

02. “What’s Next for America?” Pt.2

“If the Foundations are Destroyed...”

(5/17/20)

I am very burdened for our nation—and it goes far beyond the Coronavirus shutdown we are currently living under.

The more I read and watch the news—the more I feel our country is on the verge of something big.

You can almost feel it, this sense that we, as a people, are on the verge of something that has the potential for changing our country, the country we have known and loved our entire lives—in a profound, and irreversible way.

Because of this, I felt compelled to do a series which I have entitled, **“What’s Next for America?”**

Last week we began this series with a message entitled—***“Looking Back to Move Forward.”***

As I said last week—I personally don’t think we can go *forward* as a nation—until we first look *back* and remind ourselves of where we’ve been—or in other words, what our *heritage* as a nation has been.

There are a lot of things about our heritage that we’re not being told anymore today—for example, you were probably never taught in school that out of the 55 Founding Fathers that gave us our Constitution—52 were devout Christians and active members of Christian churches (29 had been formally trained for the ministry).

The fact that they were devout Christians (not Deists) had a profound effect on the form of government they chose for our nation—and one of the main reasons why God has blessed it the way He has over the last 244 years.

Our government is unique in the world and people recognize this—for example, did you know that in the last 200 plus years **France** has gone through 7 complete changes in its form of government? **Italy** is on its 48th—but **America** is still on its first!

That is so unique and amazing that a group of political science professors from the University of Houston set about to figure out just what it was that made our nation so unique and strong.

So, they set out to discover who or what influenced our Founding Fathers, what they believed in, and who they quoted most in their writings—all in an effort to understand what it was that made our form of government so unique and this country so special.

It took 10 yrs. of digging through the quotes of the Founding Fathers but in the end, after 10 yrs. of research they came to this conclusion:

Of all the quotes by the Founding Fathers—34% came directly out of the Bible verbatim; And another 60% were based on the Scriptures.

So, 94% of everything our founding fathers said came right out of the Bible or was based on the Bible!

The Bible was literally the foundation that our nation was built upon!

The devil realized this and knew that to bring down this nation he would need to target the foundation upon which it was built—in other words, he would need to attack our Christian heritage, including and especially the commandments and principles of God found in the Bible.

That brings us to this morning's message, which I've entitled—***"If the Foundations are Destroyed..."***

I took that title from Psalm 11:3—

Psalm 11:3 (NKJV)

³ If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?

Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.

Ecclesiastes 7:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?

In an article entitled, *"Is the Great American Dream Turning into a Nightmare?"*—the author had this to say about where we are as a nation:

"God has showered upon America 200 years of blessing. As she acknowledged and obeyed her Creator, God elevated her from infancy to a place of world leadership. He has allowed her to enjoy unprecedented wealth, freedom and influence.

America has led the world in medical and technological advancement. The nation has pioneered in space, pushed back the frontiers of science, and given its citizens the world's highest standard of living...

With grateful and humble hearts, Americans once honored the God who granted her blessings and freedoms. But slowly—almost imperceptible—she began to attribute her blessings not so much to God—but to man.

Forgetting to acknowledge 'the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation,' her citizens began to congratulate themselves on their own achievements—to celebrate man, while relegating God to the back seat. The god of secular humanism began to infiltrate all of her institutions.

Wallowing in materialism, self-centeredness and pride, many Americans decided that they really did not need God after all. Some began to tamper with God's absolute standards, and to tolerate what they would never have allowed before in their own lives or in society around them. That which God says is never right could be sometimes right, depending on the situation. Courts that had once ruled against immorality began to grant freedom to every man to 'do that which was right in his own eyes' (Judges 17:6 & 21:5). Lines of right and wrong blurred. In time, all sorts of ungodly behavior became acceptable—even admired. Americans no longer were shocked. Eyes grew 'accustomed to the dark.' Few citizens rose up in outrage...

When God fades from a nation's conscience, one can justify almost anything."

The author then goes on to talk about how Americans have tried to camouflage what God calls sin with new terminology to soothe our conscience and justify our actions.

God said, *“Thou shalt not kill.”* But Americans gave murder a new name, *“a woman’s right to choose”* and indifferently abort a million and a half babies a year, 60 million since Roe v. Wade. God calls it *“drunkenness.”* We call it *“alcoholism—a social disease.”* God calls it *“sodomy.”* We call it *“homosexuality—an alternative lifestyle.”* God calls it *“perversion.”* We call it *“pornography—adult entertainment.”* God calls it *“immorality.”* We call it the *“new morality.”*

He then concludes by saying,

“America once legislated against those things that God said to be wrong. But gradually we began to tolerate, then accept, then condone openly, and even promote, that which was once unthinkable. The perversion and degradation that once made us blush are now flaunted before the eyes of a nation that was conceived in the fear of God. It has happened, little by little, right before our eyes—not because someone forced it on us, but seemingly because we did not care. We just didn’t care.”

Much of our nations decline can be traced back to two very important rulings by the Supreme Court—first in 1962, when it banned prayer in public schools—and then again in 1963 when the Court banned any Bible reading or study in the public schools.

You see until that time Bible studies and school studies were always combined in the public schools—that’s why there were so few Christian schools in our country up until that point—the public schools *were* the Christian schools!

To give you just one example, from 1690-1900 all children entering public school were taught the alphabet and how to read from the New England Primer—for example:

- A. *A wise son makes his father glad, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.*
- B. *Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble there with.*
- C. *Come unto Christ all ye that labor and are heavy laden and He will give you rest.*
- D. *Do not the abominable thing, which I hate, saith the Lord.*

The same was true with our history books—they talked about our Christian heritage, our Founding Father’s faith—and even gave the kids Bible study lessons.

But around this time, 1962-1963, things began to dramatically change in America (right around the time the Bible and prayer were removed from our public schools)—the result was moral and social disintegration.

Up until 1963 crime and other social problems remained relatively low—but starting in '63 these problems began to rise dramatically.

In fact, since 1963 America has become number one in the industrialized world in—violent crimes, divorce, first in the western world in teenage pregnancy, in voluntary abortion, in illegal drug use and in illiteracy.

Starting in 1963 the divorce rate, single parent families, unmarried couples living together—all began to skyrocket.

Birth rates for unwed teenage girls, age 15-19 up 400%, for girls age 10-14 up 550%; Sexually transmitted diseases up several hundred percent.

The Top 7 School Problems in the 1940's

1. *Talking in class*
2. *Chewing gum*
3. *Making noise in class*
4. *Running in the halls*
5. *Cutting in line*
6. *Dress code violations*
7. *Littering on school property*

The Top 7 School Problems today

1. *Drug abuse*
2. *Alcohol abuse*
3. *Pregnancy*
4. *Suicide*
5. *Rape*
6. *Robbery*
7. *Assault*

Most of us remember the Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colorado back on April 20th of 1999.

The perpetrators were, senior students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who on that day (Hitler's birthday) murdered 12 students and one teacher—starting a movement of modern-day mass shootings, most of them targeting school students.

On Thursday, May 27, 1999, Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, one of the victims of the Columbine School shooting was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's sub-committee. The following is a portion of the transcript:

“I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy—it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves.

I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written before I knew I would be speaking here today:

*‘Your laws ignore our deepest needs; your words are empty air,
You’ve stripped away our heritage, you’ve outlawed simple prayer.
Now gunshots fill our classrooms, and precious children die.
You seek for answers everywhere and ask the question ‘Why,’
You regulate restrictive laws through legislative creed,
And yet you fail to understand that God is what we need.’*

Spiritual influences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries...What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence....

The real villain lies within our own hearts. Political posturing and restrictive legislation are not the answers...We...need a change of heart and a humble acknowledgment that this nation was founded on the principle of simple trust in God!"

Let's take a minute to look at what our Founding Fathers had to say about the foundation of our nation.

Benjamin Rush, one of our Founding Fathers and signers of the Declaration of Independence, served under 3 presidents—John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

In an educational policy paper that he authored in 1791, Rush gave a dozen or so reasons why the Bible would never be taken out of schools in America—primarily, he said,

"If we ever took the Bible out of the classroom there would be an explosion of crime."

It could be that he had the words of Martin Luther in mind, who said 250 year earlier:

"I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth."

Benjamin Rush went on to lament, —

"In contemplating the political institutions of the United States, I lament, that we waste so much time and money in punishing crimes and we take so little pains to prevent them."

(Speaking about the consequences of removing the Bible from the public classroom—and how that if religious standards were ever removed—there would be no restraint on misbehavior!)

Noah Webster, another one of our Founding Fathers, in a textbook he authored for students, he identified the reason serious social problems might befall America—

"All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

John Adams, our second president and signer of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, on Oct. 11, 1798 said that there is no government in the world strong enough to force people to do something against their will (in other words, you just can't coerce people to be good and moral against their will)—he said:

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious (Christian) people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

Robert Winthrop, an early speaker of the House of Representatives, said,

“Men in a word, must necessarily be controlled either by a power within or by a power without them, either by the Word of God or by the strong arm of man—either by the Bible or by the bayonet.”

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.”

John Adams in writing to Thomas Jefferson, had this to say,

“Have you ever found in history, one single example of a nation thoroughly corrupted that was afterwards restored to virtue?...And without virtue, there can be no political liberty...”

George Washington in his farewell address considered to be the greatest speech ever given by an American president—but missing in history textbooks for 40 years.

In Washington's farewell address he explained that there were only two foundations for political prosperity in America—1) *Religion (Christianity)*; 2) *Morality*

He said in that address—

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity—religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars.”

He went on to encourage Americans to reject any tenant which asserted that one could be moral without religion.

Washington knew that if religion (Christianity) was taken out of our nation, you would have no basis for morality, and without morality there would be no respect for life or property—in other words lawlessness would abound.

In 1853 a group came and petitioned Congress saying, *“We want a separation of Christian principles from government”*—in other words, *“We want total separation of Church and State.”*

That petition was referred to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, which investigated for one year to see if it were possible to separate Christian principles from our government.

At the end of that year they both came back with similar reports—I’ll read you the House version:

The House Judiciary Committee, March 27, 1854:

“Had the people during the Revolution had any suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that Revolution would have been strangled in its cradle...”

In other words, if our Founding Fathers and the people that came over here to honor God and to establish a Christian nation—if they had any idea that in establishing that nation (down the road) that nation would turn its back on God and try to separate itself from the principles that made it great—they would have strangled this country in its cradle—they would never have allowed it to continue!

They went on to say,

“At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the Amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged but not any one denomination (that’s what the 1st Amendment says). In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity—that was the religion of the Founders of the Republic, and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendants. The great vital and conservative element in our system (the thing that holds our society together) is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and divine truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Can you imagine the House and Senate making statements like that today?—and yet that was only said 166 years ago!

They were saying—*“There’s no way we can separate Christianity from our government because our government is built on Christianity—it’s what holds our whole society together!”*

And this was the position the Supreme Court maintained in all of its rulings for 175 yrs.—that this was a Christian nation—a nation built upon God and His Word.

In 1811 after a ruling, the Supreme Court made this statement—

“Whatever strikes at the root of Christianity tends manifestly to the dissolution of civil government.”

That ruling came out of a case where a man had blasphemed the name of Jesus Christ—he was arrested and prosecuted.

The case went all the way to the Supreme Court where they found him guilty and made that statement.

The Court was saying, *“Anybody who blasphemes Jesus Christ is attacking Christianity. Anyone who attacks Christianity is attacking the foundation upon which our country was built, and therefore they’re trying to subvert our country.”*

In 1892 the 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**.”*

As I bring this to a close—please listen to what I’m about to say.

Our Founding Fathers believed that not only individuals answered to God—but nations also.

On the floor of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, they explained the difference between individual accountability to God and national accountability to God—they went on to say:

“An individual answers to God in the future but not a nation. When a nation dies it is forever dead it will not be resurrected in the future to answer for what it has done.”

Therefore, when does a nation answer to God?

George Mason, the father of the Bill of Rights, explained,

“As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, so they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.”

Thomas Jefferson—*“Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice (judgment) cannot sleep forever.”*

The great 19th century statesman and politician, Daniel Webster, gave us a solemn warning when he said,

“If we and our posterity shall be true to the Christian religion, if we and they shall live always in the fear of God and shall respect His commandments, we may have the highest hopes of the future fortunes of our country...”

But if we or our posterity neglect religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”

So, is there any hope for America? What if God has already pronounced judgment upon this nation?

Jeremiah 18:7-11 (NLT2)

⁷ If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed,
⁸ but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. ⁹ And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, ¹⁰ but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would. ¹¹ “Therefore, Jeremiah, go and warn all Judah and Jerusalem. Say to them, ‘This is what the LORD says: I am planning disaster for you instead of good. So, turn from your evil ways, each of you, and do what is right.’”

Psalm 11:3 (NKJV)

³ If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?

What can the righteous do?—they can PRAY!!

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

➔ 20/20 Vision for the Heartland Outreach (Explain)

“What’s next for America?”—that depends on which direction that we as a nation choose to go.

Next week we’ll conclude this series by talking about how we can do the very thing God said we must do if we’re going to avert the judgment that is coming on this nation.

How we can change course (direction) and hopefully see our nation restored once again to—
“a nation under God.”