

REMINDER

Volume XVI

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Number 37



THE REPROACH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

Over three hundred eighty years ago a brave group of people left their homes in Europe and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to find the Virginia colony in the new world. They landed instead at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts and over the years they have become known as *"the Pilgrims."*

What made these people different from all the others coming to the new land was that they came **not** for gold or power, but they came *for God*. What they suffered in hunger, sickness, cold and fear would have caused others to abandon their search for worldly treasures. Their faith was more precious to them than life itself. They brought with them a book that just a few years earlier had been translated by the greatest group of scholars ever assembled for any single task. That book was the Bible. It became their Sword. And what the cold of winter and starvation had robbed from them, they recovered through prayer and faith in God. After suffering all of that, they got on their faces before the God of heaven and thanked Him for His Providential care.

Through the years, history has recorded how our country was built upon the heritage of faith that is a legacy they left us. Our country's most treasured documents were all based upon the principles and precepts of the Word of God. George Washington insisted that before a territory be permitted to join the union as a state that their constitution require that children be taught Bible morality and principles in addition to secular knowledge. The first amendment of the U. S. Constitution does not teach that religion should not be in government, but rather, government should not establish or control religion. "The Pilgrims" came to these shores to escape a government controlled religion. *God was important in those days.*

When the world's greatest, humanly written, governmental document was penned, there were no minority groups present to demand their rights, no women's factions present to make

(continued inside)

suggestions, no sodomites present to offer alternate life styles, and no children present to throw fits of rebellion. There were only men who had fought for liberty and freedom by jeopardizing their fortunes, their lives, their sacred honor. They had a heart full of God. ***God was important in those days.***

Our country was built upon prayer. Through the Valley Forges of the American Revolution, the Fort McHenry's of the War of 1812 and the Gettysburg's of the War Between the States, American soldiers and their families prayed. Through the Spanish-American War, and two World Wars Americans prayed. As a small boy, I remember praying for our men in Korea during school. And then later as a teenager and young adult for the American in Viet Nam. But you see, ***God was important in those days.***

We thanked God and gave Him glory. America ***used*** to know Who guided her and provided her. Every farmer in this country planted in hope and harvested in joy. "Thanksgiving" started as an expression of genuine gratitude to the Lord God. And people would gather to give thanks together for the great blessings God had bestowed. It wasn't the food or the day off from work or the football game that meant so much to them, but ***God was important in those days.***

And families were together. Divorce was almost unheard of. Children were brought to church by Dad *and* Mom, not sent on a bus. Many a young man and young lady found their life's mate at the local church, not the local bar or nightclub. Going to God's house was family time together, not sitting in front of the TV or trips to the lake every weekend. The name of Jesus Christ was exalted, not thrown in the gutter. Parents taught the kids, not vice versa. And they taught them the values of the Bible: to be honest with all men and with God. Oh, the family budget was tight, but God came first. You see, ***God was important in those days.***

A man's word was his bond, because men used to believe they would stand before God for every word they said. To rob your neighbor was to rob God. To lie was to mock God. To break a vow of commitment brought judgment from God. Man a man would have built the house of the Lord before he built his own. Those were days of commitment. ***God was important in those days.***

This America that once our ancestors bought with their sacrifices, sufferings and prayers; this America that once was a refuge for those who craved to worship God according to the Bible and not the government; this America that once God used time and again to rescue the world from tyrants; this America that once embedded "In God We Trust" upon its coins and "One Nation Under God" upon the hearts of its children; this America that once had her preachers of the Word as her greatest heros; this America that once sang "God Bless America" and "God Shed His Grace On Thee;" this America has gone into apostasy and immorality and has become a stench in the nostrils of Almighty God.

No longer are Americans willing to sacrifice, suffer or pray for

that which is right; no longer do Americans flock to the house of God on the Lord's day to cling to the Word as it is preached and worship with grateful hearts. Today's America has become the "patsy" for the United Nations instead of "*One Nation Under God.*" No longer in America are laws made to protect the citizens. Instead, they are made to take away rights from law obeyers and give rights to law breakers and moral perverts. No longer can America say, "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,*" because He is no longer our God. Preachers no longer stand firm upon the Blood bought Book and God's people no longer believe it.

America's greatest enemy today is not the cold winters of Plymouth Colony or the tyrannical rule of King George of England. Our enemy in not a usurping dictator or the threat of economical collapse. The ruin of America will not come by a bomb, but by her own reproach. America's greatest reproach is her own spiritual and moral decline. And America's greatest enemy is the Lord God Almighty. Our only hope of survival is an unconditional surrender to Him and make God once again important in America.

- Dr. Larry Groves, Pastor - Faith Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana



Glenn Beck

God, the Gospel, and Glenn Beck

by Dr. Russell Moore

A Mormon television star stands in front of the Lincoln Memorial and calls American Christians to revival. He Assembles some evangelical celebrities to give testimonies, and then preaches a God and country revivalism that leaves the evangelicals cheering that they've heard the gospel, right there in the nation's capital.

The news media pronounces him the new leader of America's Christian conservative movement, and a flock of America's Christian conservatives have no problem with that.

If you'd told me that ten years ago, I would have assumed it was from the pages of an evangelical apocalyptic novel about the end-times. But it's not. It's from this week's headlines. And it is a scandal.

Fox News commentator Glenn Beck, of course, is that Mormon at the center of all this. Beck isn't the problem. He's an entrepreneur, he's brilliant, and, hats off to him, he knows his market. Latter-day Saints have every right to speak, with full religious liberty, in the public square. I'm quite willing to work with Mormons on various issues, as citizens working for the common good. What concerns me here is not what this says about Beck or the "Tea Party" or any other entertainment or political figure. What concerns me is about what this says about the

Christian churches in the United States.

It's taken us a long time to get here, in this plummet from Francis Schaeffer to Glenn Beck. In order to be this gullible, American Christians have had to endure years of vacuous talk about undefined "revival" and "turning America back to God" that was less about anything uniquely Christian than about, at best, a generically theistic civil religion and, at worst, some partisan political movement.

Rather than cultivating a Christian vision of justice and the common good (which would have, by necessity, been nuanced enough to put us sometimes at odds with our political allies), we've relied on populist God-and-country sloganeering and outrage-generating talking heads. We've tolerated heresy and buffoonery in our leadership as long as with it there is sufficient political "conservatism" and a sufficient commercial venue to sell our books and products.

Too often, and for too long, American "Christianity" has been a political agenda in search of a gospel useful enough to accommodate it. There is a liberation theology of the Left, and there is also a liberation theology of the Right, and both are at heart mammon worship. The liberation theology of the Left often wants a Barabbas, to fight off the oppressors as though our ultimate problem were the reign of Rome and not the reign of death. The liberation theology of the Right wants a golden calf, to represent religion and to remind us of all the economic security we had in Egypt. Both want a Caesar or a Pharaoh, not a Messiah.

Leaders will always be tempted to bypass the problem behind the problems: captivity to sin, bondage to the accusations of the demonic powers, the sentence of death. That's why so many of our Christian superstars smile at crowds of thousands, reassuring them that they don't like to talk about sin. That's why other Christian celebrities are seen to be courageous for fighting their culture wars, while they carefully leave out the sins most likely to be endemic to the people paying the bills in their movements.

Where there is no gospel, something else will fill the void: therapy, consumerism, racial or class resentment, utopian politics, crazy conspiracy theories of the left, crazy conspiracy theories of the right; anything will do. The prophet Isaiah warned us of such conspiracies replacing the Word of God centuries ago (Isaiah 8:12-20). As long as the Serpent's voice is heard, "Ye shall not surely die," the powers are comfortable.

This is, of course, not new. Our Lord Jesus faced this test when Satan took him to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth, and their glory. Satan did not mind surrendering his authority to Jesus. He didn't mind a universe without pornography or Islam or abortion or nuclear weaponry. Satan did not mind Judeo-Christian values. He wasn't worried about "revival" or "getting back to God." What he opposes was the gospel of Christ crucified and resurrected for the sins of the world.

We used to sing that old gospel song, "I will cling to an old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown." The

scandalous scene at the Lincoln Memorial indicates that many of us want to exchange it in too soon. To Jesus, Satan offered power and glory. To us, all he needs offer is celebrity and attention.

Mormonism and Mammonism are contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They offer another Lord Jesus than the One offered in the Scriptures and Christian tradition, and another way to approach him. An embrace of these tragic new vehicles for the old Gnostic heresy is unloving to our Mormon friends and secularist neighbors, and to the rest of the watching world. Any "revival" that is possible without the Lord Jesus Christ is a "revival" of a different kind of spirit than the Spirit of Christ (I Jn. 4:1-3).

The answer to this scandal isn't a retreat, as some would have it, to an allegedly apolitical isolation. Such attempts lead us right back here, in spades, to a hyper-political wasteland. If the churches are not forming consciences, consciences will be formed by the status quo, including whatever demagogues can yell the loudest or cry the hardest. The answer isn't a narrowing sectarianism, retreating further and further into our enclaves. The answer includes local churches that preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and disciple their congregations to know the difference between the kingdom of God and the latest political whim.

It's sad to see so many Christians confusing Mormon politics or American nationalism with the gospel of Jesus Christ. But, don't get me wrong, I'm not pessimistic. Jesus will build his church, and he will build it on the gospel. He doesn't need American Christianity to do it. Vibrant, loving, orthodox Christianity will flourish, perhaps among the poor of Haiti or the persecuted of Sudan or the outlawed of China, but it will flourish.

And there will be a new generation, in America and elsewhere, who will be ready for a gospel that is more than just Fox News at prayer.

Dr. Russell Moore is the Dean of the School of Theology and Senior Vice-President for Academic Administration at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky



LDS Temple In Salt Lake City, Utah

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

- Galatians 1:6-9

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebart
 Cradle Roll 2: Janet Bridges
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Volunteers Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of September 5, 2010

Sunday School ----- 17
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 33
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 29
 Wed. Eve. Service, 09/08/10 ----- 24

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of September 5, 2010

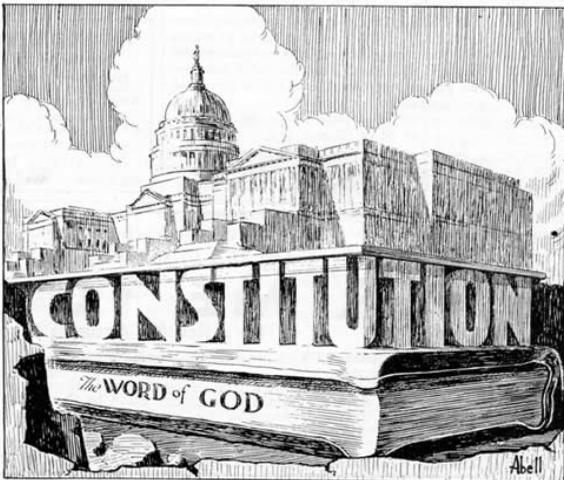
Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,085.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 151.08
Total Received for Week of 09/05/10: \$ 1,236.08

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT -

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received This Month ----- \$ 0.00
Amount Still Needed By 10/06/10: \$ 273.08

LET'S STICK TO SOLID FOUNDATIONS



If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?—Psalm 11:3

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. ***Admit that you are a sinner.***
2. ***Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.***
3. ***Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.***
4. ***You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).***
5. ***By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.***

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnely, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford, Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White