

**THE CHURCH'S BEST
STATE, OR, CONSTANT
REVIVALS OF RELIGION**

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The church's best state, or, Constant revivals of religion by Simeon W. Harkey

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SIMEON W. HARKEY

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THE
CHURCH'S BEST STATE;
OR
CONSTANT REVIVALS OF RELIGION.

BY
REV. SIMMON W. HARKEY,
Frederick, Md.

"O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of
the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."—Hab. iii. 2.

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P R E F A C E.

THE idea of a *constant revival*, and the design of the following work, were suggested to the author's mind a few years ago, by reading a letter from the pen of Rev. Dr. Alexander, published in a work entitled "Sprague's Lectures on Revivals." He was subsequently appointed to preach a sermon before the Ecclesiastical Body of which he is a member, on revivals, which led him to a thorough examination of the whole subject, and produced the firm conviction in his mind, that constant revivals of religion are possible, and that it is the sacred duty of all true Christians to labor and pray that they may be enjoyed; and that this would unquestionably be *The Church's Best State*. A constant revival state in a congregation is certainly vastly preferable to temporary excitements, however deep and beneficial in their results; and if its attainment is possible, ought not every congregation to enjoy it? It is to awaken attention on this subject, and contribute a feeble mite to the attainment of so desirable an end, that this little work is now presented to the public. The author's object is to *do good*, and if his labors aid, even in a small degree, to promote genuine revivals and the salvation of souls, he will feel himself abundantly compensated. He has not hesitated to use any suitable materials that he met with; yet the principal part of the

work is the result of his own experience. He hopes that no one will be able to call him either a sectarian or a bigot from any thing found within these pages, and that these teachings are in perfect accordance with the Scriptures of Divine Truth. May our Divine Redeemer own and bless this humble but sincere effort to promote his kingdom upon earth! To Him, and to all true friends of genuine revivals, the work is devoutly and affectionately dedicated by

THE AUTHOR.

Frederick, Md., March 28th, 1842.

INTRODUCTION.

THE grand and glorious design of the Christian Church upon earth, is the salvation of a lost world, by the regeneration and sanctification of immortal souls. This fundamental truth is so obvious, and so generally admitted in *theory*, that it might seem unnecessary to state, much less to defend it, did not the *practice* of so many professed christians contradict their profession in this particular. But while we see those into whose hands the Lord has committed, instrumentally, the work of the world's conversion, contending more for forms and ceremonies, than striving to promote the life and power of true godliness; more zealous in defending their creeds and confessions of faith, than in preaching "Christ and him crucified;" more anxious to make proselytes, than to gather souls into the fold of the Redeemer; more concerned about the magnificence and splendor of their churches, and the pomp and display of their worship, than the state of vital piety among the members of their congregations;—while we see these things, it becomes our duty to go back to "the first principles of christianity," and endeavor to recall the attention of men to the original design of our holy religion. Nay more; while we see so many acknowledged and ruling members in the churches, who are entirely destitute and ignorant of *experimental* religion; who have "a name to live, but are dead;" "have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof;" who instead of being "the light of the world, and the salt of the earth," are a dead weight, an incubus upon the vital