

Straight Talk

Revival means so many different things. To some a great revival is not even a possibility in these end times. Their eschatology is locked into biblical statements concerning things getting worse and worse in the end times. They have no room in their thinking for belief in an outpouring of God's Spirit on a massive scale in our time.

Others completely ignore these biblical warnings concerning the end time and see only a great harvest of souls through a revived and renewed church, with the glory and power of God everywhere.

They focus on other passages of scripture such as Daniel's vision of the mountain coming to fill the whole earth. To have a mind-set locked into either prospect is wrong. To see a beleaguered church holding out as things get worse and worse in the end days is pessimism. To see a revival without confrontation with evil in the end times is triumphalism. Both pessimism and triumphalism are enemies of the truth. Both of these extreme pictures ignore part of what the Bible reveals.

A biblical perspective shows that both realities can take place side by side, that sin can increase, but that grace can still outstrip it, increasing all the more. In Acts we clearly see that pentecostal outpouring as well as sustained persecution can be experienced by the same people

in the same generation. The parable of the wheat and the tares shows that at the end of the age both the work of God and the work of the enemy will be mature.

Today the signs of God's favour are being manifested in the church of Jesus Christ across the nations and yet, at the same time, violence, war, poverty and disease are increasing. Again, the prophetic voice is being raised in the church with new vigour, yet

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at the same time some clergy are endorsing gay and lesbian lifestyles, proclaiming adultery as nothing more than the consequences of genetic aberrations, and relegating the

realm of the demonic to medieval myth.

In this issue of *Restore* we confess our hope that our generation will experience the present rain drops of blessing increasingly, until they become a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit across the nations. There is no way that the church will be ready for the challenges of a generation destined to cross the millennial line in less than five years time without the emotional, intellectual and spiritual equipping that comes from such an outpouring of the Spirit. **R**



Bryn Jones