

**Twelve Lessons**

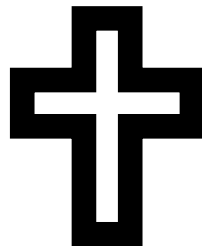
*on*

***Revival***

*Compiled and Written*

*by*

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## HISTORY & REVIVAL – LESSON 1

**Introduction** – If there is anything that we have learned from history it is that we do not learn from history.

### **Lesson Goals:**

1. Discover what history teaches us about revival.
2. To gain a deeper understanding of the nature of revival through the study of the laws of periodics and progressions.
3. Understand the dynamics of the messages preached that brought about revival.

### **Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:**

1. Immutable – The divine attribute of unchangeableness.
2. Infidelity – Without faith or trust, unfaithful, faithless Luke 12:46; incredible, of things: Acts 26:8; unbelieving, incredulous: John 20:27.

## **I. HISTORY TEACHES TWO MAJOR LAWS**

### **A. There are two immutable laws governing the affairs of Empires.**

1. The Law of Periodics and the Law of Progressions
2. Periodics – Definition – History can be viewed as performing in a circuit, or in a regular revolution in a certain time, or in a series of successive circuits.
3. Progressions – The Historical act of moving forward; a proceeding in a course; motion onwards.

### **B. These two are recognized by most Historians.**

## **II. THE LAW OF PERIODICS**

### **A. Every 2,000 years** – More or less, a civilization falls or undergoes a change that is almost equivalent to a fall.

1. A barbarian, semi-civilized vigorous nation, almost always lower in the stage of culture and civilization, is used by the hand of God to bring to time, even to punish, the more refined people.
2. Habakkuk 1:12-13 – We see a Puzzled prophet – Why would God choose a more wicked nation to punish a nation which was comparatively less wicked? He wasn't questioning the fact that Israel needed to be chastised for her sin, he was questioning the agent used by God to chastise Israel.

### **B. The Civilization we enjoy, the Western Civilization is about 1,000 years old** – It began with the overthrow of Constantinople by Mohammed II, and his Seljuk Turks.

1. Greek scholars, Teachers, Learning, and Culture were scattered across the then known Western world.
2. Learned Historians and theologians recognize as we approach the year 2,000, we are on the very verge of upheaval.
3. Unless God intervenes soon, it is inevitable.

## **III. THE LAW OF PROGRESSIONS** – In the History of every nation with the exception of one, there have been four consecutive, well defined periods.

### **A. The Period of Discovery and Colonization** – When a nation is founded by hard work and principles. We can see this in the United States in the 1600's and 1700's.

### **B. The Period of Expansion and Cultivation** – The Nation begins to grow commercially. This was demonstrated in this country in the 1800's. "Go West, Young Man" was the cry of Horace Greeley.

### **C. The Period of Leisure and Luxury** – This is a time when the Arts flourish and the Nation becomes educated. The tragedy is that every time, leisure and luxury has degenerated into license. It was during the 1900's, especially after the Great Depression of 1929 was overcome.

### **D. The Period of Deterioration and Destruction** – No great nation has ever fallen from the outside. It has always been the faults, failures, corruption and rottenness on the inside that has cracked up a people. Morally, the United States is following this same pattern of progression in History.

### **E. Only One Nation** was saved from this seemingly inevitable cataclysmic finale – The British Empire. It was not saved by its armies, navies, statesmen or wealth, but the revival under John Wesley.

### **F. At the time that the Wesley Revival began**, the thirteen colonies were at their lowest ebb.

1. French infidelity was bidding against Anglo-Saxon faith for the life of the nation.
2. The colonies were in the throes of a widespread depression.
3. The colonist's dollar was worth 3 cents on the markets of the world.
4. It was at a time like this, that John Wesley, George Whitefield, and Jonathan Edwards began to call the colonists back to God. A revival broke out that spread from Massachusetts to Georgia. A revival saved this nation for God and Christ.

**IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MESSAGE THEY PREACHED** – This is important because if the message worked then, it will work now. Sometimes our messages get side-tracked by issues.

**A. They preached the awfulness of sin in its reach and its ruin.**

1. Its Reach – They named sin in every place to every person.
  - a. We must say more than “Sin is bad”, it must be EXPOSED!
  - b. Revival is an Exposure of Sin.
  - c. Sins of the Church, the Companion, the Community, the Children.
2. Its Ruin – They preached hell hot, judgment sure and eternity long.
  - a. Eph. 2:1-3 – *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”*
  - b. Eph. 2:1-3 – Sinners are DEAD, DOMINATED, DIRECTED, DISOBEDIENT, AND DOOMED.
3. Its Rescue – Only in Christ – I Tim 1:15 – *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”*

**B. They preached the mightiness of the Saviour.**

1. Mightiness of His Love – No one He could not save.
2. Mightiness of His Power – No one He could not rescue.
  - a. Revival is an Experience of Power – Eph. 5:18 – *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”*
  - b. Revival is an Execution of Miracles – Luke 1:41 – *“And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:”* But a greater miracle than John shouting in his mother’s womb is the New Birth of a Sinner.
  - c. Revival is an Evangelization of Sinners – Acts 2:41 – *“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*
  - d. Revival is an Exaltation of the Saviour – Phil. 2:10-11 – *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

**C. They preached the narrowness of salvation.**

1. They had one Lord, Jesus Christ – Acts 10:36 – *“The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)”*
2. They had one Guide, the Holy Spirit – John 14:26 – *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*
3. They had one Book, the Bible – Heb. 4:12 – *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*
4. They had one Determination, to preach the Gospel – I Cor. 2:2 – *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”*
5. They had one Life they were determined to spend in the pursuit of souls – Phil. 1:21 – *“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*
6. They had only one Message – Salvation by Faith in God’s only begotten Son – Eph. 2:8 – *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”*
7. Men had to be “Born Again” – John 3:3 – *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

**Conclusion:** Recognizing the crisis we face, realizing the weapons we have, remembering the power that is ours, shall we, majoring on the awfulness of sin, the mightiness of the Saviour, the narrowness of salvation, pray, fast witness, preach through to victory to a nation, capture a world and start that sweeping revival!!!!