

WE BELONG TO YOU, LORD

Part 3 of A Cry for Revival. Isaiah 64:8-9.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. August 25, 2024.

A SMELL OF HOT OIL

Kim and I love French Fries. But ...

WHEN CHRISTIANS SMELL LIKE THE WORLD

When we lose our zeal for Jesus:

- Godless values and lifestyles from the culture seep into our lives.
- Instead of representing Jesus, we get sucked into spiritual darkness.

1 John 2:15-17 (CSB) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions — is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

The “world” is:.

- An evil, organized, earthly system controlled by the power of the evil one that has aligned itself against God and his kingdom (1 John 4:3-5; 5:19; John 16:11, Dr. Daniel L. Akin. New American Commentary on 1 John).
- We need revival when we think and live like the godless world.

ISRAEL SMELLED LIKE THE WORLD

People in ancient Judah rejected the true God and worshipped demonic gods.

- The Lord sent the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem etc.
- He punched them for loving the godless world.

In Isaiah 64, the prophet looked into the distant future, saw the coming destruction, and cried out in prayer for revival.

- He asked the Lord to manifest his glorious presence and power verses 1-4.
- He confessed the nation's sins - verses 5-7.
- He reminded the Lord that they were his covenant people and belonged to him - verses 8-9.

Isaiah 64:8-12 (CSB) Yet LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we all are the work of your hands. 9 LORD, do not be terribly angry or remember our iniquity forever. Please look — all of us are your people!

Isaiah 64:8-9 teach us the third aspect of preparing for revival:

PREPARE FOR REVIVAL BY REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

Israel was and is God's special people - Isaiah 64:8.

Isaiah 43:1 (CSB) Now this is what the LORD says — the one who created you, Jacob, and the one who formed you, Israel — “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine.

- No other nation can claim this special status
- Their special status was the only basis for Isaiah's prayer for revival.

The Church and Christians are also God's people.

- We are formed and created by God.

- We are redeemed out of sin and Satan's power.
- Jesus is our Passover Lamb.
- We are God's ekklesia - his assembly.
- The Church and Christians are:
- God's holy people (saints) - Ephesians 1:1
- God's citizens - Ephesians 2:19
- God's new humanity - Ephesians 2:15
- God's household or family - Ephesians 2:19
- God's holy temple - Ephesians 2:22
- Joined to Jesus Christ - Ephesians 4:15; 5:22, 30
- Saved by Christ - Ephesians 5:23
- The Body of Christ - Ephesians 5:29
- The Bride of Christ - Ephesians 5:25-32

1 Peter 2:9-10 (CSB) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy (See Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 43:7, 20-21; Hosea 1:6, 9-10; 2:23).

We cannot earn or deserve this special status.

- God formed us. It is a gift.
- We belong to God even when we fall far short and need revival.

WE CAN AND MUST CRY OUT FOR REVIVAL

Isaiah cried out for revival - Isaiah 64:9.

- He asked for a fresh start, not because they deserved it, but because they belonged to God.

- Other prophets cried out for revival. For example:

Habakkuk 3:2 (CSB) LORD, I have heard the report about you; LORD, I stand in awe of your deeds. Revive your work in these years; make it known in these years. In your wrath remember mercy!

Maybe the Lord will send us a revival if we ask.

A CRY FOR REVIVAL

Rita adapted a prayer from Daniel 9:

Father God, you are our Lord. How great and awesome are you, God! Your love is unfailing, and you keep your promises. You formed us for yourself, and we belong to you.

We have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands. We have wandered from our initial obedience, and we've allowed our love to grow cold. We have stopped listening to your word with hearts ready to obey.

But you are merciful and forgiving. Father God, hear us. See us in our need for your mercy and grace. See how the ministry of our congregation lies in ruins. We know we don't deserve your help. We do not come in our name but boldly in the name of Jesus.

Please have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Listen and act. Do not delay awakening our hearts and reviving our love and commitment to you.

We ask all these things In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.