

Week 13 Documents

Billy Graham: From his Revival Sermons in Los Angeles California 1949

Then look at our moral standard. There was a time a few years ago, which most of you with gray hair can remember, when this country claimed the Ten Commandments as the basis for our moral code. That is no longer true.

The home, the basic unit of our society is breaking and crumbling, and the American way of life is being destroyed at the very heart and core of society. . .

Look at the problem of sex. Everywhere, but especially emphasized and underscored here, we see sex placed before American young people. If we want to sell even a motor car tire, we have to use sex to do it. As a result, our high school and college young people are going to the dogs morally — encouraged by the press and radio across this Nation. . . .

Let us look for a moment at the political realm. Let's see what is happening — not only in the city of Los Angeles, but in the western world. The world is divided into two sides. On the one side we see Communism; on the other side we see so-called Western culture. Western culture and its fruit had its foundation in the Bible, the Word of God, and in the revivals of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. Communism, on the other hand, has decided against God, against Christ, against the Bible, and against all religion. Communism is not only an economic interpretation of life — Communism is a religion that is inspired, directed and motivated by the Devil himself who has declared war against Almighty God. Do you know that the Fifth Columnists, called Communists, are more rampant in Los Angeles than any other city in America? We need a revival. . .

God said, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chron. 7:14). Do you believe that? I believe that we can have revival any time we meet God's conditions. I believe that God is true to His Word, and that He must rain righteousness upon us if we meet His conditions.

What are His conditions? First, realization of need and a desire for revival. I am talking to Christians now. Do you want a revival today? Would you like to see this city moved from center to circumference? Would you like God to bless us and people turn to Him? Would you like Hollywood to be so shaken that it might influence the world for Christ? Would you like the Spirit of God in our midst as He has never been before? We can have it! I say we can have it, if we meet God's condition!

The second condition for revival is repentance. Scripture says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Ps. 66:18). Do you know what repentance is? Repentance is confession of sin, repentance is sorrow for sin, and repentance is renouncing sin. Many people say they believe God's Word and accept Christ's sacrifice, but they have never been truly repentant! If they were, their lives would show it.

And then the third thing is to pray. Revival never comes except in answer to prayer. A few months ago the city of Augusta, Georgia, was moved upon by the Spirit of God. Do you know why? Before we arrived, there were 13,000 prayer meetings held in that city. God was moving before we got there, in answer to prayer.

Do you know what prayer implies? Prayer implies that we must be in one accord. That means we can't have divisions among us. That means that if I am a Presbyterian or you are a Baptist, or if I am a Baptist or a Pentecostal, regardless of denomination, we have to forget our differences — forget any minor points of argument and join together around the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must unite in prayer and supplication to the Lord, and God will send a revival. That means that we have to love one another, and our hearts must be bound together. When we love one another, there won't be any pride. When we love one another, there won't be any jealousy. When we love one another, there won't be any envy. When we love one another, there won't be any gossip. When we really love one another, there won't be any of these sins, because love binds us together and presents us to God in the purity of Christ.

Fourth, in order to have a revival we must have faith. Unbelief is a sin that keeps back revival in city after city because people will not believe God's Word and take Him at His word. God says if we meet certain conditions, He *will* send a revival; He *will* send the blessing, and sinners will turn to Him. We have to take God at His word and not doubt Him. We need revival!

Now, what are the results of revival? The church will be on fire, burning with a desire to serve Him. Christians will be compelled to bring others to know Him.

There will be a new missionary emphasis in the church. We will turn our eyes on a world that is lost and dying and going to hell because these souls have not accepted God's plan. Prayer meetings will be jammed, people will love the hour of prayer and spend time in communion with God. The church will add new members. I believe that any work, any campaign, and evangelistic effort that is not contributing to the church is not building a lasting foundation in that place. God has approved the organization of the churches, and we are praying that thousands of people will be swept into the church during the days while we are here.

Franklin D. Roosevelt October 31, 1936 Madison Square Garden

Here and now I want to make myself clear about those who disparage their fellow citizens on the relief rolls. They say that those on relief are not merely jobless--that they are worthless. Their solution for the relief problem is to end relief--to purge the rolls by starvation. To use the language of the stock broker, our needy unemployed would be cared for when, as, and if some fairy godmother should happen on the scene.

You and I will continue to refuse to accept that estimate of our unemployed fellow Americans. Your Government is still on the same side of the street with the Good Samaritan and not with those who pass by on the other side.

"Peace on earth, good will toward men"--democracy must cling to that message. For it is my deep conviction that democracy cannot live without that true religion which gives a nation a sense of justice and of moral purpose. Above our political forums, above our market places stand the altars of our faith--altars on which burn the fires of devotion that maintain all that is best in us and all that is best in our Nation.

We have need of that devotion today. It is that which makes it possible for government to persuade those who are mentally prepared to fight each other to go on instead, to work for and to sacrifice for each other. That is why we need to say with the Prophet: "What doth the Lord require of thee -- but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God." That is why the recovery we seek, the recovery we are winning, is more than economic. In it are included justice and love and humility, not for ourselves as individuals alone, but for our Nation.

We had to struggle with the old enemies of peace--business and financial monopoly, speculation, reckless banking, class antagonism, sectionalism, war profiteering.

They had begun to consider the Government of the United States as a mere appendage to their own affairs. We know now that Government by organized money is just as dangerous as Government by organized mob.

Never before in all our history have these forces been so united against one candidate as they stand today. They are unanimous in their hate for me--and I welcome their hatred.

I should like to have it said of my first Administration that in it the forces of selfishness and of lust for power met their match. I should like to have it said of my second Administration that in it these forces met their master.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memphis Tennessee, April 1968

We need all of you. And you know what's beautiful to me is to see all of these ministers of the Gospel. It's a marvelous picture. Who is it that is supposed to articulate the longings and aspirations of the people more than the preacher? Somehow the preacher must have a kind of fire shut up in his bones. And whenever injustice is around he tell it. Somehow the preacher must be an Amos, and saith, "When God speaks who can but prophesy?" Again with Amos, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Somehow the preacher must say with Jesus, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me," and he's anointed me to deal with the problems of the poor."

And I want to commend the preachers, under the leadership of these noble men: James Lawson, one who has been in this struggle for many years; he's been to jail for struggling; he's been kicked out of Vanderbilt University for this struggle, but he's still going on, fighting for the rights of his people. Reverend Ralph Jackson, Billy Kiles; I could just go right on down the list, but time will not permit. But I want to thank all of them. And I want you to thank them, because so often, preachers aren't concerned about anything but themselves. And I'm always happy to see a relevant ministry.

It's all right to talk about "long white robes over yonder," in all of its symbolism. But ultimately people want some suits and dresses and shoes to wear down here! It's all right to talk about "streets flowing with milk and honey," but God has commanded us to be concerned about the slums down here, and his children who can't eat three square meals a day. It's all right to talk about the new Jerusalem, but one day, God's preacher must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee. This is what we have to do.

. . . .

Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop.

And I don't mind.

Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!

And so I'm happy, tonight.

I'm not worried about anything.

I'm not fearing any man!

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!!