

Value of a Soul # 14 The Nation Whose God Is the Lord

The preservation of the nation is dependent upon the care of the soul.

I'm sure that we all love the freedoms, the democracy, the standard of living, the quality of life, the material prosperity, and the religious liberties of American and Western civilization. Who in their right mind would want to exchange our way of life for a third world existence, the tyranny of a dictatorship, or the oppressions of a theocracy?

Our system of liberties has developed over a period of hundreds of years. It has been too hard-won, too vigorously defended, and has cost too many loyal lives to be thoughtlessly relinquished. And yet, this is exactly what our society is doing.

A nation of true liberty can only exist upon a foundation of genuine moral and spiritual value. When a society loses its moral bearings the whole culture begins to fall apart. This is exactly what we are increasingly seeing in America, and in all Western civilization. Such a society becomes vulnerable to both internal and external forces which combine to procure its demise.

The Bible teaches in many passages that God Himself has a hand in both initially elevating and then removing those nations that sink into decadence and depravity. Jeremiah 18:7-10 says that

“At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it, if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it, if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.”

And again, in chapter 27:5-7,

“I have made the earth . . . by my great power and by My outstretched arm, and I will give it to the one who is pleasing in My sight. Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant. . . and all the nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson until the time of this own land comes; then many nations and great kings will make him their servant.”

In Daniel 2:21, Daniel said that God “. . . changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings. . . “

I hope and I pray that God is not in the process of removing His favor from America and the West because of our unrighteousness. I hope he is not going to hand over our land, our people and our assets to others. To whom would He hand them, the Muslims, the Chinese? Time will tell.

Whose, then, is the responsibility for elevating the moral and spiritual stature of a people? In the Old Testament God gave Moses, the priesthood, and the prophets the job of making His will known to Israel. The New Testament is God's standard for today, and

Jesus has given His church the task of making its divine teachings known throughout the world (Mt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15, 16).

I believe that the Old Testament prophets did the best they could (at great expense to themselves) to bring a wayward nation back to God. I do not believe that the chronic disobedience of the Jews was due to a deficiency in the prophets, but rather to the hard heartedness of the people (Is. 6:9, 10).

Can we say the same about God's New Testament herald today? Is the 21st century church really doing its best to fulfill the Great Commission with the zeal, the priority, and the effectiveness of its 1st century equivalent? Are New Testament Christians today having a leavening influence upon our society that will stay the judgment of God? Is the church growing at a rate that even matches the increase in population?

If the answer to these questions is no, then the church needs to take stock of its priorities and develop a more evangelic attitude. It needs to get back into the business of soul-winning. It needs to do the job that Jesus commissioned it to accomplish.

This is an invaluable service that we can render to our country. The stakes are extremely high. When we win a soul, not only are we catering to an eternal destiny, but we are contributing to the survival of our own nation and civilization.