

God's Vaccine for the Pandemic of Recline and Decline (Psalm 126)

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Introduction

There are two types of churches within the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

1. There are churches on the incline (we need to learn from these churches).
2. There are churches on the decline and recline (We need to pray and encourage these churches).

Psalm 126 describes a return of the remnant of God's people to the homeland after a time of captivity.

When they were first taken into captivity, they left a land of *blooms* and *blessings*, and now they return, only to find a land of *bleakness* and *brokenness*.

Unfortunately, what was true in the homeland of Israel is also true of many churches in Kentucky today. Not all KBC churches are in a state of decline or recline, but 65-75% of them are. Where there were once *blooms*, there is now *bleakness*, and where there were once *blessings* there is now *brokenness*.

Churches in recline and decline amount to 65-75%, which is no less than a pandemic. The question arises, "Is there a vaccine?" The answer is a resounding yes! The vaccine, based on the text just read, which includes the following.

- 1) **Churches need to fall on their knees and ask God to break their hearts for the homes within their zip code.** "*Those who sow in tears*" (v.5).
 - The psalmist looks at the fields and sees no life. When there is no life, there is no harvest, and where there is no harvest, there is no joy. (See Luke 15:7).
 - Life in the church body begins with *brokenness* because *brokenness* in Scripture always precedes *blessings*. Junior Hill once said, "*No humblings, no hallelujahs, no repenting, no rejoicing, no crying, no crowning.*"
 - *Churches need to ask God to break their hearts for the people living on their church field.*
- 2) **Churches need to give attention to the scattering of the seed.** "*Though one goes along weeping carrying a bag of seed*" (v.6).
 - Notice especially the word **goes**. You cannot spell God without "go." You cannot spell gospel without "go."
 - Remember, the seed is the Word of God (Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:23).
 - The key to decline and recline is a repeated *weeping and sowing of the seed of God's Word*.
 - The vaccine is not rocket science, and yet many a church family fails to inject it into the bloodstream of the church. If a church family rejects the vaccination, of weeping and sowing—they risk having a church with no immunity to recline or decline.
 - But hallelujah, the psalmist has developed the vaccine, and it is so simple: **sowing and weeping**.
 - To **go** bearing the precious seed of God's Word will fill every participating church's worship center with "*joy unspeakable and full of glory.*"

- The psalmist says, “He (the weeping sower of the seed) will **surely** come back with shouts of joy” (v.6). **Surely** means, the sower of the seed will not return broken or barren, but with shouts of rejoicing.
- **Going**—*weeping and sowing*, will lead to a **return** of *rejoicing and reaping*. “**Surely**” means you can bank on it.
- The KBC dreams of a time of rejoicing and reaping within the convention. This is the reason they are challenging convention churches to take the Gospel to Every Home on their respective church fields.
- Think about the blessing of taking the gospel to every home in your city, your town, or in your county!
- It is God’s vaccine for the pandemic of recline and decline!

Conclusion

Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,

We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves.

We shall come rejoicing, bring in the sheaves.