

THE Watchword

*"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen;
All day and night they will never keep silent
You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves,
And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."*

Isaiah 62:6-7

XXIII

The purpose of this newsletter is to encourage prayer and passion for a true revival of Apostolic Christianity.

The following material is offered in the hopes of provoking zeal and providing a vision of what the church could be if we would fervently pray.

PRAYER MAKES HISTORY

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes."
Psalm 119:71

It was upon the bed of affliction that Gilbert Tennent was taught of God. In approximately 1728 this young gifted Presbyterian minister become extremely ill. Uncertain if he would recover, he entered into a deep vision of eternity and time of repentance. He writes, "I was then exceedingly grieved I had done so little for God . . . I therefore prayed to God that He would be pleased to give me one half year more. I was determined to promote His kingdom with all my might and at all adventures."

Mr. Tennent's prayer was answered, and he was revived in both body and spirit. He labored as never before to, "Sound the trumpet of God's judgment and alarm the secure by the terrors of the Lord." He was a man literally consumed with a vision of the holiness of God. As a result he urgently warned the stubborn sinner and hypocrite of a final judgment and eternal hell.

The anointed George Whitefield writes of him, "Hypocrites must soon be converted or enraged at his preaching. He is a son of thunder and does not regard the face of man. He is deeply sensible of the deadness and formality of the Christian church in these parts, and has given noble testimonies against it." Gilbert Tennent preached as if "never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men."

His preaching was far from typical of his day. A historian of the "Great Awakening" describes the average minister's methods,



Gilbert Tennent

"The habit of the preachers was to address their people as though they were all pious and only needed instruction and confirmation. It was not a common thing to proclaim the terrors of a violated law and insist on the absolute necessity of regeneration."

Mr. Tennent himself describes this kind of popular preaching. "They often strengthened the hands of the wicked by promising them life. They comfort people before they convince them; sow before they plow: and are busy in raising a fabric before they lay a foundation. These foolish builders strengthen men's carnal security by their soft, selfish, cowardly discourses. They have not the courage or honesty to thrust the nail of terror into the sleeping souls!"

From 1736 through the 1740's, Gilbert Tennent's ministry was greatly blessed in promoting revival among the middle colonies in America. His ministry overlapped and supported the ministries of such godly men as Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield. He carried with him the very seeds of revival, and when he preached, REVIVAL FIRE FELL.

It must be remembered that the American church in the 18th century would probably have died of dry rot without the Spirit-filled ministry, of Gilbert Tennent. During one of Bostons most severe winters, people waded through the snow night and day for the benefit of hearing the fiery Tennent preach. "You could criticize him; you could praise him; but you could not ignore him!" No one slumbered peacefully when he was around; not even the church. Gilbert Tennent was in truth, the voice of one crying in the wilderness - REPENT!

He could boldly warn men of the wrath of God because he had boldly agonized and travailed for their souls, "Often his soul wept in secret for the pride and obstinacy of those who refused to be reclaimed." Throughout Tennent's ministry he kept his zeal and love for Christ fervent through constant prayer. "He made prayer his chief and most delightful employment."

Proverbs 27:1 says, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."

We have no promise of another day or even another hour, yet we too often live and breathe for the things of this world. What we desperately need is a revelation of eternity, of a real hell, and of a God who is to be loved and feared! If we truly had such a vision, we would not let one day go by without urgently warning the sinner and backslider. We would not let one hour go by without fervently praying for a true heaven sent revival.

References Used -

"The Log College"
by Archibald Alexander

"Forgotten Founding Fathers"
by W. T. Hanzsche

"The Great Awakening"
by Joseph Tracy

LOVE & HUMILITY

There are two errors to be avoided - dictatorship and lawlessness. Unorganized churches frequently have a tighter ring of fellowship than those organized. Sects generally begin with an honest effort to preserve and restore some long lost truth, but they end in division. History repeats itself. No religious body has ever recovered itself after loosing its "first love". To be like Jesus is the standard that God has set for us. If Heaven is real, we should live like it, this will produce "Pentecost". **The human spirit too often dominates, while love and humility are clothed in rags and sit by the wayside begging. The gentle Jesus is often pushed aside and knocked down in church meetings.** Sin and the "flesh" will kill any "Pentecost". The doctor looks at the tongue first. Have you been speaking evil? Evil speaking denotes a bad heart and every radical movement for God has ultimately failed on the test of love.

We need holiness of heart. It is a vital error to substitute light for heat. *"Knowledge puffeth up, but charity (love), edifieth."* Read I Cor. 13 once more. Be not drawn away from *"the simplicity that is in Christ."* **Faith gets the most, love works the most, humility keeps the most.** God's vision comes to humble men. He who seeks to make footprints and do sublime things is a failure. A self-conscious poser is a loser. Let self intrude and the whole is spoiled. Excellency is proportioned to the oblivion of self. A fisher for compliments has lost God. Self-consciousness must go. We are too conscious of the other fellow, we need a God-consciousness. Humility, not infallibility, becomes fallen creatures. Infallibility is the apex of Satan's proposition to man. **The deepest repentance and humility and our own frailty and weakness must be realized before we can know God's strength.** Receding guns vanish out of sight after firing and so must we, for safety. **WE NEED TO BE BROKEN!**

by Frank Bartlemen
from "Azusa Street"

A Tender Heart

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Without tenderness of spirit the most intensely righteous, religious life is like the image of God without His beauty and attractiveness. It is possible to be very religious, and stanch, and persevering in all Christian duties, even to be sanctified, and be a brave defender and preacher of holiness, to be mathematically orthodox, and blameless in outward life, and very zealous in good works, and yet to be greatly lacking in tenderness of spirit, that all-subduing, all melting love, which is the very cream of Heaven, and which streamed out from the eyes and voice of the Blessed Jesus.

Many Christians seem loaded with good fruits, but the fruit tastes green; it lacks flavor and October mellowness. There is a touch of vinegar in their sanctity. Their very purity has an icy coldness to it.

Their testimonies are straight and definite, but they lack the melting quality. Their prayers are intelligent and strong and pointed, but they lack the heart-piercing pathos of the dying Jesus. The summer heat in them is lacking. They preach eloquently and explain with utmost nicety what is actual and original sin and what is pardon and purity, **but they lack the burning flame, that interior furnace of throbbing love, that sighs and weeps and breaks down under the shivering heat of all-consuming love.**

Divine tenderness of spirit has a behavior to it which is superhuman and heavenly. It instinctively avoids wounding the feelings of others by talking on unpleasant things, wrangling in an argumentative way, by referring to painful and mortifying subjects. **It carries its point by ceasing to contend and wins its opponent by seeming to let him have his way. It cannot scold, or scowl, or threaten; it has lost the power of quarreling.** Tenderness of spirit makes its home in the bosom of

Jesus, and from that Holy Castle, looks out upon all other creatures, good and bad, through the hopeful, pleading medium of the Heart that was pierced on the cross. It feels all things from God's standpoint, and lives but to receive and transmit the spotless sympathies and affections of Jesus. It understands the words of the Holy Ghost, **"Be ye tender hearted, forgiving one another."** Tenderness must be in the very nature, and forgiveness is but the behavior of that nature.

by G. D. Watson
from "Pure Gold"

the Morning Watch

Daily Prayer
Times at Western Hills Church
Monday thru Friday;
6 to 7am (auditorium)
Saturday; 8-11am (prayer room)

GETHSEMANE

THE NECESSITY OF STANDING ALONE

by
Charles H. Stalker

The Son of God had five thousand when He was feeding them with the loaves and fishes, He had a multitude when He was opening the eyes of the blind, but when He was sweating the death sweat for a lost world, He was alone.

I want to say, beloved, that this is as true as it has ever been. You will spend much time alone with God, and the greatest struggles and the greatest battles of your life will take place when you are alone. There will be meetings and there will be messages, but you must have something that will take you through alone. **Until you have something that will defy the devil and defeat all hell and drive back the powers of darkness when you are alone, you will never have much victory.** It is good to have someone to pray with, that is the right thing, but there is nothing that will give you courage and build up your character so much as being alone with God in the great battles of your life. We are apt to depend on people, and we are apt to listen to them. Jesus was left by the multitude and left by His followers, that is the thing; left by His followers, those who had been with Him and knew Him best. They were tired and weary, and they had no conception of what was going on; they saw it not. It is good to be with our friends and to hear their encouraging words, but, beloved, you will get more alone with God in prayer, in communion and in struggle than you will ever get in any other way. This is the point where a great many fail they are not prepared to go through alone with nobody around. **Remember you will have to die alone, and God wants you to get the victory alone.**

Another thing I want you to notice. Carnality is

sleeping while Holiness is weeping. That has always been the case. Now you want to get away from the sleeping to the weeping, and if you weep, you will weep alone. You live and talk with your friends, but when you go to prayer they are not there. Look at Jesus up there on the mountain, looking over Jerusalem while it is sleeping, and what does He say? *"How often would I*

have gathered you as a hen gathereth her brood under her wing, and ye would not." They would not. That was the secret. *"Your house is left unto you desolate."* It is too late now; the opportunity is past. God help us to see these things this morning. If you laugh, the world laughs, with you; if you weep, you weep alone.



Why did He weep? Because He saw a lost world. Why did they sleep? Because they had calamity. Their eyes were open to see the miracles, but when it came to the great struggle, they were asleep. The Son of God had no doubt walked as far as they had and was just as weary, but He was facing the cross. He was praying for a lost world, and His heart was beginning to break, and Peter, James and John, not Judas now, but Peter, James and John, the chosen ones, those who had been with Him most, were sleeping. **How few are willing to go out and go through with God alone.** It

means a great deal, but it is worth all it costs, and things you get that way you can have for time and eternity. So you see how much it meant for the Son of God to go through that struggle. When He came back to His disciples, He found them sleeping. How it must have torn His very heart. Three times He returned and found them sleeping. He was alone, and He was weeping, and He sweat as it were great drops of blood, even on a cold morning. Someone says, "How do you know it was a cold morning?" *"Only a short distance away Peter was*

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warming himself by a fire." He was sweating; it was just the burden of soul. There is nothing, beloved, that will bring such agony as a burden of soul. You can carry a financial burden, you can carry a physical burden, but when you get a burden of soul, it will bring out of your veins the blood that is there. And it is a wonderful thing to know that God hears and answers prayer. A prayer takes something out of you. It took sweat from the Son of God. It takes something out of you, but it brings something to you. A great many people think it is just a pastime, but when the heart is in it, it takes something out of you.

Now it is easier to get preachers and singers than prayers. People will do everything else before they will pray. There is a demand for prayers, but there are not enough to supply the demand. I do not like to speak on this subject without spending most of the night in prayer. It seems a special picture. He was just praying, and He had to do His praying alone. There is something peculiar about prayer; there is something special about prayer. Talking to man is one thing, but talking to God is quite another, and it seems that the devil wants to keep people from praying.

The Holy Ghost is faithful and beloved you do not realize what privileges you have until you are filled with the Holy Ghost. He makes intercessions for you with "*groanings which cannot be uttered*". Now the groanings of Jesus could be uttered. Notice, He groaned in spirit and He uttered groans, but the Holy Ghost intercedes with groanings which cannot be uttered. You might pray a few words, but that prayer becomes special when it is groaned out by the Holy Ghost at the throne of God. Prayers that become groans always get an answer. And it says Jesus "sweat as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground." And He went back the third time, but they did not understand. They did not notice the disappointment when He said, "**What, could ye not watch with me one hour?**" He asked for just

one hour, but they were too sleepy, and they did not wait with Him even one hour. God help everyone of us this morning not to miss anything He has for us. Another thing that seems so very impressive, was about the last thing Jesus said to them "*Sleep on now.*" He had awakened them twice; but the third time He went back He said, "*Sleep on now.*" It is one of the most pathetic and saddest utterances there is in the Bible. The disappointment at the cross was hardly equal to this; it scarcely meant so much when they took His garment and tore it to pieces and gave Him vinegar to drink. **This "Sleep on now," showed they had missed the great opportunity of their lives.**



They disappointed Him in the hour that He needed them most. There was only one Transfiguration, and there was only one Gethsemane. Now they had disappointed Him, and He said, "*Sleep on now.*" Later, these disciples went to the Upper Room and received the Holy Ghost; but just think of the people who never wake up.

What is time for? Just weeping and praying and groaning for a lost world. What is eternity for? Rejoicing with the blood washed and the redeemed. They may be sleeping all around you, but you can be wide awake, and **the greatest honor that can be given to you is to have a burden for souls that will lay on your heart till it breaks.** People have remarked that certain men would have lived longer if they had not had such a burden for souls, but if you die with a broken heart, there is no lost time. You had better live

ten years with the Holy Ghost than a hundred without Him. The Holy Ghost energizes and inspires and gives courage and character so that you can accomplish more in ten years than some people would do in a hundred. The burden for souls is rare; not many have it, and some say they would not like that kind of burden. It takes real life to carry it, and people may not live so long, but they will live through all eternity.

Jesus might have lived longer if He had not carried such a burden, and His followers might have lived longer if they had not received the Holy Ghost. We say that because they all died an unnatural death. John might have stayed off the Isle of Patmos if he had not had the Holy Ghost. They chose to have the Holy Ghost and die an unnatural death rather than have carnality and live a hundred years. That is the secret, and may God help someone to receive the Holy Ghost, and in life and in death have the victory. God help you to be willing to pay the price. **DO NOT MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY; it is within your reach now, and the Holy Ghost will be faithful to you.** There was only one Transfiguration, only one Gethsemane, and only one Calvary. Jesus went through and died of a broken heart. Take the step now, regardless of anyone, and God will meet your need. Let us pray.

ALWAYS REMEMBER

A truly prayerful and consecrated life unto God can only be established by faith.

It is by trusting in the finished work of Christ that we are empowered to produce the fruit of love and righteousness.

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith."

(1 John 5:4)