

Join us for a

**One Night
Service with
Dr. Jerry Savelle**

February 20th

@ 7pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Who Needs God?	1
Desperate for Revival	2
The Church Needs God	3
Finding Jesus	4

**FORTRESS OF
JOY CHURCH**

Who Needs God?

In general terms, many churches are diminishing in the number of active members. The churches that are maintaining their numbers and growing are the ones who tell the people what they want to hear. The Apostle Paul told us prophetically this day would come.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.

In order for pastors to fill their pews, some have compromised God's Word in order to have a flock. Who are these folks with the itching ears, they are what the Bible calls goats. Well, you can't pastor goats, believe me, I wore myself out trying. Goats have a tendency to go their own way. They will eat anything and they are always butting heads with someone. They do acknowledge God but they will have Him only on their terms. They are right and everyone else is wrong. I know many pastors who agonize over their stunted church, they have really good people but not many.

There was a time when all the good churches were vibrant and growing, but as time wore on the people were either seduced away or they just lost interest. They fell into the same pattern of error as Israel did. Israel was hot after God when they were oppressed, they

Lukewarm Christians take God for granted, they have everything they need so they leave off their relationship with the One who gave them all good things. The nation of Israel did this time and time again, they worshipped God just as long as they needed Him. God would not be mocked. He would not just look the other way. He demands that His people be honest with Him. It is a very foolish idea to think we can fool God in any manner, shape or form.

When a Christian is consumed with the provisions of God in place of God, they have become lukewarm. An honest man would be cold or hot, only a fraudulent person would compromise for personal

turned to God and He delivered them. Once God set them free and blessed them, they forgot Him and they focused on the good life He gave them.

Revelation 3:16-17 So then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth. Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods and have need of nothing and you don't know that you're miserable, poor, blind and naked.

gain. The Scribes and Pharisees presented themselves before the people as "holy men of God". They didn't fool Jesus, He called them hypocrites and serpents, agents of the devil. They deceived the people because the people didn't believe God's holy Word. Jesus spoke strange things, He spoke the truth. Something they were not accustomed to. They said this about Jesus, a man who spoke with authority and not like the Scribes.



Desperate for Revival

Jesus sent the Holy Ghost to be the teacher of the church, but He has very little freedom in most churches.

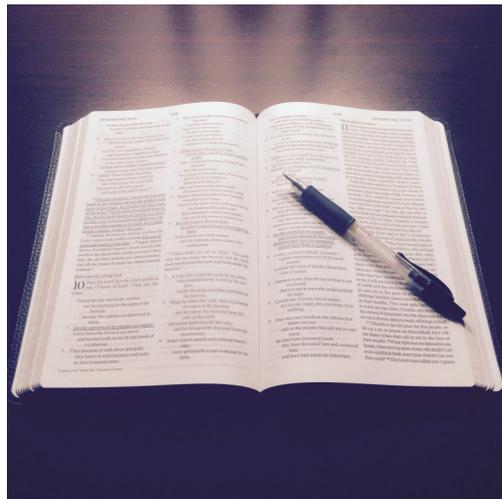
A man once said this as he was preaching: **if the Holy Spirit was suddenly called back to heaven most churches would just continue as they always have.** Jesus sent the Holy Ghost to be the teacher of the church, but He has very little freedom in most churches. Many churches and ministries have their own "religion" and "programs", they have no need of the Holy Spirit of God. The churches that identify with Christ are in desperate need of revival.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he with Me.



Jesus is trying to gain entrance into His churches, He is on the outside pounding on the door but few are opening up to him. **Religious tradition** is very hard to change because the participants must admit they are wrong! That's why sinners struggle

with repentance, they must admit their error and be willing to ask Jesus for help. The last vision Smith Wigglesworth had, he saw hospitals being emptied of the sick. They were being taken into the churches where the gifts of the Spirit flowed and they were all healed.



Mark 16:17 And these signs will follow them that believe, in My Name they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it (He) filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Any sick person should be able to go into any church and be prayed for and healed. But some churches teach you to offer it up to Him and just suffer like Christ. While others pray God's will be done because they don't know God's will. I think some folks only get sicker because they are told it's God's will for their life. A church can bear a spiritual title and they can sing spiritual songs and the whole time not acknowledge God even once! One day I tried to lead a man to the Lord but he rebuked me and told me not to **shove** God down his throat. I quickly responded to him, I told him he had nothing to worry about, God will not go where He is not welcome.

I just love the suddenlys in in the Bible, the night I was filled with the Spirit it was sudden, I didn't have time to question or doubt. The church needs a suddenly, it needs a visitation of the Lord that they don't have time to doubt. The church at large is content with itself, it has no idea what it's missing out on. I grew up in a church that spoke highly of God but not according to His Word. I am grateful they convinced me of God but it was years later before I got to meet Him for myself. My old church gave me everything they knew, if they had known Jesus I'm sure they would have shared Him with me. I am believing that one day they will open the door and invite Him in, I know He is anxious for that day to come as well.

The Church Needs God

It's difficult to accept but the church at large has become a secular organization. Some perform same sex marriages and some pastors are committed homosexuals. They act like their lifestyle is just as normal as the marriage between a man and a woman.

Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is an abomination (disgusting).

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the Gospel, even so we speak: not as pleasing men but God, which tries our hearts.

When a man reads and believes God's Word it is to please Him and no one else. The Word of God is truth, the highest form of reality, it can be very harsh on the flesh and lusts of men. In an attempt to pro-

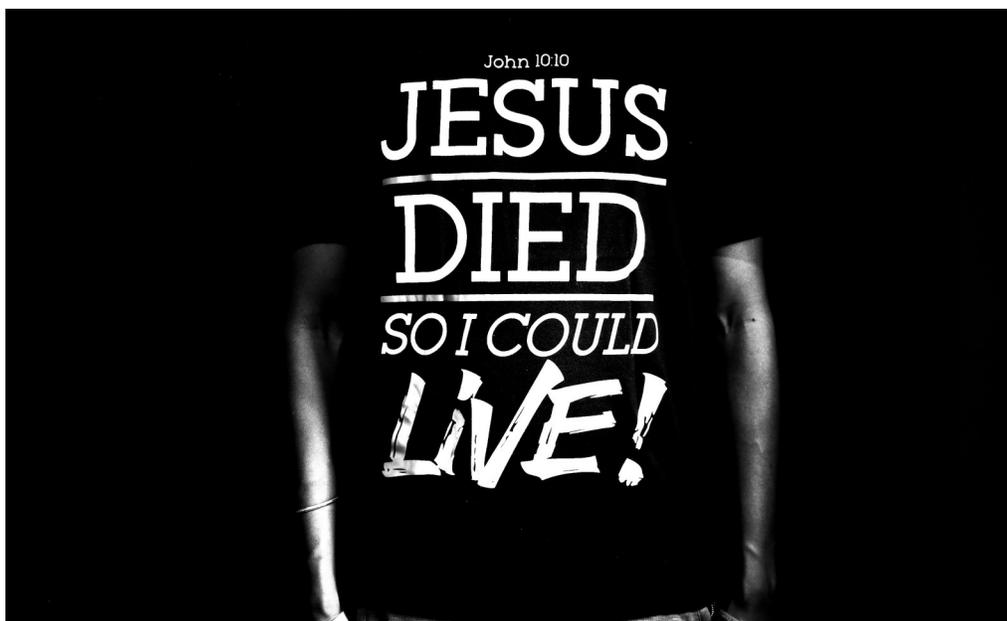
on account of compromise they have nothing profitable to be rewarded of! We must all face these questions: is God welcome in our church? Do we need God? I believe everyone would answer yes to these questions. But how many of them are sincere? We do not want God to just take a seat in the pew, we need Him to be the Lord and Master of everything we do. If He is invited He will come, He inhabits the praise of His people. Some of our church-

es are so full of programs, we can't seem to fit God in anywhere.

Mathew 16: 18B
... and upon this rock I will build my church: and the gates of hell

shall not prevail against it.

*I
for
one
do
not
want
to
stand
before
God
on
judgement
day
and
discover
that
everything
I did
was a
big
waste
of time.*



I do not understand how "christians" justify the things God calls sin. I recently read where the pastor of a large denomination would perform same-sex marriages but he got under conviction of the Bible. He "came out" and repented and would no longer compromise the Word of God. The people of his church began to demonstrate on the grounds of the church in defense of the sodomites. Now how can God honor a church that does not honor Him or His Word?

tect the "feelings" of people, preachers have diluted the Word and relieved borderline Christians of their responsibilities. I for one do not want to stand before God on judgement day and discover that everything I did was a big waste of time.

1 Corinthians 9:27 I keep my flesh under and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

I greatly fear for the number of preachers that ministered all their lives, but

Jesus built His church on the rock of revelation of His identity, it was not founded on the man Peter. Now, if Jesus built his church on Himself then shouldn't He be active in His own house? When men boot Jesus and take His place they are called claim jumpers or trespassers. They will misrepresent the original claim and deceive many who think they are doing the right thing. The church needs God, I pray the church does the right thing.

FOJ

Fortress of Joy Church
720 Faw Rd
Helena, MT 59602

Phone: 406-442-1819

E-mail: support.fortress@aol.com

FortressOfJoyChurch.com

**Restoring the
supernatural power
of God back
to the local church**

Finding Jesus

How does a sincere person find the right God and the right house? They take the Word of God and use it as the evidence of God's presence. Let me make this very simple. I will give you a Scripture spoken by Jesus, if men believe it they will not be ashamed to proclaim it.

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs shall follow them that believe; in My Name they shall cast out devils: they shall speak in new tongues. They shall take up serpents: and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and the sick will recover.

If anyone will present this Scripture to a church, they will quickly know if God is in that house or not. If the

pastor tries to explain away this Scripture and try to tell you that the day of miracles have passed, then you would be wise to pass. If the pastor pleads guilty to believing the words of Christ you may have found a home to grow in.

No church is perfect but some can be so imperfect they are not worth your time or effort. None of us are called to go around and correct every ministry, but we are encouraged to check out the fruit. Every good tree produces good fruit and every bad tree kicks out bad fruit.

