

THE Watchword

"Oh that Thou would rend the heavens, that Thou would come down, that the mountains might flow down at Thy presence. As when the melting fire burns, the fire causes the waters to boil, to make known Thy name to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Thy presence!" Isaiah 64:1,2

No. 42

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

"And I sought for a MAN among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Ezek. 22:30.

The future of a nation is directly dependent upon the choices of its men. It is here that the men of America, as a whole, have failed. Like the individual links of a chain, the immoral choices of our men have truly brought this nation into spiritual bondage. Many men are now squandering the zeal and the strength of their youth on the temporal pursuits of sports and money. Our churches are filled with men who will shout the praises of a professional athlete and yet are cowards to praise the King of Kings. Hardened and passive, such men are void of Holy Ghost boldness. Yet God, in His mercy, is still determined to use MEN to stand in the gap.

In General "Stonewall Jackson", God found a true man who would stand in the gap. Both strong and tender, the motto of his life was, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" **As fervent in the field of battle, so was Jackson on his knees in prayer.** "He was a man of prayer, accustomed in all he did to ask the divine blessing and guidance. His servant said that he could always tell when a battle was near at hand by seeing the General get up a great many times in the night to pray." General Jackson did not simply pray, **he fervently prayed.** The following story gives us some insight in the passion of his prayers.



"Stonewall Jackson"

It was told the Rev. William Brown, "the truth is sir, that 'old Jack' is crazy. Why, I frequently meet him out in the woods walking back and forth muttering to himself incoherent sentences and gesturing wildly, at such times he seems utterly oblivious of my presence and of everything else."

"A friend was once conversing with Jackson about the difficulty of obeying the scripture injunction, 'pray without ceasing,' and Jackson insisted that we could so accustom ourselves to it, that it could be easily obeyed. When we take our meals there is the grace. When I take a drink of water, I always pause, as my palate receives the refreshment, to lift up my heart to God in thanks and prayer for the water of life. Whenever I drop a letter into the box at the post office I send a petition along with it for God's blessings upon its mission and upon the person to whom it is sent. When I break the seal of a letter just received I stop to pray to God that He may prepare me for its contents

and make it a message of good. When I go to my classroom and await the arrangement of the cadets in their places, that is my time to intercede with God for them. And so of every other familiar act of the day." Though a man of superior abilities, Jackson humbly recognized his need for JESUS in everything he did.

As a general in the Confederate Army, "Stonewall Jackson" had a profound influence over his men. It was his holy and prayerful example that contributed to the great revival among the Southern troops. "By midsummer of 1863, revival had spread to all the Confederate armies. A chaplain of the 26th Alabama Regiment said that his unit averaged 100 converts a week for several weeks during this time and another chaplain declared that, 'modern history presents no example of an army so nearly converted.' A third of all soldiers in the field were men of prayer and members of some fellowship. J. W. Jones suggested that 150,000 conversions took place in Lee's Army alone. It was this revival that no doubt prepared the South for the humiliation that follows defeat, but best of all the revival prepared thousands of young and old alike to meet Christ in eternity. Truly, General Jackson, through prayer, impacted both his day and our history.

What is our greatest need today in our morally fallen nation? We need a tenacious, tender, tearful and Holy Ghost bold army of true MEN! Oh God, make us MEN!

References Used -

"Christ In The Camp"
by Rev. J. W. Jones

**"Life and Campaigns of
Lieut.-Gen. Thomas J. Jackson"**
by R. L. Dabney

UNCTION

HEAVEN'S KNIGHTHOOD

by E. M. Bounds

Unction comes to the preacher, not in the study, but in the closet. It is heaven's distillation in answer to prayer. It is the sweetest exhalation of the Holy Spirit. It impregnates softens, cuts and soothes. It carries the Word like dynamite, like salt, like sugar; makes the hearer a culprit or a saint, makes him weep like a child and live like a giant; opens his heart and his purse as gently, yet as strongly as the spring opens the leaves.

This unction is not the gift of genius. It is not found in the halls of learning. No eloquence can woo it. No industry can win it. No clergies hands can impart it. It is the gift of God - the signet set to His own messengers. **It is Heaven's knighthood given to the chosen true and brave ones who have sought this anointed honor through many an hour of tearful, wrestling prayer.**

Earnestness is good and impressive. Genius is gifted and great. Thought kindles and inspires, but it takes a diviner endowment, a more powerful energy than earnestness or genius or thought - to **BREAK** the chains of sin, to **WIN** estranged and depraved hearts to God to repair the breaches, and restore the Church to her old ways of purity and **POWER!** Nothing but this holy unction can do this. Uction is the anointing of the Holy Ghost, separating unto God's work and qualifying for it. Without this unction there are no true spiritual results accomplished.

Unction may be simulated. There are many things that look like it, there are many results that resemble its effects; but they are foreign to its results and to its nature. **The fervor or softness excited by a pathetic or emotional sermon may look like the movements of the divine unction, but they have no pungent, penetrating, heartbreaking force. No heart-healing balm is there in these surface, sympathetic, emotional movements. They are not radical, neither sin-searching nor sin-curing.**

This divine unction is the one distinguishing feature that separates true gospel preaching from all other methods of presenting truth. It backs and interpenetrates the revealed truth with all the force of God. It illumines the Word, and broadens and enriches the intellect, and empowers it to grasp and apprehend the Word. It qualifies the preacher's heart, and brings it to that condition of tenderness, of purity, of force and light that are necessary to secure the highest results. This unction gives to the preacher liberty and enlargement of thought and soul - freedom, fullness, and directness of utterance that can be secured by no other process.

Without unction on the preacher the gospel has no more power to propagate itself than any other system of truth. This is the seal of its divinity. Uction in the preacher puts

God in the gospel. Without the unction, God is absent, and the gospel is left to the low forces that the ingenuity, interest, or talents of men can devise to enforce and project its doctrines.

It is in this element the pulpit often fails than in any other element. Uction is the consecration force, and its presence the continuous test of consecration. **It is this divine anointing on the preacher that secures his consecration.** It is this divine anointing on the preacher that secures his consecration to God and his work. Other forces and motives may call him to the work, but this only is consecration. A separation to God's work by the power of the Holy Spirit is the only consecration recognized by God as legitimate.

The divine unction, this heavenly anointing is what the pulpit needs and **MUST HAVE.** This divine and heavenly oil put on it by the imposition of God's hand must soften and lubricate the whole man - heart, head, spirit - until it separates him with a mighty separation from all earthly, secular, worldly, selfish motives and aims, separating him to everything that is pure and Godlike. It is the presence of this unction on the preacher that creates the stir and friction in many a congregation. The same truths have been told in the strictness of the letter, but no ruffle has been seen, no pain or pulsation felt. All is quiet as a graveyard.

Another preacher comes, and this mysterious influence is on him; the letter of the Word has been fired by the Spirit, the throes of a mighty movement are felt. **It is this unction that pervades and stirs the conscience and breaks the heart.** Uctionless preaching makes everything hard, dry, and, dead. This unction is not a memory or an era of the past only; it is a present, realized, conscious fact. It belongs to the experience of the man as well as to his preaching. It is that which transforms him into the image of his divine Master, as well as that by which he declares the truth of Christ with power. It is so much the power in the ministry as to make all else seem feeble and vain without it, - and by its presence to atone for the absence of all other feebler forces.

This unction is not an inalienable gift. It is a conditional gift, and its presence is perpetuated and increased by the same process by which it was at first secured; by unceasing prayer to God, by impassioned desires after God, by estimating it, by seeking it with tireless ardor, by deeming all else loss and failure without it. ✚

"A Holy Priesthood"

by David Smithers

Through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Church has been called out and anointed to be a kingdom of priests. This royal priesthood is much more than merely a religious title. Through the blood of Jesus the believer has not only been forgiven, he has also been given God's unmerited power to live in holiness. As a royal priesthood the Church has been especially set apart and equipped to love and worship Jesus with a pure heart.

A REASONABLE SACRIFICE

1 Peter 2:5, 9 outlines the Christian's priestly calling. *"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ... But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, His own special people, that you should show forth the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."* It has been said that where there is no sacrifice, there is no priesthood. Verse five refers to God's holy priests offering an acceptable sacrifice. What is this acceptable sacrifice? Romans 12:1,2 tells us. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your REASONABLE service. And do not be conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* A consecrated life set apart for Christ's sake through faith, is the sacrifice God desires and accepts.

Notice that the scripture declares that this sacrifice is REASONABLE. The sacrifice of a holy life is never to be esteemed as harsh and unreasonable. Such a life is the only natural response to the unfailing love of Jesus. A sacrificial life of obedience is what every true follower of Jesus longs for and

desires. Sad to say, this is not the case in many of our most popular churches. Many who claim to be devoted followers of Christ cannot bear to even be reminded of God's command, to be holy. Among others the message of holiness, at best, seems only to be tolerated. I'm afraid there are many who desire priestly power and position and yet shun priestly purity. It is impossible to have the one without the other, they are two different sides of the same divine coin. Without the imprint of purity, one is left deceived, cheated and impoverished. *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."* (Hebrews 12:14).



THE CROWN OF HOLINESS

In Exodus 28 is found a list of the garments the high priest was commanded to wear. Each one of these priestly garments are full of types and metaphors that can instruct the New Testament believer in his holy calling. From head to toe the high priest was clothed in the finest linens, jewels and gold. Chief among all of his royal garments was his crown of mitre. The mitre was a turban to which a gold plate was attached by blue cords. On this plate or crown of gold was engraved the words, *"Holiness unto the Lord."* (Exodus 28:36-38). This mitre was to continually rest on the forehead of the high priest. Like the high priest of old, the new covenant priesthood needs to continually have holiness engraved on the forefront of their thoughts. A true priest never grows weary of hearing the Father's call to holiness. *"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, Be holy; for I am holy."* (1 Peter 1:13-16).

(continued on next page)

Another metaphor of the believers need to continually be reminded of holiness is found in Deut. 11:18 *“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.”* In this passage God commanded the children of Israel to continually lay up His law in their hearts. As a sign to remind them of this they were to tie small leather compartments to their foreheads and hands. These small compartments contained portions of God’s holy and eternal law. Again the symbolism is clear, God’s people should always be reminded of the Father’s heart cry for holiness. Holiness should always be before our eyes. Who can argue that in these days of perversion and lawlessness that the standard of holiness needs to be continually raised? Why then do so many professing believers still regard holiness as something unpleasant and offensive?

THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

The Scripture declares that holiness is beautiful. (Psa. 96:9). Exodus 28:2 states that the priest’s garments were made *“for glory and for beauty.”* Yes even the crown of holiness was to be regarded as glorious and beautiful. To despise the beauty of holiness is to despise the beauty of Jesus Christ. If you do not consider perfect holiness as something beautiful and desirable, then you have either confused TRUE holiness with the doctrines and traditions of men, or you have become deceived by your own rebellious heart! Holiness is not merely a list of external duties; no, holiness first and foremost is a heart issue. To be holy is to be exclusively reserved and set apart for the love of the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. It means being separated from the world, pure and chaste as a betrothed virgin. The Church has been called

to be a secret garden, sealed and prepared for the Saviour’s delight. (Song 4:12-15). Jesus desires the Church to be pure for His own sake. Is it unreasonable that Christ should expect as much from the Church as any husband would from his loving bride?

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

Brethren the modern Church is not suffering today because She is too holy. No, the Church is suffering because She has

opened Her doors to UNCLEAN and DECEIVING spirits. From the pulpit to the pew, many of our modern churches have brought grief and shame to the heart of Jesus. Not since

Is it unreasonable that Christ should expect as much from the Church as any husband would from his loving bride?

the Dark Ages has the Church suffered so much because of Her own ungodliness. In times past newspapers reported the victories of the Church’s most anointed evangelists. Today the newspapers report the perversions of the Church’s most popular preachers. It is time to once again welcome the preaching of holiness in our pulpits. Jesus is waiting for us to yield to His heart’s desire. All the provision has been made through the cross of Christ. Through faith in Jesus Christ we can abundantly enjoy the daily experience of holiness in bridal love. BY GOD’S GRACE WE CAN BE, AND MUST BE HOLY. *“For the GRACE of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, and GODLY, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from ALL iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, ZEALOUS for GOOD WORKS.”*

Titus 2:11-14. ✚

Concerning the article on General “Stonewall Jackson”, Hidden In Him Prayer Watch truly sympathizes with the injustice of slavery and would never condone it in any way. We used “Stonewall Jackson” in Prayer History to reveal God’s movement and plan for revival in the midst of a nation in destruction.

The Watchword is a free monthly publication designed to awaken the Church to her need for humility, repentance and revival. We gratefully welcome your prayers and financial support as the Holy Spirit leads. Please feel free to make copies of the Watchword for your family, friends and ministry use.

Prayer Times at Western Hills Church

Friday; 6 to 7am (auditorium) • Saturday; 8-11am (prayer room)

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)