARD expression accompanying GENUINE REPENTANCE (Jonah 3:6).

Now FAST FORWARD from BIBLE TIMES to this PRESENT HOUR. One Wonders...Is it NOT TIME for the Nation's Churches in GENERAL and Southern Baptist Churches in PARTICULAR to suit up in SACKCLOTH and ASHES? (PLEASE show me ONE local Church in America that does not DESPERATELY need TRUE GENUINE REVIVAL.)

Make NO MISTAKE about it...NO GENUINE REPENTANCE...NO GENUINE REVIVAL. Listen to what Richard Owen Roberts has to say on page 21 of his marvelous Book entitled: *REPENTANCE...The First Word of the Gospel*. "You can be CERTAIN that at THE FOREFRONT of EVERY SIGNIFICANT RECOVERY from BACKSLIDING that the Church has ever known, the doctrine of REPENTANCE has been among the Precious truths that God has quickened and used."

Dear ones, NO amount of POSITIVE SPIN (as in Cover-up) from DENOMINATIONAL LEADERSHIP can HIDE the TRAGIC TRUTH of both the MORAL and SPIRITUAL FREEFALL that LOCAL CHURCHES are PRESENTLY EXPERIENCING. Recent released statistics, compiled in the ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE, picturing Southern Baptist Church Life, SHOUT at us, "What we are DOING is NOT WORKING?"

The SPIRITUAL FAILURE (Yes, I said FAILURE) is RAMPANT! The GLARING EXAMPLE of this Spiritual Failure is the FACT that Southern Baptist Churches in 2007 recorded the LOWEST number of BAPTISMS since 1987. And would you hear what the present President of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Frank Page said recently: "I don't want to be negative, BUT MOST of the MEGA-Churches in the SBC are DECLINING. YOU don't know that BECAUSE MOST of the PASTORS won't ADMIT it to YOU. But the Statistics are there" (*Florida Baptist Witness*: Vol.125, No.15-May 1, 2008 Page 7).

My THOUGHTS concerning the ABOVE is that it is SACKCLOTH and ASHES TIME in the LOCAL CHURCHES. Dear Lord...Bring us to REPENTANCE.

PRAYER REQUEST: I will be having TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT Surgery on both knees. (Right Knee Surgery May 21 and Left Knee Surgery May 28) My REHAB for these surgeries will involve the entire summer months (June, July and August). Will keep you informed concerning my Progress.

Bless YOU dear ones for ALL that YOU are doing with YOUR Love, Prayers and Gifts. I could not do without YOUR HELP in this Ministry of Revival. I love YOU dearly in our GLORIOUS LORD JESUS.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **1 Peter 4:17**.

## Compromises Today...Consequences Tomorrow!

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**Volume 31****June 2008****Number 6**

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Beloved:

The TOMORROW of the above THOUGHT has ARRIVED! For years we have been SOWING THE SEEDS OF COMPROMISE in the SOIL OF CHURCH LIFE and NOW we are REAPING THE INEVITABLE—THE TERRIBLE HARVEST of a CHURCH WITHOUT POWER. The MORAL FREE-FALL, that is SO VERY EVIDENT in our NATION, is a DIRECT RESULT of a SPIRITUALLY POWERLESS CHURCH.

TODAY'S CHURCH (Pulpit and Pew) has been MORE CONCERNED with DOLLARS than DOCTRINE, HAPPINESS than HOLINESS, PLAYING than PRAYING, TOLERANCE than TRUTH, Being RELEVANT than REVERENT, Being POSITIVE than PURE, etc. Yes, this is THE CHURCH GENERATION that has placed CULTURAL STANDARDS ABOVE BIBLICAL STANDARDS, that has been SO BUSY trying to LOVE SINNERS that we have FORGOTTEN TO HATE SIN! (Make no mistake about it NO ONE can truly LOVE SINNERS unless he or she HATES SIN!), That has removed SUPER from the word SUPERNATURAL and are now left ONLY WITH THE NATURAL!

Without a doubt, THE SIN OF COMPROMISE has left THE PRESENT DAY CHURCH...POWERLESS. The ONE WORD that SHOUTS THE DIFFERENCE between the Present Day Church and the New Testament Church is the word...POWER!! Acts 1:8 says, "BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER". When? After THE RELIGIOUS POLL TAKERS tell you how to have Church? NO! A THOUSAND TIMES NO!! Rather "Ye shall receive POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU" (Acts 1:8).

Beloved, THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER in Acts 1:4 is THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST of Acts 1:8...And NOT some DR. DOFLUNKIE with a Briefcase full of "HOW TO" manuals showing the latest RESULTS of the MOST RECENT RELIGIOUS SURVEY. GOD HELP US!!

THE RETURN OF THE DRILL SERGEANT! Yes, SHE has returned! I have not seen her since my last heart surgery in 1999 but sure enough she showed up just after my two total knee replacement surgeries last month. DRILL SERGEANT PEGGY makes sure I do all that is required of me as a patient here at home. (I was in the hospital from May 21 till June 11.) I have Rehab Folk here Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week for 4 weeks. My next post-op appointment with my surgeon is July 3. So that is the update concerning my total knee replacements. THANK YOU for all YOUR prayers, kind words, cards, letters, phone calls and above all YOUR GIFTS that will help us get through the Summer Months. I love YOU more than YOU will ever know.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **1 Peter 2:9**.



## When Revival Comes

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**Volume 31****July 2008****Number 7**

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Beloved:

One has said: "When Revival comes, an intense spirit of CONVICTION will be felt IMMEDIATELY. CONDUCT that has always seemed acceptable will appear unbelievably WICKED. PRIVATE indulgences upon which a person has looked with FAVOR for years will suddenly seem to merit all the WRATH OF GOD poured out forever. Prayerlessness, ignorance of scripture, sins of omission, and failure in good works will no longer be DEFENDED by our many EXCUSES but will be laid OPEN BEFORE HOLY GOD! Pride and self-centered living will no longer be excused as necessary defenses in a wicked world, but the very ESSENCE of WICKEDNESS itself. Words carelessly spoken and long forgotten sins will rise from their graves of indifference to HAUNT and TORTURE until such a wave of CONVICTION is felt that it will SEEM IMPOSSIBLE to stand before it.

Indeed, WHEN REVIVAL COMES, so powerful will be the CONVICTION that persons who once thought themselves well worthy of heaven will stand in wonder and amazement that they are not already burning in the FIRES OF HELL." OH BELOVED, PRAY DAILY for this to happen among GOD'S DEAR PEOPLE!!

What's worse than having ONE DRILL SERGEANT? The Answer.....having TWO DRILL SERGEANTS. It is bad enough having DRILL SERGEANT PEGGY here at Home. I now have a SECOND DRILL SERGEANT at my Rehab Center. This Young fella (age 32) takes no prisoners. I believe he invented the phrase "NO PAIN NO GAIN". If he didn't invent it he surely believes in it. I am now in my third week of a five week course with him and am looking forward to Graduation Day. Progress is what all of my CAREGIVERS are demanding. Please continue to PRAY for my Complete Recovery concerning my Double Knee Surgery.

Thank YOU for all that YOU do for this Revival Ministry. YOU are a BLESSING to this Preacher. I love YOU dearly in our Wonderful Lord Jesus.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **Ephesians 3: 20-21.**

## The Presence of God

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Volume 31

August 2008

Number 8

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Beloved:

In his book, *REVIVAL: A PEOPLE SATURATED WITH GOD*, Brian H. Edwards says: "The PRESENCE of GOD is the KEY to understanding what REVIVAL is. If there is ONE aspect of WORSHIP today that is LACKING, it is the FELT Presence of God. Whatever our label or style, whatever our claims or convictions, CHRISTIAN CHURCHES today are NOT generally noted for the OVERWHELMING SENSE of the PRESENCE OF GOD. This is WHY we can BEHAVE SO CARELESSLY in WORSHIP.

The deep work of the HOLY SPIRIT IN REVIVAL IS ALWAYS noted for the EXPERIENCE THAT CONVINCES US THAT GOD IS PRESENT. Of course we believe the Promise of God that HE is always with us, and especially when Christians meet together even WITHOUT a SENSE OF HIS PRESENCE. However, REVIVAL is altogether DIFFERENT! GOD is KNOWN to be there and even THE UNBELIEVER is compelled to acknowledge such (I Corinthians 14:25). In REVIVAL the Presence of God becomes A TANGIBLE FELT EXPERIENCE."

BELOVED, this FELT PRESENCE OF GOD DEFIES HUMAN EXPLANATION and therefore CANNOT be created by HUMAN DEVICES. It is as DUNCAN CAMPBELL has stated: "This AWARENESS of GOD is THE CRYING NEED OF THE CHURCHES TODAY..." AMEN! and AMEN!

Thank YOU for YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT in these days of such CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE OF THE FELT PRESENCE OF GOD. Please continue to PRAY for Complete RECOVERY from my knee surgeries. Both Drill Sergeants say I am IMPROVING. Also, Please be in PRAYER as I will be preaching in two churches in Kentucky next month. I love YOU dearly in HIM.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **Exodus 33:13-18**.

## If Not Now...When?

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Volume 31

September 2008

Number 9

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Beloved:

REVIVAL!... "Times of Refreshing from the Presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Most of God's People DESIRE "Times of Refreshing", but very FEW are DESPERATE for "The Presence of the Lord." We MUST learn the SPIRITUAL TRUTH that REVIVAL NEVER COMES from DESIRE but ALWAYS from DESPERATION! So, as GOD'S PEOPLE we must realize to DESIRE THE BLESSING ("Times of Refreshing") is NOT enough. We MUST become DESPERATE for THE BLESSER ("The Presence of The Lord") Psalm 63:1-8.

The phenomena of SPIRITUAL AWAKENING (True Revival) whether in the Scripture or in Church History reveals PATTERNS that are generally similar, often strikingly so:

1. REVIVAL is always preceded by A TIME OF SPIRITUAL DEPRESSION, APATHY, and GROSS SIN, in which THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS are HARDLY DIFFERENT in any way from the secular (pagan) WORLD around them.
2. AN individual or a small group of GOD'S PEOPLE become conscious of their SINS and BACKSLIDDEN condition, and VOW TO FORSAKE ALL THAT IS DISPLEASING TO GOD.
3. CHRISTIANS begin to YEARN for a manifestation of GOD'S POWER...a Bible Standard of HOLINESS exposes the degeneracy of the CHURCH...a LEADER with a PROPHETIC VOICE is given to God's PEOPLE from the LORD, who leads the People of God to a STRIVING AFTER HOLINESS.
4. AWAKENING of CHRISTIANS and CHURCHES occurs...the PRESENCE OF GOD becomes a REALITY TO HIS PEOPLE. Great emphasis is placed on THE SPIRITUAL LIFE of the CHURCH.
5. THE AWAKENING many times is GOD'S preparation to STRENGTHEN HIS PEOPLE for FUTURE TRIALS and PERSECUTIONS.

Bless YOU, Bless YOU dear Ones for YOUR continued Faithfulness to this Revival Ministry. YOUR Love, Prayers and Gifts are greatly appreciated by this Preacher.

It was wonderful to be in the Pulpit once again in two of my favorite Churches in Kentucky, however, please continue to PRAY for my knees as I have completed my physical therapy rehab program.

Know that I love YOU dearly in our GLORIOUS LORD JESUS.

Now a Word from HIS WORD: **Psalm 27:13-14.**

## Bed Too Short...Blanket Too Narrow!

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Volume 31

October 2008

Number 10

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Beloved:

The Prophet Isaiah, like many of the Old Testament Prophets, was very descriptive and painted great word pictures in his Writings and Preaching. Hear him as he says in Isaiah 28:20 (KJV): "For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it." This is a proverbial description of an IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. Isaiah is warning Judah (Jerusalem) that their sources of SECURITY and their CONFIDENCE in Alliances with Egypt are utterly INADEQUATE against the Super Power of their day—the ASSYRIANS. God's People (Judah) were hiding behind the curtain of SELF-DECEPTION. Theirs was a FALSE SECURITY which leads to FALSE HOPE. While Holy God had used the Assyrians in bringing Judgment upon ISRAEL (the Northern ten Tribes of God's People), Isaiah is now attempting to tell JUDAH what he had tried to tell ISRAEL...His message being that the ASSYRIANS are NOT Judah's PROBLEM. Their PROBLEM IS SIN against their Holy God. Isaiah's message to JUDAH was to Get Right With God (REPENT) AND HOLY GOD will take care of the ASSYRIANS which HE did (see I Kings 19:32-37).

Dear Ones, We, as God's People today, are like Judah of old. We are living in a time of EMERGENCY and CRISIS. The Storm Clouds of God's IMPENDING JUDGMENT have covered this Land. The two MAJOR SIGNS of God's JUDGMENT are: (1) God allows His people to become LEADERLESS...the need of the hour is for a Prophet not a Politician; (2) God allows His people to HAVE THEIR OWN WAY! We are the Burger King Generation...HAVE IT YOUR WAY!!

A recent letter sent to all Southern Baptists by the present President of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Johnny Hunt, and signed by both the SBC President Hunt and Ed Litton, President of the Pastor's Conference of the SBC is calling for a "Great Awakening" and "revival in our Land." Please understand that the MOTIVES of these Men of God are NOT IN QUESTION by this Preacher. However, I do believe with all my heart that these good men are asking GOD'S PEOPLE to drop their bombs on the WRONG TARGET. As bad as the ASSYRIANS of our day are (the Economy, Educational system, the Moral decay, the Political chaos, etc.) our PROBLEM is not with the present day Assyrians. Rather, our PROBLEM is SIN IN THE CHURCH!! Church...It is not the today's Assyrians we MUST face but rather HOLY GOD. Any attempt by the CHURCH NOT TO DEAL with our SIN and SINS will be INEFFECTIVE and INADEQUATE. Hear me well...There will never be a "GREAT AWAKENING in this Nation" UNTIL there is a REVIVAL in the CHURCH!...NEVER, NEVER, NEVER!!

Bless and Thank YOU for Your love, prayers and gifts during these months of recovery from my knee replacement surgeries. I am much improved...Praise Him. I love YOU dearly in our Wonderful Lord Jesus.

Now a word from HIS WORD: **1 Peter 4:17** (KJV). Please be sure to read.

## Only Two Kinds of Churches

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Volume 31

November 2008

Number 11

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Beloved:

The longer I live the more I am convinced there are but two kinds of Churches—THE PERSECUTED and THE PAMPERED. Both THE LORD JESUS and THE NEW TESTAMENT have much to say about PERSECUTION. The Apostle Paul writes Timothy, his son in the Ministry, these words concerning Persecution: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer Persecution" 2 Timothy 3:12 (KJV).

Year after year The Pampered Church has been asked to have a DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH. Once again we seem to have it BACKWARDS!! Several years ago a gentleman from the Ministry of UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM came to show a film on Sunday night at a church I was a member of at that time. The film showed CHRISTIANS meeting in secret, in a forest somewhere in the then Soviet Union. These BELIEVERS were being severely PERSECUTED for their FAITH IN CHRIST.

At the conclusion of the film the gentleman closed his remarks with a question: "WILL YOU PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH?" He then closed in prayer. When the man concluded his prayer and opened his eyes I was standing in his face. I immediately said to him, "Sir can you get a message to the people you showed us in the film tonight?" He said he would try. I then said to him, "Sir would you ask the PERSECUTED CHURCH to PRAY FOR THE Playing, Pitiful, PAMPERED CHURCH?"

OH BELOVED, we DESPERATELY need the prayers of the PERSECUTED! Can you imagine THE PAMPERED CHURCH who had RATHER Play than Pray, Feast than Fast, Workout than Worship, Get than Give, Compromise than Contend, Entertain than Evangelize, Sit than Stand, have Plays than Preaching, hear Songs than Sermons, be Popular than Powerful, have a Blast than be a Blessing, have Fun than Faith, Sleep than Weep, Wither than Witness, Ignore than Intercede!!!

No Dear Ones, THE PAMPERED CHURCH WILL NOT intercede for THE PERSECUTED CHURCH for you see she CANNOT!!!...as she is simply TOO BUSY being TRENDY with Religious TRIVIA. GOD HELP US!!

In this Season of THANKSGIVING please KNOW that I THANK our Wonderful, Righteous, Holy, Sovereign GOD daily for YOU and YOURS. Thank YOU Beloved for being so FAITHFUL in YOUR support to this Ministry of REVIVAL. I love YOU dearly in our Lord Jesus.

Now a word from HIS WORD: **1 Peter 2:1-10** (KJV).

## Christmas '08

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Volume 31

December 2008

Number 12

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Beloved:

CHRISTMAS! Without a doubt the GREATEST TRUTH of the Christmas Season is...**IMMANUEL** (God with us)! Oh Beloved, who would have thought to see the day, when THE POTTER climbed inside HIS clay, when THE MONARCH of HEAVEN in EARTH'S MANGER lay? GLORY! GLORY! GLORY!

God said it this way: "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a SON, and shall call HIS name IMMANUEL" (Isaiah 7:14). The MIRACLE of Christmas (IMMANUEL) is the amazing TRUTH that the BIRTH of a child (THE LORD JESUS) in a remote corner of the earth, surrounded as HIS BIRTH was, by humble and insignificant circumstances, should stand forth as THE GREATEST EVENT of all events of recorded history. Again, GLORY! GLORY! GLORY!

Peggy and My Christmas Greeting to YOU is OUR PRAYER for YOU and YOURS at this Season of the year: "Dear Lord Jesus, may those who read this PROCLAIMER know the LOVE of YOUR PARDON...the JOY of YOUR PRESENCE and the PEACE of YOUR PROVISION...May they be as WISEMEN and SEEK ONLY YOU to WORSHIP and SERVE...May they be as the SHEPHERDS, always filled with THE WONDER of that FIRST CHRISTMAS...And may they be as THE ANGELS, ever ready to proclaim THE GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY...The Birth of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS. In Jesus Name, AMEN!!!

So Dear Ones, as we witness the passing of another year and look to '09, PLEASE KNOW of my continued DAILY PRAYERS in YOUR BEHALF. Thank YOU, Thank YOU for YOUR faithful support of this Preacher and REVIVAL MINISTRY in '08. PLEASE PRAY for my Meeting with the Post Falls Baptist Church, Post Falls, Idaho: Jan. 25-30. I believe this will be my 16<sup>th</sup> year to be with this Wonderful Church and their dear Pastor Brother Bill Hohenstreet. As ALWAYS, I love YOU dearly in JESUS.

Now a word from HIS WORD: **1 Corinthians 15:57-58**.