

SBC22 9 Marks at 9: What's Wrong with Us? Revival vs. Revivalism

January 8, 2023

CCEF videos—hope in suffering—also Bible Reading plans under Resources—CHECK IT OUT—some of you have after email sent around; It's been 3 weeks, and think as we dig in, easy to lose the forest for the trees, so watch it again; Ben Lacey first few minutes of 35:18—44:43 asked questions like, While we don't "walk an aisle" or focus on "praying a prayer," where do you think we can apply using right biblical commands for wrong focuses of repentance and faith? (here's what you need to do if you want to be right w God . . . ; what characterizes right guilt vs. wrong guilt; right focus versus wrong focus when repent; right focus when believe/live by faith vs. wrong focus?) struggled to understand the problem, so looked at Piper clip—asked, What separated nominal Christians from genuine ones? Watch out for a salvation that turns to Jesus to get what you always wanted but there is NO changing WHAT thrills you, WHAT you need or HOW it is defined; we MUST focus on "What is at the bottom of what makes them happy." (roots, not fruits); Lacey said, the focus of Jesus' invitation wasn't walk the aisle or pray a prayer, but carry your cross; what is result of right focus? when gospel words are preached with right focus/context, THEN the effect of our preaching will be cross-shaped—meaning, more we preach, more we will see people denying themselves and taking up their cross and following Jesus daily—THIS is the lasting fruit, eternal fruit; NOW, we can look at fruit and ask, is there evidence of cross-shaped fruit? So we sought to define this, think of what it includes, rephrasing to ask, If we died with Christ and raised with Him Col. 3:1-2, what kind of life should people see that is different then before we died with Christ? Talking about differences in affections—affection can't just be for "doing better," "being a better me," "sorry I messed up and want it right" BUT affections of awe, reverence of God that demands my full attention—singleness of heart shown not only by life responses, but also by change of affections to what is lasting/eternal (different from what earth values EVEN w these same words—ie. Peace, joy, meaningful life, how to face suffering); need to ask questions like, is HE the focus or my story—do I show that His words have lasting value and direction? what are the daily results proving I value fellowship with Him, honor His Word, show eternal kingdom perspective—does my perspective always include more than my own experiences? THIS is the right focus and fruit, if this "cross-shaped fruit" is lasting and eternal, what are the implications for us individually/as churches if no matter how good our intentions, we've focused on other fruit? (where will actions be focused, what will be valuable, how will we feel, where have we unwittingly contributed to the problem even while we are trying to fix it, etc.) Dirk said legalistic living and focus on prosperity gospel (if I do, then He must, and I get), but also said "man-centered theology" and "me-centered relationships" (ie. If talk about submission, WE benefit; talk about sin—what do I get if I stop, how do I stop—etc. STOPS focus on God for God—His glory seen through His character and provision) Feelings? If can't find meaningful life, then Disenchanted, feels like NO HOPE, feel like everyone else has life we wanted; Perhaps at this point, should ask again—where do we encourage people to repent—what are the roots we feel must stop, WHAT do we ask them to trust? Remember Lacey's words, wrong methods seeking biblical necessities of repentance and faith function as the devil's version of Robin Hood—they give assurance to people who shouldn't have it, and they steal assurance from people who shouldn't. NOW, what comes to mind as to perhaps where we are well-meaning, but have bought into other values by how we encourage people in the church and what we stand against? Wrongfully Crushing OR defensive of people's external—I'm not just talking about what we look like (wear, hairstyles), but life choices—tv, sports, movies, alcohol, I'm talking about people's season of life, choices w time—they don't have time for people, they too focused on project, they don't have enough time w family, too much time w family; personality—too loud/quiet, too logical, too emotional; often, don't notice this problem b/c unconsciously don't include them in your world, don't see it as your responsibility (home, church, work, etc.) I tried talking to them, but it didn't click – but if forced OR feel responsibility to deal with them, either nail people to wall (I told them and they wouldn't listen—okay, but exactly what goal were you going after? When you said that, what did they hear? How would you be a part of people's values changing from fear of Lord w you as tool and not merely fear of you/someone else?) OR let off hook/defend them as victim w/o probing deeper—ie. you don't know them, they are trying, they intend to . . . instead of getting beneath surface to what keeping them from right actions/focus and holding them to continue the process however uncomfortable for God's glory sake as growth and change is must in life of Christian (repentance and faith way of life) IF wrongly focused, how does this change preaching, discipleship, service among people of God? focus of preaching/discipleship/service MUST be on loving people by helping them get what THEY need to live, seeking to provide the environment THEY need to thrive—end result if NOT fruit of Spirit is fleshly Gal. 5:13-17, Jm. 3:13-18 what does this look like? Instead of confidence among people of God and more unity of Spirit b/c Godward gaze and Spirit's work, produce people afraid of offending others; not sure how to help; WE then undermine the gospel/don't dig deep enough when we are always trying to accept other's so they don't feel judged--protect everyone's "feelings" and "attempts"—I meant, I thought, I wanted, I tried; make whoever doesn't accept what they say they need to live be the "ungodly" or "unkind/unloving" one; ALSO, at same time saying should accept/not judge, we are wrongfully judgmental (like those in Acts heard last week, this week—

narrow w both incomplete theology); BUT other side just as dangerous—I'm not playing all that sentimental garbage, SOMEONE NEEDS TO STAND, SAY SOMETHING—and start swinging, or canceling as don't trust anyone but supposedly trust God's Word; **ALL sides end up riding success or drowning under failure or injustice**; NO—we MUST have God-ward gaze, and then observe fruit of supposed God-focus; **How do we head in right direction with any hope/confidence?** Must pave path—what does it include/feel like **(like doctor before touches you or before surgery)** **what would it look like inside the church for us to shift this focus toward cross-centered fruit?** (ie. What will our feelings/life look like as we address the change in focus to get "cross-shaped fruit"? What will discipleship/growth individually/as churches include that perhaps we are hesitant to accept?) **but like Jahn Mark said, must fight defensiveness and rationalizing or will never change**; must accept that if have been looking for wrong thing and worn out b/c have been devoured by expectations of ourselves/others, and THEN hear should look elsewhere, it will probably feel hopeless, like we will NEVER get to right fruit—like there is NO work of God/His Spirit, and we will DIE trying to get to cross-shaped fruit; **instead of running to "help God/gospel look good/loving by seeking to give everyone what they think they need, recognize they will feel worse but giving careful steps in right direction** **which always include not merely prescription and steps, but a God-ward gaze**; watch rest of Ben Lacey Clip summing up what we've talked about; **if we want to see revival coming from the Spirit of God, we must preach the Word and pray. What should be preached? God's holiness, man's sinfulness, Christ's righteousness, and then a call to carry the cross. Where was the hope for John Bunyan when he was grieved by his sin?** Bunyan grieved by sin—found hope by remembering that My righteousness is in heaven **What keeps us from focusing there when we feel the weight of our sin and what is the result? How will these four themes preached lead to revival from the Spirit of God?** --Wrong focus when on our decision--Put focus on JESUS—HIS work/worth, not my own—FAILING TO SEE HOW CHRIST'S WORK NOT ONLY IN PAST, BUT IN PRESENT IS ONLY WAY TO LOOK AT God's holiness, man's sinfulness with hope in a way that makes us carry our cross (the things that call for sacrifice and death daily because NOT OUR OWN and NOT getting our identity apart from Christ's righteousness) **44:43-48:25** Ben Lacey on what else we need to do as a church to put focus in the right place INSIDE the church **What thoughts crossed your mind about our individual and corporate responsibility w Lord's Table and Baptism?** (how should the definitions of these studied and strengthened actually promote healthy churches AND protect against nominalism and unholiness—how has your view of Lord's Table and baptism shifted?) Ill-fruit of revivalism: **speed and numbers in name of evangelism/conversion can lead to downplaying other ingredients like purpose and place of baptism and Lord's Supper**—can't just let everyone get baptized; DON'T LOWER THE BAR or you gave them passport to get into all the churches – use all reasonable means—can't stop it all— --talking about sexual abuse so much b/c just dumped report about it—WATCH dangers of throwing stones—this is a big problem NOT that pastor's untrustworthy—YES, but that Christian's have been sloppy all over—personal holiness—we are NOT part of SBC, so listening in on their conversation —these will focus on four themes that said should be preached which will put focus on Christ—give HOPE, not just terror with these ordinances—**if DON'T have right place, then gospel not identifier, instead, lift up what each other wants us to lift up as the identifier** (my gifts, my personality, my needs, my brokenness, etc.—leads to the "woke" problems where people need to wake up to what THEY focus on rather than on what God focuses on)

58:00-end Mark Dever

Positively a love for God and a love for others will lead to 5 distinct things that go together.

Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions

what is the root of these five things? What is the "germ" he talks about? How does his What do we need to do to foster this root?

How do these five things TOGETHER result from a love for God and a love for others? Why will there be a culture of raising up elders and leaders if men, women, boys, girls follow Jesus?