

What if America were a Christian Nation Again?

enough is enough!

by Pastor James Hughes

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Prologue:

It may be hard to believe, but there was a period of time before our country declared its independence when it was against the law to have any kind of religious meeting, secret or separate from the Church of England, or even to read the Bible in public. Those were considered criminal offenses.

In spite of this extreme pressure from England, the early Puritans and pilgrims read the Word of God and came to realize that things were not right in the Church or in the land. And so in the course of time our early forefathers moved here seeking freedom to worship and freedom to study the Holy Scriptures for themselves.

On July 4, 1776, 56 men representing about 3 million people signed perhaps the most revolutionary document in history: The Declaration of Independence. These men placed conviction above convenience. Some of them lost their homes, their families, their fortunes, and their lives. Although Christians have lost much ground in this nation that was largely founded by Christians, we owe it to our forefathers who sacrificed so much to establish this nation on godly principles to gain back this lost territory. Yes, our country has experienced a great social, spiritual, and cultural decline. But even now historians are coming to realize that the Bible, even more than the Constitution, founded this great nation of America.

May God help us to reclaim this great nation for His Glory—before it is everlastingly too late!

Message:

I want to begin by asking this question this morning: “Is it possible for believers [Christians] to reclaim our nation?”

The message that I share this morning, on this Sunday, July 04, 2004, is based largely in part on a book by Dr. James Kennedy. A book that I am currently reading...the book is entitled “What if America were a Christian Nation Again?”

When I think of our great country’s past history, and I see what is taking place today, I am deeply troubled and concerned about our present and our future. In a matter of just a few short years we have been transformed from a deeply religious country into a secular nation. There was a time when America could be called a Christian nation. Today that is

no longer true. Why? How did this happen? America, A Christian nation?!?! Why does that sound like an alien philosophy? Why does it sound so empty and hollow?

While America has amazingly moved more toward atheism, formerly atheist communist countries have crumbled and the people in those countries have been reaching out to receive the Word of God into their lives and culture. It was reported that not too long after the “Iron Curtain” was dismantled that in Moscow, Russia, the traffic was stopped in every direction as people desperately tried to get their hands on one of the 50,000 Bibles that were being given away. While many countries are opening their doors to the gospel and the Word of God, America has begun its journey down the foolish path toward godlessness and secularism.

It was Patrick Henry, the Christian patriot, great writer, and speaker of the Revolutionary period who was reported to have said in his will, “I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more that I wish I could give to them. This is the Christian religion. If they had that and I had no given them one shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that and I had given them the world, they would be poor.”

Patrick Henry understood that the foundations of liberty and freedom were rooted solidly in Scripture and the Christian religion. In March 1775, a month before the shot heard round the world ignited the Revolutionary War, Patrick Henry said these words in his celebrated speech: “The battle sire, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave...why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

This kind of devotion, sacrifice, and commitment is much needed today in 2004!

The Psalmist said in Psalm 9:17, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”

In the book of Esther 4:14 we hear these words, “And who knows whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” This is the Word of God.

The story of Esther has always fascinated me. It is the story of a time when all the Jews were sentenced to death. It was by the grace of God that one woman was able to prevent their wholesale slaughter. It was Queen Esther’s time. A man by the name of Haman became so furious with a Jew named Mordecai, because Mordecai refused to bow down to him. Haman devised a plan to destroy all Jews. He talked to Persian King Xerxes to set a date and time for the killing to begin. On that day, thousands of Jews would die. Nothing short of God’s divine intervention could stop this evil plan. But God delivered his people, and he used Queen Esther to do it. Unbeknownst to King Xerxes, his beautiful wife and Queen was Jewish. In those days the King’s power was so great that she risked her life to appear before him and request a hearing.

Initially Esther was not happy about the idea of approaching the King. But Mordecai, her fellow Jew and relative told her, "For you to remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise from the Jews from another place; but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

The sad commentary on our culture today is that the Judeo-Christian heritage of our great nation has been sifting through our fingers like sand because too many Christians are engaged simply, as Dr. Francis Schaefer used to say, "in personal peace and prosperity."

The fact of the matter is we are losing the cultural war because those on the other side do not hesitate to say and do, while we do and say nothing. It is possible that our silence, and our inactivity may be contributing to the so-called sins of omission? St. Ambrose used to say, "Not only for every idle word must man give an account, but for every idle silence."

As disciples of Christ, as His church and body, we have been commanded to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to every creature. To do nothing is to disobey. To say nothing is to disobey. Thereby we have indirectly stood by while a flood of unbelief and wickedness has swept away our culture.

What would have happened if Queen Esther had refused to speak up? We know the answer, ...thousands of Jews would have perished. But she did speak up. Queen Esther took a stand for her people. Haman's evil plot backfired. The Jews were spared, and Haman was hung on the very gallows he had created for Mordecai to swing on!

This is our time! This is our moment! This is our hour! It is time that we weigh the differences that faith makes. It is time for you and me to say, "Enough!!" We've had enough of this godless, secular, and humanistic culture. We don't want our children exposed to any more of this evil. The sin of doing nothing will end here today!

Do you remember how close the election was in 2000 between Bush and Gore? For more than 30 days, the nation suffered a great deal of anxiety as to whom would be the next president. The contest was finally decided in the courts. The electorate was split 49-51 and the presidency was decided by 537 votes. Indirectly, many Christians contributed to this problem. It's estimated that about 4 million Christian voters sat out that election. It would not have been that close had 4 million voters not neglected their duty.

Do you see the problem? If America is going to be reclaimed for Christian values, and our godly Judeo-Christian heritage, we are going to have to do it. How can we do it? Jesus Christ told us, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God, the things that are God's." When a non-believer fails to register and vote, it is a failure to fulfill their patriotic civic duty. When a Christian fails to register and vote, it is a sin against God. Did you hear me on that one? Did you understand me? I said it was a sin against God. We are in an all out war for the very soul of this nation. If sin is any failure to do that which God has commanded us to do; and God has told us to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, that means at least we should register and vote. If only

Christians would get involved in our culture and proclaim the name of Jesus Christ, and start getting God back into our culture, and start voting out of office those who favor abortion, and start voting out of office those who favor gay marriages, and start voting out of office those who say “NO” to prayer in school, those who say that we do not need to see any reference to God or the Ten Commandments in our nation...our nation could be turned around. May God in His Mercy open our eyes before it is everlastingly too late.

Would you please join me in a prayer for America?

Our most kind, loving, gracious Heavenly Father:

You have told us in Your Word that we are to be salt and light. Heavenly Father, some of us are not very salty. Some of us do not give off much light. Some of us are living in silent rebellion. We've never said anything or done anything to help lead our fellow man to You. Day after day and year after year some of us have stood by and watched our nation sink deeper and deeper into godlessness and decay without so much as lifting a finger to stop it! Forgive us O God!! Forgive us for being so short sighted as to believe that our own personal peace and prosperity is all that matters. May we realize today, that judgment must begin at the house of God.

In the name of Jesus,
Amen