

"And now for a little space grace hath been showed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage." Ezra 9:8 KJV



Ezra was deeply grieved, because the Israelites who had been left were still worshipping idols; the very thing that had brought about the Babylonian captivity! He pled with God for a taste of the total commitment in Israel to worship and serve God. *"Give us a little reviving!"* Our great United States, founded upon the Truth and principles of God's Word, is so far removed from God that it is securely chained, in a captivity of its own doing. We murder infants, lament the death of trees, exalt criminals, mock the righteous, scorn Truth, and seek only pleasure! In spite of this licentious spiral of concupiscence, God has preserved unto Himself a remnant who still obeys and loves Him; a few who still have not bowed the knee to Baal! Preceding captivity, many Israelites worshipped both at the Temple in Jerusalem and on the high places of Baal. Many who attend church are just as wicked. A multitude sits in Sunday morning pews who have no knowledge of nor desire to know the Living God! *"Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."* They sing and listen without one ounce of conviction for sin, *"giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."* True believers will be convicted of sin or encouraged every time the Truth is preached and will depart in quiet contemplation and confession or glad rejoicing! There's no hurry to chit-chat about the latest gossip, but a still, Holy reverence for the things of God and the place of His Assembly!

A touch of Grace from Christ our Lord,
Is found within His Holy Word;
If would see His precious Face,
We must still our hurried pace! ~CGP

We have scheduled God out of our lives and meetings and we wonder why He does not meet with us! Satan uses the good to keep us from the best! Good books, family maintenance, church service, music, and even page-a-day devotions. He whispers, "You need not always talk with God or you'll have no time to care for others." We can do nothing without Christ, yet we still attempt it! Oh Lord, *"Give us a little reviving in our bondage!"*

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. Pray without ceasing. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." John 15:5 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Joshua 1:8-9 KJV