

Sermon Text Discussion 8/21/2016

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 – “How a Revived Church Makes Jesus Non-Ignorable” by Drew Hunter

Overview

Revival is when God presses the gospel deeper into Christians, and spreads it broader into their communities really fast. This is what happened in Thessalonica. It's not something we can plan or schedule. It's something God does, and when it does come it gets the attention of everyone. Here are three marks of the revived church:

- 1) A peculiar joy
- 2) A spreading gospel
- 3) Deep transformation

The truly revived church is a reviving church – it is marked by a continual rediscovery of the value of Jesus Christ as we repent of idolatry and are continually refreshed in our love for Christ.

Quotations

“What is needed... is something that cannot be explained in human terms. What is needed is something that is so striking and so signal that it will arrest the attention of the whole world. That is revival” (Lloyd Jones, *Revival*, p183)

“‘But surely,’ his friend asked in astonishment, ‘you don’t believe what Whitefield preaches, do you?’ ‘No, I don’t,’ answered Hume, ‘but he does.’ –told by John Stott

“‘Why do these people come to listen to Billy Graham,’ I asked myself, ‘when they don’t come to listen to us?’ Now I am sure that many answers could have been justly given to that question. But the answer I kept giving myself was this: ‘There is an incontrovertible sincerity about that young American evangelist. Even his fiercest critics all concede that he is sincere. I really believe he is the first transparently sincere Christian preacher many of these people have ever heard.’ Today, twenty-five years later, I have found no reason to change my mind.” –John Stott

Understanding & Application

- 1) Two of the reasons Christians have a peculiar joy is that they know two things when faced with suffering: that they deserve for circumstances to be far worse and that this temporary suffering is as bad as things will get. How does this give you perspective for the joy you have in current suffering?
- 2) Drew shared that our evangelism should be characterized by the following three adverbs: continually, naturally, and joyfully. Do these accurately describe your evangelism?
- 3) Think of the people in your life that you care about most dearly who are not believers. Are you certain that someone has shared the gospel sincerely with them?
- 4) The revived church is one that is constantly repenting from the idols that try to displace God as our master. If someone looked at every word you spoke, every dime you spend, and how you spend every minute of your day, what (or who) would they conclude you serve?
- 5) Interact with this statement: repentance and faith are not just what we do when we become Christians. They are the whole rhythm of the Christian’s life.