

The Sentinel-June 2018

“God Help US”

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people – Proverbs 14:34.

In every arena of American life God’s laws are being openly, flagrantly violated. If you are like me, you shutter to see the latest news headline: kids killing kids, opiate crisis, perversion of every sort. I saw this headline yesterday – “Oklahoma women jailed after marrying her daughter.”

America has had and will continue to have her challenges. It seems to me that today we face problems so pervasive that they threaten our very survival as a free nation. Our greatest need is not found in building a stronger military, nor enacting “tougher” laws or enforcing the ones on the books; it is not necessarily found in strengthening the economy or bringing the two political parties to agree on any one issue. The greatest need is for a spiritual awakening. It is for Jesus.

History tells us Rome had unmatched military might, an incredible economy, a codified system of law. Where is Roman Empire today? She crumbled from within. How about Greece? The basic philosophy of Greece in her Golden Age was, “Man is the measure of all things.” The Greeks were committed to building the ideal society. Reason itself was worshipped. Soon the government became a bureaucracy bound in red tape and taxation and eventually collapsed in moral chaos, just like Rome.

Where do we begin? The transformation of a nation begins on a personal level. When Israel returned to Jerusalem following her exile, the people continued in practices that were an abomination unto the LORD. Ezra was appalled when he witnessed the sin. He tore his clothes, pulled his hair from his head and beard, and fell on his knees with his hands spread out to God and prayed. He did so in a very public setting. He confessed the sins of his people and pleaded with God for mercy. As Ezra prayed, the people gathered around him. They made a fresh covenant with God that they would turn from evil and follow in His ways.

I am not able to cover the scope of this topic in a one page article. Allow me to make some simple suggestions. 1. Like Ezra, confess to God the sins that our nation is committing. Ask God to forgive our national sins. Ask God for His mercy. 2. Scripture commands us to pray specifically for those who have authority in our nation (1 Timothy 2:2). These prayers must also include another group of people – Christian leaders. Christian leaders are on constant attack. 3. Pray for those millions of people who are deceived. It is easy to criticize the sins that are destroying our foundation as a nation. It is another to ask our LORD to deliver them from their slavery to alcohol, gambling, drugs, sex, money, self.

Finally, we are not to be silent. If you have found yourself to be enslaved by the things mentioned in this article, I would suggest you own the issue. Admit it. Confess it. The truth will set you free! Demonstrate what the mercies of God can do or have done to deliver you from slavery to a life of freedom.

It is a ruse that our religion is a personal matter – “personal” meaning that one may express it at home or at church, but had better keep it out of the public arena. Christians have privatized their faith and have withdrawn from politics, education and other vital areas of public life leaving the door wide open for the unopposed influx of secularistic thought. There is too much at stake. We have the one and only solution to what ails us - it’s Jesus! Please share.

In God We Trust,
Pastor Szczesny