

Entering America's Darkest Chapter

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As the writer and philosopher George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Sadly and ironically, some in America are already repeating various forms of repression and violence that they accuse past generations of committing. And, while these same ideologues accuse Americans of being hateful, repressive, or racist, they are busy torching businesses, beating up or killing fellow citizens, tearing down monuments of people who were involved with the emancipation of African slaves, burning the American flag, and shaming people for singing the National Anthem. Because this vocal and aggressive minority is gaining more and more notoriety, with the support of some politicians and mainstream media, America is approaching the point where it could easily become a country that its "founding fathers" wanted to avoid.

Unfortunately, the recent actions of well-organized activists clearly indicate the direction America is heading and, as Edmund Burke stated, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

Even recent European history teaches that when a "determined" ideology wishes to gain control, one of its first actions is to dismantle everything that preceded it. We see this occurring in many areas of American society right now. One of these is in our teaching institutions. In an article entitled, "Can Administrators Remove Controversial Books From School Library Shelves" (Freedom Forum Institute), the following was said:

*School officials cannot pull books off library shelves simply because they dislike the ideas in those books. In Board of Education v. Pico, the Supreme Court ruled that **school officials in New York violated the First Amendment** by removing several books from junior high school shelves for being too controversial.*

Is this a new phenomenon, or has something similar happened in recent history? As mentioned previously, any ideological system seeking to gain control, must attempt to eliminate anything, or anyone, that represents the previous way of governing, as well as any possible alternatives. The following quote is a reminder of this reality,

"Beginning on May 10, 1933, Nazi-dominated student groups carried out a public burning of books they claimed were 'un-German.' This book burning took place in 34 university towns and cities. Works of prominent Jewish, liberal, and leftist writers ended up in the bonfires. This book burning campaign stood as a powerful symbol of Nazi intolerance and censorship" (Book Burning; The Holocaust Encyclopedia).

In America today, it is not just books that are in danger. Now we see historical works like statues, monuments, landmarks, etc. being destroyed in an attempt to eliminate anything the lawless minority wishes to "silence" in its attempt to foist a new ideology upon the county. This is how past civilizations have perished and America, as it has been governed for hundreds of years, is now in the cross-hairs of powerful radical elements seeking to destroy it. This means that even the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights are in jeopardy, unless good people say, "enough is enough" and begin demanding changes to the very institutions that have nourished the toxic and lawless ideology that is growing like a cancer.

It was very insightful that President Abraham Lincoln stated, almost prophetically, the following in regard to America's future,

"American will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves" (1838 speech in Springfield, Ill).

If current trends continue unabated, America will find itself in precisely the scenario Abraham Lincoln described. So what are some of the reasons for the current state of affairs in America, and is there a reliable source that provides sound solutions? The answer is "yes", but the book that provides simple and truthful solutions is the Bible and, because the Bible is not the foundation of modern education, we see problems growing exponentially with no end in sight.

*The time is sure to come when, far from being content with sound teaching, people will be avid for the latest novelty and collect themselves a whole series of teachers according to their own tastes; and then, **instead of listening to the truth, they will turn to myths*** (2Tim. 4:3-4; The Jerusalem Bible; emphasis added).

Because the truth of Almighty God includes His law and commandments, the Bible is not given serious consideration (Ps. 119:160; Mt. 4:4). Instead, as has happened in past civilizations, God's word is ignored in favor of more "novel" ideas, or philosophies.

*Now go, write it before them on a tablet, and note it on a scroll, **that it may be for time to come, forever and ever:** ⁹That this is a rebellious people, lying children, **children who will not hear the law of the Lord;** ¹⁰Who say to the seers, "Do not see (God's truth)," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; (instead) speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. ¹¹Get out of*

the way, turn aside from the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us" (Isa. 30:8-11; cf. Rom. 8:7; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Once God's word is rejected by any society, it suffers the consequences sooner or later. However, because God is patient, He allows mankind plenty of time to experiment with ideas that they deem more credible than governing in accordance with His law and commandments (1Sam. 8:1-22). In this mindset, mankind is incapable of clearly seeing the benefits of doing things in accordance with God's word.

And He said, "Go and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive (God's truth). ¹⁰Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return (repent of their sins) and be healed (forgiven)" (Isa. 6:9-10; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Sadly for the majority of mankind, including those in America, God's word will not be taken seriously as a vital key to solving our problems, until it is too late. This was prophesied to happen in a response that the Lord gave to Isaiah when Isaiah asked how long mankind will remain entrenched in this stubborn mindset.

Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And he answered: 'Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without a man, the land is utterly desolate, ¹²The Lord has removed men far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land' (Isa. 6:11-12).

As dismal as this sounds, some will be spared the consequences created by the majority of the nation that has rejected God's word. Those who

are spared may be the silent minority that recognize the errors of ignoring what God has to say.

*And, though **a tenth of the people remain**, it will be stripped like a terebinth of which, once felled, only the stock remains... (Isa. 6:13a; The Jerusalem Bible; emphasis added).*

In the case of America, and based on 2018 population statistics, this would mean that approximately 32,717,000 would remain, while 294,453,000 would perish. If this scenario were to occur, it will not only be the responsibility of educators, politicians, and parents; it will also be a result of religious leaders who dilute, misinterpret, or purposely ignore God's word. These religious leaders are commonplace throughout man's history and, in one example, God compares them to shepherds who are more concerned with their own comfort and position than "feeding" the flock with God's truth.

*.... Thus says the Lord God to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? ³You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but **you do not feed the flock**. ⁴The weak you have not strengthened nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken (cf. Isa. 61:1), nor brought back what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them" (Eze. 34:2b-4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

These same religious leaders have "muddied the waters" by mixing in pagan practices with God's word, and thereby confusing their followers when it comes to correctly understanding God's truth (see study: Pagan Practices).

Is it too little for you (religious leaders) to have eaten up the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the remainder of

your pasture – and to have drunk of the clear waters, that you must foul the residue with your feet? ¹⁹And as for My flock, they eat what you have trampled with your feet, and they drink what you have fouled with your feet (Eze. 34:18-19; Ed. note in parenthesis).

These actions by religious leaders is another reason that Jesus Christ is going to return to rule this planet.

Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, ²²therefore I (Christ) will save my flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep (cf. Jn. 5:22). ²³I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them – my servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd (cf. Jer. 30:9; Amos 9:11). ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken (Eze. 34:21-24; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The primary reason that David will be placed in authority over religious instruction is due to the fact that he "loved God's law" as opposed to the majority of religious leaders who ignore, misinterpret, or twist the validity of God's law and commandments.

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. ⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰I understand more than the aged, because I keep Your precepts (Ps. 119:97-100).

In contrast to what America's leaders are doing, or not doing today, the founding fathers of America had a proper respect for God's word as David did. Tragically, that respect is now long

gone in our institutions. Consequently, when God pleads with our people, the majority ignore what He says, and refuse to follow His law and commandments for their own good. The following statement is a principle that applies to all nations, throughout all time, without exception.

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean (in a spiritual sense); put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, ¹⁷Learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. ¹⁸"Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. ¹⁹If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken (Isa. 1:16-20; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

It is sad when America has described itself as "one nation under God" for a long time, and yet has drifted ever so far away from the law and commandments that are central to His everlasting covenant (see study: The Everlasting Covenant). This is why America is "coming undone" from within, as Abraham Lincoln foretold. Therefore, if Americans want God to bless the nation, they need to embrace the very law and commandments that provide solutions to its many problems. Failure to act on this will result in consequences that are fatal to its continuance as a nation.

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