

“There is no nation on earth powerful enough to accomplish our overthrow. Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their carelessness and negligence.”³

DANIEL WEBSTER (1782-1852)

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, 1841-42; 1850-52

The Deterioration of a Nation

Mandatory Euthanasia Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—WHAT MANY CALL GENOCIDE, Congress calls necessary to curtail rising healthcare costs. In the hope of reclaiming financial stability, many legislators plan to sign a mandatory Euthanasia Bill. In defense of the Bill, some State Representatives claim that abortion has helped to offset rising health care costs. This new legislation will include those with terminal or chronic illnesses—life will be terminated when rehabilitation is uncertain, and/or when lingering illnesses threaten the economy. Those with criminal records, and the elderly, are also being considered. The bill is expected to take effect late next year.

Congress Lowers Age of Sexual Consent

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congress will vote later this year to lower the age of sexual consent to 12. Members have agreed to consider new research indicating that sex between children and adults may be beneficial. Although this new research appears problematic and has been described as biased, it may have prompted a trend in the lower courts to assign convicted pedophiles lesser penalties such as community service, or rehabilitation, for committing lewd acts with children. This movement may explain why many judges now offer rehabilitation rather than imprisonment. Even though research confirms that punishment reduces crime, many appear eager to facilitate this new trend.

Same-sex Marriage Exceeds Traditional Marriage

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Same-sex marriage now exceeds traditional marriage in some states. As a result, words such as “mom” and “dad” are being changed to “partner 1” and “partner 2.” Congress, however, is concerned that decreased birth rates will affect the nation’s economy. In response, partners will be required to explore creative procreation options. Additionally, traditional families will be limited to two children. If couples fail to comply, infanticide may be considered.

Zero Tolerance for Christians

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Homeland Security reports that Christianity is now under control. A recent poll indicates that fewer than two percent of the population report adhering to Christian beliefs and biblical absolutes. This decrease is attributed to a successful “Zero Tolerance” policy, which includes hate-speech legislation, outlawing use of the Bible, incarceration for Christians, heavy taxation on evangelical churches, and media scrutiny of anyone associated with the Christian faith. Additionally, many biblical terms dealing with marriage, sexual orientation, and family values are now identified as *hate speech* and cannot be used in public.

Although fictitious, these imaginary headlines may be more fact than fiction if America continues to ignore the warning signs.

At the time of this writing, it is said that we live in the greatest country in the world, but the success we cherish is not the result of chance. Many early Americans, including most of the Founders, understood that in order for a nation to thrive and prosper, God’s Word must provide the basis for the government and the welfare of society. I’m not suggesting a theocracy, nor were the Founders, but I am suggesting a return to Judeo-Christian values. Just as water rapidly eroded the banks of the mighty Colorado River and created a vast Grand Canyon, America’s current belief system (relativism) has eroded her foundation and created a moral void.

“And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?”⁴

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (1706-1790)

FOUNDING FATHER, POLITICAL THEORIST, INVENTOR

CHAPTER TWO

Keep the Roots Alive

AS A CHILD, I WAS CAPTIVATED BY THE STORIES that my grandfather told about life on the farm in Oklahoma in the early 1900s. The images that I've held are not those of pleasant surroundings or ideal conditions; they are impressions of twelve-hour days spent working the land, dust storms that could devastate a crop, blistered and sunburned skin, and poverty unlike most Americans know today. Life, in general, was harder then, but interestingly enough, families seemed stronger—it was a time when the roots of commitment, integrity, and honesty ran deep. A handshake and a man's word were generally good enough.

I'm not suggesting that we return to that time in history, but that we learn from the past and strongly encourage those same character traits today. *A nation, like a tree, is easily destroyed when the roots are removed.*

Today, careers are built at the cost of the family. Being a family man or a stay-at-home mom is often frowned upon. Ironically, **the strength of the nation will depend on the stability of the family.** Noted author and speaker, Josh McDowell, once stated that the reason so many young people are losing ground in the area of spiritual truth is because their parents are not involved in teaching them in word or action. He added, “One of the most common questions I get is, ‘How could we live for Christ, when we don’t want the Christ that our parents have?’”⁵ Wow, that should force us all to ask, “Who am I influencing, and who’s influencing me?” When the destruction of the family is coming from within the same walls that were designed to protect it, it’s time for change.

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“From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation . . . that this is a Christian nation.”⁷

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, 1892

Is America a Christian Nation?

LET'S BEGIN BY ANSWERING THIS QUESTION. AS we do, it's important not to begin with the *Declaration of Independence* era (1776) as some do. For example, many point out, and rightly so, that some of the Framers of the Constitution were "religious" but not Christians. They use this argument to suggest that America was not founded on Christian principles, and that many of the founding documents in the late 1700s supported a broad range of views and beliefs rather than Christian doctrine. However, America's roots were established much earlier.

To adequately evaluate America's heritage, we must turn back time hundreds of years before 1776 when the seeds of our political system were being planted. The Pilgrims and Puritans, deeply committed to the Judeo-Christian faith and strongly influenced by Christian principles, emerged when the religious climate in Europe changed in the early 1500s. This was a time

when many Christians returned to the authority of God's Word and the purity of biblical doctrine. These two groups eventually arrived in America in the early 1600s. Their prayers, journals, and writings, such as the *Mayflower Compact*, indicate that their intent was the furtherance of the *good news* (Gospel) of Christ and His teachings. Therefore, we must draw the conclusion that America was influenced greatly by the Judeo-Christian faith and the Bible.

With that said, I'm hesitant to label America a "Christian nation." Christians are followers of Christ, whereas a nation is a group of people who share a common identity, and often, a common origin. Some of the founders, such as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, were not considered Christians. *For this reason, America was not a Christian nation in the sense that every citizen or Founder was a Christian or was required to be one, but America is often labeled a Christian nation because her foundation was built on biblical principles and Christian character.*

Newsweek magazine, on December 27, 1982, in an article entitled, *How the Bible Made America*, made this revealing statement, "historians are discovering that the Bible, perhaps even more than the Constitution, is our Founding document." Undoubtedly, the Bible is the solid rock upon which our republic rests. For those who doubt this and believe that statements in the *Declaration of Independence* such as "the laws of nature and of nature's God" were products of the enlightenment, deism, or secularism, you may want to read quotes from founders such as Alexander Hamilton, Noah Webster, John Jay, William Findley, Rufus King, and James Wilson. All attested to the fact that "the laws of nature and of nature's God" refer to

“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (1929-1968)

RECOGNIZED LEADER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT;
FROM HIS BOOK: *STRENGTH TO LOVE*

Shall Congress Prevent Religious Expression?

WITH EXTENSIVE EVIDENCE SUPPORTING America's Christian heritage, why do so many deny it? Those who challenge America's history often acquire their information from "revisionists," or from "secular interpretations" concerning what the Founders believed, rather than looking to the Framers' "original" writings. **Revisionists often use omissions, broad generalizations, and half-truths in order to rewrite history.** From slavery to the Salem Witch Trials, from the massacre of Native Americans to the oppression of women, revisionists attempt to level these charges against all early Americans—to take the exception and portray it as the rule. But they often fail to mention the three Christian men who eventually brought an end to the Salem Witch Trials, the countless early Americans who embraced the Indians, and the plethora of Founders who detested the evil practice of

slavery. Many early Americans set in motion social movements that have freed and benefited mankind. Granted, some Christians have been guilty of revisionism as well, but the general push toward revisionism often comes from those who feel disdain toward our nation's heritage and anything "Christian."

As yet another example, revisionists try to convince us that people like George Washington were Deists. A Deist believes in an impersonal, distant God; they reject personal prayer, Jesus Christ, and the Bible. Washington used the name "Jesus Christ" in some of his letters, journals, and prayer books; that doesn't sound like a Deist to me. But the most convincing evidence comes from Washington's adopted daughter, Nelly Custis-Lewis: "I should have thought it the greatest heresy to doubt his [George Washington's] firm belief in Christianity. His life, his writings, prove that he was a Christian."²⁰ If Washington's own contemporaries did not question his faith but were thoroughly convinced of it, should we challenge this fact? (For those who desire more information on this subject, refer to Dr. Peter Lillback's book, *George Washington's Sacred Fire*. This resource buries, under an avalanche of facts, the myth that Washington was an unbeliever.)

Others, however, reject America's heritage because they reject God. Simply stated: If there's a God, and there is, then the current direction of America's morality is wrong; something few want to admit. This is why many want a *complete* separation of church and state: Out of sight, out of mind. Those who cry "separation of church and state" the loudest are often those who reject God and His principles—they want the freedom to do what they want, when they want, how they want, to whom they want. I'm not referring to those who desire a

“Of the 22 civilizations that have appeared in history, 19 of them collapsed when they reached the moral state America is in today.”

ARNOLD TOYNBEE (1889 –1975)

BRITISH HISTORIAN

Sinking One Step at a Time

WITHIN THE LAST FEW DECADES, AMERICANS have seen the destruction of the institution of marriage between a man and a woman, the removal of God's Word in several areas, and the aborting of millions of babies. Ironically, many of the men and women who died for our freedoms did not die for what we are becoming today. They understood sacrifice—duty to Country was duty to God. Many gave their lives in order that we would be “one nation under God,” not above God. **A Fifth Division graveyard sign in Iwo Jima, Japan, states it well: “When you go home, tell them for us and say, ‘For your tomorrows we gave our today.’”**²⁴ What a travesty when we fail to honor those who gave their lives for the freedoms we now enjoy.

In the words of Father O'Brien who served in World War II: "It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who gives us the freedom to demonstrate." O'Brien continues: "It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

*Let's be very clear on this: "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both" (Dwight D. Eisenhower).*²⁵ Historically, we know that God judged those nations who continually tolerated sin; wrong choices had devastating consequences. Arnold Toynbee, who completed *A Study of History* in 1961, said: "Of the 22 civilizations that have appeared in history, 19 of them collapsed when they reached the moral state America is in today."²⁶

Historians realize that a republican democracy, like ours in America, cannot last forever. Eventually, there is a collapse due to moral decay and financial irresponsibility—liberty often leads to abundance; abundance to complacency; complacency to apathy; apathy to a loss of freedom. Based on this, where are we today? **Unfortunately, countless people are confusing God's patience with His approval.** "Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever" (Thomas Jefferson).²⁷ C.S. Lewis said, "The safest road to hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."²⁸

“The law . . . dictated by God Himself is, of course, superior in obligation to any other. It is binding over all the globe, in all countries, and at all times. No human laws are of any validity if contrary to this.”²⁹

ALEXANDER HAMILTON (1755– 1804)

SIGNER OF THE CONSTITUTION

Religion and Politics— Do They Mix?

ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES OF our time is the question of mixing religion and politics. One group believes that the church should be used as a political platform, the other advocates passivity. So, what's the answer?

First and foremost, we cannot deny our primary responsibility: To encourage people to turn to Christ as their Lord and Savior. This is how America will “truly” change from the inside out. The No. 1 problem in America is not a political problem; it's a spiritual problem called sin. **The primary goal of the church is not to become a political movement, but a spiritual influence.** Christianity has influenced large-scale changes because it first transformed the hearts of men and women.

Politics won't save America anymore than a dumbbell will save someone who is drowning; however, we cannot ignore our God-given civic responsibility and the massive impact that politics has on our society. Make no mistake about it: America's leaders play an enormous role in shaping the direction of the country. "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked man rules, the people groan" (Proverbs 29:2). For instance, there are legislators who support partial-birth abortion, even when the life of the mother is not at risk. Partial-birth abortion is a process where an unborn, often healthy, baby's body is delivered feet first, often near full term, until only the head remains inside the womb. (The head remains in the womb so that the abortion is not considered murder. Once a baby is fully delivered, his/her life cannot be terminated.) The physician then punctures the back of the child's skull with a sharp instrument and removes the child's brains before delivering the dead baby.

There are also those who support D & E (dilation and evacuation) abortions and saline abortions. During a D & E abortion, a large crushing instrument is inserted into the uterus. The physician grabs the baby with this instrument and pulls off pieces (limbs) until he or she is completely removed from the mother. During a saline abortion, a salt solution is injected into the mother's sac for the baby to swallow. Once swallowed, the baby begins to experience a violent, slow death—so violent that the mother can actually feel the baby in her womb fighting for his or her life.

These paragraphs were extremely difficult for me to write—I shed many tears, contemplated removing

them, and prayed diligently for direction. But I cannot, and will not, remain silent.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men [and women] to do nothing.”

EDMUND BURKE (1729-1797)

AUTHOR, ORATOR, AND POLITICAL THEORIST

Why Didn't Someone Do Something?

THOSE FIVE WORDS STILL HAUNT MY THOUGHTS today. Sometime ago, I sat speechless as I listened to a man recount his trip to a holocaust museum with his young daughter. As they walked by photos of the death camps, gas chambers, and countless bodies piled one upon another, his daughter silently contemplated the horrors that were unfolding before her eyes.

When the tour ended, they drove home without saying a word. The father wondered if she truly understood the significance of the event. Was she too young to view such depravity? Was she too fragile to cope with the truth of the holocaust? Would it make a negative impact on her life? Would it leave her fearful and wounded? Would she begin to doubt God?

His questions were answered nearly two hours later when his daughter finally spoke. She looked at her father and asked, “Daddy, why didn’t someone do something?”

Will we hear those same haunting words from our children and grandchildren? Yes! If we fail to contend for what is right, we may see a time in our history when our children will ask, “Why didn’t someone do something?” Sadly, we may not be able to answer.

What can I do? What can we do? People are often willing to help, but they lack motivation; they also don’t know where to begin. How can we honor God and preserve our values? Here are just a few ways:

1. Lead a life of integrity regardless of what society promotes. Although only a select few can change government policy, all of us can build a life of moral integrity while staying committed to God’s Word. Certain “rights” and “wrongs” called absolutes are given by God to save man from himself. One of the best ways to make a difference is to live a life based on moral absolutes, and by letting honesty and integrity guide our decisions. Again, society changes as individuals change.

M.H. McKee states it well, **“Integrity is one of several paths. It distinguishes itself from the others because it is the right path, and the only one upon which you will never...**

“The proud, self-justifying, self-reliant, self-seeking self has to come simply as a lost, undone sinner, whose only hope is a justifying Savior.”

NORMAN GRUBB (1895-1993)

MISSIONARY AND AUTHOR;
FROM HIS BOOK: *CONTINUOUS REVIVAL*

Our Only Hope

I looked throughout America to find where her greatness originated. I looked for it in her harbors and on her shorelines, in her fertile fields and boundless prairies, and in her gold mines and vast world commerce, but it was not there. *It was not until I went to the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her success.* America is great because she is good, and if America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great. (Paraphrase)

THIS POWERFUL DECLARATION OFTEN APPEARS in books, speeches, lectures, and sermons. Even though it is not found in his works, it's often attributed to Alexis De Tocqueville—a Frenchman who authored *Democracy in America* in the early 1800s. Whomever the author, it's clear that America's success was attributed to the pulpits being aflame with righteousness. Churches have often served as the moral compass for the nation—to confront, challenge, encourage, and exhort. And this is precisely where I'd like to bring this book to a close.

It's time for us to turn back to absolute truth and away from relativism—back to Christ and away from the broad road that leads to destruction. We must repent, ask for forgiveness, and seek restoration. We should not apologize for preaching God's Word, redefine what He meant, or back down from conflict. We are in the midst of a spiritual battle. We will be hated for following

Christ, mocked for believing in truth, and challenged for promoting righteousness. We are called to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Him. Clearly, the day of the passive church is over. We must lovingly preach righteousness in our pulpits again: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).

Richard Owen Roberts said it well, “The Lord has been so deeply grieved by the refusal of the church to faithfully proclaim the whole counsel of His Word in the power of the Holy Spirit that He has largely withdrawn from the church and left her to her own devices.” Roberts continues, “The heart cry of God is most certainly, ‘Return to Me, and I will return to you.’”³¹

The greatest threat to Christians in America is not false religion, secularism, atheism, or any other “ism,” but compromise. **When compromise occurs we avoid the difficult truths of the Bible and decentralize the Scriptures. We “play” Christian but compromise everything that Christ stood for.** We have riches, wealth, and prosperity, but neglect the weightier matters—love, mercy, and forgiveness.

“I sat next to John Adams in Congress, and upon my whispering to him and asking him if he thought we should succeed in our struggle with Great Britain, he answered me, ‘Yes—if we fear God and repent of our sins.’”³²

BENJAMIN RUSH (1745-1813)

SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
