

WHAT'S WRONG WITH AMERICA?

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Today, more than ever, we live in a culture that I term “the sensual, over-indulging and saturated with self, society.” Electronic media and newspapers; magazines and movies; recreational opportunities and sports; (the list goes on and on) and too much time on our hands provide too many temptations and opportunities to make the wrong choices. We are over-indulged with luxury in a capitalistic society with vaporizing morals. We are bombarded with life-enhancing products and services. We are drawn like magnetized puppets into the culture of the “imagined self.” To be what we imagine we must have more and the reason for more is no reason at all, it is emotional imaging in a world of pleasures and remorse. The remorse is not for what we’ve chosen to enhance our self-image, but what we didn’t choose - we should have chosen, of all the choices, mentality.

More and more we witness reason trampled under the feet of emotionalism and 'hyperstimulation.' We actually become fatigued by choice, solicitation and bribery. “You’re worth it!” “You deserve it!” “Go ahead!” “You can do it!” “You’ll love the way you feel!” “Go for it!” “Why not?” “Just what you need!” These slogans explode from every section of society as we are bombarded with the potential benefits of self-enhanced lifestyles and the vice of instant gratification. We’ve become submerged in subversion and debt; vanity and pride. We are like the lobster in boiling water. From the steam of egotism comes the stench of arrogance which has settled like a fog over America. Immorality and greed are rampant. Even the clergy is being vaporized in the steam-heat of sexual pornography, lust and perversion. We are finding pleasure everywhere and in everything. History repeats itself because humanity loves self-indulgence in all the wrong places. Sodom and Gomorrah is alive and well in America and judgment is inevitable – it is just a matter of time.

Morality guards freedom:

We are removing God from every facet of life. If there is no God then there is no truth and therefore no remorse, no guilt and no reason to ever say 'no' to self. We are a nation under satanic attack. Morality is the backbone of democracy. Without morality a society or even mankind cannot long endure. When good men do nothing, evil doesn’t win – we lose!

Temporary happiness:

Happiness is not in what we wear or what we look like or what we possess. Happiness is peace and joy on the inside in the soul. Our soul is designed by God to be filled with His Word, His Love and His Spirit. When we attempt to fill the soul with everything under the sun except God we will only find frustration and misery. Promiscuousness is not the answer! Materialism is not the answer - God is the answer! We cannot make our own morality else we destroy ourselves by the competition and warfare caused by immorality. Love becomes hate when life is choked to death by immorality. As scar tissue forms on the immoral soul the heart hardens to the point of no recovery. If our obsessions were toward God rather than self, we would find the utopia we so desperately search for in all the wrong places.

The problem and the answer can be found in each local neighborhood!

America's problems may seem to some to be insurmountable when we look at them on a national scale. The problems of the world and our view of it cannot be seen through a telescope, they must be recognized in the mirror. Morality and integrity must start with self; with our own homes and our own neighborhoods. The problems we face as a nation and a world are never out there, they are in here (the heart).

God's eternal love and His eternal plan have always centered in His creation - man! Since the Garden of Eden, God has been with man. It is man that continues to rebel and reject his Creator. But, God is always coming to man's rescue. God established the local church in the local community beginning with the Garden of Eden. Daily Christ came to teach Adam and Eve. Today, in America, there is a church in almost every community.

When man rebels against God it is always because he cannot handle the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil (Who DOES exist, by the way)!

Our neighborhoods have become the breeding grounds for corruption and immorality when in reality they should be the teaching centers of God. The local church is another of God's countless gifts to mankind for the protection, preservation and nourishment of each individual.

The local church has separated itself from the neighborhood it was designed to teach and serve.

Our neighbors, near or far, make-up our communities and communities make up our nation. Our country is the neighbor to all other countries of the world. Therefore, I submit to you that if the community has turned away from God, it has not necessarily turned away from God – it has turned away from the local church! God has not failed! The leaders of many of our local churches are failing! The local church is going away from God, submerged in programs, hypocrisy and financial debt not to mention the power lust and egos of Pastors, believers and the self-righteous. The local church has failed to demonstrate the light of God effectively in the community. Reclaiming America for Christ must begin in our neighborhoods and stay in our neighborhoods.

Local churches must return to the Teaching of God's Word and sharing the Gospel without solicitation of funds or coercion of any kind.

God blessed the Apostle Paul by making him the greatest teacher the Church has ever known except for Christ Himself. Paul established churches throughout the world of his time. They were established for the purpose of witnessing and teaching God's Word; for giving and sharing the love of Christ. The church must return to these basic Truths.

Church programs too numerous to count and debt in the millions have turned our churches, Pastors and congregations into solicitors and peddlers.

Many local churches have resorted to selling recorded worship services and soliciting money to

help pay the mortgage. Big buildings creating financial debt demand the solicitation for money. "Gospel merchandising" has become big business in Christian music and entertainment. It is big business in the local church and Christianity as a whole. Many of our greatest scholars and Bible teachers; apologists and theologians have resorted to selling the gospel in order to raise revenue to pay for air-time on TV and radio. They say it is because Christians are not faithful in their pledges and their tithes. Listen, if the clergy in the local churches were studying and teaching then God's Grace would over-flow and there would be no need for fund raising in the name of Christ.

Our society is headed the wrong way because the leaders of Christianity are headed the wrong way!

God gave His Word to mankind for teaching and learning; honor and worship; praise and protection; hope and salvation. The Bible is God's defense mechanism against the world, the flesh and the devil. The Word of God should be free to anyone who is positive to receive it! **The inability of some to pay, means they are deprived of their God-ordained right to receive the teaching of God's Word.** The church is no longer a Grace Ministry in the local community it is a business with huge debt and huge budgets. God said in Philippians 4:19 that "He will supply all our needs through Christ Jesus." This is grace! This is God's way! So, why must churches go deeply in debt? Why not wait on the Lord? Why not get back to teaching God's Word, then God will pour out blessings from Heaven upon the Church, the community and America.

The Church should follow Christ down Biblical paths.

Christ said: "Do this in remembrance of me!" This command was not only for Holy Communion, it is for everything that we do in everyday life. Remember Him! Share Him! Our life should be a living memorial to our Lord and Savior. Our communities should be a living memorial to the Lord. The local church is to be a memorial to Jesus Christ! The light of God's Word should be read in every household, studied in every church service.

In closing, Christians are to be the light for a world that lives in darkness. We must reverse our course by turning back to the God of the Bible and the Christ of our Salvation. The local church is where it must happen! The local church must be the heart and soul of America or else wickedness will replace the heartbeat. The believer must insist that God's Word be given priority and the Gospel precedence in their local church, **if it is not given absolute top priority, then replace the Pastor.** Each church member must get involved in the church and the community and especially in learning, living and applying God's Word in daily life. Believers must imitate Christ to their neighbors and co-workers. We must share the Gospel. We are to be full time ambassadors for Christ on the street where we live.

Our neighbors do not want solicitation and coercion. They want privacy and respect. They want to know Jesus, but hate organized religion. The challenge of the Church in each community is to change the negative image it has created and change the hate to love. The church must be as God

has ordained it – a place to make peace with God and learn His Word so every American can know the Savior and live in peace with his neighbor. God has a unique plan for every person ever born, if they will only turn from self to Him.

Jesus Christ is history's greatest hero and greatest servant. His life was a life of service to others.

Jesus Christ is the super-hero that every boy should want to emulate and every person should admire and respect and honor!

Thank you Father for Jesus Christ! Thank you for your Word! Thank you for those few Pastors who daily study and teach their congregation under the teaching ministry of your wonderful Holy Spirit. God, please, if this message is your will, send it to the churches, pastors, leaders of our country and believers everywhere in the world for your honor and glory. In Jesus name, Amen!

Happy studying!