

01. “What’s Next for America?” Part 1

“Looking Back to Move Forward”

by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

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I have to say that the last eight weeks have been, well—surreal.

A virus named COVID-19 and its spread has been used to justify the lockdown of millions of people (except for ‘essential workers’) forcing thousands and thousands of small businesses (and many larger ones) to close down as our government officials told us it was for our own good.

They assured us it would only be for a few weeks—just until the infection rate could be leveled off (“the curve flattened”) so that our hospitals and medical professionals didn’t become overwhelmed resulting in the collapse of the entire health care system.

This they assured us would happen if we didn’t all immediately “shelter in place”.

If we refused to do so, they warned us, the result would be the death of millions of our most vulnerable citizens—our elderly consisting of our mothers and fathers, our grandmothers and grandfathers and other elderly citizens.

They guilted us into thinking we would be incredibly selfish if we didn’t put our lives on hold and lock down the country until this pandemic had run its course—for their sakes!

And so we dutifully obeyed and shuttered our businesses and churches, our schools and parks, our stadiums and pools, our beaches, golf courses, gyms and health clubs—and then we ‘hunkered down’ until the storm passed and we could emerge from our bunkers and return to normal—to our pre-COVID-19 lives.

But then something unexpected happened—some of our leaders decided to “*move the goal posts*” and began to tell us that we couldn’t return to normal until a *cure* or a *vaccine* was found—a new metric from the ‘*flattening the curve*’ mantra they had repeated to us for weeks.

It seemed that some of our elected officials became ‘drunk’ on their newfound power to control us and found it so intoxicating that they decided they weren’t going to let it go (at least not without a fight) and would continue to wield that power over us for the foreseeable future—for our own good of course!

And so, these newly ‘coronated kings’ and tinhorn tyrants decreed that we would have to stay under ‘house arrest’ until they (our new overlords) decided it was safe to return to normal. But then they quickly qualified that statement by telling us—we would never *actually* go back to the ‘old normal’.

They patronizingly explained to us that—that way of life was over and that we had entered a ‘*new normal*’—which should send shivers up the spine of any rational thinking, freedom loving American as to what that actually means!

It’s like we fell down a rabbit hole into an alternate universe where our country is no longer the ‘United States’ of America—but has become a place where numerous states have become independent countries of their own—taken over by a handful of dictators that exercise absolute control over the lives of their citizens.

These autocrats seem bound and determined to turn what’s left of their states into dystopian hellholes where the Constitution has been nullified and replaced with a truly ‘bizarro world’ reality where up is down, down is up; and where right is wrong and wrong is right.

These state governors, mayors, police chiefs and judges think it’s perfectly just and good to release from prison hardened criminals like murderers, rapists, and child molesters back into society to walk among us to keep them from contracting COVID-19—while at the same time sending to jail an honest, hardworking salon owner in Dallas, Texas for opening up her shop so that she and her employees could work to put food on their tables to feed their children calling her ‘selfish’ for doing so.

I think the majority of normal, rational people who have grown up in America can’t help from being shocked by what has happened in our country the last few weeks.

Many if not most Americans are shocked because we have come to take our Constitutional rights for granted—rights that in our wildest dreams we would never have believed the state would (or could) take from us.

And the reason we were convinced that the state could never deprive us of Constitutional rights was because we have been taught that—those rights were given to us by God and not by the state.

The Declaration of Independence makes this very clear when it says, in part—

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

“*Unalienable*” means irrevocable—that rights that come from God can’t be revoked by man—a founding principle of our nation!

And yet here we are, where some governors (all of them are democrats) are throwing around executive orders that take away our constitutional freedoms—like the freedom to assemble (the governor of Illinois, has recently said that churches will be allowed to meet again without restrictions in 12 months—*maybe*).

These governors maintain that their authority to impose draconian restrictions on their citizens in times of emergency override our constitutional rights—until the crisis passes, which they are now telling us will only happen when a cure for this virus is found or a vaccine is developed.

Just so you know, the vaccine for Ebola took 5 years to develop and virologists still haven't developed a vaccine or a cure for HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) though they've been working on it for 37 years!

So some of these states could theoretically be on lockdown for a while—and God help us if one of these radical, leftist democrats like Joe Biden or Andrew Cuomo or Gavin Newsome should win the presidency—their radical, authoritarian, Constitutional crushing policies and executive orders would go national!

So where are we—or as I've named this series, "*What's Next for America?*"

I personally don't think we can go *forward* as a nation—until we first look *backward* and see where we've been—or in other words, what our *heritage* as a nation has been.

The dictionary defines '**heritage**' as—"*the background from which one comes*".

When we're talking about a nation, that would primarily focus on how that nation started and what were its founding principles.

It's interesting that those who are globalists (the government of the Antichrist) are working hard to abolish nationalism and replace it with **globalism**. They realize that to accomplish this, they have to indoctrinate Americans at a young age to keep (or stop) them from thinking of themselves as citizens of a nation—and start them thinking of themselves as *global* citizens.

Or in other words, to move them from **national individualism to global collectivism**—from citizens of America to citizens of the world.

To accomplish their goal, they must separate a people from their national heritage if they want them to start thinking of themselves as 'global citizens'—and that must start in public school with the abolishment of their national history.

My sister in law is a grade schoolteacher in Southern California, and she told me several years ago that schools in her district (and in the State of California) had stopped teaching American history to the students—and the same thing is happening all over our country...(finish).

I believe that America is standing at an extremely critical juncture—a crucial crossroad.

There are two totally different ideologies trying to pull our country in two totally different directions—and it's up to us as a people to decide which direction we will go! But again, how can we know where we are going as a nation if we don't remember where we've come from?

We must look *back* to the founding and the foundation of our nation if we ever hope to move *forward*—

Woodrow Wilson said—

“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.”

Our nation today is living off of the blessings of our forefather’s obedience to God. And even though we have turned our backs on God as a nation (abortion, homosexual marriage etc.)—we are still being blessed as a nation—why?

Romans 2:4 (NLT2)

⁴ Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin [lead you to repentance]?

We are in a grace period—but make no mistake about it, grace is going to come to an end and judgment will eventually fall—if we don’t repent as a nation. We need to understand our heritage and get back to the founding principles that made this nation great—a nation under God.

For that we have to travel back in time roughly 244 years, to the year 1776.

On July 4th of that historic year in the city of Philadelphia, there was signed one of America’s most famous documents: The Declaration of Independence. It marked the birth of this nation which, under God, was destined to be one of the greatest nations this world has ever seen.

People often forget that, in declaring independence from an earthly power like Great Britain—our forefathers made an unashamed declaration of dependence upon Almighty God.

The closing words of this document solemnly declare:

“With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

Little did John Adams know how significant his words would be when he spoke to his wife Abigail on the passing of the Declaration of Independence and said,

“I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure that it will cost to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states; yet through all the gloom I can see the rays of light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means.”

Eleven years later in 1787, when the Constitutional Convention had come to a close; a lady came up to Ben Franklin and said, “Well, Dr. Franklin—what have you given us?” The old statesman replied, “You have a Republic, Madame, if you can keep it.”

And so, our founding fathers created a *Republic* for us to live in, not a *Democracy*—a Republic! Our founding fathers studied democracy and rejected it outright—they said democracy was of the devil!

Why? Because a democracy is rule by the majority—where 50% plus 1 of the population can squash the will and ultimately the freedom of the other 50% minus 1.

It's basically tantamount to mob rule—where a simple majority can deprive the individual of their rights and property—and if they're a fanatic majority—the *lives* of those in the minority if they opposed the majority.

Our founding fathers were too smart and too godly to fall for that. They *knew* that democracy was given over to excesses and had within itself the seeds of its own destruction—they knew about Plato's warning that "unrestricted democracy must result in a dictatorship".

The very essence of democracy rests in the absolute sovereignty of the majority.

Our founding fathers could never accept such tyranny because they recognized only one rightful Sovereign over men and nations—not the state—not the majority—only God Almighty! That is why they chose to make our nation a Republic and not a Democracy—immortalized in the Pledge of Allegiance (1892):

*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the **Republic** for which it stands, **one nation under God** (the words 'under God' were added in 1954), indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

Ours is a Republic built upon the "absolute laws" of God found in the Bible—not a Democracy based on the changing whims and mores of society. (Elaborate)

James Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution said:

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions...upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

Noah Webster, one of our founding fathers—"The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles...to this we owe our free constitution of government."

The idea that our founding fathers wanted our country to be a secular nation free of God and religion—is absolutely untrue.

Patrick Henry, who said, "Give me liberty or give me death," also said: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions (plural) but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."

John Quincy Adams, our sixth President said:

“The highest glory of the American Revolution was this, it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”

Now that’s interesting because today we’re being told that our founding fathers wanted separation of Church and State—and that they put it into the Constitution. But did you know that the phrase—“**Separation of Church and State**” **does not** appear anywhere in the Constitution—in fact that phrase appears in none of our founding documents.

But so many Americans have been beaten over the head with that phrase that when a group of Americans were surveyed about it—67% of them said, “*Yes, the phrase ‘Separation of Church and State’ was in the Constitution.*”—it is not.

Many people believe that the 1st Amendment guarantees the separation of Church and State. The 1st Amendment doesn’t say that nor was it ever intended to separate Christianity from our government.

The 1st Amendment simply says on the subject of religion—“*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*”

What our founding fathers wanted to prevent was our government, in America, doing what their old government in Great Britain did by establishing a State Church.

They wanted Christian principles in our government—but they didn’t want any one denomination favored above any other denomination.

“Then where did the phrase ‘Separation of Church and State’ come from?”

Well that phrase came from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson in 1802. You see in 1801, the Danbury Baptist Association of Danbury Connecticut heard a rumor that the Congregationalist denomination was about to be named the official denomination of the United States—in other words, the *State Church*.

That rightly concerned them, so they wrote a letter, to then president, Thomas Jefferson expressing their concerns. And on January 1, 1802, President Jefferson wrote back to those Danbury Baptists and in his letter, he repeated what the 1st Amendment said, that “*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof*”.

And then he added the words, “*thus building a wall of separation between Church & State.*”

Secularists have tried to use Jefferson’s “separation of Church and State” comment as proof that he and the other Founding Fathers didn’t want the Church in government—that they wanted a totally secular government.

But as we study the letters of the founding fathers, we clearly see that their intention was that this "wall of separation" was to be a *one directional wall*, designed to keep the government out of the Church—but that the principles of Christianity would always stay in our government.

Let me say it again, the 1st Amendment was never intended to keep the Church out of civil government—it was designed to keep the government out of the Church!

You see the Founders didn't want the government dictating to the Church—but they did want the Church influencing civil government because they built our government on biblical principles—which became the foundation of our nation!

In fact, our founding fathers went to the Scriptures to design our form of government.

- The 3 branches of government—Isaiah 33:22
- The separation of powers in government—Jeremiah 17:9
- Tax exemption for churches—Ezra 7:24

In 1892 the Supreme Court made a ruling and then made this statement—

*“Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise, and in this sense and to this extent our civilization (our country) and our institutions are emphatically Christian...This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making his affirmation...we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth...These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a **Christian nation**.”*

That's right, our nation was established as a Christian nation—one nation under God Almighty.

One author writes,

“In the summer of 1787, representatives met in Philadelphia to write the Constitution of the United States of America. After they had struggled for several weeks and had made little or no progress—the convention was about to break up in confusion and dissention, when eighty-one-year-old Benjamin Franklin rose and addressed the convention:

“In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a super-intending Providence in our favor...have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?”

I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been

assured, sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this...I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning."

This how our Constitution (and our nation) was birthed—in prayer.

Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in America—and one of the first acts of Captain John Smith and his soldiers after they landed in Virginia in April of 1607 was to erect a wooden cross on the shore at Cape Henry.

It was at the foot of this cross that Rev. Robert Hunt led the 149 men of the Virginia Company in public prayer, thanking God for their safe journey and recommitting themselves to God's plan and purpose for this new world.

The Virginia Charter of 1606 reveals that part of their reason for coming to America was to propagate the—*"Christian religion to such people, as yet live in darkness and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God."*

The very purpose of the Pilgrims in coming to America in 1620 was to establish a government based on the Bible.

The New England Charter, signed by King James I, confirmed this goal:

"...to advance the enlargement of Christian religion, to the glory of God Almighty..."

Governor Bradford, in writing of the Pilgrims' landing, describes their first act: *"...being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven..."*

One of George Washington's early official acts was the first Thanksgiving Proclamation, which reads, *"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor..."*

It goes on to call us to thankfulness to Almighty God for His goodness to our nation.

Abraham Lincoln—

"It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

In the 1830's the noted French political philosopher, Alex De Tocqueville came to America to discover the secret of our greatness.

“The Americans combine the notion of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and ample rivers—but it was not there. In her fertile fields and boundless prairies—and it was not there. In her rich mines and her vast world commerce—and it was not there. Not until I went to the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her greatness and power.”

Returning to France, he summarized his findings: *“America is great because America is good; and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”*

MAGA should stand for: ‘Make America Good Again’!

Next week we’ll continue our series, **“What’s Next for America”** with a message entitled, *“If the Foundations are Destroyed...”*