

O Lord, Revive Thy Work

(Habakkuk 3:2)

by Charles Bridges

'The Son of Man' walketh, as the great Head of the church, 'in the midst of the golden candlesticks', Rev. 1.12-16.

He looks upon the work of his own hands, and too often beholds it drooping, declining, dying: He utters his rebuke – 'I know thy works, etc. Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, which are ready to die', Rev. 3:1,2.

His church owns the charge, and cries – 'O Lord, revive thy work!'

I. When does the work of the Lord need reviving?

1. When iniquity abounds, Is. 59:1-15. Jer. 5:23,10, etc.
2. Where there is a want of power upon the word, Is. 64:7. Matt. 13:14,15.
3. Where there is want of appetite for the sincere milk of the word, Num.21:5. 2 Tim. 4:3.
4. When the Saviour's presence in the soul is not duly prized, Cant. 3:1; 5:2,3.
5. When there is want of concern for the honour of God, Hag.1:1-9.
6. When the principles and conduct of Christians are not distinctly separate from the world, 2 Chron.18:1; 19:2. Ezra 9:2.

II. How does the Lord revive his work?

1. By exciting his people to pray, Ps. 80; 85:4-7. Is. 63:17. Zech. 8:21. Acts 1:14; 2:1.
2. By invigorating their graces, Hos. 14:5-7.
3. By sending an increased power upon the word, Acts. 2:41-47; 5:13,14; 6:7; 11:21,24.
4. By causing a steadfast adherence to the means of grace, Neh. 9:3. Luke 24:53. Acts 2:46.
5. By a distinct separation of his people from the company and principles of the ungodly, Neh. 9:2. Acts 2:40. 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
6. By pouring out a spirit of love and unity upon his church, Is. 11:6-9. Acts 2:44,45; 4:32.
7. By enlarging the enjoyment of Christian privileges, Acts 9:31.
8. By restoring those that have erred in doctrine or practice, to the simplicity of the Gospel, Is. 29:24.

Let us learn the importance of earnest, individual, and united prayer, for the outpouring of that gracious Spirit, who is the Almighty Agent of the revival of the Lord's work in his church, Is. 64:1-3.