

July 2, 2017

- Deuteronomy 31:14-21 -

Pray for the USA

Introduction:

In just a few days we will celebrate this nation's 241st anniversary. It was President Abraham Lincoln who opened his Gettysburg Address in 1863 with these familiar remarks; "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal" he concluded that great address with a statement of great hope... that this government of the people by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth".

Friends, I think you will agree that America is at a critical crossroads. The freedoms we have enjoyed, the prosperity we have acquisition along with the hope that all can aspire to the American dream is dying on the proverbial vine. This nation that our fore-fathers conceived is in pearl of becoming a completely different nation. We have been warned in so many times.

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible. – George Washington

Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican form of government, and all the blessings that flow from them, will fall with them.

-- Jedidiah Morse, 1761-1826

"We regard the demise of Christianity in America a nightmare "The battle is no longer Jew versus Christian, but Jew and Christian versus secular lawlessness." Christianity Today 10/93

A report published this Thursday from the Family Research Council revealed a disturbing surge in the government violations of our religious liberty since 2014. The report, entitled "Hostility to Religion" detailed a 76 percent increase in government breaches of religious liberty law since 2014. "Violations of religious liberty have not only increased in quantity, but have also become more overt. The report details cases from 2000 to June 2017 of attacks on schools, small businesses, churches, non-profits, and individuals.

It's hard to believe in American today that teenagers could be arrested for delivering a prayer, but that's the kind of nation we live in – a nation that is being fundamentally transformed. The problems we face are not just political and cultural. At their core, they are spiritual.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; Psalms 33 --- Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34

Our forefather established this nation upon the Judeo Christian ethnic. It was their generation that garnished this society with great biblical, godly and spiritual landmarks and artifacts. None of these where in anyway considered to violate the first amendment or were so heinous to that generation that they had to be deem unconstitutional and removed. It is very ironic that many of this generation... believe they violate the very principles that our original forefathers establish.

American children have prayed and read the Holy Bible in schools for 355 years (1607 – 1962), Congress recommended Bibles for America and funded Christian missionaries, the third verse of our national anthem says, “And this be our motto, ‘In God is our trust’”. So for over 50 years now all this evidences of a society base on the Judeo Christian ethic are being summarily removed. The likes of the ACLU and others are out to destroy Christianity.

--- Millard’s book

Jacob Harold who is Guide-star CEO told the Associated Press that their company decided to add warnings as a response to the increase of “hateful rhetoric” in Americans. He said that the organization decided to tag these groups. Among those tagged as “hate groups” include Family Research Council, the American Family Association, Liberty Counsel, the American Freedom Defense Initiative and the Jewish Institute for Global Awareness.

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. --- Isaiah 5:20

This problem again is not just political and cultural but spiritual. Satan hates America...always has because of our strong belief in God and support of Israel. He hates our youth and does not want them grounded in the word and grow up to be godly Christian people.

In 2016 over 1.5 million college students made a suicide plan, nearly half a million attempted suicide and over 4000 succeeded. This points to a devastating culture of depression and confusion and I believe a movement of revival is paramount in America. Only one antidote in this hour will work: the worth of Jesus Christ in every heart and the revival of His church.

God has given us a glimpse of what can happen to a people a nation when we forsake God. In these verses in Deuteronomy 31 God puts His finger on the reason the nation of His children, Israel, would collapse. They would cease to care about the Lord; because of their choosing a pagan way of life. Therefore He would remove His blessing and allow them to reap the natural consequences of living their lives without Him. Moses song would be a witness to this.

Is there no reason to believe that America finds itself with God’s back turned against them? We are suffering the natural consequences that embroil the life of a nation indifferent to the blessings of God? I believe for many Americans they are about to lose the American dream.

I. What Happens When a nation becomes immoral?

1. The time came when God’s children, Israel, cared so much for paganism that they quit caring for God. The default setting of this generation seems to be “disinterested.” Each new day life seems to automatically go to a “disinterested in God” setting. In this regard, we are not unlike Israel of old (Deut. 31:18-20). America has lost its moral compass and we need to get it back. --- Look with me at **Hosea 4:1-6**

2. We must ask ourselves as a nation, "Are we experience judgment brought upon us due to the spiritual condition of America"? The evidences of rebellion are seen throughout our land today. For example, in 1970 ' there were 200,000 -people in prison in America. Today that number is over 2.5 million. The United States has the largest prison population in the world.

In a recent report, the Congressional Research Service found an average of over 22 mass shootings a year from 2009 to 2013, compared with 20 shootings a year during the previous five years. Active shooter incidents in the United States continue to rise in frequency, with new FBI statistics showing the highest average of incidents ever in a two-year period.

Sexually transmitted diseases are spreading most rapidly amongst 12-19 year old. We live in a day where same sex marriages are performed and states are force to redefine marriage. Yet the scriptures teach in **Leviticus 18:22**, "**Thou shall not lie with mankind as womankind, it is an abomination.**"

Americans has turn toward religious pluralism and various forms of Eastern Worship. Islam is becoming increasingly the fastest growing religion in the world. If current trends continue, Islam will become the most popular world religion sometime in the mid-21st century. Dr. Gibbs in the CLA "Legal Alert" stated, "that certain states do not want Christianity taught in public schools even though Islam and non-Christian religions are often taught under the guise of "cultural subjects. The battle to maintain the spirit and freedom of America is becoming more and more difficult yet if God's people will stand against the wiles of the devil we can and are making a difference.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves... and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. - II Chron. 7:14

Proverbs 14: [34] Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. Psa 33:12 Blessed [is] the nation whose God [is] the LORD; [and] the people [whom] he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

II. The way to victory begins Humility...

Ps138[6] Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

1. Humility is a key, because apart from humility, other than for religious practices, we would never even see the need to kneel in prayer before a Holy God! Blessedness comes to people who humble themselves before Almighty God! You won't pray until you are humble and we won't have victory until we do pray...pray for the USA. **2 CO. 4:10**

(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Illustration:

President Abraham Lincoln once said, "We have forgotten the gracious hand, which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us," he wrote, "And have vainly imagined that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

2. Pride is the opposite of Humility. Pride promotes self, rather than God. It does not desire to serve God before self. Too many Christian are too busy serving self... it is often characterized by selfishness, stubbornness, and worldliness. Isaiah 2:4-8

Illustration: Jonathan Edwards once said, " Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility." ... Galatians 6:3] For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

III Humility leads a Nation to repent!

1. Let me give you and some OT example of exhortations to repent; it led to the greatest revival ever... in the city of Nineveh when Jonah finally got around to preach there.

JNH 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them

Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn [yourselves] from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. Eze. 14:6-8

2. Folks, true repentance leads to **change** in our actions and our relationship to God. What is the definition of "repentance"- to turn from our wicked ways. Hebrew Word "Shoob" translates... "to return, to turn back, to turn away." This word carries with it the thought of turning, both to and away from something. So to repent of something is both turning from sin and turning to God. It is the word most commonly used by OT writers to describe repentance.

3. True Repentance is best defined as a combination of the two: "A sorrow over sin because of how it grieves God and affects others. Broken over his sin, the individual chooses to turn from his sin and turn in his heart to God." Sorrow over sin godly sorrow because you recognize that it offends a holy God! **I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Gospel...Luke 13:5**

Conclusion:

We are a nation gone adrift. We have slaughtered our unborn, we have sold out godly values and morals that this nation was founded upon for prosperity and economics. We have stood by and watch injustice take place in our justice system and cater to the liberal few who hate God and all that His Son stands for. We have watch our schools disintegrate because of the lack of prayer and Bible. We have witnessed the evil that has replaced it; the violence drugs and guns. The bitter consequence of this disorder has resulted in the lack of moral truth and an America that may never be the same. The church needs to move from its complacency and pray before we are all singing Don McLean old song from the 70s Bye, bye Miss American Pie and it as Moses song will be a witness to testify against ourselves.

McLean (age 70) recently sold the original 16-page manuscript of the lyrics for \$1.2 million in April of 2015. "He said after the sale that his song was not a parody. "It was an indescribable photo of America that I tried to capture in words and music, the end of the American Dream. I notice a verse in the song you might recall it --- no angel born in hell could break that Satan's spell and as the flames climbed high into the night to light the sacrificial rite I saw **Satan** laughing with delight the day the music died **he** was singin' bye-bye, Miss American pie.