

Is Revival the desire of your heart? Do you long to see the churches and communities in South Africa revived and restored to a God honouring condition?

"Restore us, O God Almighty; make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved." Psalm 80:7

Are you praying for a great spiritual awakening that will change our cities and our country? Is it your prayer that God may be honoured and glorified in all areas of life?

"Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, . . . come down to make Your Name known to Your enemies and cause the nations to quake before You!" Isaiah 64:1-2

Duncan Campbell of the Hebrides revival observed that: "Revival is not churches filled with people, but people filled with God." Jonathan Edwards described revival as "a special season of mercy."

Revival is a sovereign move of God initiated by the Holy Spirit working through consecrated men. A study of revivals in the Bible and in history reveals that all revivals begin with a deeper appreciation for the holiness of God and a realisation of how offensive our sin must be in the sight of our holy God.

"Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon." Isaiah 55:7

When the Book of the Law (the 1st five books of the Bible) was read to King Josiah of Judah, he tore his robes in anguish and exclaimed: "Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us . . ." 2

Kings 22:13. He called all the elders together to hear the Law of God and to repent together for the wickedness that they had allowed to flourish in the land.

"The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord – to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul . . . Then all the people pledged themselves to the Covenant." 2 Kings 23:3

This repentance was then followed by vigorous action to remove or destroy everything contrary to the Law of God – including the pornographic Asherah poles, the Baal altars where babies were sacrificed, and the prostitutes and false prophets who had corrupted the people (2 Kings 23:4-10).

The Bible records that Josiah ". . . turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses." 2 Kings 23:25. God sent a prophet to declare to Josiah: "Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I have spoken . . . I have heard you, declares the Lord." 2 Kings 22:19

Conviction of sin is the first step towards a Biblical Transformation. This includes focusing on the Law of God, mourning over our sin, confessing that sin and undertaking whatever steps of restitution or obedience is necessary.

"If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the Lord by deceiving his neighbour about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him, or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin . . . he must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner . . ." Leviticus 6:2-5

Those who claim to want revival, but are unwilling to thoroughly repent of every known sin and make full restitution cannot be serious.

"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent." Revelation 3:19

Like Josiah, we need to take a careful look at the Law of God. The Ten Commandments reflect the unchanging character of God. It shows us our responsibilities to God, to our parents and to other people.

". . . The Law was our tutor, to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith." Galatians 3:24

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul . . ." Psalm 19:7

Martin Luther declared: "The first duty of the Gospel preacher is to declare God's Law and show the nature of sin."

John Bunyan said: "The man who does not know the nature of the Law cannot know the nature of sin."

John Wesley suggested that evangelists should preach 90% Law and 10% Grace.

Charles Finney wrote: "Failure to use the Law is almost certain to result in false hope, the introduction of a false standard of Christian experience, and to fill the church with false converts."

Charles Spurgeon declared: "They will never accept Grace until they tremble before a just and Holy Law."

As our Lord taught: "Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law . . . Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the

same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:17-19

We want God to bless South Africa, so we need to evaluate our nation in the light of God's Word. As we seek a Biblical Transformation of our country we need to start by confessing our national sins. As we look at the Ten Commandments we must confess that:

Our leaders are too proud to bow before God in prayer at the beginning of Parliament or to acknowledge a higher source of Authority above themselves.

At state events our leaders have committed idolatry, worshipping other gods who are not God at all.

God's Name is routinely taken in vain on national television and at cinemas and this blasphemy is constitutionally protected and regarded as "entertainment."

The Lord's Day is desecrated every week. What God ordained as a Day of rest and a Day of worship is being commercialised and abused for the worship of pleasure.

Respect for our parents and elders is being undermined everywhere by the laws, the entertainment industry and by the explosion of violent crimes against the elderly.

Every year over 20 000 people are murdered in South Africa and our Justice system is failing to protect the citizens of this land. Most of the murderers who terrorise our people escape being brought to justice. In fact our laws seem to favour the rights of the criminals – and all too often criminalise the victims.

Selfishness, greed, covetousness and deception are pervasive and we have become a nation infested with corruption and theft. Our Constitution entrenches the rights of pornographers to exploit for profit people made in the image of God – to take what God has made to be holy and

pervert it. Taken what God designed to be special and made it sordid. Distorted what God intended to be private and developed it into a multi-million rand exploitative industry.

And we must admit that it is hypocritical to claim to be a "human rights society" while denying the right to life to pre-born babies. Our government interprets the Right to Life to protect guilty murderers from execution, but not to protect innocent babies from receiving the death penalty through abortion. Our society has become so calloused, careless and cruel as to allow little babies to be poisoned, burned, dismembered, smothered or strangled - through abortion – legally – and with tax payer's money. How can we expect God to bless a nation that kills babies?

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing." And we must confess that most of us, even in the Church, have shamefully done nothing to protest and work against the legalised slaughter of pre-born babies in South Africa.

God's Word declares that "Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do it for Me." Matthew 25:45. "Anyone then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." James 4:17.

We have not loved God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, nor have we loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not done unto others as we would have others do unto us. We have been thoughtless and careless. We have been self-centred and preoccupied with less important things. We have thought so much of ourselves and so little of God and of our neighbours. We have wasted too much time watching television. And we have too often spent more time reading the newspaper than reading the Bible.

In the Bible, national transformations always involved a return to studying and obeying God's Word.

The Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105); it is "sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" Hebrews 4:12. It is like a fire that burns within our heart, it is like a hammer that breaks the rocks in pieces (Jeremiah 23:29). "It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" Romans 1:16. It is the Truth (John 17:17) that sets us

free (John 8:32). It is sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103) and more precious than gold or silver (Psalm 119:72). It is "radiant, giving light to the eyes" and "joy to the heart" Psalm 19:8.

We cannot achieve anything of eternal value, unless God's Word is foundational and central, and if we think that we can take a short cut to Revival, avoiding repentance, restitution and obedience then we are only fooling ourselves. Every Revival and national transformation in the Bible involved decisive action to bring society into obedience to the Law of God!

Therefore Asa expelled the prostitutes and destroyed pornographic idols (2 Kings 15:12). Jehu demolished the child sacrificing temple of Baal and turned it into a latrine (2 Kings 10:27). Jehoiada led the people in the destruction of the temple of Baal smashing the perverse idols and blood stained altars (2 Kings 11:18). Josiah ordered idols, charms and other articles of false religion removed from the temple of the Lord (2 Kings 23:4).

"Let those who love the Lord hate evil" Psalm 97:10

Jehoshaphat rid the land of Asherah poles and set his heart on seeking God (2 Chron.19:3), Hezekiah also removed offensive materials, that were not in accordance with God's Law, from the land (2 Chron31:1; 33:15). Ezra required the people to bring their marriages into obedience to God's Law (Ezra 10:3). Nehemiah enforced Sabbath observance in honour of the Lord (Nehemiah 13:19). The people of Ephesus destroyed their occultic books (Acts 19:17-20).

"Who will rise up for Me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for Me against evildoers?"
Psalm 94:16

God's Law or Chaos

There was a time, not so long ago, when Christians were known to be people of integrity – who could be trusted to keep their word. So pervasive was the Christian ethic that verbal agreements were binding and sufficient. Burglar bars, alarms and security gates were unknown and unnecessary. Women and children could walk alone without fear or danger. What happened?

Now we can have Christians exalting a convicted criminal who, as a church leader, was guilty of unrepented adultery; and as a political leader, represented a political party which legalised abortion and pornography; and who was convicted of massive theft of funds designated for the poor. Despite his refusal to confess personal responsibility for his specific actions, or even to admit that he was wrong; and without undertaking any restitution, this unrepentant criminal has been welcomed straight from prison to preach in pulpits!

"You must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat."
1 Corinthians 5:11

In the Unicity council in Cape Town, the DA (which includes many professing Christians) have supported an interim IDP document which includes "the promotion of alternative lifestyles", and together with the ANC refused to distance themselves from the proposed "sex tourism", and the creation of a "Red Light District"! With the rampant crime (the Western Cape officially has 32 car thefts, 31 violent robberies and 9 murders every single day), with schoolgirls raped - even on Rondebosch Common, with escalating infections of HIV (AIDS), it seems incredible that the Unicity councillors could even be considering "promoting alternative lifestyles" and "sex tourism". Such vices inevitably degrade and dehumanise, encourage promiscuity, increase the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and fuel other vices such as drug and alcohol abuse, pornography, gambling and gangsterism.

"Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts ... let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream!" Amos 5:15, 24

Yet, even more disturbing is the fact that many of the councillors who voted in favour of the IDP and against adopting an ACDP motion for "the promotion of a family friendly environment", were Christians! Many of the Democratic Alliance (DA) councillors, who voted for the "sex tourism" and against the "family friendly" motion, campaigned in their elections with the pledge to uphold "family values" and "Christian principles"!

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." Proverbs 14:34

A crisis was caused in the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) earlier this year when one councillor went against his mandate and instructions by voting for an ANC mayor in the Boland district council. Incredibly, he justified his action by claiming that he had "prayed about it" and had "peace" that he should cast his vote for the ANC. This is for a party that stands for legalised abortion, pornography, homosexuality, gambling and prostitution!

"But select capable men from all the people – men who fear God; trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain – and appoint them as officials ..." Exodus 18:21

In Zambia, the President, whose testimony as a Christian is well known around the world, has dismayed his supporters by attempting to run for a third term – despite the fact that the same constitutional amendment that declared Zambia a Christian nation, also places a two term limit on presidential candidates. To justify his campaign for a third term, certain "prophets" have been paraded proclaiming that "it is God's will" and that he is the "annointed one"!

"To the Law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this Word, they have no light of dawn." Isaiah 8:20

The solution to all our social and political problems is not merely to have Christian officials elected. As recent history amply demonstrates, those who claim to be Christians can advocate and vote for policies which are blatantly in conflict with God's Law. The Bible forbids the shedding of innocent blood (Genesis 9:6; Proverbs 6: 16-17), yet many Christians vote for parties that stand for legalised, taxpayer-funded abortion and euthanasia. The Bible forbids theft, taxation above 10%, the taxation of property, the taxation of inheritance, the taxation of those involved in the full time service of the Lord (Exodus 20:15,17; 1 Samuel 8:10 –18; 1 Kings 21:3, Ezra 7:23 –24), yet many Christians support taxation policies which break all of these Biblical principles.

"For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity." Isaiah 61:8

The great British Reformer and Bible translator, Professor John Wycliffe, taught that "the Bible is given for the government of the people, by the people and for the people". The primary message of the Bible is about how sinful men and women can be reconciled to the Holy Creator. The secondary message of the Bible is how we are to live our lives in obedience to the

Law of God. Because God is the Creator of all, His Word speaks on all areas of life – including education, economics and justice. Yet many Christians reject, or neglect, God's Word and its application to all areas of life.

"Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching' ..." John 14:23

Most Christians do not seem to understand that we are in a war. It's a war of ideas and of loyalties. You either give your allegiance to God, or to satan. The world is the battlefield. Unfortunately, many Christians have failed to renew their minds (Romans 12:1-2) and don't understand how the humanist worldview conflicts with the Biblical worldview. If you read the newspaper more than you read the Bible, if you read secular books and magazines more than Christian publications, if you watch TV more than you worship Christ, then it's inevitable – you may have a Christian heart, but you'll certainly have a humanist mind.

"... since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind." Romans 1: 28

What is shaping and filling your mind? If it is television, popular music and the newspapers then you will be a humanist in your thinking, because these areas have been generally taken over by those who reject God and the Bible and therefore they promote (often subtly) evolutionism, situation ethics, immorality and socialism. Humanism is a secular religion that teaches that people are not created in the image of God, that there are no absolute standards of right and wrong, that man is a product of his environment, evolved by random chance from lower forms of life. Therefore people are not moral agents, but victims of circumstances. To the humanist man is the measure of all things – not God.

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."
Colossians 2:8

In households with television, the average child sees between 15 000 to 30 000 hours of television, and listens to over 10 000 hours of music, before leaving school (Nielsen Media Research, 1995). During that time he or she will have seen from 800 000 to 1,5 million acts of violence, including 192 000 to 360 000 murders depicted on television (US News and World

Report 1996), and 240 000 to 480 000 sexual acts or references to sex (Media Research Centre). They will also have spent from 11 000 to 16 000 hours in school and less than 2000 hours of conversation and interaction with their parents (Media Wise Family). What values and worldview will they receive from these sources? What influence has the media had upon you?

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

Unless you make a conscious, deliberate and daily effort to study God's Word and apply the Lordship of Christ to all areas of life, then you will inevitably be conformed to the world. The news media, educational institutions and entertainment industry are seldom sympathetic to Biblical principles. What we see influences what we think and what we think influences what we become and what we do. Ideas have consequences. Actions flow from thought patterns. What form of education is moulding your thought patterns? What entertainment and news media is filling your mind?

"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16

So, what has gone so wrong that even those who claim to be Christians can be guilty of deceit, theft, immorality and the promotion of pornography, prostitution, homosexuality, gambling and abortion? How can Christians belong to political parties which blatantly reject God's Law and promote such gross evils? How can Christians vote for parties which advocate legalised prostitution, gambling, homosexuality, pornography, abortion and euthanasia?

"There is no fear of God before their eyes." Romans 3:18

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7). For a society to be prosperous and peaceful it is essential that the society be primarily made up of moral people. The foundation for a truly free and stable nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the Grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal, diligent people who are hard working and productive, compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours, responsible workers who will

fulfil their obligations and be faithful stewards of public resources. The essential foundations for morality are: Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Fear of God.

"Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands." Psalm 112:1

Here we are getting to the heart of the problem. Most of our churches are devoid of the fear of the Lord, and far from delighting in God's commands, many Christians actually despise God's Law. How often have we heard preachers claiming that "we are no longer under law"! Yet the Bible defines sin as "lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). Those antinomians who reject God's Law need to heed the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law ... Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to be the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:17-19

King Alfred the Great (849 – 899) of England, who laid the foundations of the Common Law, began his Doms with the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20), the Mosaic Case Laws (Exodus 21 – 23), the Golden Rule of Christ (Matthew 7:12) and other Biblical principles. The principles of limited government and the foundations of individual liberty can be traced through Alfred to the Bible (*A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*). The Law of God is the only effective foundation for freedom and justice. The Ten Commandments covers our responsibility to God, to our parents and to other people. Each command deals with a specific area (God, worship, speech, time, authority, life, love, property, truth and conscience). Each command includes prohibitions and each command includes an implicit right (Freedom of worship, the Right to know God's will and to do it, Freedom of speech, the Right to work and to rest, Respect for authority, the Right to life, the Sanctity of marriage, Private ownership of property, the Right to be protected from slander and Freedom of conscience). Adherence to God's Law would result in respect for God, respect for people and respect for property – a society where we could love our neighbour instead of fearing our neighbour.

"The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes." Psalm 19:7-8

How then can so many Christians claim that God's Law is no longer applicable to us, today? Are we free to worship other gods? Can we now bow before idols and take God's Name in vain? May we desecrate the Lord's Day and dishonour our parents? May we kill – at least pre-born babies or the very old and infirmed? May we now commit adultery, steal, lie and covet? Which of God's Ten Commandments may we break without fear of serious consequences? God is not a permissive God. He didn't give us the "Ten Suggestions"!

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both body and soul in hell." Matthew 10:28

Only the fear of God can produce lasting justice and righteousness in individuals, families, churches and nations. Only to the degree that people fear God and obey His commandments can society function for the good and freedom of all its citizens. Honest and hard work abound when God is feared (Leviticus 25:43; Colossians 3:22). Sound economic practices flow from the fear of God (Nehemiah 5:9 -13).

"For the nation or kingdom that will not serve You will perish, it will be utterly ruined". Isaiah 60:12

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord ..." Psalm 33:12

When something is repeated in Scripture it emphasises its importance. Loving God, His Name, His Law and His Word is mentioned 88 times in the Bible. Trusting God and His Word occurs 91 times. There are 278 references to Fearing God in the Bible. The Fear of God is mentioned more times than any other aspect of devotion. The reverential awe, respect and fear of God must be the fundamental attitude of our Faith. Any view of God which doesn't lead us to fear God and obey His Law cannot be a Biblical view.

"Great and marvellous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear You, O Lord, and bring glory to Your Name? You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed."
Revelation 15:3-4

Unless we as individuals, families, congregations, communities and as a nation return to God's Word, we will be doomed to suffer the inevitable consequences of humanistic situation ethics – escalating STD's, inflation and unemployment and increasing corruption, crime and violence. It's God Law or chaos.

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction ... love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land ..." Deuteronomy 30:15-16

Dr. Peter Hammond

See The New Ten Commandments vs. The Ten Commandments

For further reading we strongly recommend: Biblical Democracy – A practical look at how the principles contained in the Bible impact on society, by Dr. Ed Cain and Miriam Cain – available for R50 including packaging and postage, also South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation by Tom Barlow and Peter Hammond for R38 including postage and packaging (in South Africa).

Prayer of Repentance

Almighty God, we bow before You our Creator, You are the One who has given us life and health, talents, gifts and opportunities for service. Every breath we breathe is a gift of Your grace. We acknowledge that You are also the Eternal Judge before whom each one of us must stand and give an account of our lives. Have mercy upon us, Lord. Do not treat us as we deserve. We plead for Your mercy – for Your grace, Your undeserved favour. We confess that we are a sinful people and we are part of a nation in rebellion against You.

We have broken Your holy Laws.

Our leaders are too proud to bow before you in prayer at the beginning of Parliament.

At state events our leaders have committed idolatry, worshipping other gods who are not God at all.

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Have mercy on us Lord.

And we must admit that we have the hypocrisy to claim to be a ‘human rights society’ while denying the right to life to pre-born babies. Forgive us Lord for interpreting the Right to Life to protect guilty murderers from execution but not protecting innocent babies from receiving the death penalty through abortion. We are ashamed that our society could have become so calloused, careless and cruel as to allow little babies to be poisoned, burned, dismembered, smothered or strangled - through abortion.

We recognise that all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing. And we must confess that most of us, even in the Church, have shamefully done nothing to protest and work against the legalised slaughter of pre-born babies in South Africa.

You have declared that "Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me." (Matthew 25:45). We recognise that to know the good we ought to do and to fail to do it is sin (James 4:17).

Selfishness, greed, covetousness and deception are pervasive and we have become a nation infested with corruption and theft. Our Constitution entrenches the rights of pornographers to exploit people made in the image of God for profit - to take what You have made to be holy and perverted it, to take what You designed to be special and made it sordid, to distort what you intended to be private and developed it into a multi million rand exploitative industry.

Have mercy on us Lord.

We have sinned. We have not loved You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, nor have we loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not done unto others as we would have others do unto us. We have been thoughtless and careless. We have squandered our time and polluted our souls with gossip and soap operas. We have been self-centred and preoccupied with less important things. Forgive us for thinking so much of ourselves and so little of You and of our neighbours. Especially we confess that we have not loved our unseen, pre-born neighbours as we ought.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

On behalf of our congregations, communities and nation we repent of the national sin of abortion. May You be merciful and gracious O Lord to forgive us our many sins and to bless us with a revival of repentance.

May You raise up many more Christians to fight for the right to life of pre-born babies.

May you grant to mothers going through crisis pregnancies – grace, comfort, strength and the support of family, friends and congregations – to choose life that the children may be born and brought up in the love and admonition of the Lord.

Lord raise up more pastors, elders, deacons and church members to see the needs and to educate and mobilise their congregations to respect the sanctity of life, and lovingly support both mothers and children – especially in crisis situations.

Strengthen the doctors and nurses to resist all pressures to pervert their healing profession from saving lives to taking lives. May the medical profession stand together in resisting the overwhelming pressures to turn them into paid assassins instead of those who are true to their Hippocratic oath.

And we also pray that You may grant that those politicians who worked and voted to legalise abortion in South Africa would come to repentance. And should those guilty of unleashing this abortion holocaust steadfastly refuse to repent, then we pray that You, O Lord, may remove them.

May you raise up new leaders who will respect the right to life of even the most helpless members of our society and ensure that babies are effectively protected from the violence of abortion – by law.

Guide each one of us O Lord as to what we can do to save lives and love our neighbours, for we ask all this in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ – Amen.