

The Great Need for holy provocation

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Gray

Introduction

1. Hebrews 10:25
2. The word “provoke” in this passage is worth considering
3. Used in other translation
 1. Williams, “Stimulate one another to love and good deeds
 2. Goodspeed “Let us arouse ourselves to rival one another’s love and good deeds
 3. RSV Let us condise how to stir up one another to love and good works
 4. NKJV has “to stir up”
 5. So to “provoke one another,” is to stir up, stimulate arouse one another
4. The church needs a holy provocation today

II Discussion

1. Many were provoked, aroused, excited concerning religion in the days of Jesus and the apostles
 1. John the Baptist was stirred and aroused when he saw men come to his baptism Matthew 3:5-12; Today Romans 6:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17
 2. Jesus was provoked, stirred up and aroused when He saw the temple defiled John 2:13-15; We need to keep the church, not merely the house clean Ephesians 5:25-27
 3. Jesus was aroused to see so much hypocrisy in this day Matthew 23
 4. Paul’s spirit was tired within him when he saw thousands of idols at Athens Acts 17:16; Colossians 3:5
2. The restorers of the Ancient order of things were stirred deep in their hearts
 1. Thomas Campbell was stirred when he saw the land filled with religious division contrary to our Savior’s prayer John 17:20-21
 2. Alexander Campbell was stirred to accept the challenge of the great infidel Robert Owen when he saw the danger facing the church.
3. There are many things to stir us up now and to cause us to get excited about our work for the Lord
 1. Modernism is popular and pervading today
 1. Deny the inspiration of the Bible, miracles, virgin birth of Christ and the resurrection of Christ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 20:30-31; Isaiah 7:14; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15
 2. Alcoholism Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35 Luke 1:15
 3. Divorce Matthew 19:9
 4. Juvenile Delinquency Genesis 18:19
 5. Catholicism 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:1-2
 6. Leadership Proverbs 29:2
 7. Worldliness 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6
 8. Faction, strife and divisions Romans 6:17-18; Titus 3:9-10; 1 Corinthians 1:10

III Conclusion

1. We do not need to be ashamed to be provoked, aroused, excited concerning our religion
2. What do we get excited about?
3. Let us get excited about Jesus, His church, and then let us hold it up and get to work
4. If you are not a part of the church for which Jesus died and saved, then now is the time to be a part of her.
5. Let us get excited and live right!

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