



THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

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INNOCENT BLOOD

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In regards to the Old Testament (OT) the apostle Paul wrote, *"whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."* (Rom. 15:4) In order for Christians to have a thorough "religious education" and complete understanding of the great God we serve we should all diligently study the *"things written aforetime."*

As we consider the OT there are some very important principles revealed concerning God's dealings with civil governments, or nations. Civil governments owe their very existence to God because *"the powers that be are ordained of God"* (Rom. 13:1; cf. Ps. 67:4). The book of Daniel tells us *"...the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men."* (Dan. 4:17).

Furthermore, God requires nations (*i.e.*, *"the powers that be"*) to rule according to godly principles. These principles are clearly and succinctly stated in the Psalms and Proverbs. The Psalmist said *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* (Psa. 9:17) and the wise man said *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."* (Prov. 14:34; cf. Prov. 16:12)

When nations stray from the principles of righteousness, God eventually judges them and will destroy them if they do not repent. The OT provides example after example of this concept. In the antediluvian world (see Genesis 6-10) all people and nations became so corrupt *"that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time"* (Gen. 6:5). As a result God told Noah *"The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth."* (Gen. 6:13) In Genesis 19 God brought judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah as He *"overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities"* (Gen. 19:25). Numerous other examples are abundant in the OT and NT: Babylon (Isa. 13), Moab (Isa. 15-16), Damascus (Isa. 17), Ethiopia and Egypt (Isa. 18-20), Babylon, Edom and Arabia (Isa. 21), Judah and Jerusalem (Isa. 22), Tyre (Isa. 23), Israel (Matt. 23 & 24), Rome (Revelation).

In His dealings with nations, as with individuals, God is longsuffering (Gen. 15:6; 18:16-33). However, inevitably if a nation continues to ignore God's longsuffering and continues to walk down the path of unrighteousness God will pour out His wrath upon that nation. As the Psalmist said, *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* (Psa. 9:17) To my knowledge only one heathen nation, Nineveh (book of Jonah), ever repented and avoided divine judgment (at least temporarily). Unfortunately all nations ultimately become the subjects of God's wrath due to their obstinate disobedience.

If one looks at all the nations that ever existed there is probably none, except for ancient Israel, that was founded upon the principles of righteousness emanating from God's word as was the United States of America. Our constitution and legal system are built upon the so-called "Judeo-Christian" ethic. However, anyone who is even half observant of American culture knows our culture, unfortunately, has been on the decline for several decades. Our nation has a lot of "national bad habits": crime, political corruption, divorce, alcohol and illegal drug addiction, child abuse, divorce, etc. To add insult to injury, this year (2015) the U.S. Supreme Court (Obergefell v. Hodges) ruled that homosexual marriage is now the law of the land.

But, the most graphic evidence of our nation's moral and ungodly decline is legalized abortion. In the 42 years since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion (see Roe v. Wade) in 1973, 57,762,169 legalized abortions (murders) have taken place (Source: LifeNews.com). According to this source the number of abortions in the U.S peaked in 1990 at 1.6 million per year. Currently there are over one million abortions performed in the U.S. annually.

It is critical that we reflect on those numbers for a few minutes. I live in the state of Indiana with a population just slightly under seven million people. Therefore, since 1973 our government has sanctioned the killing of enough people to populate the state of Indiana almost nine times over! Since 1973 the number of aborted babies is approximately equal to the total combined population of the states of Indiana, Michigan,

Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Missouri, Idaho and Colorado! The number of murdered children amounts to an average of 3,768 per day! That would be the equivalent of seven fully-loaded Boeing 747's and two Boeing 737 airliners crashing every day with no survivors! Could you imagine the outcry if we even saw such a carnage from such airliner crashes in an entire year, even an entire decade, much less in one day?!

Excuse me for adding more statistics, but I want to drive home these appalling facts. First, in America's 239 year history (1776-2015) the total dead from all of our wars (Revolutionary War to the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars) totals 1,434,338. In just 42 years, legalized abortion has claimed 40 times more lives! Our total war dead represents only 2.5% of the deaths caused by legal abortion. Second, the great tsunami of 2004 that ravaged Indonesia and Thailand claimed 230,000 lives. Legal abortions in the U.S. have claimed the equivalent of 251 great tsunamis! Third, the average number of abortion deaths in the U.S. each day are 772 more deaths than America experienced in the 911 attacks. Remember how the nation mourned and wept for months over those deaths and the monuments that were rightly constructed to perpetuate their memory? But few, if any, tears are shed for the 3,768 innocent victims of abortion each day and their memory has been swept under the "national rug" of consciousness.

I'm a student of World War II history. Adolf Hitler was undoubtedly one of the most evil and wicked mass murderers in history. But Hitler cannot hold a candle to the barbaric efficiency of the abortion industry. Most of us are familiar with the "Holocaust" in which Hitler and his Nazi henchmen murdered approximately two-thirds of the Jews who lived in Europe. Hitler's reign of terror against the Jews lasted approximately five years in which one million children, two million women, and three million men of the Jewish race were killed. If you examine those numbers Hitler did not kill Jews as fast as America kills babies! Furthermore, Hitler's murderous program lasted only about five years. America's bloody campaign against the unborn has lasted for forty two years and there is no end in sight!

All good Bible students are familiar with the Babylonian captivity of Judah. During the time period from 605 B.C. through 587 B.C. the Babylonians attacked Judah and Jerusalem three times. In these attacks many lives and much property was lost and thousands of Jews were enslaved and deported to Babylon. In **2 Kings 24:2-4** we find one of the primary reasons for this divine judgment was that the Judean king, Manasseh, "*had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood.*" This is probably in reference to the offering of children as sacrifices to the god Molech. How many children were offered as sacrifices? No one knows for sure, but I would venture a guess it was likely in the hundreds and certainly no more than in the thousands. But what was the Lord's attitude toward this innocent blood? In reference to this innocent blood we find the divine record noting "*the LORD would not pardon*" it's shedding.

If one compares the shedding of innocent blood in

America due to abortion with Manasseh's there is no comparison. Surely Manasseh and his fellow Judeans were guilty of terrible crimes, but they are small when compared with what Roe v. Wade has accomplished. If "*the LORD would not pardon*" the relatively small (by comparison) amount of innocent blood shed by Manasseh and his fellow Judeans, will the Lord pardon America's ocean of innocent blood shed by abortion? I certainly don't think so, do you?!

I am surely not a prophet, but I'm regretfully confident the divine judgment of America is somewhere on God's calendar. Each day the toll mounts and each day God offers America an opportunity to repent, but alas, the carnage continues. As God's people, what shall we do?

1) Take being a Christian seriously! We all will face God in the final judgment and give an account of our lives (**Eccl. 12:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:10**). That being the case, we need to take being a Christian seriously! I fear our nation is surely facing a divine judgment for this ocean of innocent blood. When will that judgment come? I don't know. It may be tomorrow, ten years from now, or fifty years from now. But I'm convinced it will come. The judgment against Judah shook the faith of even those who were the most faithful among the Jews. If we live to see the divine judgment against America it will surely challenge the faith of even the strongest of Christians. Therefore, it behooves every child of God to take being a Christian seriously and striving each day to strengthen our faith (**2 Pet. 1:5-11**).

2) Pray without ceasing! Personally I don't think praying will result in a permanent postponement of God's judgment against America (**Gen. 18:16-33**). However, it may forestall it so we may continue to strengthen our faith, preach the gospel, etc. We must believe in the power of prayer! (**Lk. 18:1-8; 1 Thess. 5:17**) We must pray often and remember to pray for:

A) Our nation in general: In **Genesis 18:16-33** Abraham interceded for the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham didn't excuse the sin of these cities, his concern was for the righteous: "*Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" (**Gen. 18:25**) Abraham pleaded with the Lord to not destroy the cities if even ten righteous could be found in them; evidently not even ten could be found because chapter 19 records the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. May we have the heart of Abraham and pray for our wicked nation!

B) Women who may be considering abortion. We need to pray for women contemplating abortion! We need to warn them that abortion is murder and often has devastating negative psychological consequences on women aborting their babies.

C) Our government leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-4). Our government leaders are notorious for an abundance of rhetoric and an extreme lack of action. Let us pray that they will fight at every possible juncture to overturn this hideous law.

3) Let our light shine! God intends Christians to serve as the "*salt of the earth*" and "*lights of the*

world" (Matt. 5:13-16). In the process we may influence some soul to not have an abortion and become a Christian. That being the case, God may then extend His longsuffering to allow us more time to exert a positive influence. Remember Abraham's intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah: The single best thing we can do in this situation is to live lives of righteousness and fidelity to God and His word. By doing so perhaps God will continue to spare our nation and give it more time to repent.

4) Preach the gospel! The gospel remains *"the power of God to salvation"* (Rom. 1:16) and our fellow countrymen desperately need to hear this message. Again, our preaching may not permanently forestall God's judgment against our nation, but it may cause Him to extend His longsuffering. And, it still has the power to convert the coldest heart to Christ and salvation.

5) Take Action! We need to take action within the bounds of the law! (1 Pet. 2:13-14) Those who support abortion want you to be silent and feel ashamed for rightly condemning abortion; they say pro-lifers are: A) Religious fanatics, B) Waging the so-called "War on Women," C) Against "reproductive rights," and D) Intolerant and judgmental. We can't allow ourselves to be intimidated! Abortion is murder and it is bringing down our country as surely as the innocent blood shed in the days of Manasseh: *"which the Lord would not pardon."* (2 Kgs. 24:4) The worst thing we can do is allow the intimidation tactics of abortion supporters to silence us! The words of Edmund Burke are appropriate here: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." What can we do?

A) Speak Out! We must take advantage of every opportunity to speak up to defend the defenseless! Make sure your legislators (local, state, national) hear from you concerning important issues affecting the pro-life cause (e.g., defunding Planned Parenthood). Can you imagine facing God on the Day of Judgment and having to admit you let the intimidation tactics of abortion supporters silence you! Take advantage of every opportunity to speak out...it just may be God's providence at work! (Esther 4:14)

B) Join Up! Consider joining and/or supporting a pro-life advocacy group.

C) Vote! I hate politics, but I still think it is important to vote for those politicians who at least say they oppose abortion. In my years as a voter I have been very disappointed in "pro-life" candidates. But I certainly would never give my vote to a "pro-choice" (i.e., pro-murder) candidate. Abortion was legalized in a 1973 Supreme Court ruling, therefore, it is ensconced in American law and will be very, very difficult to overturn (especially in our current political climate). However, regardless of the odds for success we need to put people in public office that respect the sanctity of life.

In summary, the best thing we can do as Christians for our nation is to be faithful. In **Genesis chapter 18** faithful Abraham interceded on the behalf of Sodom with God. As a result of Abraham's pleadings, God promised he would not destroy Sodom if ten righteous souls could be found there. Alas, ten were not found. I don't know

how many righteous souls must be found to forestall America's judgment, but I know I can be one of them by being *"steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord"* (1 Cor. 15:58). I exhort and encourage you to do the same.

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DISOBEDIENCE

Ways of Disobeying

Adding to God's Requirements

Many are not satisfied with the simplicity of God's requirements. They revel in religious ostentation - they want a religion that is elaborate and showy. The Pharisees added an endless number of things to the law of Moses (Mat. 15:1-9). These added things made their whole worship vain, and by them they made void the word of God (Mk. 7:1-9). They added to God's commandments, though He had charged them, *What thing soever I command you, that shall ye observe to do: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it* (Deut. 12:32). The same in substance is found in the New Testament (Rev. 22:18,19). Presumption is at the bottom of all additions to God's word: for the one who does it presumes that God did not give us what we needed.

Example: Teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Col. 3:16). That God here commands singing, is not questioned; but some add to the command instrumental music.

Leaving off Something God Commands

It suits man's taste sometimes to leave off some things God commands. One of the striking examples of this in the Old Testament is found in 1 Sam. 15:1-24). God's command to Saul was plain: *Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman and cattle.*" Saul with his army went against the Amalekites, and utterly destroyed them excepting Agag and the best of the sheep and oxen. He did not come up to the full measure of God's requirements. It was not a failure growing out of misunderstanding or inability to reach an ideal, but he failed knowingly, failed when he could have obeyed, easily. Before Saul returned, God appeared to Samuel and said to him concerning Saul. *He is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.* But Saul, not knowing God's pronouncement to Samuel, returned to Gilgal in full confidence of duty well done, and announced to Samuel, *I have performed the commandment of Jehovah.* But Samuel said, *What meanest then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?* Saul tried to justify himself and insisted, *Yet, I have obeyed the voice of Jehovah.* When he saw that argument was useless, he confessed, *I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of Jehovah, and thy word, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.* It must have been humiliating for brave King Saul to confess that he feared the people. He possessed a sufficiency of physical courage; he did not fear the people would do him physical harm; but they were his people, his beloved army, and he could not go against them - their wishes became the law for him. It was moral cowardice on Saul's part, and God rejected him.

Nothing, perhaps is more needed now on the part of God's servants than moral courage - courage to serve him when others scoff, courage to preach when enemies persecute, courage to preach the truth when by so doing we lose the favor and support of some who are members of the church, courage not to suppress the truth to gain the favor of the people. Some have not this courage.

Sound Doctrine, Vol. 1, C.R.Nichol, R.L. Whiteside, pages 136,137

Eph. 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

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STEVE WIMP IS IN REHAB AT TRINITY NURSING, 62ND AND MASTIN IN SHAWNEE.

BIBLE CLASSES: SUNDAY: GOSPEL OF JOHN - RON PECK - WEDNESDAY: THE THEME OF THE BIBLE - JIM STAUFFER



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10