

ALERT to all Christians – America Needs You!

A Vigilant Response is Vital to Preserve the Freedom God Has Given to Mankind

“If it’s God’s will, the country will either straighten up on its own or it will be lost...Well, America isn’t worth saving because America isn’t a Christian nation any longer...These are the last days and since a takeover is imminent, I’m willing to just sit back and let it happen and keep a look out for the Anti-Christ. I don’t want to get in God’s way.”

Sound familiar? These phrases, among others, have been heard from the Christian community for decades. The truth is, comments like this actually show that Christians have been duped by the enemy and have been disenfranchised from their scriptural mandate as rulers in our nation. Should a Christian be involved politically? Should he/she work for candidates, vote, run for office, doorbell and canvass, become informed, and/or practice their rights of citizenship? There are many good, sound reasons for “yes” answers to the questions above, but most believers do not know what the Word of God has to say to support those reasons.

All Christians are Rulers

God ordained three institutions: the church, the family, and government. We read in Romans 13:1, “Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God and those which exist are established by God.” Those who do not understand our forefather’s intentions seek the separation of church and state. Thomas Jefferson did make this statement in one of his communications, but it has been taken out of context for decades by the liberal establishment. The Constitution makes it clear that government should have neither control nor power over the “church” or in “establishing religion.” All believers need to understand the difference between that and separating God and government – something we should never allow to happen. Without the divine influence of people of faith, there would be no governed morality, **for what is law, anyway, but “enacted morality?”**

Government is not innately evil, although many today would argue that point, I’m sure. The major problem, however, is the lack of integrity of our leaders. America needs godly, anointed leaders, for the witness of our president is the beacon of our nation’s greatest values, either to its benefit or to its shame. God’s will is not for evil men to rule governments any more than it is His will for evil men to take over the pulpits of our land. However, God does *allow* the wicked to reign, but only when a people are apathetic enough to let it happen. Like human beings, governments can depart from their God-ordained functions and become corrupt, for the purpose of government is “for punishment of evil doers and for the praise of them that do well.” (1 Peter 2:14) According to Romans 12:8, a ruler should rule with diligence; if he doesn’t, he is out of the will of God and should be chastened. The voter is one of many in a nation and has a fraction of this ruling power while often being used by God to fulfill that chastening. If the Christian does not vote or does so in ignorance, he is not ruling with diligence or as a godly ruler. So where do *you* fit in? Are you helping shape our government? One thing I know for sure: it is never too late to recover lost freedoms and to believe that God still has a heart to restore American to its former greatness!

Christians are instructed by the Lord Jesus Christ to influence society. In fact, He warns that if Christians do not influence society, they deserve to be stepped upon. Matthew 5:13 says, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing any more, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by man.” The next verse says that we believers are the light of the world, but only when we let our light shine before men in such a way that they see our good works.

Christ is the obvious answer to the basic needs of mankind and the only hope for both an abundant and eternal life. No Christian dares to argue with that. Yet, why do believers often feel like ignoring their country more than their service clubs, recreational groups, and organizations they are involved in? The Bible illustrates that government is a social structure created by God, the same as the social structure of the church and family. A Christian is a member of each. Christ said in Matthew 22:21, “Then render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s,” thus establishing the spiritual kingdom under the law. He not only recognized nationalism, but also directed Christians to participate in the earthly government. Even Paul used the rights and prerogatives of his Roman citizenship at opportune times. He was proud of it and so should we be proud of ours.

The Constitution is Our Authority

One of the reasons many remove their responsibility of involvement is by quoting Romans 13:1, “Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities...” In biblical times, the government was made up of men like Caesar Augustus and his governors. **Our government is unique; it is not one of men, but one of law.** Our country is a republic, not an oligarchy, where ruling is done by an elite group of individuals that are either not bound by law or ignore it, as in the Soviet Union. Therefore, according to this scripture, our obedience is to the government of the United States—the Constitution—not government bureaucrats and leaders, unless they are

upholding Constitutional law. If the government does things which are contrary to the clear teachings of God's Word, scripture says it is to be opposed: "But Peter and the apostles answered and said, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" (Acts 5:29)

Church and State Underpinnings

Our forefathers knew that church and state could only be separated in theory, not in reality. This nation was founded by Christians seeking freedom to worship as defined by Christian principles revealed in the Bible. Our Supreme Court has ruled that this is a Christian nation, even if our president tells the world differently. The Mayflower Compact is a Christian document. The Liberty Bell has Leviticus 25:10 as its inscription: "Proclaim Liberty through all the land and to all the inhabitants thereof." Daniel Webster, William Penn, Samuel Adams, Ben Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, other forefathers, and the Declaration of Independence all made direct references to the dependence of our nation upon God. Hear what George Washington had to say in his Farewell Address: "Of all the habits and dispositons which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispesable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism—who should labor to subvert these great pillars." Washington was not a Deist when he wrote these words; he was a true believer in Jesus Christ.

A visitor to the White House during the days of the Civil War said, "I had been spending three weeks in the White House, with Mr. Lincoln, as his guest. One night, it was just after the battle of Bull Run, I was restless and could not sleep. It was coming near to the dawn of the day, when I heard low tones proceeding from a private room where the President slept.

The door was partly open. Instinctively I walked in, and there I saw a sight which I shall never forget. It was the President kneeling before an open Bible. The light was turned low in the room. His back was toward me. I shall never forget when he prayed and cried for wisdom, "Hear me! I cannot lead this people; I cannot guide the affairs of this nation without Thy help. I am poor and weak and sinful. Oh God, Thou didst hear Solomon when he cried for wisdom -- hear me and save this nation." God heard, and He answered. Oh, that we had a president like Lincoln today, amen?

Consider also the fact that our rights have been given to us by God, not from some government. If you believe that a government gave you your rights, then you will not complain too long or too loud should that government take them away. As our Declaration of Independence says, men "...are endowed by their *Creator* (emphasis added) with certain inalienable Rights..." The word "inalienable" means, "cannot be taken away or transferred." The spiritual equality of men before God was quickly transposed into political equality. But as a check and balance against the potential tyranny of equality, the framers of the Declaration of Independence acknowledged the judgment of God. *The New American* magazine columnist Charles Scaliger used the term "omni-competence" in explaining how many feel about government and that it has become so pervasive, it has become an article of faith for many Americans. Although Scaliger correctly compared it to the suspicion Americans formerly had with increasing state power, I believe many Christians have replaced their faith and trust in God with this "omni-competence" in government.

The "state" is as much a part of the "world" into which Christians are to take the gospel as any overseas nation. Keeping in mind the biblical principle that "righteousness exalts a nation," (Prov. 14:34) who can argue that believers should not involve themselves in political processes? For righteousness to exist, God's children need to assert their spiritual authority in order to overcome evil with good. When in prayer recently, I sensed the Lord saying that deception has been laid over the eyes of believers for the past two generations. These layers of deception have been increasing to form an apathetic response to Christians' prayer, action, behavior, and support for the principles that founded the nation "Under God," as our Bill of Rights states. The answer is not that government is established to keep faith out, but government out, from setting tyranny in place to restrict and quench faith that God builds and wants to build in mankind. Deception has come from the constant twisting and bending of the truth about our Constitution and republican form of government, along with what the Bible has to say to us about our responsibility.

In preserving this freedom and righteousness, the ballot box and soapbox are certainly preferable to the jury box and cartridge box.

We need to actively resist the negative works of the devil regardless of the form he assumes. (Ephesians 6:11-17) Abraham Lincoln refers to this principle when he said, "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves." I might add, either by opposing freedom *or* by passive non-involvement and apathy.

When Christians Stay Silent

There are many interesting points regarding the balance of church and state. I would like to share some thoughts by William Buckley, Jr., the former nationally known syndicated columnist, who drew attention to the plight of Soviet Christians in his daily column. Andrei Sakharov, the famous Russian dissident physicist, protested the trial of Georgi Vins under Article 209-1 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code. Rev. Vins, the Secretary of the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians and Baptists, was tried and imprisoned

for his faith in 1975 in the Soviet Union. Vins and four other Soviet dissidents were finally released in April of 1979 in an unusual exchange for two convicted Russian spies!

Prior to the release, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution decrying the persecution of Russian Christians and other religious believers (would they do that *today*?), especially after the USSR guaranteed religious freedom for its people at the Helsinki Conference in 1978. Buckley says that the persecution of Christians is a “staple of Communist oppression in the Soviet Union.” He went on to say that, if he was a Christian living in the Soviet Union, he would address his appeals to Jewish groups outside the Iron Curtain rather than Christian groups because “the persecution of Georgi Vins, and of his fellow Christians, causes not a ripple in the Christian world.” Only the Jews, he claims, “have the conscience left to protest.”

In recent years, only a handful of Christians have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union, yet Soviet Jews have migrated at the rate of 30,000 or so a year. Like Vaclavas Sivrukas, Andrei Sakharov is an atheist, and Buckley finds it remarkable that an atheist “should bestir himself, should honor the freedom of religious conscience, even of those who disagree with him.” Buckley, who maintained that he had not heard one denunciation of communist persecution from the pulpit in ten years, closes his column by saying, “This is an appeal to American Jews to put pressure on American Christians to help Russian Christians.” What an indictment of the body of Christ!

I would presume there have been some denunciations from pulpits about communism or Islamization and their treatment of the Christian communities, but I don’t believe there have been enough. When was the last time you prayed for your imprisoned and tortured brothers and sisters in Christ? When was the last time you gave an offering to a mission that works to get their release, provide them Bibles, or monetary relief to their families?

I should remind believers of what Alexander Solzhenitzyn, the Russian Christian and Nobel Prize Winner, warns: “The Western World has arrived at a decisive moment. It will gamble during the next few years on the existence of the civilization it created. I think it doesn’t realize this. You have the impression the (republics) can last, but (republics) are islands lost in an immense river of history. The water is always rising. You have forgotten the meaning of liberty. You kept the word but fabricated another notion; liberty without obligation and responsibility, which results in enjoying possessions. Nobody is ready to die for it. No political or military combination will save you.” America is still a great country, but you can’t live in it for nothing. There is a cost. It’s called diligence.

Out of the Salt Shaker!

Christians have been taught to ignore politics and have accepted that lie about separating church and state; therefore, they have stayed inside the salt shaker (their homes and churches) far too long. They have not flavored school boards and thus we have a secular education system. They have not flavored city councils and state capitols and thus we have ballooning budgets, uncontrolled taxes, a fourth branch of government called regulation, and quicker moves to a socialist state. The list could go on and on, couldn’t it? I could spend pages talking about Roe vs. Wade and efforts being made to both remove the 10 Commandments from courtrooms and “In God We Trust” from our forms of money, and so forth.

Some say politics is a dirty business and thus Christians should not get involved, as it would do no good and/or could sway their principles. What a defeatist attitude. I’ve been involved in full-time ministry since 1991 all over the world and trust me, the devil is as involved in the church of Jesus Christ as he is in politics! It’s just more hidden...and I’m not joking. Does not the Word of God say, “Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world?” If Christ could come into a dirty world to redeem it, why in the universe would He exclude one occupation from all the others? If we are to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, are we not are sent to clean up the realms that *are* “dirty” and establish the kingdom of God?

Others will say that we should pray and do nothing else. Does not the Word say that we shall rule on earth? (Genesis 1:26 & 28) If we do not rule, it is like leaving a garden up to God alone -- when you do, it grows nothing but weeds. If we leave God without the hands and legs, mind and soul of His people as tools and channels to protect liberty, America will shrivel up and die. I believe it appears already on that roller coaster moving down, but it is never too late. I have learned to appreciate that famous dictum of St. Augustine: “I pray as if it were all up to God and work as if it were all up to me.” Being involved beyond prayer helps preserve your right to worship openly. What is more preferable -- a nation where open and free worship and evangelism take place, or a nation where people must worship underground and live in fear of their lives, receiving retribution for their beliefs? Be honest. Which would you prefer? Even God has spoken of a way for our nation to be healed and most of my readers have heard it before: “And if My people who are called by My name (Christians) humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways (that requires action), then will I hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14) 1 Timothy

2:1-4 explains that the primary priority of believers is to pray “for all in authority” -- government on every level. Prayers should include repentance, intercession and direction for the church in fulfilling God’s purposes.

What about voting, and voting your beliefs, not because of the color of a persons’ skin, their political party, how they look or present themselves, or by whether the media says they are electable or not? I recall a radio interview in Spokane, WA where a state representative running for re-election was interviewing the German ambassador who was in town for Expo ’74. The primary election had just been completed for the state of Washington and the Representative, A.J. “Bud” Pardini, said to the ambassador, “Mr. Ambassador, our primary election just ended and 20% of the registered voters voted. How does that compare to Germany?” Whereby the ambassador responded, “Well, Mr. Pardini, our primary was just completed also, and only 20% did NOT vote.” “Why is it that you had an 80% turnout and we didn’t?” Mr. Pardini asked. The ambassador responded, “Oh, that’s easy, sir. See, we lost our right to vote once!” Remember this:

“He who will not vote has no advantage over he who cannot vote”

Why We Must Resist and Arise

Matthew 5:39 and 44 are two other verses quoted out of context as reasons to avoid responsibility of citizenship. These read, “But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also...But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.” These verses refer to when we are personally persecuted because of our firm stand for Christ. Resist not the evil he perpetrates against you personally, but continue to boldly withstand the devil and resist *him*. John the Baptist, for example, rightly and fearlessly wielded the Sword of the Spirit, condemning the sin of King Herod, but did not resist personal persecution, imprisonment, and martyrdom. Christ exhibited the same actions with the Pharisees while later enduring the cross. Compare these truths from Jude 3 and 4, “...I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny...Christ.”

Believers must insist on a renewed and restored standard of morality according to the Word of God. The vast majority haven’t, at least publicly. I fully believe that the reason is that for decades, maybe centuries, the church has turned a blind eye to society’s slide into a morass and has not acted like the church. We are told to be the salting influence, so that means we must call for national repentance and individual conversion to Christ. For years, evangelical monasticism and withdrawal have accentuated and furthered the Satanic powers in the rule of nations. There has been way too much compromise, “political correctness” and relativism. It is just like raising a child -- no discipline and scolding leads to spoiling and eventual self-destruction. Phony theologians, leftist demagogues, cultists -- whatever you wish to call them -- have even infiltrated seminaries and churches to preach the social gospel of “do-goodism,” peace at any price, situation ethics, and so forth without the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:11 commands Christians to get involved: “Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.” How does one expose them by switching remotes in front of a television set?

The Communists and radical Islamists, for example, know they cannot wipe out Christians in America with a violent revolution at the moment, so their best approach is to water down Christianity and make believers fearful of criticism and being politically incorrect. They, and their sympathizers, have done a fine job. They want a generation of lukewarm believers to figure it is not worth dying for. If it’s not worth living for, how could it be worth dying for? If Jesus was just a “good guy,” if He was not divine, if He did not rise from the dead to go and prepare a place for you -- why should you fight and maybe die for Him? Why would you want to fulfill Revelation 12:11?

Religious neutralism is the backbone of our enemy’s warfare -- paralyze your enemy’s will to resist before coming to actual hostilities. Tell them they cannot fight City Hall, that the Second Coming of Christ is on some particular date and they must prepare right now in order to meet the deadline, that they should just hang on and leave it to those who know more than they do, ad infinitum. This is Satan who urges you to be a coward in the battle, not God. God commands in James 4:7, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” That includes all areas of life that Satan is involved in! Matthew 12:30 states, “He that is not with Me is against Me.” Communism, fascism, socialism, Islamism, and a host of other “isms” cannot coexist with Christianity. Communism or Islamism are more than singular religious or political systems—they are truly both. Together they are making great strides toward global conquest and they are diabolical conspiracies ordered and run by our common enemy the devil. We must recognize the common spirit that thrives in all of these “isms” and know the tree by its fruit.

“Occupy Till I Come”

Political and economic arenas are prime targets for the leadership of Satan and his human instruments of warfare, so of course he wants Christians to stay out! I call that a “duh” revelation. And of course it is dirty. This is exactly why Christians must get involved in these arenas and shed light. Christ said, “Occupy till I come.” That is an action verse. “Occupy” means “to take or hold, possession of, seize, to reside in.” So let’s occupy! Now.

Every Constitutional and moral right that we Christians have has a corresponding obligation. The obligations are necessary to restore this government to the moral and philosophic foundations upon which it was erected, a system of government that has given dignity, freedom, social and economic justice, and progress to more people than any other system on earth. Will a highly educated person, lacking in character, stand up and be counted for what is right -- for God, family and country? No, he won’t. Another “duh.” So if believers are not willing to go to bat for freedom, who will? When freedom is at stake, silence is not golden; it is yellow. Dante, the great philosopher, once wrote a profound truth: “The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a time of crisis, maintain neutrality. When bad men combine, the good must associate.” In 1790, the Irish patriot John Curren said, “The condition upon which God has given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt.”

Believers Hold the Potential Advantage

God’s will is to heal America. America’s Christian population holds the balance and our stewardship is the key duty. Proverbs 11:11 says, “By the blessing of the upright a city (or state or country) is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.” Chapter 29, verse 2 and 16 of Proverbs reads, “When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, the people groan...when the wicked increase, transgression increases; but the righteous will see their fall.” It is our job to see them fall and oppose evil by getting involved -- become truly informed, compare political positions of the candidates and compare those positions to the Word of God, vote at every election that comes up, and maybe even run for something yourself. God Himself originated freedom. The principles of God birthed this nation to be a light on a hill, representing freedom, righteousness, and strength. Instead, it has become weak and infirm.

There are many fine Christian organizations that offer organized programs to exert Christian influence on government, help elect godly candidates, and inform the public. Our secular education system will not, so please don’t leave it up to them. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.” (Psalm 33:12) Failing to work against this sin that befalls America is sin, for the disciple James wrote, “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17) Dr. Francis Shafer penned in his book, *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?*, “If we do not take a stand here and now, we certainly cannot lay any claim to being the salt of the earth in our generation. We are neither preserving moral values and the dignity of the individual nor showing compassion for our fellow human beings.”

The debate is not whether we should save souls or save the country first. We can and must do *both* first. They complement one another. God’s church, the body of Christ, must become again the dominant influence in our national lives. We must proclaim repentance, dissent when bureaucracy daily overreaches its delegated authority, and support those who believe in a Constitutional republic. This means if there is only a single candidate on a ballot you agree with, you still go to the polls and support that candidate, showing that his or her efforts are worth every vote and the sacrifice they have made to run for that office. It is widely known that if all believers were to vote, we would have nothing but Christians in office today and would instantly return to what our forefathers intended to hold in place -- true freedom for all. We must move as a body of unified troops against Satan’s strongholds and not allow him free rein due to our laziness. For if God be for us, who can be against us? We can say with Abraham Lincoln, as he left for his inauguration, “I now leave, not knowing whether or whenever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail.”

Christian, will you get involved and not leave it up to everyone else? I pray that you will say with Paul, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”

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