

# 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

IX

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

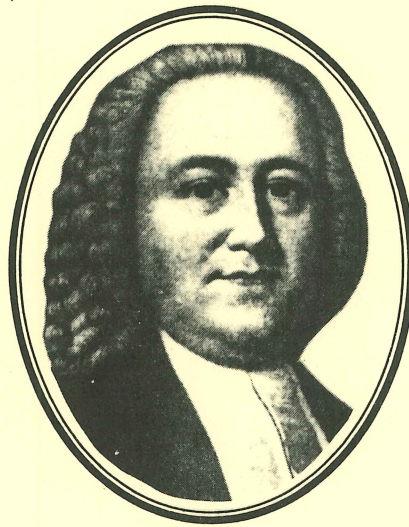
It was upon the bed of affliction that Gilbert Tennent was taught of God. In approximately 1728 this young gifted Presbyterian minister became extremely ill. Uncertain if he would recover, he entered into a deep vision of eternity and time of repentance. He writes, "I was then exceedingly grieved I had 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 laboured 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 Old Tennent Church

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 never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men."



Gilbert Tennent

His preaching was far from typical of his day. A historian of the "Great Awakening" describes the average ministers methods, "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 him 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*.

He could boldly warn men of the wrath of God Almighty 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."

*"If a hardened heart is to be broken, it is not stroking but striking that must do it."*  
Richard Baxter

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 with out fervently praying for a true heaven sent revival.

*quotes from "The Log College"*  
by Archibald Alexander

## PRINCIPLES OF REVIVAL

The price for heaven-sent revival has never changed. Before the floods of Holy Ghost conviction could sweep across the Isles of the Hebrides strong men must be broken before God and, upon their faces before God, must travail in agony of prayer through the long hours of the night for months. To do this, in spite of the demands of home and work, these men had to MAKE TIME FOR WAITING BEFORE GOD! Outpourings from on high must be preceded by a willingness to make time to wait upon God. This is perhaps the greatest problem besetting us today. We have all the modern luxuries of life to make work easier and yet we cannot make time to pray! What a tragic paradox. Dr. Wilbur Smith very aptly stated the matter when he said, "I never get time to pray - I've always got to make it!"

*When God Stepped Down From Heaven - Rev. Owen Murphy*  
Grace Ministries

## BOOKS WORTH READING

**In The Day of Thy Power**  
Arthur Wallis

*'a thorough study on the principles and purpose of revival.'*  
Christian Literature Crusade

**Revival God's Way**  
Leonard Ravenhill

*'a clarion call to intercession for a God-sent revival.'*  
Bethany House Publishers

## A TIME TO PRAY

**Western Hills Church**  
Mon-Fri 6 am auditorium  
Sat 8 am basement  
Sun 8 am auditorium

HIDDEN IN HIM prayer watch "...that in all things, He (Jesus Christ) may have the preeminence." (Col 1:15-18)