

A photograph of a sailboat deck, viewed from the perspective of someone standing on the boat. The deck is blue with white lines. A metal railing is visible on the left. In the background, the ocean is blue and the sky is light blue with some clouds. A small sailboat is visible on the horizon. The title "America's Destiny" is overlaid in large red letters with a blue outline. Below it, the subtitle "America, End Times, and You" is written in a smaller, italicized black font. At the bottom, the author's name "Bobby D. Brown" is written in white.

America's Destiny

America, End Times, and You

Bobby D. Brown



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Cover Photo Inspired by Carolyn K. Brown

America's Destiny; America, End Times, and You

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to all those who cannot speak out.

APPRECIATION

My Wife

Thank you!

PREFACE

In 2018 we published *A Nation Under Siege* warning of the destruction coming to America. In 2021 we published *The End Game* which looks at America's place in God's grand end time design. *Stand Your Ground* followed, taking up where *A Nation Under Siege* and *The End Game* leave off.

When we wrote and published *A Nation Under Siege*, we had no idea it would become part of a trilogy. Then, in 2021, in the middle of writing the second book, *The End Game*, the Holy Spirit gave me the outline for the third book in the series, *Stand Your Ground*. As we were ordering the first printing of *Stand Your Ground*, we ran out of copies of *The End Game*. This resulted in our ordering a second printing of *The End Game*. As this was unfolding, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me the need to compile *America's Destiny*.

In simple terms, *America's Destiny* has taken all three books in their original text (flaws and all) and combined them in a single bound volume. Each book retains its own page numbering, dedications, references, and Tables of Content. Thank you John V for planting the seed to place all three books into a single volume.

All the glory and credit for all these works belongs to God.

Thank You Jesus!

THE TIME FOR REPENTENCE IS NOW

So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent, because He has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man [Jesus Christ] whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all people by raising Him from the dead.

Acts 17:30-31 (NASB)

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A Nation Under Siege

The Destruction of America from Within



A NATION UNDER SIEGE

**THE DESTRUCTION OF
AMERICA FROM WITHIN**

Bobby D. Brown

A Nation Under Siege

**The Destruction of America
from Within**

Bobby D. Brown

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to Carolyn, my wife, my partner, my strength and my soul. You have given more than I could have imagined or repay.

I Love You

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Preface

I am a blood bought, born again child of God. I am not perfect, far from it, as my friends and family can attest. I am a sinner saved by grace.

I have written *A Nation Under Siege* to deliver a message, a warning, and a word of hope. *A Nation Under Siege* is a cumulation of prayers and teachings the Holy Sprit has placed on my heart. This, as in all things, is in God's hands.

Introduction

Why does God give warnings? Is it so He can say I told you so? Is it so He can get some kind of amusement? No, God sends warnings to save us from ourselves; that we may change; that we may turn from our own path to His path. (Jonah 3:1-10) With a warning comes an opportunity to seek forgiveness, change, and follow God.

What follows is a warning as well as a promise. Not some pie in the sky fairy tale promise such as if America does x and y then America will last forever. No, what follows is a warning and promise for a nation and for each of us. It is a warning of what will happen without God and a promise of available forgiveness and grace through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6)

This is a call to repentance, revival and awakening for a nation, a people, and a church.

I.

AMERICA'S FOUNDATION

CHAPTER ONE

America

[W]e ought to be no less persuaded that the favorable smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained

George Washington
First Inaugural Address
April 30, 1789

WATERSHED MOMENTS

Three watershed moments stand out in the forming of America:

- April 19, 1607 - Cross Erected on America Shores
- Sep 16, 1620 - Puritans Sail for New World
- May 2, 1778 - Valley Forge

On December 19, 1606, three ships, Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery left England for the New World (what we now call America). On April 19, 1607, the expedition touched this untamed land, they erected a cross and prayed at a point they called Cape Henry. After exploring up river, the settlers selected a peninsula 45 miles inland and on May 13, 1607, named it Jamestown. This was the first permanent English colony

in the New World; planting the seeds that laid the ground work for a new nation.¹

On September 16, 1620, Separatists, also called Puritans and Pilgrims, left England on the Mayflower headed for the New World. The Pilgrims were fleeing religious persecution in hopes of religious freedom. They landed at Plymouth Rock and started the Plymouth Colony.

On May 2, 1778, when the Continental Army was beginning to emerge from its famous winter at Valley Forge, Commander-in-Chief George Washington (the man known as the Father of our Nation) commended his troops for their courage and patriotism and reminded them that their higher duty was that of a Christian.

*While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.*²

¹ <https://www.historyisfun.org/Jamestown-settlement/>

² *Original Intent, The Court's, the Constitution, & Religion*, 4th Edition, David Barton, WallBuilder Press, Aledo, TX (used by permission) citing and quoting Washington, Writings (1932), Vol. XI, pp. 342-343, General Orders of May 2, 1778.

The Father of our Nation, George Washington, knew full well that it is God who builds up and tears down nations and sets their boundaries for His purpose. He knew that God's eyes behold the nations. (Psalms 66:7)

In Acts 17:26 (NIV), the Apostle Paul reminds us that:

*From one man he made all the nations,
that they should inhabit the whole earth;
and he marked out their appointed times in
history and the boundaries of their lands.*

Let us never forget that it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who has the final word in America's destiny.

CHAPTER TWO

America's Cornerstone

In the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior. The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.³

John Quincy Adams
July 4, 1837

Jesus Christ is America's cornerstone! (Ephesians 2:19-22) America was built on its faith in Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God. This was understood by our nation's leaders.

[T]he teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally... impossible for us to figure to

³ John Quincy Adams, An Oration Delivered Before the Inhabitants of the Town of Newburyport at Their Request on the Sixty-First Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1837, (Newburyport: Charles Whipple, 1837), pp. 5-6.

*ourselves what that life would be if these teaching were removed.*⁴

Theodore Roosevelt
26th President of the United States

Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States, told the American people that “*American life is builded, and can alone survive, upon . . . [the] fundamental philosophy announced by the Savior nineteen centuries ago.*”⁵

Over 100 years before President Hoover’s address to the nation, the United States House of Representatives Judicial Committee found no substitute for Christianity in America:

Had the people, during the Revolution, had a suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that Revolution would have been strangled in its cradle. At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal

⁴ Ferdinand Cowle Iglehart, D.D., Theodore Roosevelt, The Man As I Knew Him. (New York: The Christian Herald, 1919), p. 307.

⁵ Herbert Hoover, “Radio Address to the Nation on Unemployment Relief,” American Presidency Project, October 18, 1931, at: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=22855>.

*sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, not any one sect [denomination]. Any attempt to level and discard all religion would have been viewed with universal indignation In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity; that, in its general principles, is the great conservative element on which we must rely for the purity and permanence of free institutions.*⁶

Like the cornerstone of a building, which a builder uses to anchor the structure, Jesus Christ is the anchoring stone upon which America was built. He can be your anchoring stone. But don't take my word for it, let's read Ephesians 2:19-22 together:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in

⁶ Reports of Committees of the House of Representatives Made During the First Session of the Thirty-Third Congress (Washington: A. O. P. Nicholson, 1854), pp. 6, 8.

*whom you also are being built together
into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

Builders use cornerstones as the guide for the rest of the foundation, which is then used to support the weight of the entire structure. In the same way our nation's faith in Jesus has supported the weight and mass of our nation for over 240 years.

Our forefathers, of their own accord did not make this country great. God provided America with our natural resources, growth, wealth and success. It is because of God's grace through Jesus Christ that America has stood as a leader in the free world. To lose sight of this is to face heavenly discipline, reproof, and devastation. (Revelation 3:19)

Between 1777 and 1863 America was called to a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer by our nation's leaders at least 13 times (see *Figure 1*) including Abraham Lincoln's March 30, 1863, proclamation:

*Whereas, the Senate of the United States,
devoutly recognizing the supreme
authority and just government of Almighty
God, in all the affairs of men and nations,
has by a resolution, requested the
President to designate and set apart a day
for National prayer and humiliation;*

And whereas, it is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truths announced in Holy Scriptures, and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord . . .

“[T]he calling of this republic a Christian nation is not a mere pretence, but recognition of a historical, legal, and social truth.”⁷

America’s strength rests upon the Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost). To forget this is to invite ruin.

⁷ David J. Brewer, *The United States: A Christian Nation*, (Philadelphia: John C. Winston Company, 1905), pp. 40, 46. Supreme Court Justice (1837-1910).

Who	What	When
Massachusetts-Bay Colony	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	August 12, 1777
Governor Connecticut	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	March 28, 1789
Governor Massachusetts	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	March 4, 1793
Governor Massachusetts	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	Feb 28, 1795
Governor Connecticut	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	March 17, 1797
President John Adams	National Fasting & Prayer	March 23, 1798
Governor Massachusetts	Fasting	April 5, 1798
President John Adams	National Fasting & Prayer	April 25, 1799
Governor New Hampshire	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	March 19, 1804
Governor Connecticut	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	February 20, 1807
President James Madison	Day of Humiliation and Prayer	July 9, 1892
President James Madison	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	1815
President James Buchanan	Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer	December 14, 1860
President Abraham Lincoln	Day of Humiliation and Prayer	March 30, 1863

Figure 1

CHAPTER THREE

The America Dream

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.

King Solomon
Psalm 127:1 (NIV)

In this same way,

A Nation
A Family
A Life

Built on a solid rock can withstand a storm.

But,
A Nation
A Family
A Life

Built on sandy soil will crumble in a storm.

Jesus taught this point in a parable which is recorded in Matthew 7:24-27:

Therefore whoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house

upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon sand: the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house and it fell: and great was the fall of it. KJV

Most of us have driven or walked by a building or house being built. We have seen different stages of construction. Homes and buildings are not built in a day.

Stable buildings and homes, as with nations, families, and individual lives, are built over time starting with a solid foundation. But, if we use poor materials, poor designs or poor workmanship there are consequences.

For buildings and houses there is hope. For a nation; for a family; for each of us sitting on sandy soil, there is hope. For a building or house the hope is in man. For you, me, our families, and America the hope is in Jesus Christ.

FOUNDATION

As with any builder we start with a foundation. Every good foundation has a cornerstone. As we discussed in Chapter Two, the cornerstone sets the direction for the entire building. If the cornerstone is solid, straight, and true, then the building will be solid, straight and true.

The Word of God tells us in 1 Peter 2 that Jesus is a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed. However, for those who disbelieve, Jesus is a stumbling stone, a rock of offense because the unbeliever stumbles in disobedience to the word.

Rather than being a 1 Peter nation, America is a nation of people who worship self. In America we value, we praise and hold up as an example the so-called self-made-man. The person who says that he can do it on his or her own sure determination. Yet, Jesus teaches us in John 15:5 that without him we can do nothing.

Americans have faith in financial and personal prosperity; faith in national well-being and good times; faith in personal financial security and possessions.

In Mark 10:17-22 (KJV) (Rich Young Ruler), Jesus dealt with a man who could be any one of us:

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to Him, and asked Him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Did Jesus need the rich young man's money? Hardly not, Jesus was, He is and He will always be. He is the creator

of all things created. (John 1:1-4) Jesus knew the young man's heart and the foundation of the young man's faith.

The 2007 financial crisis is an example of why faith in riches is useless. In 2007 the wheels started coming off the American financial machine in significant ways. By 2010, the Nation was in the worst financial crisis since the great depression of 1929. As a result of the 2007 financial crisis:

- 7 million Americans lost their homes
- 7.9 million jobs were lost
- People earned 16% less pay if they found work
- 170,000 business went under

On what have you placed the foundation of your faith? If not self-reliance; if not money, then perhaps in freedom? Freedom from rules and responsibility?

If you disagree with me, you must be bad?

If I want it, why shouldn't I have it?

If it feels good it must be good?

My reality is the reality?

What has this created?

A nation of hate?

A nation that hates authority?

A nation that hates each other?

A nation that hates God?

BUILDING MATERIALS

You may be asking “How did we get here, and what can we do?”

There is a story I heard several years ago. I don't know who first told it to me, but because it fits so well, I am going share the story with you:

A very successful home builder was starting a new housing development and wanted to reward a faithful servant. So, the builder went to his lead architect and told the architect that he wanted to build a house for a very special friend, that the architect was to spare no expense. The builder gave the architect free rein to build the best house he could, anyway he wanted.

The architect thought to himself, wow, I have been working for this guy for 20 years, he is only successful because of all the work I have done. Now I am supposed to spare no expense to build a house for the builder to give away?

Feeling unappreciated, the architect cut corners where it could not be seen (low quality lumber, substandard wiring, less skilled workers, 10 year singles instead of 20 year). He cut corners, and kept the money he saved for himself.

When the house was finished, looking very nice on the surface, the builder turned to the architect, handed him the keys and said: “because you have been a faithful and loyal employee and friend to me all these years I am giving you this house.”

Just as the builder placed the construction of the home in the architect’s hands, God has placed America’s future in the hands of His children. And for more than 400 years we stood in Christ.

However, it will not take Soviet, Chinese or North Korean tanks rolling down Pennsylvania Ave, Hollywood Blvd., the I-95 corridor, or through the corn fields of Nebraska to bring this nation to its knees; no, we are destroying this nation without any outside help.

America is being destroyed from within. America has forgotten her past, forgotten that God sets a nation's destiny not man. (Acts 17:26)

BUILDING CODES

As Paul teaches in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, a day is coming, and in many aspects it’s already here, when the “church” in America will give in, when the “church” in America will stop preaching the gospel and will bend to peer pressure. As Paul teaches, the time will come when the people will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts they will find teachers who will tell the people what they want

to hear; and the people will turn their ears away from the truth, and follow fables.

To finish destroying America, Satan must destroy the faith of the people. For, a nation without God is a nation destined to destruction. A nation without God leads to the worst depravities know to man.

One way Satan is doing this is by co-opting the “church”. But how? In America, the Left, our governments, and now even some “churches” have made what was once universally sin good and made what is Holy unholy.

Preaching the Gospel is considered hate speech in many parts of America. Preaching Jesus as the only way to eternity with God is considered closed minded, noninclusive, and bigoted. (John 14:6)

In some places in America standing up for Biblical principles is even unlawful and can get you dragged before judges. When in America did you ever think you would hear of American citizens being forced under threat of financial and personal ruin to violate their core Christian beliefs? This is happening in America today.

In 2017, the state of Washington Supreme Court ruled that a Richland, Washington florist violated Washington’s anti-discrimination laws when she refused,

based on her religious beliefs, to provide services for a same-sex wedding.⁸

In Colorado, a Christian bakery owner (Mr. Philips) was ordered by a judge to bake wedding cakes for homosexual weddings in spite of his deeply held religious beliefs. The bakery owner took the case all the way to the United States Supreme and won.⁹ However, not finished with the bakery or the bakery owner, in what has the hallmark of a vendetta or retribution against this Christian business owner, the state of Colorado's civil rights commission has again ruled against Mr. Philips, this time for refusing, based on his deeply held Christian faith, to make a transgender celebration cake.¹⁰

⁸ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/Washington-supreme-court-florist-same-sex-wedding-case/>

⁹ On June 4, 2018, the US Supreme Court decided 7-2 in favor of the bakery owner, Mr. Philips. However, the decision does not squarely deal with growing trend of government agencies forcing Christians to provide goods and services to homosexual couples for unGodly purposes. Rather, the decision essentially rests on the artistic nature of cake baking. The US Supreme Court, found that Mr. Phillips' use of his artistic abilities to make a wedding cake carries a "significant First Amendment speech component and implicates his deep and sincere religious beliefs."

¹⁰ Second lawsuit from Colo. cake shop owner could move forward, By Clyde Hughes, Dec. 19, 2018 at 12:43p, https://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2018/12/19/Second-lawsuit-from-Colo-cake-shop-owner-could-move-forward/4871545239545/ (Retrieved December 23, 2018)

In Michigan, a Christian family farm was cut-off from selling goods at a local farmers market in a nearby city because they would not open their farm to homosexual weddings.¹¹

When, in America did you ever believe that the Government would force Christians to make cakes, provide flowers, and open their homes in direct violation of God's word? What's next, businesses being shut down and owners imprisoned because they will not provide goods or services or open their homes for satanic marriage ceremonies?

This phenomenon did not start in the twenty-first century; far from it. In 1962 and 1963 when the United States Supreme Court, the highest Court in the land, took God out of our schools it signaled the end for a nation. This was compounded in 1973 and 2013.

CONSEQUENCES

Make no mistake about it, failure to act has consequences. Because of inaction, because we acquiesced to making what was once Holy, unholy and making what was unholy a right, America stands at a precipice. (Ezekiel 33:1-6)

¹¹ <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/06/01/facebook-post-on-gay-marriage-gets-farmer-barred-from-market-lawsuit-says.html>

America:

- Took prayer out of public schools in 1962.
- Stopped Bible reading in public schools in 1963.
- Made the murder of unborn babies a right in 1973.
- Made same-sex marriage a right in 2013.

Since we took prayer out of our schools in 1962:

- Suicide rate is up 250%.
- Violent crime is up 300%.

Since 1976 there have been:

- Over 60 million abortions in America.
- 3,000 unborn babies killed everyday.
- Their body parts sold like used car parts.

No nation that kills its unborn children and mocks God's chosen plan for the family can call itself a Christian nation. Nor, can such a country expect God's grace or protection.

The Bible teaches in Psalm 139 that God created our inmost being, He knitted us in our mother's womb; He saw us before we were formed. Nothing, not even the United State Supreme Court, can make the murder of unborn children right in God's eyes.

WORKMEN

We had a house once where the sheet rock and bricks were cracking. We discovered the foundation was sinking. We had to have jacks installed in three places. The engineers drove down to bedrock then lifted up the foundation straightening the walls and stabilizing the foundation.

For the house we needed a:

Foundation repair company

Sheetrock installer

Painter

Bricklayer

For you, me, our families and our Nation there is restoration and hope through Jesus Christ; with Jesus, there is forgiveness.

We, the people of God, are called to be Light to the world; His workmen. (Matthew 5:15) We must speak truth to power. In Acts 26, Paul stood before King Agrippa being dragged there by Jewish leaders seeking his death. Rather than defend himself, Paul preached the gospel.

*So, King Agrippa, I did not prove
disobedient to the heavenly vision, but kept*

declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance. For this reason some Jews seized me in the temple and tried to put me to death. So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles. Acts 26:19-23

In Acts 5, Peter and John preached the gospel, were thrown in jail, told not to do it anymore, were released from jail and went right back to the synagog preaching the good news of Jesus Christ. Where today in America is that kind of faith, that kind of commitment?

Preaching from prison has been replaced with preaching from private jets, selling books, and racing to see how many satellite locations a pastor can develop.

People are won to Christ through Christ lived out in our lives. We must live a Christ life daily not just 10:00-12:00 on Sunday. (Luke 9:23)

Being a blood bought, born again child of God is not easy; It's not supposed to be:

- Many went away disappointed. (John 6)
- Stephen was stoned to death. (Acts 7:54-60)
- Peter and John beaten. (Acts 5:40)
- Paul ship wrecked. (Acts 27)
- 900,000 Christians killed for faith past 10 years¹²

We are at war; a spiritual war. As the Scripture teaches in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5:

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (NIV)

You either stand with God or against Him. There is no middle ground. (John 3:18)

¹² <https://www.foxnews.com/world/nearly-1-million-christians-reportedly-martyred-for-their-faith-in-last-decade>, Fox News January 2017 (Retrieved December 22, 2018)

IS THERE A HOPE?

Every good builder knows that the taller a building, the deeper the foundation must be. We must go down to go up. We must humble ourselves if we are to be built up in Jesus Christ; individually and as a nation. America's future is not in the hands of our national leaders. America's future rests in God's hands. (Acts 17:26) But how?

Let's look at 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. Speaking to Solomon, the Lord God said:

If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:3-14 teaches us that we must humbly repent for our own sins; we must turn from our individual sin, and we must seek God's face and we must humbly repent for the nation's sins because God judges nations, not just individuals.

For America to have hope, America must turn from her sin. America must surrender to God -- Seek God's will in all things. The body of Christ must stand in Christ. (Ezekiel 22) We must be in the world but not of the world.

"Storms" of life are inevitable and uncontrollable by man, as illustrated by the parable of the two houses in Matthew 7:24-27. Storms will come to those who have built their lives upon God's Word as well as those who have not. The foundation of a man's life as well as a nation is what will determine the outcome of the storm.

CHAPTER FOUR

America Blessed

For many years, my hope for the perpetuity of our institutions has rested upon Bible morality and the general dissemination of Christian principles. This is an element which did not exist in the ancient republics. It is a basis on which free governments may be maintained through all time Free government is not a self-moving machine Our mission of freedom is not carried out by brute force, by canon law, or any other law except the moral law and those Christian principles which are found in the Scriptures.

John McLean

Supreme Court Justice (1785-1861)¹³

As I was growing up, I was taught that America was God's chosen country, that America was special; on par with Israel. But, my teachers missed a key point. America was not special because it is America; instead, America, as a nation, was blessed, protected, and favored by God because of the faith of her people. God blessed and looked favorably upon America because the church, a body of believers, put their faith in Jesus Christ. God fearing men and women built this nation with Jesus

¹³ B.F. Morris, *Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States, Developed in the Official and Historical Annals of the Republic*, (Philadelphia: George W. Childs, 1864), p. 639.

Christ as their cornerstone and America was favored by God.

To be clear, the church is not Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Protestant, Catholic or any other faith or denomination. Rather, the church is the “body of believers” who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; it is made up of those individuals who are washed in the Lamb’s blood of life. The Apostles teach us that the body of believers is the church. (Colossians 1:18) Each faithful believer makes up a part of the body; a part of the church.

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Romans 12:5

The church has stood in the gap for America. America was birthed and nourished by men and women who knew that without God the country could not survive; without God America cannot survive.

According to U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall (1755-1835) with America, Christianity is inextricably identified:

*[W]ith us, Christianity and religion are identified. It would be strange, indeed, if with such a people our institutions did not presuppose Christianity and did not often refer to it and exhibit relations with it.*¹⁴

From our humble beginnings in 1607 God has seen America through trials and tribulations because of the faith of believing generations. America rose from an experiment to a nation that leads the free world. Starting from a few outposts in the wilderness, America stretches from coast to coast and beyond. America has been the light that saved Europe twice (WWI and WWII), liberated countries and saved countless millions across the world. America is the richest country in the world, growing in wealth by 20% in the last year. We have over \$45 trillion dollars worth of natural resources including timber, coal and metals. I am not an economist, but according to a 2013 Forbes' article, the poor in the US are richer than around 70% of all the people in the world.¹⁵

¹⁴ John Marshall, The Papers of John Marshall, Charles Hobson, editor (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), Vol. XII, p. 278, to Rev. Jasper Adams, May 9, 1833.

¹⁵ Astonishing Numbers: America's Poor Still Live Better Than Most Of The Rest Of Humanity, Tim Worstall, June 1, 2013. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2013/06/01/astonishing-numbers-americas-poor-still-live-better-than-most-of-the-rest-of-humanity/#71a848954ef0> (Retrieved 12/9/18)

Yet, what God has given us, we seem determined to misuse and destroy. Who can forget slavery (1619-1865)? What about the dust bowl of 1930 (referred to as the Dirty 30s), Love Canal, Valdez oil spill, and Deepwater Horizon? Our greed, deceit, and lust for power, money, and self have resulted in devastating national consequences. Remember the Great Depression (1929-1932); the recession of 1973 with people waiting for hours in long lines for gas. Remember 2008 and the collapse of Lehman Brothers; the jump in unemployment, massive losses in the value of homes, lost savings, lost homes, lost hope, and the near collapse of the American economy (a/k/a Great Recession 2007-2010). Money, wealth, and the world are fleeting, are passing away, but God is eternal.

A label, a denomination, a church building will not save a nation or a person's soul. Only repentance for our sins and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior will bring eternal peace with God. (Mathew 6:14-15; Mathew 10:32-33)¹⁶

If Christ's body in America does not earnestly seek God in prayer and action, if we do not live for eternity instead of for today it may be too late — Who are you living for?

¹⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14:6)

II.

DESTRUCTION FROM WITHIN

CHAPTER FIVE

Heed God's Warning

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:7-8 (KJV)

When the people turn away from God, God becomes angry. (Deuteronomy 7:9-10) He will not tolerate our serving other gods (self, money, fame, lust, greed, position, etc.) (Deuteronomy 6:12-15)

Revelation teaches that ALL nations will drink from the well of immorality. (Revelation 18:3) But, God calls his people, the body of believers, to come out of the world; to not be partakers of the world; to not be part of the debauchery of the world. (Revelation 18:4; Titus 3)

Unfortunately, in America, many parts of the body have become so much like the world that it is hard to find a difference between the two. Churches, in the interest of inclusiveness, growth, power, wealth, and worldly desires have too often become politically correct, tolerant and accommodating of sin. What was once considered

sin is now condoned and celebrated by some “Christians” and denominations.

The body must renounce the world and return to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Only through the Son can we know the Father. (John 14:6) We must repent for our sins and seek God with all our heart if America, if we, are to find favor once again with God.

It is time to stop. It is time to rededicate ourselves to God; it is time to rededicate ourselves to our Lord Jesus Christ. Tomorrow maybe too late, come home today. Christ loves all and wants all to come to Him, but He will judge our sin and hold each of us accountable. (1 John 4:8; 2 Timothy 4:1; Romans 2:16) God is calling. The choice is yours. (Revelation 3:20)

[If] My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

Nothing happens that happens without God's permission. God has sent several recent warnings because he loves us and wants us to turn to Him. Those he loves he reproveth and disciplines. (Revelation 3:19; Hebrews 12:4-11):

- In 2001 the symbol of American power, influence, and worldly financial dominance fell but the nation did not heed God's warning.
- In 2007 a financial crisis started in the United States that shook the world. The biggest financial collapse since 1929 but the nation did not heed God's warning.
- In 2012 the biggest storm to hit the northeastern United States brought devastation across multiple states but the nation did not heed God's warning.
- In 2017 over a four week period three major hurricanes directly hit America or one of our territories (Harvey, Irma, and Maria) causing unprecedented destruction. But the nation did not heed God's warning.
- In 2018 the largest hurricane (Micheal) to ever hit the United States Gulf Coast wiped out an entire town and brought untold devastation. Will America heed God's warning?

God always warns a nation before He enters judgement. God will not toil, coddle, or tarry forever. How many more warnings does America need in order to repent, turn from her evil ways and return to God? How much longer will God tolerate America's defiance and outright

rejection of His son? The Bible warns that the last hour is near, we don't know the hour or the day, but Jesus promises it is soon. (Revelation 22:20; 1 John 2:18-19)

No nation that defies God will escape judgement and America is no exception. But God has given us a window of opportunity in which to turn from our evil ways, to return to Him. How long will this window remain open? Only God knows.

Repent America, return to God through Jesus Christ, surrender self-will, surrender all to Christ. We must die to self to be raised up in Christ. America, if we seek His face, His grace and His Lordship, then He will be yours, mine, and the nation's protector, provider, and Lord.

CHAPTER SIX

Undoing of America

In a democracy, citizens have to be self disciplined, or the country goes down, defeated from within by moral rot.

Dr. Peter Marshall
Chaplin, U.S. Senate 1946-49

America will not be destroyed by tanks and missiles and troops; no, our final destruction will come from within. How will it happen? First there will be a charismatic leader (notice I did not say, “He” will be a charismatic leader, the leader may be male or female). This person will rally the people of America, not to God, but to self. The leader will renew a pride in America, a pride in self. You’re OK, I’m OK will be the leading thought of the day as long as you don’t believe that the Bible is the actual Word of God. The leader will rally people with hopes of financial and personal prosperity and freedom from rules and freedom from self.

This is already happening to some degree in America, but so far, a key ingredient has been missing. In order to kick God out of America and destroy the nation, control of the organized Church is necessary.

Our Constitution forbids the establishment of a State Church and I believe that this is one reason America has been able to hold on to our faith through Satan's numerous assaults on our shores. We, as of yet, do not have a single church (denomination). Instead America, as part of our heritage, has been blessed by God with many different parts of the Christian body. As such, corruption in one has not infected all.

Many Christian denominations, independent and non-denominational Christian churches in America have been blessed by God with differing gifts and missions. Many of our pastors have been bold and courageous over the generations challenging sin in all corners of the nation. Whether it was the circuit riding Methodist ministers bringing the Word to the frontiers of the nation as the nation moved west; Nazarene ministers reaching the poor and society's so-called "lessors"; middle class Presbyterians trying to make society more Christ-like by fighting to change unjust labor and race laws; the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church standing against slavery; or the countless other churches and ministers reaching this nation for Christ; the church has stood in the gap for America. But, when the church gives in, when it bends to peer pressure, destruction awaits.

What does this have to do with the overthrow of America? As long as a people have faith their wills cannot be broken. As long as a nation has hope their land

may be overrun but they cannot be conquered. Control their faith and you control the people.

Filled with pride and arrogance many in America claim that with the most powerful military in history America cannot fail. But, neither our military nor our nation is stronger than the God we serve. Remember the civil war; over 620,000 Americans were killed. More than 50,000 were killed at Gettysburg alone. Remember Pearl Harbor; remember the Korean Conflict (war); remember Vietnam (58,000 Americans died)? Remember the failed hostage rescue attempt of 1980? Remember 9-11? Our ultimate security; our fate, is in God's hands. It is God who sets the boundaries of all nations and the time and day of nations including America. (Acts 17:26) For man to take credit is to call God a liar.

In our recent history our national leaders have denounced God and embraced demonic practices. Numerous leaders in the United States House of Representatives, Senate, and Supreme Court have openly embraced abortion, homosexuality, and promiscuity. At least three American Presidents have defiled the White House and the Presidency with sexual perversion and adultery. And, in June 2009 the then sitting President of the United States denied America's Christian heritage thereby denying Christ as our nation's cornerstone.

Our national leaders were not the first to lead a nation away from God. The history books are filled with examples of ungodly leaders leading their nations to poverty, ruin, devastation and annihilation. King Zedekiah of Jerusalem did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and his kingdom was taken away by the Babylonians and he was carried off. (2 Kings 24:18 thru 2 Kings 25) King Belshazzar of Babylon mocked God and his destruction was foretold by Daniel. (Daniel 5) That very night Belshazzar died and his kingdom was overtaken by the Medes and Persians.

In more recent memory Emperor Hirohito led his nation to near inhalation while being worshiped as a god by the Japanese people. Kim Jong-il (1941-2011) led North Korea to near starvation while leading an atheist nation and seeking to please himself. Between 2013 and 2017 multiple reports surfaced of cannibalism still occurring in North Korea.

Ivan the Terrible (1530-1584) knew that in order to rule Russia he had to have the support of the peasants. He knew that to have the support of the peasants he had to have the support of the church. So what did he do about it? In part, he subordinated the church to the State by supporting the church in its struggles against anti-feudal heretical movements. He befriended the church leaders, helped them in their struggles for money and position

and in so doing made them dependent on him. This is the same Ivan who massacred whole towns in fits of rage.¹⁷

Hitler learned from Ivan the Terrible. Though Hitler had taken political control of Germany by January 1933 when he was made Reich Chancellor, he did not completely control the nation. The National Church in Germany stood in his way. In order to combat this, Hitler made speaking against the Nazi party a crime.¹⁸ Church leaders who supported Hitler rose up within the German National Church. Wanting to be loyal Germans they began pressuring other ministers to refrain from speaking out against Hitler, the war and the Nazi party.¹⁹ Hitler went so far as to use the Gestapo to interfere with church elections to ensure that Nazi party sympathizers were elected to key Church offices.

Lenin and Stalin learned this principal as well (control a nation's faith and you can control the people), but instead of co-opting the church, they simply abolished religion

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre_of_Novgorod

¹⁸ The Treachery Law made opposition to the Nazi Party treason.

¹⁹ Michael Van Dyke, *Radical Integrity, The Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, Barbour Publishing, Inc., pp. 74-77, (2001), ISBN 978-1-61626-976-0.

all together and Communist oppression in the Soviet Union stood for over 70 years.²⁰

In America, we have already reached the point where to speak out against sin, especially so-called free choice such as abortion, homosexual behavior, sex changes, and transgender behavior like letting men use women's bathrooms if they "feel" they should be female is regarded by much of the media and many political leaders as hate speech. It is regarded as being insensitive, unloving, and bigoted.

If the church in America had stood tall and not given-in, America would not be at the precipice where we now stand. But some who call themselves Christians,

²⁰ Under Lenin, Russia experienced destruction of churches and the killing of priests, monks and nuns. The Orthodox Church was declared illegal under the Communist regime and a systematic campaign of persecution and killings took place under Lenin and other Communist leaders. Millions of Orthodox people were killed during Communism in Russia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Christians_in_the_Soviet_Union (Retrieved August 20, 2018)

including many prominent mainline denominations, have given in to the world.²¹

²¹ In 2003 the Episcopal Church, American body, approved Gene Robinson to the post of Bishop, diocese of New Hampshire. Bishop Robinson was reportedly the first openly non-celibate bisexual clergy to be ordained to the episcopate. "Gay Bishop Wins in Episcopal Vote; Split Threatened", Monica Davey (August 6, 2003), *New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/06/us/gay-bishop-wins-in-episcopal-vote-split-threatened.html> (Retrieved December 28, 2018) and "Carey says Anglican Communion is in crisis", Richard Vara (January 11, 2008), *Houston Chronicle*, (Retrieved June 20, 2015)

On August 21, 2009, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the largest Lutheran church body in the United States, voted 559 to 451 in favor of allowing non-celibate gays to become ordained ministers. "ELCA votes to allow gay pastors", Jeff Strickler *Star Tribune* (August 21, 2009). (Retrieved June 20, 2015)

On June 19, 2014, the Presbyterian Church (USA), reportedly the largest U.S. Presbyterian body, voted to change its definition of marriage and allow its pastors to officiate same-sex ceremonies in states where gay marriage is legal. "Presbyterian Church Votes To Allow Gay Marriages", Kaleem, Jaweed *Huffington Post*, (June 19, 2014), (Retrieved December 29, 2018)

"Disciples of Christ church moves to allow LGBT clergy". *Gay Star News*. Potts, Andrew (25 July 2013), (Retrieved June 20, 2015) "Disciples of Christ Church Votes to Affirm Homosexuality, Transgenderism; Allows Openly Gay Leaders". Jessica Martinez, CP Reporter (July 19, 2013, 5:14 pm). *christianpost.com*. (Retrieved June 20, 2015)

"Is Gay Marriage Destroying the United Methodist Church? (UPDATED) Progressives violate ban on same-sex unions, sparking fresh talk of schism." Timothy C. Morgan (posted 6/11/2014 08:33AM). *Christianity Today*. (Retrieved June 20, 2015) And, "United Methodist Church Moves To Allow LGBT Clergy And Gay Marriage". Zoe Mintz (Feb 12, 2015). *International Business Times*. (Retrieved June 20, 2015)

What the Bible calls an abomination many are calling a right thereby walking away from the Word of God.²²

To conquer America, a leader must control the faith of the people. The leader must co-op the organized church into their way of thinking. How does he do it? By making what is sin good and the Word of God hate. By making the preaching of the whole counsel of God hate speech and by making objection to sinful acts seem Un-Godly.

Is there hope? Is there a chance for America? I believe there is. The Holy Spirit put on my heart 2 Samuel 24:15-25. In Second Samuel, God sent a plague because of disobedience. King David called out to God asking Him to stop and God relented. God was moved by prayer and the plague was held back from Israel.

²² Some may take exception to the statement that they have walked away from the Word of God. Nonetheless, based on scripture, I find the LGBT lifestyle and abortion in conflict with Christian living. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Leviticus 20:13; 1 Timothy 1:10-11; Jeremiah 32:1-35; Psalm 139)

Note: Conservative Presbyterian denominations, including the Presbyterian Church in America, don't ordain individuals who are LGBT or officiate same-sex marriages.

Note: The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) was formed in 2009 as a conservative alternative to the Episcopal Church. It and the Continuing Anglican churches are primarily made up of people who left the Episcopal Church, partially in opposition to its approval of homosexual relationships and gay clergy. "[Episcopal Split as Conservatives Form New Group](#)". Laurie Goodstien (December 3, 2008). *New York Times*. (Retrieved June 20, 2015)

The difference between then and now is that it was King David who had sinned against God and he repented and offered to take the punishment for his people. For America, we cannot wait for our nation's leaders to repent and offer to take God's punishment for America. No, the remnant of God fearing men and women in this nation must repent for our own sins, for our nations' sins, and for the sins of our leaders. We must seek God's forgiveness because it is the church in America that has failed America.

God called us to be His light, to be His messenger to a fallen nation but too often the church has been silent; the church has been compromising; the church has been worldly. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer so poignantly recognized:

Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

To not act in the face of evil is tantamount to surrendering the moral high-ground. The Church must speak truth to power or it will be co-opted by power. Dietrich Bonhoeffer got it right when he said that:

[T]he Church has to be an independent moral agent holding forth the Word of God against every creed and institution of

*humankind-obeying the word of God
above all else.*²³

The church must be a threat to the “system” by preaching and living-out the Word of God daily, not just from 10:00-12:00 on Sunday. Otherwise, we face irrelevance.

The job of the church is to be His light, standing on Biblical principles, not be popular. If the church was doing its job then every Christian in America would:

- Standup with one voice against abortion, not electing a single leader who supported it. We would rise up as a single voice and demand change until abortion was toppled in America.
- Stand against pornography, not electing a single leader who supported it. We would rise up as a single voice and demand change until pornography was toppled in America.
- Stand against legalized greed and corruption, not electing a single leader who supported it. We would rise up as a single voice and demand change until legalized greed and corruption were toppled in America.

²³ Michael Van Dyke, *Radical Integrity, The Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, Barbour Publishing, Inc., (2001), ISBN 978-1-61626-976-0.

- Stand against the removal of the Word from our schools and public places, not electing a single leader who supported it. We would rise up as a single voice and demand change until the move to remove prayer and the ten commandments from our schools and public places was toppled in America.
- Stand against corporations and business who oppose God, not buying their products or shopping in their stores. We would rise up as a single voice and demand change until those corporations and business were out of business.

If the body of Christ in America was doing our job we would call sin, sin and not retreat. Instead, we conform, going about our own lives while the nation spirals downward.

Being a blood bought, born again follower of Jesus Christ is not easy; it's not supposed to be. Jesus taught us this point many times. In John 6 we are taught that many went away disappointed when faced with the reality of the sacrifice required to be a Christian. But not all went away, for Peter said Lord, where are we to go for you are the Holy One of God. (John 6:66-69) And, it was not one, two or even twelve that waited for the Holy Spirit in the upper room; one hundred and twenty waited in anticipation for the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:15) And, after the Holy Spirit indwelt in them, they went out and

3,000 believed in Christ and were saved. (Acts 2:37-47)
It may not be easy to be a Christian, but it is worth it!

The future of America does not rest in the hands of our leaders, the future of America rests in the hands of its remnant of believers; It rests in God's hands. "*His eyes behold the nations.*" (Psalm 66:7)

If what is left of the church in America is co-opted by society then as a nation we are doomed. But, if Bible believing churches in America standup and stand together, by falling on our faces to God, humbly confessing our own sins and seeking God's grace and deliverance, America can be saved.

Make no mistake about it, we are in a war but not with flesh and blood. We are in a spiritual war and there are only two sides. You are either with God or you are against God.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Church

For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

1 Corinthians 5: 12-13

WESTERNIZING CHRISTIANITY

With the westernization of Christianity the church became about the church not about God; The church became about programs not about people; paying people (pastors and staff) to do the work of the church.

A westernized church does not want to offend anyone; does not want to be “exclusive” by preaching that Christ is the only way to heaven; instead wanting to be inclusive. A westernized church calls sin transgressions, slip-ups and errors because sin is too judgmental. A westernized church ignores, glosses over or rationalizes scripture that might offend. A westernized church does not realize that the Bible is supposed to offend. A westernized church rejects the unyielding truth that the Bible is supposed to judge; it is the yardstick, measuring cup, and instructions for life and death.

Many denominations and leaders are turning people to a different gospel. We are inundated with false prophets, who come to us in sheep's clothing but are inwardly ravenous wolves. We can know them by their fruits.

Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Matthew 7:15-20

In this seeker-friendly, cheap grace, country club Christianity environment, hell awaits many who claim to know Jesus. Many sitting in American churches and pulpits will spend eternity in hell.

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart

from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'
Matthew 7:21-23

There is only one gospel; Jesus did not water down His message to get more people in the door. He told people that following Him would be hard. Why should it be different today?

Jesus teaches that to follow Him means to consume Him, to make Christ your everything; to make Christ the bread and water of your life, to make Christ your very life. At these hard words “*many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*” (John 6:59-66)²⁴

There is a broad road that leads to hell and many follow it. But the road that leads to heaven is narrow and few choose to follow it.

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14

²⁴ So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:67-69)

The gospel is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. The gospel of Jesus Christ has not and will not change. (Hebrews 13:8) Stop trying to change Jesus to your desires; instead change your heart to walk Jesus' path.

Jesus does not promise roses and sunshine if we follow Him. Jesus does not promise a new car, bigger house, better health, or money (that's westernized Christianity). What Jesus promises is eternal life with the Father and to walk with you in this world in troubles and triumphs.

Modern Christian philosophy tells the church that we must be seeker friendly to get people in the door. We must spoon feed them the gospel. We must not tell them the hard stuff like giving up sinful behavior, yielding to Christ, or that Jesus is not some cosmic vending machine waiting for their next pull of the lever. And, we must not teach about hell because that may scare people away.

While not a popular position to take in many churches, we must abandon easy grace:

- There is a cost to following Christ
- There is a cost to live for eternity
- Jesus did not promise easy street
- Jesus warns it will be hard

Jesus did not beg people to follow Him. To follow Jesus we must change our priorities; we must be willing to

surrender our most prized possessions to Christ; and must place Christ above all others including self.

The world is looking, searching, longing for the gospel. The world does not need another feel good, work hard, be a success gospel. The world desperately needs, longs for and is awaiting the gospel that teaches a crucified, resurrected, living Christ.

NOT SUPPOSED TO BE INCLUSIVE

The church (body of believers) is not supposed to be inclusive. It is a select club; you can only enter by being washed in the Lamb's blood of life.

We want to reach out to nonbelievers, those not washed in the blood; we are called to reach out to them, to invite them to church, to share the good news, to tell them our story, to share the words of Christ's birth, crucifixion, and resurrection -- the words of life and death. But, we must not lower, change or water down the Biblical truth of salvation, grace, heaven or hell.

The kingdom of God is not about the size of our buildings, the number of people in our congregations, or the secular power or influence of our congregations. The kingdom is about Jesus, the risen Son of God – His words of life – His words of death. Those who do not know the Son, do not know the Father and will spend

eternity in hell. (John 14:16; 1 John 5:1-12) Those who know the Son keep His commandments. (John 14:15)

Contrary to modern philosophy, we cannot purchase our way out of hell. Neither money nor works will save a person's soul. Rather, salvation is a gift from God by His grace. The Bible makes this point very clear; we are saved by grace through faith, not as a result of our own works so that we do not try and take credit for God's grace in our lives. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

In 1 John 2:18-19 we are told that many antichrists have already appeared. False apostles, false teachers, deceitful workers come disguised as messengers of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14-15) Therefore, test the teachings you hear and if they are not from the word of God, if they are not teaching Christ, then it is not of Christ. (2 John 1:8-10)

[D]o not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have

*heard that it is coming, and now it is
already in the world.* 1 John 4:1-3

Jesus teaches that those who do the will of his Father are his brother, sisters and mother. (Luke 3:35) God knows every man and women's heart and Jesus will judge each of us. (Jeremiah 17:10; Romans 8:27; Revelation 2:23)

It is Biblically imperative that men and women who are called to share God's word do so in accordance with the Bible, that they teach Christ. (Jude 1:1-25; Revelation 22:18-19) We must not compromise on truth. We must not compromise the Word. We must stand fast on the Word. We must preach the Word when it is popular and when it is unpopular. In so doing, we must reprove, rebuke, and exhort with great love, patience and instruction. (2 Timothy 4)

Today many people only want to hear uplifting messages of prosperity and good times; they want to hear that there are many ways to heaven, or that we all are going to heaven (the you're ok, I'm ok, we're all ok doctrine). Because of this, the world lifts up those teachers who distort the word in accordance with their own desires. Because of this the world turns away from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (2 Timothy 4:2-4)

The Apostle Peter teaches that because of the love of money, power, and self these false teachers will

introduce destructive heresies including some who will deny Jesus. (2 Peter 2:1-3) Unfortunately, as it was two thousand years ago, many today will also follow false teachings.

It is imperative in the church that we call sin, sin, for “*the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” (Romans 6:23) We must not be afraid to be rejected; we must not be afraid that people will not listen; we must not be worried about whether people like us. John the Baptist was loved by some but hated by many. Jesus was loved by some but hated by many. You will also be loved by some but hated by many. (1 John 3:13) Do not be afraid because if God is on our side, no one has the power to stand against us. (Romans 9:31-39)

What God calls us to do He equips us to do. He will equip you to tell the good news, therefore:

[S]anctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. 1 Peter 3:15

Faith comes to the world by hearing the good news of Christ’s birth, life, death, and resurrection. Yet, how will the world hear the Word without messengers; without

believers sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to the lost? (Romans 10:14-17) Do not worry who will listen; do not worry who will respond, it is in God's hands. Whether you do the planting of the seed or the reaping of the harvest, it is God who does the growing. (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

We must stand firm in the Word. We must not, in the name of inclusiveness, in the name of political correctness, in the name tolerance, water down the Bible. *“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?”* (Mark 8:36) There is only one way to heaven and that is through the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (John 14:16) There is either heaven or hell, there is no middle ground. (Mathew 13: 33-36; Matthew 18:19; John 3:36; John 8:12; 8:24; Jude 1:1-25)

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17

Immorality (*greed, deceit, adultery, pornography, homosexuality, abortion, etc...*) must not be accepted in

the church. We must not allow our Sunday school classes, sanctuaries, small groups, or pulpits to become havens for deceivers, mockers, and unrepentant worshipers of the world. (1 Corinthians 5:11) We are called to reach out to the lost; to share the good news of Christ; to witness to our neighbor. The church is to be a beacon to the world. In order to be a faithful and obedient light we must remain steadfast in Christ in our words, thoughts, and deeds.

If the world looks at God's children and sees something different from itself, if it sees Jesus' love, the world can be changed. But, when the world looks at "Christians" and we look just like the world, then why should the world bother with Jesus?²⁵

²⁵ According to Gallop, in 1948, 91% of Americans considered themselves to be Christians. In 2008 that number dropped to 77%.

III.
CALL TO ARMS

CHAPTER EIGHT

Watchmen

And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Jesus Christ
Matthew 26:39-41

We are to be looking out for, watching, and expectantly waiting for Christ's return. Let us not fail, let us not fall asleep on duty. Our strength is in Jesus Christ through whom we know the Father. (Philippians 4:13, *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*) Jesus Christ is our only mediator between us and God, therefore stand firm in His strength and peace. (1 Timothy 2:5)

The Lord warns that if the watchman sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, then anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head because he failed to heed the warning. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the

trumpet and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his sin; but his blood the Lord will require from the watchman's hand. (Ezekiel 33:1-6)

Christ's servants are the Lord's appointed watchman. We must not be silent. If we do not earnestly seek God in prayer and action, if we do not live for eternity instead of for today it may be too late. If we do not live for Christ, we will be held accountable by God. Who are you living for?

CHAPTER NINE

Godly Leaders

*Providence had given to our people the choice of their rules, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.*²⁶

John Jay (1745-1829)

First Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court
Co-Author of the Federalist Papers

God has called America to be a Godly nation; a nation that fears God and obeys His commandments. As Christians It is our duty to seek out, encourage, and promote Christian men and women who will lead America according to Biblical principles. (Psalms 9:8)

Our public officials at every level of government are called upon by God to be *fair, unbiased* and *uncorrupted* believers. (2 Chronicles 19:7) Our founding fathers knew this well and held it dear to their hearts. Our founding fathers knew from personal experience that the prayers of a righteous man (and woman) can accomplish much. (James 5:16)

²⁶ *Christian Lawyers, A duty to Seek and Ensure Justice According to Biblical Principles*, Bobby D. Brown, 2nd Edition, (used by permission) citing and quoting *Original Intent*, citing Ruggles at 546.

Noah Webster (1758-1843), patriot, attorney, and advocate for the ratification of the Constitution, warned that:

*When a citizen gives his suffrage [his vote] to a man of known immorality he abuses his trust [civic responsibility]; he sacrifices not only his own interest, but that of his neighbor; he betrays the interest of his country.*²⁷

John Witherspoon (1723-1794), a member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence, warned that:

*[T]he people in general ought to have regard too the moral character of those whom they invest with authority either in the legislative, executive, or judicial branches.*²⁸

When our public officials fail to act with Biblical integrity, then we have a Biblical obligation to peacefully remove them and select new leaders. This point is made

²⁷ *Original Intent*, p. 545, citing and quoting *Letters of John Quincy Adams to His Son on the Bible and Its Teachings*, Auburn, James M. Alden, 1850, p. 62.

²⁸ *Original Intent*, p. 544, citing and quoting *Updegraph v. Commonwealth*, 11 Serg. & Rawle 394, 398-399, 405 (Penn. 1824).

dramatically evident in Proverbs 25:5 which teaches that if we remove the wicked from the king's court, his reign will be made secure by justice. (NLT)

CHAPTER TEN

Resist Satan

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

I Peter 5:8-9 (NKJV)

Brothers and Sisters, do not give the devil a strong hold. (Ephesians 4:27 NIV) When the devil attacks our mind (imagination) we must resist. Immorality is first committed in the mind, the imagination, the fantasy realm, before it is committed in the flesh. (Matthew 5:27-28) When the devil attacks our mind, and he surely does, we must immediately reject him. Do not give him an opportunity. (Ephesians 4:27)

Verbally (both out loud and internally) reject Satan's attacks. If, for example, an improper image comes into your mind from something you see on TV or at the checkout stand at the grocery store you must reject the image. Declare God's victory over Satan, reject all impure thoughts, and claim our membership in the family of God. If doubt, despair, or other attacks come knocking at your mind's door, you must learn to repel

them at the gates by verbally rejecting Satan and his minion and not letting them in to linger.

We are not responsible for Satan attacking us. Just as we cannot stop birds from flying around our heads, we cannot stop Satan from trying to destroy us. But, while we cannot stop the birds from flying around our head, we can keep them from building a nest in our hair. Likewise, you can stop Satan from building a nest in your mind.

The apostle Paul teaches that we are able, in Christ, to put to death the deeds of the flesh because our old self was bought and paid for by Christ. (Romans 6:1-23) We walk in the Spirit and must use the Spirit to repel the devil from the gates of our mind. (Romans 8:1-2 and 5-6)

The devil attacks with doubt, fear, lust, envy, boastfulness and pride (not a full list). These are the things of the world, not of God. We must continually pray for protection and grace and we must reject the attitudes of Satan.

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (James 4:7-8)

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Repentance and Revival

Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Apostle Paul
Romans 6:16

America is following the road to destruction. In 1962, prayer was removed from our schools. *Engel vs. Vitale*, (US Supreme Court). Prior to 1962, crime, productivity, and national morality had been on a fairly stable level, but that is no longer the case. The rate of violent crime has risen over 300 percent since 1962. For the 15 to 24 age group, the rates of youth suicide remained generally unchanged from 1946 to 1962. But since 1962, suicides among the same group have increased over 250 percent.²⁹

Yet, many, filled with pride, proclaim that America is the most powerful nation in history and cannot fail. But, they are blind. It is God who sets the boundaries of all nations

²⁹ Data taken from research conducted by Specialty Research Associates, Aledo, TX.

and the time and day of nations including America. (Acts 17:26) For man to take credit is to call God a liar.

All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.

At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.

Abraham Lincoln³⁰
January 27, 1838

The Roman Empire ruled from England to Africa, from Syria to Spain, covering most of the known world. One

³⁰ "[The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions: Address Before the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois](http://www.answers.com/Q/Who_said_America_will_be_destroyed_from_within)" January 27, 1838. http://www.answers.com/Q/Who_said_America_will_be_destroyed_from_within (Retrieved August 22, 2018)

in four people in the world were under Roman rule. It was the greatest power known for nearly 500 years. Yet, because of idolatry and depravity she was crushed, destroyed and removed from her place of pride and glory. In contrast, the United States is less than 300 years old. If the Roman empire fell so can America.

The same traps that befell the Roman empire are ensnaring America (lust, greed, corruption, idolatry, debauchery, love of self, the list goes on). As a nation we sit at a precipice and are heading for destruction like a runaway train with Satan at the controls. America has turned her back on God. We all face judgment, even nations.

America needs God more than God needs America. If we ever forget that we are 'one nation under God,' then we will be a nation gone under.

Ronald Reagan, 1984
Address to the Republican National Convention in
Dallas, TX.

What once was forbidden in America is now praised. In 1973 abortion was declared a right by the same court that removed God from our schools. Today in America more than 700,000 babies are killed each year on the demonic altar of self gratification, self worship, lust, fornication, and greed. Since 1973 over 60,000,000 (60 million)

babies have been killed in government sanctioned and many times government funded abortions.³¹ Likewise, drugs, alcohol, homosexuality³², and fornication are not just tolerated in America they have become widely celebrated (the norm).

America has made an art form of worshipping self. The Bible commands that we worship no other god but the one true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Exodus 20:1-3; Matthew 6:24) Yet, in the United States money, the world, and self have become the nation's leading idols. God hates idolatry and all other evil. (Deuteronomy 17:2-5; Romans 6:23; John 8:24)

All who are not born again in our Lord Jesus Christ including unrepentant murderers, immoral persons, idolaters, and liars will be thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 21:8) God is calling each of us to repent, turn from sin and turn to Him. (1 John 5:12) He is gracious and loving and wants to bring us into His family. (1 Timothy 2:3-4; Revelation 3:20) For, “[w]hoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

³¹ <https://www.christianliferesources.com/article/u-s-abortion-statistics-by-year-1973-current-1042>. (Retrieved August 8, 2018)

³² In 2013 homosexual marriage was approved by the highest court in our nation; the same court that removed God from our schools and opened the door to abortion on demand in America.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:11-14

As we see in Titus 2:14, if you earnestly turn from your sin, seek God's face and surrender your life to Jesus, God will forgive you *ALL* of your sins from the smallest to the greatest.

In order for there to be revival in America we must repent for our personal sins and the nation's corporate sins. We must seek God in expectant prayer, and the Word of God must be taught in our homes, our churches and throughout our nation including public places.

Unless we seek God first and place Christ above the world, America as a nation is finished. We must turn away from the things of the world and look to God for our strength, our joy, our fulfillment.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

God is a merciful God who wants to have a personal relationship with you and me. (Romans 5:1-11; Revelation 3:20) But He is also a just God and those who deny the Son will not know the Father. (1 John 2:23) Those who do not repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior for their life will suffer an eternal torment in hell.³³

No one knows the day or hour when the Lord will return. But, He teaches us to be prepared, be ready. He promises that He is coming quickly. (Luke 17:22-36 and Revelation 22:20)

Turn to God, call out to God for forgiveness of your sins. Accept Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of your life and be baptized that you may have eternal life. (Acts 2:20-46 and Romans 10:9-13)

³³ Job 34:11; Isaiah 59:18; Matthew 6:14-15, 7:13-19, 21-23; 1 John 5:12; John 8:24, 14:6; Hebrews 10:26-27; Revelation 2:22, 20:11-15, 21:7-8

CHAPTER TWELVE

Standing in the Gap

I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads,” declares the Lord God.

Ezekiel 22:25-31

ABRAHAM DID IT

Abraham stood in the gap for Sodom and Gomorra but 10 righteous men could not be found. (Genesis 18-19) If God willingly destroyed Sodom and Gomorra, why not America?

MOSES DID IT

Moses stood in the gap for Israel, saving Israel from destruction. The people had become corrupt while Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the ten commandments. (Exodus 32:1-11) If God was willing to destroy Israel, why not America?

A WARNING NOT HEEDED

In the book of Revelation (Chapters 1-3), Jesus sent a message to the seven churches in Asia. These first

century churches were along a Roman mail route in busy cities. The churches were given a warning from Jesus to fulfill their purpose or be removed from the King's court. These churches were located in what is now generally referred to as Asia and in particular the country of Turkey. This area is now 99 percent Muslim. God, after giving a warning removed the seven churches, why not the same fate for the church in America?

AMERICA'S PURPOSE?

In order to determine who we are as a people, we must ask what is America's purpose? We must ask, why is America here? The most straight forward answer is that we, as a nation, are here to be a blessing to the world. America's purpose is to be a light shining on a hill.

God does not just allow the world to bounce around pointless, aimlessly going to and fro without time or direction. While you and I may do that, God does not. While Satan runs amuck seeking to kill, steal, and destroy; (John 10:10) God has a purpose and plan.³⁴ (Jeremiah 29:11) God's plan for America is to be a blessing to the world.

³⁴ Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Matthew 28:18-20

God started this nation with Godly men and women fleeing religious persecution. He solidified this nation with faithful men and women who made Jesus Christ the cornerstone of a nation and America was a light to the world.

We have never been perfect; we have gone off track in the past (slavery, deplorable child labor treatment during the American industrial revolution, . . .).³⁵ Yet, we always turned back to God. There was a Christian fabric within America to keep her from going too far off course.

³⁵ During the American industrial revolution children under the age of seven worked grueling hours for little or no pay, at times, up to 19 hours a day. The conditions were deplorable including children working in and around heavy and dangerous equipment resulting in untold child deaths and maimings. http://www2.needham.k12.ma.us/nhs/cur/Baker_00/2002_p7/ak_p7/childlabor.html (Retrieved August 19, 2018)

WAY OFF COURSE

But where is America now? We are like Israel when Jeremiah foretold the destruction of Jerusalem because the people had turned their backs on God. They refused God's instructions and built alters to Baal, passing their children through the fire to Molech.³⁶ (Jeremiah 32:1-35)

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for children, adolescents, and young adults ages 5 to 24.³⁷ Rape and sexual assaults are a nation-wide epidemic. Someone in the US is sexually assaulted once every 98 seconds. This means that more than 200,000 people experience sexual violence in this country every year.³⁸ Greed and sexual lust are celebrated, revered, and emulated. More than 60 million abortions have been performed in America.³⁹

We reject nature when we call a he a she, or a she a he and we destroy the earth with pollution in order to worship at the altar of corporate profits.

³⁶ Molech is a Canaanite god to whom children were sacrificed.

³⁷ https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Teen-Suicide-010.aspx (Retrieved August 8, 2018)

³⁸ https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sexual-assault-statistics_us_58e24c14e4b0c777f788d24f (Retrieved August 8, 2018)

³⁹ (<https://www.christianliferesources.com/article/u-s-abortion-statistics-by-year-1973-current-1042>) (Retrieved August 8, 2018)

Millions of Americans still drink dangerous tap water without even knowing it. In a 2009 report, the EPA warned that: "threats to drinking water are increasing . . . we can no longer take our drinking water for granted." A 2016 Harvard University study found unsafe levels of industrial chemicals linked with cancer and other health problems in the drinking water of millions of Americans.⁴⁰

Before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorra because of their sexual sin and depravity of heart, Abraham stood in the gap. If you recall, God said that but for 100 righteous men He would spare Sodom and Gomorra. Abraham negotiated God down to just 10 righteous men, but none were to be found. Who is standing in the gap for America?

If God was willing to destroy His first chosen people, Israel, because of sin, why not America? When Moses went up Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments he was gone 40 days. (Exodus 34:27-28) During this short period the people made a golden calf and started worshipping it. When Moses came down he broke the stone tablets. *Id.* God was ready to wipe His chosen people off the face of the earth (about two million men, women, and children) and start over with Moses.

⁴⁰ <https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/translating-uncle-sam/stories/how-polluted-is-us-drinking-water> (Retrieved August 8, 2018)

(Exodus 32:1-11) But Moses interceded for the people.
Who is standing in the gap for America?

If God willingly destroyed Sodom and Gomorra, why not America? If God was willing to destroy Israel why not America?

God is searching:

There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst like a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in the midst of her. Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood and destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain. Her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord has not spoken. The people of the

land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice. I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it ...,' declares the Lord God. Ezekiel 22:25-31

WILL THE CHURCH STAND IN THE GAP?

In America the divorce rate in the church is on par with the rest of society. In 2014, 53% percent of women having abortions self-identified as being Christian.⁴¹ The rate of pornography in the church is staggering with 68% of men in the church reportedly watching porn.⁴²

In Revelation Christ tells John to write a letter to the Church at Ephesus, warning them to stop acting like the world and return to Him or He would remove them from His presence. Christ tells John to write a letter to the Church at Laodicean, admonishing them to get off the fence, they were neither hot nor cold for Christ, or He would remove them from His presence.

⁴¹ <https://www.gutmacher.org/report/characteristics-us-abortion-patients-2014> (Retrieved August 8, 2018)

⁴² <https://conquerseries.com/why-68-percent-of-christian-men-watch-porn/> (Retrieved August 8, 2018)

Before the church in America can stand in the gap we must make sure we are not like the seven churches in Asia. Before you or I can stand in the gap for America we must ensure that we are not like the people of Israel worshipping Baal. The church must be righteous before God before it can stand in the gap. Likewise, you and I must be righteous before God if we are to stand in the gap.

We each, individually and collectively as Christ's bride have sins to seek repentance from. We all have short comings. For me, it's a daily struggle; it's a daily choice to honor God and not this world. If we allow him, Satan will suck us into the worries, struggles and lusts of this world.

To stand in the gap for America you and I individually and the church as a whole must be right with God. The prayer of a righteous man (or woman) can do much. (James 5:16)

HOPE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

God loves you and I so much that He sent His only son to be crucified on a wooden cross for your sins and mine. Christ loves us so much He was willing to be nailed to a cross like a criminal and take on your sins and mine so that if we trust on Him we can have eternal life with Him in heaven. (Romand 8:32)

When Jesus Christ rose from the grave on the third day He ushered in a new hope for the world. And, when the Holy Spirit was given to believers as our helper on earth, born-again, blood bought, children of God were given power on earth and in heaven to fulfill God's call; to fulfill God's plan. (Matthew 28:18-20)

With salvation in Christ, with the power of the Holy Spirit comes an obligation to stand in the gap for our nation; a nation called of God to be a light to the world. Stand in the gap for our brothers and sisters in Christ before it's too late; stand in the gap for the millions of lost souls in America who do not know the love of Christ that they too may join our family; before they meet death.

Repent of our nation's past and present sins. Repent of your own sins. Seek forgiveness, strength and Christ's hand on you, the church and the nation. Stand in the gap for your family, local church, the body of Christ in America and our nation.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

He So Loved the World

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (KJV)

God is calling America to a reawakening of a national faith in Christ and a rejection of the things of this world.

Many of us know or have known earthly love whether through the love of

a mom

a dad

a spouse

a child

a family member

a special person

But, what is love, and more importantly what is God's love?

I know a great book to find the answer. It is the answer book of life. A great place to start answering the question is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails

The New Testament uses agape` and agapo` to describe God's love toward His Son Jesus Christ (John 17:26). These terms are used in the New Testament to also describe God's love for the human race (John 3:16; Romans 5:8); to describe God's love for those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:21); to convey His will to His children concerning our attitude for one another (John 13:34); and to convey what our attitude should be to everyone. (1 Thess. 3:12, 1 Cor, 16:14; 2 Peter 1:7) Agape` and agapo` are used in the New testament to express the essential nature of God.

Remember when Jesus was asked what is the greatest command of all? (Mathew 22) He answered:

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and

with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.’
Mathew 22:36-40

But, how do we know God’s love? His love is known by the action it prompts. God’s love is seen in the gift of His Son. (1 John 4:9-10)

Many of us, whether for our mom, dad, brother, sister, or our spouse, try and do things that shows them that we love and care about them. We want to make them happy.

When I was in elementary school I worked hard to bring home good grades because I knew it made my mom happy.

As a husband, I try and remember to empty all the trash cans in the house the night before trash day, even in my wife’s office and on her side of the bed, because I know it makes her happy, it is a small way to say I am thinking about her; to make sure the trash can in her office is empty so she can use it everyday.

How many of you can remember doing chores or helping your mom or dad or a good friend because you wanted to show them that you cared, that you love them?

How many of you husbands or wives do little things to show your spouse that you are thinking about them? Maybe it's clearing the wastebasket by their side of the bed, maybe it's making their favorite meal, or making sure their favorite pair of blue jeans are washed and ready for the weekend? Maybe it is as simple as making sure there is always a good bar of soap in the shower? You do this for them because you care, because you love them.

If you are a parent or grandparent you remember the first time you looked at that little baby in your arms, you knew you would move heaven and earth for your child.

When my first grandson (Austin) was born, my daughter and son-in-law were living in Montana. I made it to Montana the same day little Austin was getting to come home from the hospital. My wife, Carolyn, was able to go to Montana a couple days before Austin was born. As you can image, she, my daughter and my son were worn out. But, I was fresh and excited.

As some of you may remember, a lot of new babies don't like to sleep at night by themselves. For the first three nights he was home, I held Austin in my arms all night long in the rocking chair in the living room. Then I would sleep most of the day. In those first three nights Austin and I bonded and I knew I would give my life for

my grandson. I now have two grandsons, and both are precious to me.

If I, Bob Brwon, love my grandsons so much that I am willing to give my life for them, how much more does God love us? Remember, when we said that love is known by the action it prompts?

God loved each of us so much that while we were still sinners he sacrificed his only son, Jesus Christ, on the cross so that whoever believes in Jesus shall have eternal life with Him. (Romans 5; John 3:16)

If God loves us so much that He willing allowed His son to be crucified on the cross for you and I while we were still sinners, how much more does He show His love to us now that we are part of His family through Jesus? *Id.*

If we have Christ in us, then how does the world know? How do we show our love? Paul teaches in Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, not by works so that no one can boast. You cannot work your way into heaven, only grace through faith can do that.

But do not be misled, faith without works is dead faith. James asks in James 2:14, what use is our faith if we do not do good works? How then do we join Paul's teaching in Ephesians 2, and James' teaching in James 2?

We continue to look in the best answer book of all times, the Bible. First, faith is taking God at His word and acting upon it. Abraham did it (Genesis 22); Joshua did it (Joshua 6); Peter did it (Luke 5); and this is just a few examples; and you can do it.

Next, let's look at Ephesians 2:10 which gives us a glimpse of what God has in store for us after we place our trust in Christ.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

God has already created good works for you to walk in with His help. If you are saved, if you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the question you must ask yourself is whether you are walking in the good works God created for you?

If your reaction is wait a minute, I am not trained, I am not equipped, I have not been to seminary, or I don't like speaking in front of people, how then am I going to accomplish God's works? Rest assured God does not send us out unprepared or unequipped. In 1 Corinthians 7:7, Paul makes it clear that each one of us has our own gift(s) from God, and our gifts are not all the same.

Moses felt unprepared, ill equipped, not ready, and God had a solution ready. God teamed Aaron up with Moses as a fellow worker.

You may recall the story of the Israelites battle in the wilderness against Amalek who had come out and fought against Israel. Do you recall what happened? Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. When Moses held up his hands Israel would be winning the fight, and when he let his hands down, Amalek would be winning. But Moses' hands got tired. Then they took a stone and put it under Moses to sit on; and Aaron and Hur supported Moses' hands, one on one side and one on the other. Because they helped him, Moses' hands were steady until the sun set and the Israelites won the battle. Moses did not do it alone. (Exodus 17:8-13) We are built to walk in Christ with the Body of Christ.

If you have Christ, if you are washed in the Lamb's blood of life then you know what a wonderful, life changing experience it is.

If you know how to show love for your mom, dad, brother, sister, husband, wife, child, grandchild or anyone else then what are you doing to show the world your love for God, your love for Jesus Christ? God is calling America to a revival, a reawakening of a national faith in

Christ and a rejection of the things of this world. Are you doing your part?

God has given you talents, is it singing? I could sing until the cows come home and nobody would get saved, but maybe you're blessed as a singer; maybe your gift is being an encourager or prayer warrior; is it preaching? Is it administration? My wife is the most organized, efficient person I have ever known, she can keep any organization on track, on schedule and on mission; but, you cannot give her a million dollars to stand up in front of a group and speak; it's not her calling.

Whatever your gifts are, whatever talents God has blessed you with, ask Him to strengthen your gifts for His glory -- not yours; and allow God to use your gifts for His kingdom. Use your gifts to help the church reach the lost, to save souls, to bring revival to your church, community, and America.

Allow God to use your gifts to show the world GOD's love. Because, He so loved you that He gave His only son, that anyone who places their faith in Him will be saved, and have eternal life with Him.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Call to Arms

For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

Ephesians 6:12 (HCSB)

The Lord God is looking for men and women to fight the good fight of faith; to take up arms for their family, communities, church and America. Will you answer the call to arms? Will you stand and be counted a good and faithful servant?

Stand up, answer the call to arms and fall on your face in prayer. Fighting the good fight of faith does not mean toughing it out, being stronger than the enemy, or doing it in your power. Just the opposite, we don't experience God's true power in our lives until we recognize that we cannot do it without Him. I have experienced the greatest miracles in my life when situations were so far beyond my control that only God could save me. Recognizing and acknowledging that you and I are solely dependent on Jesus in our circumstances is the starting place for real peace, comfort, and victory.

As recorded in Nehemiah 4:16-18, while rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah told the men to work with one hand and keep their sword in the other. He called the men to arms while they did God's work. Nehemiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem were ready for battle:

“[Our enemies] will come up against us from every place where you may turn,” therefore [Nehemiah] stationed men in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and [he] stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows. When [Nehemiah] saw their fear, [he] rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: “Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses.” Nehemiah 4:11-14

In Luke 22:36, Jesus tells the disciples that those without a weapon, sell their garment and buy a sword. We are at war; this is a spiritual war and God is calling men and women of faith to fight. (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7-8) We know, from Jesus' own words that the Word of God is sharper than any two edged sword, that the Word of God is able to divide soul and spirit, joints and

marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
(Hebrews 4:12)

We are told repeatedly in the Bible that if God is for us, no body can stand against us. (Romans 8:31-32) He is calling each of us to put on the full armor of God, pick up the shield of faith, arm ourselves with the sword of the Spirit, and join the fight.

[B]e strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, TAKING UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH with which you will be able to

extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is the word of God.

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints Ephesians 6:10-18

When we fight relying solely on Christ we are fighting from a position of victory. Jesus won the battle on the cross — He has already defeated Satan. Walk in the shadow of Christ's victory.

Our nation, our homes and our communities need brave men and women who will fight the good fight of faith, who will stand-up and be counted as part of God's army. The Lord is seeking those who will not turn away from His word, who will NOT call sin righteous or call what was once Holy unholy.

Are you willing?

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Repent & Be Baptized

Repent and be baptized for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

John the Baptist
Matthew 3:1-2

On the day of Pentecost, after the Holy Ghost fell on those waiting in the upper room, Peter went out to the gathered crowd and preached Jesus. (Acts 2:29-36)

Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and

hear. For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”’

Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.

Hearing this, they were pierced to the heart and cried out to Peter and the rest of the Apostles asking what they should do. Peter responded to this, the most important question a person can ever ask, *what should I do with Jesus Christ*, with a straight forward response (Acts 2:37-39):

‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.’

We are told that about three thousand received Peter’s words, were baptized and added to the number of believers. (Acts 2:41)

What we have just seen is a question and answer that has plagued man for over 2,000 years. Why? Why so much turmoil with repent and be baptized?

REPENT

In a day and age of cheap grace and a lack of standards, repentance is a foreign and offensive word to many.

To repent is to turn away from, to change direction; to walk a new path. Repentance leading to salvation is a turning from your old ways, old self and turning to and trusting on Jesus Christ. The Greek New Testament in Acts 2:37-40 uses μετανοέω (μετανοήσατε) which translated is metanoéō which is where we get the word repent. According to Thayer's Greek-English Lexicom of the New Testament, metanoéō means to change one's mind (i.e., to repent to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins). The Bible uses metanoéō 34 times in the New Testament.

When baby boomers hear the word repent, many times we think of Bill Clinton getting caught having sex with an intern in the White House and saying he was sorry without ever admitting he had done anything wrong just to make the problem go away; or others may think of a criminal defendant standing before a judge waiting to be sentenced knowing that if he shows remorse he might receive a lighter sentence; or we may even think of a young boy who gets caught with his hand in the cookie

jar and is sorry for getting caught but not for the first two cookies he ate.

When Peter said repent and be baptized he was saying, in order to spend eternity with God in heaven and enjoy His presence on earth, we must turn from ourselves, turn from the world, and turn our hopes, dreams, and reliance to Jesus. It requires surrendering your will to God's will and letting go of self.

BE BAPTIZED

The baptism part is easy enough, yet controversy continues to surround this command. I simply point you to scripture and early historical records.

In Matthew 3:16-17, after Jesus was baptized, "Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'"

In Matthew 3:16-17, the Greek New Testament uses βαπτίζω, translated Baptizo which is where we get the word Baptism or Baptize. Thayer's defines Baptizo as (1) to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk); (2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe; (3) to overwhelm.

In Acts 8:36, after receiving the gospel from Philip, they came-upon some water and the eunuch stopped his chariot and was baptized. Again, in Acts 8:36, the word βαπτίζω is used in the Greek.

The Jewish tradition of baptism, as demonstrated by John the Baptist was an act “signifying purification or consecration.” This was a natural method of cleansing the body by washing and bathing in water by complete immersion.⁴³

In his leading work of Jewish history, Flavius Josephus (AD 37 - AD 100), a Jewish priest, scholar, and historian describes baptism during Jesus’ time as the washing with water.⁴⁴

In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus’ last command to his disciples was to preach the word to the ends of the earth baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Again, in Matthew 28:19, the word βαπτίζω is used in the Greek.

Salvation comes from accepting God at His word and acting upon it. To you and I this means accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of our life (confessing Jesus

⁴³ <http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/2456-baptism> (retrieved 11/21/18)

⁴⁴ *The Antiquities of the Jews*, Ch 18, 5.2.

Christ as the Son of God;⁴⁵ repenting of our past sins;⁴⁶ surrendering everything to Jesus;⁴⁷ and keeping His commands).⁴⁸ It's a daily walk.

So, what are you waiting for? *Repent and be baptized for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.* (Matthew 3:1-2) The things of this world are only momentary, but those who love Jesus will do His commands and spend eternity with Him. (John 14:15; and 1 John 2:15-17)

⁴⁵ John 8:24; Romans 10:9-10

⁴⁶ Acts 26:20; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

⁴⁷ Mark 10:17-22

⁴⁸ John 14:15; and 1 John 2:15-17

Epilog

Biblical faith prompts action; it is taking God at His word and acting on it. You must decide if you are living for God or the world. To live for God is to put God first, to put God above yourself, to put God above the world. (Mathew 6:33; 16:24-26; 20:26-28) To live for God is to live in Jesus Christ. (John 14 and 15) To live in Christ is to live-out His commands in your life.



Key West, FL (June 2016)

For a week in June 2016, the author along with his two grandsons and son-in-law carried this 13'x6' cross from Key Largo, FL, to the Southern Most Point of the United States.

Part II

The End Game

America's Place in End Times



The End Game

America's Place in End Times

Bobby D. Brown

The End Game

America's Place in End Times

Bobby D. Brown

Cover Designed Inspired by Carolyn K. Brown

The End Game, America's Place in End Times

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my grandsons

Austin and Aaron

APPRECIATION

My Wife

To my wife, who not only loves me and puts up with me, but encourages my passion for delivering the message placed on my heart by the Holy Spirit.

I love you Sweetheart.

Phil and Vance

A special word of appreciation to Phil and Vance, two amazing men of God. Your help with the manuscript has improved *The End Game*.

PREFACE

I am a blood bought, born again child of God. I am a sinner saved by grace.

Thank You Jesus!

All the glory and credit for the inspiration, writing, and publishing of *The End Game, America's Place in End Times*, belongs to God.

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

“Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, ‘If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the horn and warns the people, then someone who hears the sound of the horn but does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. He heard the sound of the horn but did not take warning; his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have saved his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the horn and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away for his wrongdoing; but I will require his blood from the watchman’s hand.’”

Ezekiel 33:1-6

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In 2018 we published *A Nation Under Siege, The Destruction of America from Within*. In *A Nation Under Siege*, we warned of the destruction coming to America without change. We warned of the evils that once lurked in the shadows but are now in plain sight on a mission to destroy America and the Christian Church. *A Nation Under Siege* was a call for action, Biblical based action.

The End Game is the next chapter in America's destiny, and follows where *A Nation Under Siege* left off. In the following pages we look at America's place in God's grand end time design.

We must be awake to the times in which we live, we must prepare for what lays ahead. This book is a call to awakening and preparation for a people called by God's own name.

America's Place in the End Times

All nations, no matter their successes, their wealth, their power, or their influence around the world, rise and fall by the hand of God. It is God who changes times and seasons; he removes kings and establishes kingdoms; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.¹ May you and I never forget that it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who has the final word in America's destiny.²

¹ Daniel 2:21.

² Exodus 3:15.

CHAPTER 2 WAR AND DESTRUCTION

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Matthew 24:6-8 (KJV)

Regardless whether because of jealousy, envy, lust, power, money or a desire for recognition, man has been warring against man since Cain killed Able.³

³ Genesis 4.

Since 1900 more than 250 armed conflicts, wars, and revolutions have occurred. As of April, 2020, the United States officially recognized 18 wars and armed conflicts occurring globally. In addition, as of April 2020, according to reference.com, there are another 64 countries and 576 militias and separatist groups involved in ongoing armed conflict.⁴

INDEPENDENCE 1776

He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation . . .

Acts 17:26

On July 4, 1776, the American Colonies declared independence from the British Empire. The Declaration of Independence made God a central theme of the Colonist's quest for independence.

⁴ Staff Writer, (Updated Apr 1, 2020 1:37:31 PM ET). *How Many Wars Are Going on in the World Right Now?* Reference.com. Web. April 29, 2021.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights

Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1776

Though the American Revolution did not officially end until 1783, America's independence was secured on October 19, 1781, when General

Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown.⁵

Less than thirty (30) years later in June of 1812, America declared war on Britain. In a war lasting three years, America saw her capital burned and General Andrew Jackson defeat the British at the Battle of New Orleans. General Jackson's army is estimated to have killed 2,000 British soldiers with a loss of only 60 of his own men.⁶

From 1861 to 1865 America tried to destroy herself. In his March 30, 1863, proclamation, Abraham Lincoln called the nation to a day of fasting and prayer, reminding the nation that:

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and nations, has by a resolution, requested the President to

⁵ Staff Writer, (Updated Apr 15, 2020 5:07:09 AM E). *How Did the Revolutionary War End?* Reference.com. Web. April 29, 2021.

⁶ Carr, J. A. (July 1979). "The Battle of New Orleans and the Treaty of Ghent". *Diplomatic History*. **3** (3): 273–282.

designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation; And whereas, it is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truths announced in Holy Scriptures, and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord . . .

Abraham Lincoln

President of the United States

March 30, 1863

For all intent and purposes, the American Civil War ended with the surrender of General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. The American Civil War resulted in an estimated one

million combined Union and Confederate casualties.⁷ The estimated combined Union and Confederate death toll is between 620,000 and 750,000 combatants, making the American Civil War the deadliest war in American history.

Just over 50 years later, on April 6, 1917, America entered the war to end all wars, or the Great War, or World War I as it would later be called. By the time America joined the fighting the war had been raging for three years. After two years of fighting by American troops (1917-1918), America saved Europe from a living hell in what history now refers to as World War I. This war to end all wars, is estimated to have cost the lives of 16 to 26 million people (civilians and service members) globally.⁸

But WWI was not the war to end all wars. In 1945 America saved the world from unadulterated

⁷ A casualty includes a person who is injured but whose injuries do not result in death. "War Casualties." Encyclopedia.com, 2021. Web. May 6, 2021.

⁸ "Killed, Wounded, Missing." Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Encyclopedia Britannica Inc., 2021. Web. May 30, 2021.

evil. After being attacked by the Japanese on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, America entered WW II. The surprise attack on the American Naval Fleet at Pearl Harbor and other military and civilian areas of Hawaii, awoke a sleeping giant. WW II was the second deadliest war for America, with a total of 416,800 service members killed.

A listing of America's conflicts shows that in every decade since her inception, America has experienced armed conflict.⁹ In more modern times (post WW II), America has continuously been involved in armed conflict somewhere in the world. (Greece, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia . . .)¹⁰

The war on terror, which officially began in 2001, has lasted for twenty (20) years. This war has

⁹ WashingtonsBlog, *America Has Been At War 93% of the Time – 222 Out of 239 Years – Since 1776, 2011*. Web April 28, 2021.

¹⁰ Brunberg, Jon, *The Polynational War Memorial: a proposal for a global war memorial*, war-memorial.net. 2021. Web April 30, 2021.

America's Place in the End Times

resulted in 7,000 Americans killed,¹¹ 900,000 Americans wounded,¹² \$6+ trillion dollars in costs,¹³ continuing instability in the region, and helped spur other conflicts including Syria and Libya.

America was born of war . . .

¹¹ Goodman, H.A., (02/12/2015 08:29 am ET Updated Apr 14, 2015). *6,845 Americans Died and 900,000 Were Injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Say 'No' to Obama's War.* Huffpost.com. Web. April 29, 2021.

¹² Crigger, Megan; and Santhanam. Laura, (Updated on May 27, 2019 12:31 PM EDT — Published on May 24, 2015 4:19 PM EDT). *How many Americans have died in U.S. Wars?* PBS.org. Web April 29, 2021.

¹³ Zeballos-Roig, Joseph, (Nov 21, 2019, 12:43 PM). *The US has blown past \$6 trillion in 'war on terror' spending since 2001 — and its cost to taxpayers will keep climbing for decades, study says.* Insider.com, Insider.inc. Web April 29, 2021.

CHAPTER 3

NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

As the heart goes, so goes the man.¹⁴

God is no respecter of persons or nations. There is nothing you have accomplished that makes you worthy of God's love. Rich, poor, black, white or any other color, scripture tells us God looks at a man as He does a nation, He looks at the heart rather than outward accomplishments.

In Acts 10, the Apostle Peter tells us about Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, a "*righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews*"¹⁵ Nonetheless, because Cornelius was a Gentile, Jewish law made it unlawful for Peter

¹⁴ Proverbs 4:23.

¹⁵ Acts 10:22.

America's Place in the End Times

to associate with or enter Cornelius' house. Yet, God told the Apostle Peter, a circumcised Jew, to go to Cornelius. Peter told Cornelius, all of his household and his close friends about Jesus Christ. They believed and were baptized.¹⁶

¹⁶ Acts 10.

CHAPTER 4 REAPING AND SOWING

We sow to our destiny, salvation or destruction.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:7-8 (KJV)

Between 1941 and 1945 under God's guidance and protection, America stopped Hitler's planned inhalation of the Jewish people. As a nation we sowed to salvation. Genesis 12:1-3¹⁷

¹⁷ "And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse." Genesis 12:3.

On May 14, 1948, President Harry Truman, in spite of all his faults and against strong opposition from the Democratic Party, his own State Department, and world leaders, recognized Israel's right to exist.¹⁸ He did so eleven minutes after Israel gained statehood.¹⁹ Truman wrote in his memoirs:

*"Hitler had been murdering Jews right and left. I saw it, and I dream about it even to this day. The Jews needed some place where they could go. It is my attitude that the American government couldn't stand idly by while the victims [of] Hitler's madness are not allowed to build new lives."*²⁰

President Truman and America sowed to salvation.

Less than 20 years later, in 1962, the United States Supreme Court (Supreme Court) banned

¹⁸ Holbroke, Richard, (May 1, 2008) *President Truman's Decision to Recognize Israel*. Jerusalem Viewpoints, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. Web April 30, 2021.

¹⁹ *Recognition of the State of Israel*. Harry S. Truman Museum & Library, 2021. Web April 29, 2021.

²⁰ Berdichevsky, Norman (May 2012). *Israel: From Darling of the Left to Pariah State*. New English Review. Web May 30, 2021.

prayer in public school. In 1963 the Supreme Court banned Bible reading in public schools. As a nation we are sowing to destruction.

In 1973 the Supreme Court once again turned its back on God and did what was once thought incomprehensible in America, made the murder of unborn children a Constitutional right. As a nation we once again sowed to destruction. Since 1973 there have been more than sixty-two million (62,000,000) children murdered in America in the name of women's rights.²¹ *“Twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in the USA (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion.”*²² In contrast, the total American war dead for all wars is less than two million (2,000,000).²³

²¹ National Right to Life Committee, (Updated January 2021). *U.S. Abortion Statistics By Year (1973-Current)*. Web April 29, 2021.

²² “Abortions Worldwide This Year.” Worldometers.com, 2021. Web April 29, 2021.

²³ “United States Military Casualties of War.” Wikipedia, 2021. Web April 29, 2021.

America is sowing to destruction with every abortion.²⁴

What makes 1962 to 1973 and every year since so exponentially shameful is that America's abomination against God could have been cut off. The people of this nation could have stood with God instead of standing with Satan.

On January 23, 1973, the day after the Court's decision in *Jane Roe, et al., v. Henry Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 93 S.Ct. 705 (Jan 22, 1973), was issued, the House of Representatives had within their power to issue articles of impeachment against Justices Blackmun, Stewart, Burger, Douglas, Brennan, Jr., Marshall, and Powell for crimes against humanity.²⁵

²⁴ **According to WHO, between 2015 and 2019 there were 73.3 million abortions worldwide every year.** World Health Organization (September 25, 2020). *Preventing Unsafe Abortions*. Web 13 May, 2021. **This corresponds to approximately 200,000 abortions per day.**

²⁵ Two Justices issued dissenting opinions, Justices William Rehnquist and Byron White. In his dissenting opinion which was issued with, *Doe v. Bolton*, 410 U.S. 179 (1973), (*Roe's* companion case), Justice White questioned the Court's authority to decide between the competing values of pregnant women and unborn children.

Immediately following such action by the House, the Senate would have been empowered to enter judgement against these judges and then immediately approve seven new justices who would protect unborn life. They did not and we, the American people, have been letting the Courts and Congress get away with murder for nearly 50 years.

The Bible teaches in Psalm 139 that God created our innermost being, He knitted us in our mother's womb; He saw us before we were formed. Nothing, not even the United State Supreme Court, can make the murder of unborn children right in God's eyes. We are reaping what we have sowed. No nation that slaughters its unborn children can expect anything less than destruction

Our past blessings to Israel cannot cover the blood of innocent children who call to God day and night without ceasing.²⁶ Jesus Christ will judge all

²⁶ Ezekiel 3:20-21; Genesis 4:10-11; Ezekiel 16:21.

America's Place in the End Times

nations and peoples including America.²⁷ The clock is winding down²⁸

²⁷ Matthew 25:31–46.

²⁸ In Ezekiel 23 we are reminded once again that living a life of debauchery leads to judgment at the hands of the one true God.

CHAPTER 5

AMERICA'S FUTURE

Where does this leave America? What is our end time place in history? To find this answer we need only look at the bestselling book of all time, the Bible. The Old Testament foretells the coming of Christ, the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell of Christ's arrival on the scene and His sacrifice, the book of Acts tells of His ascension into heaven, the books from Romans to Jude tell of the hope we have for His quick return, and the Book of Revelation reveals how it all ends.

As you read *The End Game*, verify for yourself what is written here against the Word of God.

CHAPTER 6

A WARNING TO A NATION

How many warnings does a nation get before judgement? How many do you and I get? Only God knows.

Why does God give warnings? Is it so He can say I told you so? Is it so He can be amused? No, God sends warnings to save us from ourselves; that we may change; that we may turn from our own path to His path.²⁹ With a warning comes an opportunity to seek forgiveness, change, and follow God.³⁰

God sends warnings that we as individuals and as nations may turn from Satan and turn to Him.³¹

²⁹ Jonah 3:1-10.

³⁰ Ezekiel 33:11.

³¹ Galatians 6:7; Ezekiel 33:11.

God sends warnings so that when we kneel before the judgement seat of Jesus Christ, we will not have an excuse for not surrendering to Jesus Christ.³²

In the Book of Daniel God warns Israel of the destruction to come to the world, the rescue of Israel, and the never-ending reign of the Messiah.

In Isaiah 9:6-7 and 53:10, God foretells the coming of Jesus Christ as savior. In Romans 2:6, God foretells the coming of Jesus Christ as judge.

In Chapter 12 of the Book of Ezekiel, God is done issuing warnings, instead God clearly lays out the real, tangible, unchangeable judgement that He has declared for those that mock His warning.³³ In this way the remnant knows that it was God who brings judgement against the people and why.

³² 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15.

³³ Ezekiel 12:28.

CHAPTER 7

AMERICA'S PLACE IN END TIMES

*And all nations shall rise against Jerusalem.*³⁴

While this may shock many Americans, America is not mentioned in the three predominant end-time books of the Bible (Daniel, Isaiah, and Revelation), or anywhere else in scripture. America does not ride in on a white horse and save the world. Contrary to 20th Century lore, America was not the center of the world when the books of Daniel or Isaiah were written nor is she when the end time events laid out in the book of Revelation unfold. The center of the world has been and will be for all time, Jerusalem.

³⁴ Zechariah 12:3; Revelation 16:4, 16:12-16.

Scripture, both Old and New Testament, make it crystal clear that every nation shall gather against God for battle in the last days.

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Revelation 16:14 (KJV)

In Greek³⁵, the word used here for “whole” is ολος (*olos*). This Greek word, ολος (*olos*), when used in the common Greek vernacular of its time, means whole and expresses the all-included completeness of a set, and implies a functional unity between members of a set, or an identifiable collective identity of the members. ολος (*olos*) is also written as all.

This word, ολος (*olos*), is used approximately 113 times in scripture including Revelation 16:12-16 (ESV):

³⁵ The websites cited here as well as others were instructive in my research for the New Testament Greek meaning of *all* and *whole*. abarim-publications.com; and wordhippo.com.

*The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, **who go abroad to the kings of the whole world**, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.*

In Matthew 22:37, ολος (olos) is used three times and is translated “all”:

*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with **all** thy heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy mind.*

In Matthew 24:14, ολος (olos) is also translated “all”:

*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in **all** the world for a witness unto **all** nations; and then shall the end come.*

In Zechariah 12:3, the Hebrew word for “all” is scribed in English as kol {kole}. kol {kole} is interpreted as all, the whole, the whole of, any, each, every, anything, totality, everything:

*On that day, when **all** the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for **all** the nations. **All** who try to move it will injure themselves.*

All and whole mean all and whole, not all and some. The whole world will unite under a common political leader who is bolstered by a religious leader blending religions and declaring a single religion. This new religion will be a counterfeit religion, an imposter which rejects Jesus Christ as the Son of God. This is what many Christians refer to as the One World Order.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship [the Beast/Antichrist], whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:8 (KJV)

But, you through Jesus Christ, can be in the world but not of this world. Your home, your future, your eternity can be eternally with Jesus Christ.³⁶

This One World government or perhaps many nations bowing to a single world leader is the very world structure that the Democrat Party and many Republicans are working hard to usher America into. Before this happens, America must lose her identity; Satan must destroy America's history, the Constitution, and the can-do, independent spirit of Americans.

America already seeks her security from political, military and financial alliances instead of God. Do not be fooled, at God's appointed time, America will succumb to the world.³⁷ The clock is

³⁶ John 17:14-16.

³⁷ Revelation 18:3.

America's Place in the End Times

winding down, America's end time future is sealed. What you do with the time between warning and judgement is still before you. You have an opportunity now to change course.

CHAPTER 8

REVIVALS

America has seen revivals and renewed opportunities throughout her history. Persecution, trouble, and calamity can be great inspiration for revival.

Beginning in 1739, pastors Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield helped lead a revival known as the Great Awakening.³⁸ These pastors preached to everyone, no one was too low or too exalted to hear the gospel. The Great Awakening saw English colonists flocking to church and a resurgence of the Church in the Colonies.

³⁸ Great Awakening (1720s-1740s) “The Great Awakening.” Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Encyclopedia Britannica Inc., 2021. Web. May 2, 2021.

In the 1790s, a revival referred to as the Second Great Awakening, began in New England. During the Second Great Awakening, the new Nation experienced a resurgence of Christian activism.³⁹

In the 1900s America saw a myriad of revival meetings (tent meetings graduating to stadium gathering by the tens of thousands), with hundreds of thousands of people reached every year with the message of Jesus Christ.

Between 2000 and 2010 America saw the rapid expansion of megachurches,⁴⁰ building of great protestant churches, designed to hold thousands of people and offer a myriad of programs. This growth saw the number of megachurches rise from an estimated 600 in 2000 to an estimated 1,600 in 2010

³⁹ History.com Editors, (March 7, 2018, Updated September 20, 2019). *Great Awakening*. A&E Television Network. Web. May 2, 2021.

⁴⁰ A megachurch is generally defined as churches having 2,000 or more people in attendance each week. Bird, Warren, (May 22, 2012). *How Many Megachurches? 1,750 In The United States*. Leadership Network. Web. May 2, 2021.

(nearly 300% increase).⁴¹ A 2019 report in Fox Business estimates that there were 1,650 megachurches in 2019.⁴² The jury is still out whether the Mega Church movement is a move of God or a counterfeit.

President Trump, during his Presidency⁴³ (2017-2021), in spite of overwhelming opposition, implemented policies that were pro-Christian, pro-Life, pro-Israel.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Stetzer, Ed, (February 19, 2013). *The Explosive Growth of U.S. Megachurches, Even While Many Say Their Day is Done*. Christianity Today. Web. May 2, 2021.

⁴² Schmidt, Ann, (October 18, 2019). *Here's how much money these megachurches bring in across the US*. Fox Business. Web. May 2, 2021.

⁴³ Every President can be used by God, good or bad. This does not make them the savior of a nation, a political party or your soul. That die was cast, the mold broken, and only fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴ President Trump's actions included **curtailing government funding for abortions overseas**. Cross, Karen, (Feb 17, 2020). *President Trump Has Established More Pro-Life Policies Than Any Previous President*. Lifenews.com. Web. May 2, 2021; **Recognizing Jerusalem as the Israeli Capital**. Brandt, Deborah, (January 20, 2021), *Donald Trump's Israel Legacy of Achievement Lives On*. Breitbart.com. Web. May 22, 2021; **Declaring Churches essential**. Colvin, Jill, and Miller, Zeke, (May 23, 2020).

But, what have we done with these revivals and opportunities? In the end, we revert to decadence, decay and ungodliness. America continues to march down the wide path that leads to hell. As an example, in the November 2020 elections the Democrat Party seized control of Washington DC and on January 22, 2021, began immediately pushing anti-Christian, anti-Life, anti-Israel agendas.⁴⁵

Some pastors teach that Christians will be raptured (taken away to heaven) before tribulation.⁴⁶

Trump Declares Churches Essential, Calls on Them to Reopen. Associated Press, apnews.com. Web. May 22, 2021.

⁴⁵ **Biden pushes pro-abortion agenda in his first 100 days in office.** Downs, Rebecca, (May 1, 2021). *President Biden's First 100 Days Full of Pro-Abortion Agenda, But Pro-Lifers Are Fighting Back.* TownHall.com. Web. May 22, 2021; **Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, members of the radical left in Congress, accuse Israel of war crimes for Israel defending itself from more than 4,000 Hamas missiles.** Their denunciation of Israel goes unchecked by their fellow Democrat members of Congress. Ahle, Steven (May 22, 2021). *'We Need Accountability': Omar And Tlaib Says Ceasefire Isn't Enough, Accuse Israel of 'War Crimes'.* DJHJ Media. Web. May 22, 2021; **Biden pushes LGBT agenda.** Shiundu, Linda, (January 19, 2021). *Joe Biden appoints transgender as assistant secretary of health.* MSN News, msn.com. Web. May 22, 2021.

⁴⁶ Regardless of whether you believe in a pre-tribulation rapture, a mid-tribulation rapture, a post tribulation rapture

Some pastors teach that you can have “it”, now. But God does not promise a life without persecution, sorrow or heartache. God promises Christians that we will be hated because we place our faith and hope in Jesus Christ.⁴⁷ We only have to look at the first century Christians to know this is true. By order of Roman Emperor Nero, these first century Christians were hoisted onto stakes, covered in tar, and lit on fire while still alive to serve as human torches.⁴⁸

Acts 9:1-2, teaches that the true church has been persecuted from the beginning. Do not be discouraged, in Matthew 16:18, Jesus Christ promises that the gates of hell will not prevail against

or no rapture of the church at all. Scripture and history are clear, Christians have faced persecution and tribulations from day one. Christians are being murdered for their faith everyday somewhere in the world and Christians will continue to face tribulation for the faith. Ibrahim, Raymond (June 29, 2020). “*32,000 Christians Butchered to Death*”: *Muslim Persecution of Christians*. raymondibrahim.com. Web. May 22, 2021.

⁴⁷ Matthew 10:22-24.

⁴⁸ Macioci, Maria Paola, (June 15, 2014). *Painting and History: Use Nero the Christians as Human Torches*. Pillole di Storia. Web. May 22, 2021.

His church. In John 16:7 Jesus promises He will not leave us alone to walk through life. He will not leave us or abandon His children.

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Hebrew 13:5-6 (JKV).

Mankind will continue until the full number of people destined for heaven is fulfilled. While we earnestly await Jesus's return, we are too complete the great commission, go into the world and preach Jesus Christ.⁴⁹

We are to pray for revival, hope for revival, and rest in the knowledge that if America experiences the rain and abundance of revival, this is in God's hands; and if America continues to experience the pestilence

⁴⁹ Isaiah 4:3; and Matthew 24:14.

and barrenness of ungodliness, this too is in God's hands.⁵⁰

Pray earnestly for revival that a new generation of Americans may come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.⁵¹ But never stop preparing for the rise of the antichrist and the end of the world as the world knows it; never stop preparing and awaiting the triumphant return of Jesus Christ.

Be ready, America may experience periods of revival or renewed opportunities. Nonetheless, her end time future is sealed. Be alert, no one knows the day or hour when the Lord will return. He promises that He is coming quickly.⁵² What you do with the time between now and judgement is still before you.

⁵⁰ Matthew 5:45; Deuteronomy 11:17; and 2 Chronicles 6:26-28.

⁵¹ The prayers of a righteous man can move mountains, James 5:16-19.

⁵² Luke 17:22-36 and Revelation 22:20.

CHAPTER 9

CANNOT HAPPEN TO AMERICA

“[Y]ou live in the midst of the rebellious house, who have eyes to see but do not see, ears to hear but do not hear; for they are a rebellious house.”

Ezekiel 12:2

If you are of a mind that America cannot be conquered, cannot be destroyed, cannot be controlled by Satan, your eyes do not see and your ears do not hear. It will not take Soviet, Chinese or North Korean tanks rolling down Pennsylvania Ave., Hollywood Blvd., the I-95 corridor, or through the corn fields of Nebraska to finish bringing this nation to its knees; no, we have destroyed this nation without any outside help. America has been

destroyed from within. America forgot her past, forgot that we were to be a light to the world, forgot that God set America's destiny.^{53, 54}

At one time Babylon was the most feared nation in all the world. It no longer exists. Because of idolatry, depravity and arrogance she was crushed, destroyed and removed from her place of pride and glory in a single night.⁵⁵

Between 1000 and 323 B.C. Greece was a wonder to the world. Yet, Greece failed. Because of idolatry and depravity, she was crushed, destroyed and removed from her place of pride and glory.

The Roman Empire ruled from England to Africa, from Syria to Spain, covering most of the known world. One in four people in the world were under Roman rule. It was the greatest power known for nearly 500 years. Yet, because of idolatry and depravity she was crushed, destroyed and removed

⁵³ Acts 17:26.

⁵⁴ God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another. Psalm 75:7.

⁵⁵ Daniel 5.

from her place of pride and glory. In contrast, the United States is less than 300 years old.

Babylon, Greece and the Roman empire fell. Every great empire fails⁵⁶ and so will America at God's predetermined time.⁵⁷

We all face judgment, even nations.

⁵⁶ Rogers, Abby, (November 9, 2011). *The 10 Greatest Empires in the History of the World*. Insider, business insider.com. Web. May 15, 2021.

⁵⁷ Acts 17:26; Daniel 2:21; and Psalm 75:7.

CHAPTER 10

THE COST OF THE CROSS

The attack on American Civil Liberties is increasing. Those that hate the Bible are embolden with the 2020 election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. We are reaping what we have sowed. The clock is winding down.⁵⁸

“To finish destroying America, Satan must destroy the faith of the people. For, a nation without God is a nation destined to destruction. A nation without God leads to the worst depravities know to man.”⁵⁹

⁵⁸ Ezekiel 23.

⁵⁹ *A Nation Under Siege, The Destruction of America from Within*, Bobby D. Brown, p. 32 (2018).

The political machinery of America is in place to systematically remove God from every vestige of America. We see before our very eyes a political party determined to root God out of the very fabric of American life; to remove any vestige of Christianity from our public and private lives; to remove God and Jesus Christ from our history.

From the nation's capital they are coming for your Bible.

Prayer Forbidden in School . . .

Engel v. Vitale, 370 U.S. 421 (1962)

Bible Reading Forbidden in School . . .

Abington School District v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963)

“Hillary Clinton . . . expects all religions and people of faith to change their views to accommodate the destruction of innocent life.”

Craig Huey, November 7, 2016⁶⁰

“Biden Pledges to Gut Religious Freedom Protections . . .”

Tyler O'Neil, October 30, 2020⁶¹

With the November 2020 election, the push to remove God from America and replace Him with something else, anything else, is ratcheting up. The attacks on fundamental American freedoms are growing bolder.

“House Passes Anti-Christian Equality Act With The Help Of 3 Republicans”

New York Daily News, February 26, 2021⁶²

Among other features, the Act would allow men who identify as women to compete in women

⁶⁰ *Clinton: Historic Assault on Evangelical Christians and Catholics*. Election Forum. Web. May 1, 2021.

⁶¹ *Biden Pledges to Gut Religious Freedom Protections, Saying They Give 'Hate' a 'Safe Harbor'*. PJ Media. Web. May 1, 2021.

⁶² *House Passes Anti-Christian Equality Act With The Help Of 3 Republicans*. New York Daily News, gopusa.com. Web. May 1, 2021.

sporting events;⁶³ and require Christian organizations including schools to accept homosexual and transgender employees and ministers.⁶⁴

“Biden on the Second Amendment: ‘No amendment is absolute’”

By Brooke Singman, April 8, 2021⁶⁵

“Biden administration looks to push critical race theory via federal grant program”

Naomi Lim, April 20, 2021⁶⁶

Critical race theory, advocates the position that if you are White, you must be a racist. This theory

⁶³ ADFLEGAL.COM (2021). Web. May 22, 2021.

⁶⁴ Staver, Mat, (February 26, 2021). *“Equality Act” Will Devastate Christian Education*. Liberty Counsel. Web. May 22, 2021.

⁶⁵ *Biden on the Second Amendment: ‘No amendment is absolute’*. Fox News Corp., foxnews.com. Web. May 22, 2021.

⁶⁶ *Biden administration looks to push critical race theory via federal grant program*. Washington Examiner, msn.com. Web. May 22, 2021.

judges' people by their skin color and is supported by President Joe Biden.

As the nation set poised to celebrate the National Day of Prayer on May 6 2021, Joe Biden omitted God from his declaration.⁶⁷

From state capitals and local seats of power across this nation they are coming for your Bible.

“On Monday, Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.) issued a new order closing all “INDOOR OPERATIONS” . . . including churches, in 30 California counties that include roughly 80 percent of the state’s population.”

Tyler O’Neil, July 13, 2020⁶⁸

“Under California’s latest directive, you can engage in revolutionary riots

⁶⁷ Chamberlain, Samuel, (May 7, 2021). *Biden omits the word ‘God’ from national prayer declaration.* New York Post, nypost.com. Web. May 22, 2021.

⁶⁸ *‘This Is Insane!’ Church Leader Blasts Newsom’s Tyrannical Order Closing California Churches.* DJHJ Media. Web. May 22, 2021.

tearing businesses and neighborhoods apart, but you cannot have a Bible study with your neighbor or friend in your own home.”

Mat Staver, July 15, 2020⁶⁹

“Chicago Mayor Launches Police Raid to Shut Down Black Church’s Sunday Services.”

Warner Todd Huston, May 24, 2020⁷⁰

In *A Nation Under Siege*, I warned that “[i]n order to kick God out of America and destroy the nation, control of the organized Church is necessary.”⁷¹ With 93% of churches in America not meeting in March 2020 and most not holding Easter services in 2020, the government exercised

⁶⁹ Gavin Newsom Didn't Just Close Churches, He Also Banned In-Home Fellowship Meetings. LifeNews.com. Web. May 6, 2021.

⁷⁰ Chicago Mayor Launches Police Raid to Shutdown Black Church’s Sunday Services. BREITBART, breitbart.com. Web. May 1, 2021.

⁷¹ p. 51.

unprecedented control over the church.⁷² Have church services return, yes; to the same levels as pre-COVID-19?

What COVID-19 shows is that overnight the government can, through fear, intimidation, force, lies, and propaganda control when, how or even if churches will be open, and how or if people can meet in their own homes to worship.

The purpose of persecution is to turn Christianity into something unrecognizable to Jesus Christ. The purpose is to water down and change the Word of God. But, in Isaiah 5:20-24, we are warned:

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who substitute darkness for light and light for
darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and
sweet for bitter!*

Persecution of true believers is happening today in America. The persecution will get worse. The people and leaders hated Jesus Christ unto death,

⁷² Earls, Aaron, (May 1, 2020). *Few U.S. churches gathered for services in April*. Life Way, Lifewayresearch.com. Web. May 6, 2021.

and they will hate you.⁷³ If you are not feeling pressure for your faith in Jesus Christ, then perhaps you should examine your relationship with Him.

Many pundits, both Christians and conservatives, throw their hands up in disbelief at the untruth in media, education, politics and society. They exclaim that they cannot believe that the radical secularists in America cannot see the truth. But if we read scripture, we would not be surprised. Scripture is clear, in the last days people will call good evil and evil good.⁷⁴ People will not listen to sound doctrine.⁷⁵ People will find pundits and prophets to tickle their ears with false tales and lies.⁷⁶ To expect evil to curtail evil is absurd and not Biblically sound.⁷⁷ To be surprised by it is to be blind to the warnings of the coming dark days.

⁷³ John 15:18-20.

⁷⁴ 2 Timothy 3:13.

⁷⁵ 2 Timothy 4:3.

⁷⁶ 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

⁷⁷ Matthew 12:25-26.

In America we are quickly turning into a third world country. If a political figure is feared enough, or if a strong leader stands in the way of the socialist or communist one-world agenda, which is moving across America, there is no hesitancy to fabricate evidence,⁷⁸ prosecute⁷⁹ or harass such a leader. We witnessed this with the five-year plus relentless attack on Donald Trump and leaders supportive of him. The attack on Donald Trump is orchestrated to reduce the likelihood that he will run for office in 2024 and send a message to anyone who might be thinking about opposing their One-world agenda: *Oppose us and we will destroy your life*. It is being done to Donald Trump and it can be done to you. The far left, radical secular media demands that our voices are not just silenced, but that we are destroyed.

⁷⁸ Evans, Zachary, (August 14, 2020). *FBI Lawyer to Plead Guilty of Falsifying Document for Carter Page FISA Warrant*. Yahoo News. Web. May 16, 2021.

⁷⁹ Beck, Glenn, (January 21, 2021). *Dershowitz: 'UNCONSTITUTIONAL' to Impeach Trump After Leaving Office*. Facebook. Web. May 16, 2021.

In America, pastors who will not yield to the government have been jailed for their faith. Church attendees have been intimidated with threats of fines and jail for attending church. In 2020 and 2021 the excuse is COVID-19, tomorrow it could be something different.

The persecution in America goes beyond church closings, pastors jailed, threats of fines and efforts to seize church buildings because Christians defy unlawful orders to not gather for worship. Christians have been killed in America for their faith. This includes *church shootings and school shooting* where the question asked was “are you a Christian.” A Yes answer brought certain death.⁸⁰

In America there is a cost to being an uncompromising Christian. This cost will continue to increase to the point of death.⁸¹

⁸⁰ Barford, Vanessa, (October 2, 2015). *Oregon college shooting: Gunman 'targeted Christians'*. BBC News, bbc.com. Web. May 6, 2021.

⁸¹ Revelation 13:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6; Matthew 24:21.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 (KJV)

The last fifty years of American history and our current state of affairs poignantly make clear that the radical secular segment of “American” society will not tolerate a Christian world view; they will not tolerate Christians coexisting in society. A cost will be paid to be a Christian; a cost has already been paid; and the price is rising. Nonetheless, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer so poignantly recognized:

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

In order to stand with Jesus Christ, you must first be a part of the body of Christ.

CHAPTER 11

SALVATION

I make no apologies, there is only one way to eternal salvation, to eternity with God and that is through His son, Jesus Christ. He is “*the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through the Son.*”⁸² While this world is ruled and tormented by Satan and his minions, Jesus Christ has already defeated Satan on the cross. Through Christ’s resurrection we too can have eternal life with Him in heaven. But belief is not enough, demons believe and are not saved. You must surrender to Christ, turning from your sins. Christ is light, if you are not being His light to a dying world then you had better check your

⁸² John 14:6.

salvation. In Philippians 2:12, Paul says we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Is Jesus Lord of your life? Are you actively accepting God at His word and acting upon His word? To you and I this means accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of our life (confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God);⁸³ repenting of our sins;⁸⁴ surrendering everything to Jesus;⁸⁵ and keeping His commands.⁸⁶ It's a daily walk.

Jesus said,

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? . . . Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when there was a flood, the river burst against that house and yet it could not shake it, because it had been

⁸³ John 8:24; Romans 10:9-10.

⁸⁴ Acts 26:20; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38.

⁸⁵ Mark 10:17-22.

⁸⁶ John 14:15; and 1 John 2:15-17.

well built. But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; and the river burst against it and it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”⁸⁷

What we believe can be seen not in our words but in our actions. Far too many of us in the Church are living in fear not faith. Faith says whatever happens today, God is in control; fear worries about controlling the events and outcomes of the day. Fear worries about maintaining our life, wealth, status, and comfort; faith walks out of the house each day surrendered of self, surrendered to Christ’s calling for that very day, hour, and minute. Christian Faith focuses on Jesus Christ; fear focus on earthly wants, needs, and desires. Faith comes from Christ; fear comes from Satan.

⁸⁷ Luke 6:46-49.

America's Place in the End Times

Each of us must ask: *Am I surrendered to Christ or fear?* Fear asks “what if?” Faith says “even if.”

Fear = what if

Faith = even if

CHAPTER 12

CHRIST'S HANDS AND FEET

The end is predetermined by God, the clock is winding down. You, in the time between now and when you take your last step on earth, have the ability to be Jesus's hands and feet.⁸⁸

In the first chapter of the Book of James we are told to be doers of the Word of God not just hearers. What does Jesus tell us this is? Love God with all your heart, mind and soul; and love your neighbor as yourself.⁸⁹ All the other laws and prophets are built on these two greatest commandments.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ James 1:22.

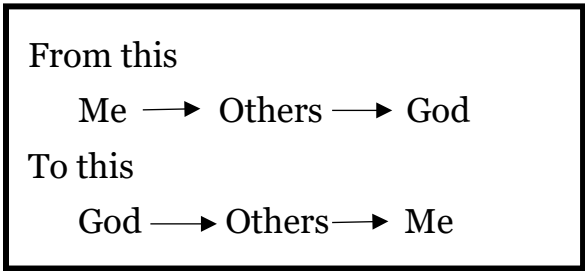
⁸⁹ Matthew 22:36-39.

⁹⁰ Matthew 22:40.

Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats on Judgement Day. The sheep being those who fed the hungry, gave water to the thirsty, sheltered the stranger, clothed the naked, visited the sick and the imprisoned; the goats being those who did none of this.⁹¹

What gifts or talents has God given you? How are you using these gifts? How are you using these talents? How are you using the resources God has given you?

Today, take the opportunities small and large that God gives you to be Jesus Christ's hand and feet. Take the opportunity while you still can to change your focus . . .



⁹¹ Matthew 25:31-46.

CHAPTER 13

STAND FIRM

Once you belong to Jesus Christ, stand firm in your faith. “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?”⁹²

“If some among you fear taking a stand because you are afraid of reprisals from customers, clients, or even government, recognize that you are just feeding the crocodile hoping he’ll eat you last.”

Ronald Reagan

40th President of the United States

We must not, in the name of inclusiveness, in the name of political correctness, in the name

⁹² Mark 8:36.

tolerance, water down the Bible. There is only one way to heaven and that is through the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.⁹³ There is either heaven or hell, there is no middle ground.⁹⁴

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

I Peter 5:8-9 (NKJV)

Resist Satan, you have armament that is heavenly. God is calling each of us to put on the full armor of God, pick up the shield of faith, arm yourself with the sword of the Spirit, and join the fight.

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.⁹⁵ Let us not forget, our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual

⁹³ John 14:16.

⁹⁴ Mathew 13: 33-36; Matthew 18:19; John 3:36; John 8:12; 8:24; John 14:6; Jude 1:1-25.

⁹⁵ Proverbs 30:5.

forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.⁹⁶ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.⁹⁷ For the fear of man brings a snare, he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.⁹⁸

[B]e strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED

⁹⁶ Ephesians 6:12.

⁹⁷ Ephesians 6:13.

⁹⁸ Proverbs 29:25.

YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, TAKING UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is the word of God.

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints . . .

Ephesians 6:10-18.

Ezekiel chapter 28 demonstrates that powerful spiritual powers are behind governments and rulers. As scripture makes clear, our battle is in this spiritual realm.

When we fight relying solely on Christ we are fighting from a position of victory. Jesus won the

battle on the cross — He has already defeated Satan. Walk in the shadow of Christ’s victory.⁹⁹

If we are not firm in our faith, we will not be firm at all.¹⁰⁰ How do we do this? By staying connected to God through His son in constant and never-ending prayer. Jesus Christ habitually spent time with His Father in prayer. Though Jesus and the Father are one,¹⁰¹ Jesus knew the importance of staying connected to God’s will through prayer.¹⁰²

⁹⁹ “*And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*” Revelation 20:10.

¹⁰⁰ Isaiah 7:9.

¹⁰¹ John 10:30.

¹⁰² Luke 22:41-43.

CHAPTER 14

WHEN WILL THE END COME?

Noted scholars place the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ as having occurred between the years 30 and 35 A.D. If these scholars are correct then 2030 to 2035 will mark 2,000 years since Christ ascended to heaven after walking with His disciples. And, if the marked time for Jesus Christ's second coming is 2,000 years after his ascension, then we are quickly headed for really interesting times.¹⁰³

To be perfectly and unmistakably clear, *The End Game* is not predicting when Jesus Christ will return. Jesus makes it crystal clear in Matthew 24:36 that only the Father knows when He will return.

¹⁰³ Revelation 20:4-6; Mark 13:19; Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1; and Daniel Chapters 7 and 9.

Whether Jesus returns in 2021, 2030, or some other time, the message and warning are the same, BE READY, HE IS RETURNING!

When asked about his return Jesus replied:
“Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many. You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because these things must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these events are the beginning of birth pains.

“Then they will hand you over for persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of My name. Then many will take offense, betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Because lawlessness will multiply, the

love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered. This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come. . .”

Matthew 24:4-14 (HCSB)

CHAPTER 15

JUST PREACH JESUS

While we expectantly wait for Jesus Christ to return, a watered-down gospel will never do. A be happy, country club sermon may make people feel good, but nothing short of the unashamed, unvarnished, unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ will bring lasting salvation.

A wonderful song illustrating the need to preach Jesus strong and true is *Just Preach Jesus*, by Kingdom Heirs.¹⁰⁴ In the song, a young preacher is told that people did not want a strong message. The people did not want the young preacher to tell them

¹⁰⁴ Just Preach Jesus, Kingdom Heirs, We will Stand Our Ground, 2012.

right from wrong. The young preacher asked an old-time preacher for help. The message back was to:

“Just preach Jesus born and crucified and risen; Just preach Jesus’ precious blood; Just preach Jesus until Jesus comes again.”

A water downed gospel is no gospel at all. The cross that Jesus bore, cannot be made lighter.

CHAPTER 16

THE FINAL EXAM

When each of us dies there is a final exam. The exam has two questions:¹⁰⁵

1. What did you do with Jesus? And
2. What did you do with the resources you were given in life?¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ The theological idea of being asked when we kneel before Jesus Christ as our judge what we did with the cross and our gifts is not new. About eight years ago a dear friend explained it this way to a non-Christian school teacher: If life is a test and the only right answer is Jesus Christ, aren't you afraid to take the exam without having read the course material (the Bible)?

¹⁰⁶ Matthew 25:14-30. (NLT).

America's Place in the End Times

At the moment you die your pencil is laid down and your answer sheet turned in. How will your life complete the answer sheet?

EPILOGUE

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

John 14:21

FOOD FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT

- *A Man Called Peter*, Catherine Marshall (movie and book)
- *Chop Wood and Carry Water*, The Gatlin Brothers (Song)
- *Cross and the Switchblade*, David Wilkerson with John and Elizabeth Sherrill (book)
- *God's Smuggler*, Brother Andrew, John and Elizabeth Sherrill (book)
- *Greatly Blessed, Highly Favored*, Gaither Vocal Band and The Gatlin Brothers (Song)
- *Heartbreak Ridge and New Hope Rd.*, Gatlin Brothers (Song)
- *Just Preach Jesus*, Kingdom Heirs (Song)
- *Mr. Jones, Meet the Master*, Peter Marshall (book)
- *Nail 32* (movie)
- *Strong Enough*, Matthew West (Song)
- *The List*, Robert Whitlow (book)

A week in June 2016, the author, along with his two grandsons and son-in-law carried a 13 x 6 feet cross the length of the Florida Keys from Key Largo, Florida, to the Southern Most Point of the United States.



Part III

Stand Your Ground

Run *Your* Race With Endurance

Stand Your Ground

Run *Your* Race With Endurance



Bobby D. Brown

Stand Your Ground

Run *Your* Race with Endurance

Bobby D. Brown

Cover Design Inspired by Carolyn K. Brown

Stand Your Ground, Run *Your* Race with Endurance

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my Dad

We miss you Dad

APPRECIATION

My Family

Thank you for loving me.

Jon and Mrs. V

Thank you, Jon and Mrs. V for taking the time to provide meaningful feedback on the *Stand Your Ground* manuscript.

PREFACE

I am a dying man trying to reach a dying world with a message of eternal life through Jesus Christ. My hope rests in Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that *Stand Your Ground* is a meaningful message to all who read this book. I pray you are blessed and strengthened.

All the glory and credit for the inspiration, writing, and publishing of *Stand Your Ground, Run Your Race With Endurance* belongs to God.

Thank You Jesus!

RUN YOUR RACE WITH ENDURANCE

Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:9-14

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CHAPTER 1

War Rages All Around

War rages all around, seen and unseen by the human eye. This war is a war fought on earth and in the spiritual realm. (Daniel 10; Ephesians 6:12). In earthly terms the battles can be seen in such actions as abortion, church closures under threat of arrest, church bombings, wars, lust, greed and the forced acceptance of evil as good and good as evil. Behind all earthly manifestations is a spiritual war raging for the soul of mankind, for your soul, your spouse's soul, and the soul of your children.

Satan has ruled this earth since he was thrown out of heaven by God. However, Satan's power on earth is limited by God (something like how a governor placed on a truck limits the maximum speed at which the truck can travel). Satan's time is limited; he knows this and he hates

God. He hates the Jewish people and he hates you if you are a blood bought, born-again child of God. Even though Satan has already lost the war, he will not stop fighting until Jesus Christ throws him into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:10).

One of the greatest lies Satan has convinced western civilization of is that the spiritual realm, Satan and demons, are fantasy, made-up fairytales. Why else would mothers dress their precious children as devils (Satan) and allow them to trick or treat? Western civilization has been blinded to the work of demonic forces occurring in the world.

Blinded by Western theology, many early Christian missionaries tried to convince so called primitive peoples that the spiritual world was nonsense. These “primitive peoples”, whether in the American plains, the hills of New Guinea, or the vast tundra of Africa understood that dark and light forces are doing battle in unseen places. Many Westernized Christians simply cannot comprehend a spiritual war they cannot see. The church for too many years has been blinded to the war playing-out around us.

However, we ignore the demonic forces that seek to devour our families, our homes, and our lives at our and maybe our families' peril.

As you enter battle, be on the lookout for the enemy. Satan may come at you as an angel of light. He may disguise himself as part of the flock. In reality, he is a wolf. (Matthew 7:15). Scripture warns that there simply are two types of people in the world, those that belong to Jesus Christ and those that do not. You stand with Jesus or you stand against Him; there is no middle ground. (John 3:18). Be alert, Satan prowls the earth looking to kill, steal and destroy. (1 Peter 5:8).

If you do not know the risen Savior Jesus Christ, I encourage you to meet Him today.

CHAPTER 2

The Battle Plan

In 2018 we published *A Nation Under Siege, The Destruction of America from Within*. In *A Nation Under Siege*, we warn of the destruction coming to an America without change. We warn of the evils that once lurked in the shadows but are now in plain sight. Evils on a mission to destroy America, the Church and you. *A Nation Under Siege* is a call for action, Biblical based action.

In 2021 we published *The End Game, America's Place in End Times*. In *The End Game*, we look at America's place in God's grand end time design. We dispel myths about America's destiny and lay bare the unvarnished truth that Israel is the center of the world. As America's destiny fast approaches, *The End Game* is a call for awakening and preparation, Biblical based preparation.

Stand Your Ground is the next chapter in your destiny and follows where *A Nation Under Siege* and *The End Game* leave off. In the following pages we examine your role in God's grand end time design.

As a blood bought, born again child of God, you are called upon to stand your ground in the face of Satan's relentless attacks. To do this successfully you must have a battle plan, or in sports vernacular, a game-plan. In the following pages we hope to lay out a plan that helps you *Stand Your Ground*. A plan that helps you run *your* race with endurance.

A battle plan requires a strategy. We found these seven strategies essential:

1. Build a Solid Foundation
2. Fight from a Position of Victory
3. Do Not Fight Alone
4. Have Your Brother's Back
5. Gear Up for Battle
6. Be Alert
7. Run with Endurance

As children of the one true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we know where the journey ends. While this journey will be challenging and at times seemingly impossible, we know where we will rest when the war is over. (Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:6-8).

It is my prayer that these strategies help you *Stand Your Ground*.

CHAPTER 3

Build a Solid Foundation

ESSENTIAL STRATEGY ONE

Jesus taught a parable known around the world which explains what happens when we build our lives on a solid foundation. Conversely, Jesus explains what happens when we fail to build on a solid foundation. This famous parable is recorded in Matthew 7:24-27:

Therefore whoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon sand: the

rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house and it fell: and great was the fall of it. (KJV)

Building upon a solid foundation is important in construction and in life. Most of us have driven or walked by a building or house being built. We have seen different stages of construction. Homes and buildings are not built in a day. Stable buildings, homes and faithful soldiers are built over time starting with a solid foundation.

For buildings and houses there is hope. For a soldier fighting in Jesus Christ's army there is hope. For a building or house the hope is in man. For you, me, and our families, the hope is Jesus Christ.

Every good foundation has a cornerstone. The cornerstone sets the direction for the entire building. If the cornerstone is solid, straight, and true, then the building will be solid, straight and true.

The Word of God tells us in 1 Peter 2 that Jesus is a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed. However, for those who disbelieve, Jesus is a stumbling stone, a rock of offense

because the unbeliever stumbles in disobedience to the word. The totality of scripture points to this truth:

Unless the LORD builds a house, They who build it labor in vain; Unless the LORD guards a city, The watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1).

Building a solid Christian foundation consists of:

- Knowing who Jesus Christ is
- Knowing Whose you are
- Faithful Prayer Life
- Habitual Scripture Study
- Being Humble
- Sharing the Word to a Dying World

Other ways, which we will examine in later chapters, to maintain, repair and strengthen your foundation include belonging to a community of believers, being alert, and running with endurance.

Knowing Who Jesus Christ Is

A solid foundation requires knowing who Jesus Christ is. Jesus Christ is the living Son of God. (Galatians 4:1-11). He was the single worthy sacrifice for man's sins past, present and future. (1 John 4:9-10; Jeremiah 23:5-6).

If you have gotten this far in the book you either already know this or you are searching, searching for answers. Only Jesus Christ can truly answer life's hardest question: What is the meaning for my life; why am I here?

Every soldier must know what and who he (or she) is fighting for. Knowledge of what and whom we are fighting for provides direction and purpose. You must build your foundation on strong, unchangeable foundations of Biblical truth.

God has many names in the bible, as there are many attributes of God described in scripture. But this all boils down to there being only one God (Yahweh) who created the Universe. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the great "I Am". Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, born of a virgin through the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ and God are one. We cannot have one without the other. In John 1:1-5, scripture makes clear that everything that has been or ever will be created was created through Jesus Christ.

Jesus was fully-man and fully God (Philippians 2:5-11); He was sinless (2 Corinthians 5:20-21); He willingly

died on a cross for the sins of mankind (Mark 14:6; John 10:18); He rose from the grave on the third day and sits at the right hand of God (Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:4). His willing sacrifice of His life is the only acceptable atonement for your sins against God. By dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus Christ defeated death and Satan for all time (2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Hebrews 2:14). Anyone, from any nation who trusts on Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will be loved by God (Romans 10:13).

In order to be an effective warrior for Jesus Christ you must know that Jesus Christ and only Jesus Christ is the redeemer. You must know that Jesus Christ is the life, the way and the truth. Only through Jesus Christ can you be with God. (John 14:6). I cannot believe for you; your spouse or parent cannot believe for you. You must own the belief; it must be seared in your soul.

Knowing Whose You Are

A solid foundation requires knowing whose you are. There are only two choices: God or Satan; heaven or hell. There is not a third option. You cannot claim

neutrality. (Matthew 12:30). Only through belief and acceptance of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior can you have eternal life with God. (John 14:6; John 8:24).

If you do not have it settled in your mind, in your soul that you belong to Jesus Christ then at the first contact with the enemy you are likely to cut and run, fall back, retreat, falter, waiver.

Don't think panic and fear cannot happen to you. When Jesus was taken away to face the cross, all those with him scattered. (Mark 14:50) This included the men who had seen Jesus feed the 5,000, heal the leper, calm a storm with a simple command of His voice, and raise Lazarus from the dead. If these men could be scared, if these men could cut and run, so can you.

One way to know if you are saved is whether you are just a hearer of the Word or a doer of the Word. In Matthew 7:21, Jesus admonishes those who claim Him as Lord but in actuality are not doers of the Word:

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

A decision to follow Jesus Christ is a personal decision. I cannot decide for you; your spouse or parent cannot decide for you. Following Christ is an individual decision.

In Matthew 12:33-35 Jesus teaches that good trees cannot bear bad fruit and bad trees cannot bear good fruit. In the same way if you are surrendered to Jesus Christ then you are grafted into the vine of life. (Romans 11:11-24). Jesus is the vine of life and Christians are the branches. If you abide in Jesus Christ, you will bear much fruit, for apart from Jesus you can do nothing that is everlasting. (John 15:5). Is your life bearing fruit for Jesus or for Satan?

The Christian faith is taking God at His word and acting upon it. It is that simple, but much more complicated to live out.

Faithful Prayer Life

A solid foundation requires a faithful prayer life. (1 Samuel 12:23; Acts 10:4; Luke 18:1-8). In order to be an effective warrior for Jesus Christ, you must communicate with God. We do this through His Son, Jesus Christ.

God answers the prayers of a righteous man (or woman). (John 14:14). He has ears for a righteous man's prayers. (James 5:16). There are three keys to this promise: (1) we must ask according to God's will, not our own; (2) we must ask in faith; we must not be double minded; and (3) we must be prepared for the answer to be something other than what we are expecting or hoping. (Matthew 17:20; Romans 8:26-27; James 1:5-8; James 4:3).

Jesus told the Disciples to not be like others who want people to hear them making great public prayers, but to go to God in secret. (Matthew 6:5-6). When we go before God in prayer, we are to go with a humble heart and bent knee. (Hebrews 10:22; Revelation 1:1-18).

How important is prayer? Jesus regularly prayed even though He and the Father are one. The night He was to be taken into custody; Jesus spent in prayer. (Luke 22:39-46). If Jesus Christ, the living son of God needed quiet time in prayer, why would you be any different? The time you spend in prayer will proportionally correspond to the strength of your faith and the clarity of your sense of calling and purpose.

Habitual Scripture Study

A solid foundation requires habitual scripture reading and study. In order to be an effective warrior for Jesus Christ, you must understand God's Word; you must be able to interpret the events around you. We come to know God, His will and His desires for our life through reading and the study of His word. The Bible is intended to be understood by faithful Christians. We do this through studying God's instruction manual for life; the Bible. (Ezra 7:10; 2 Timothy 2:15).

No book, no matter how long or how short, no matter whether written in 2021 or 21 A.D., can come close to explaining the Holy Scripture (Holy Bible) like the Bible itself. In *Stand Your Ground*, we have attempted to provide a battle plan in a straight forward manner to help you stand your ground in this day and hour of testing. Nothing written here can match the written word of God for clarity, strength or staying power. In everything, rely on the Word of God; testing all knowledge against Holy Scripture.

The Apostle Paul teaches us to “*not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and prove what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.*” (Romans 12:2). The word “transformed” comes from the same word as “metamorphosis.” The renewing of our minds brings about a complete change of life. The result is discernment: We are able to know God’s will for our lives.

Utilizing the study of the Bible to better understand the meaning of God’s actions in your life is a clear sign of obedience to God’s word. Recorded in Luke 10:27, is Jesus’ proclamation that the greatest commandment is, “*Love the Lord your God with all your HEART with all your SOUL with all your STRENGTH and with all your MIND.*” Study is the key that unlocks intellectual growth in the Christian life. . . . The Study of Christianity is the Study of Life Itself.

There are Four Basic Principles of Study:

First, study is a constant for every person. We study to improve our job skills; to improve the way our

households run; to understand our new iPhones; to understand others around us.

Second, study is an integral part of the Christian life. Just as a child's clothes are not adequate for an adult, a child's understanding of God and his Word are not adequate for the spiritual needs of a growing Christian. Spiritual baby food will not sustain a growing Christian. Make a personal commitment to pursue a growing understanding of Jesus Christ.

Third, study that sustains and grows your Christian experience must be intentional not haphazard.

Fourth, if you seek God in humility, He will grant you greater understanding of His ways and draw you closer to Him.

How to get started? Every journey begins with a first step. Remember the old adage, Rome was not built in a day. In this same way, we only need to take one step at a time.

Designate a regular study time and stick with it; Commitment and Dedication are key. For some it is early mornings; others it is lunch time and for some just before

bedtime. During my morning workout – while I do my 45 minutes of cardio, I watch on-line Bible courses and Pastors I trust. I also listen to an audio Bible or book during my drive to work.

Choose a daily devotional booklet with scripture readings. Join a Sunday school class or Bible study. Find a way of sharing what you study with others. Let Your Experience of Study Change the Way You Live.

Let me pass-on three tips for studying your Bible:

First, read your Bible all the way through, cover to cover at least once – Arm yourself with the sword of the Spirit. I have read through the Bible twice and it is a great experience. Do not start on January 1. The first time I tried to read all the way through my Bible I got discourage when I missed a couple days and the Bible plan said I should be on Feb 5th and I was only on January 30. The next time, I started at Genesis 1:1 on July 1st. Then, it didn't matter what date was on the reading plan. Using this method, I read through the Bible twice, both times in less than a year.

Second, slow down. It's not about how much scripture you can cram into a day; it's about how much

Holy Spirit you cram into your life. Try reading Chapter 1 of Genesis. In Gen 1:3-4 God created light and it was good. In Gen 1:10 God created land/sea and it was good. In Gen 1:12 God created vegetation and it was good. This goes all the way to Genesis 1:31 where God looked at all he had created and it was very good. I don't know how many times I read the book of Genesis and did not catch the change in the very last verse from "good" to "very good". Slow down, enjoy all God has to teach you.

Third, as you read your Bible ask yourself:

1. Who was this particular book of the Bible written too?
2. Why was the book written at the time it was written?
3. How does it apply today? And
4. What does God want me to do with it?

If I was stranded on a desert island and could have only one item, give me my Bible.

Be Humble

A solid foundation requires a humble spirit. God strengthens those that are humble but brings down the haughty. (James 4:6-10).

For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.

(Isiah 2:12) (KJV).

King David, the conqueror of nations, a man after God's own heart, a ruler to be feared, a man of flaws, and a servant of God knew full well that God teaches the humble of spirit His ways. (Psalm 25).

What do you have to be boastful of, prideful for? God alone gives wisdom; God alone gives each of us the opportunity and ability to achieve anything and everything we have achieved. All good things come from God. (James 1:17; Romans 11:6).

During the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, who ruled most of the known world, he looked at all he had built, the great and wonderful city of Babylon, a wonder to the world. In his pride he exclaimed, "*Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?*" (Daniel 4:30). Because of Nebuchadnezzar's failure to acknowledge God's hand in his success, God drove

Nebuchadnezzar out from among men and into the fields to eat grass and live with the animals. He was without sense for seven years. He was not restored until he acknowledged God's sovereignty. (Daniel 4).

King Herod, a Roman ruler in Jerusalem, in the first century, put on his royal robe and began to expound to the leaders of the territories gathered before him. These leaders, wanting to curry favor with Herod began to exclaim "the voice of a god and not of a man." Herod did not rebuke them and he was immediately struck down by an angel. (Acts 12:21-24).

Pride is a dangerous mistress.

Share the Word to a Dying World

A solid foundation requires being a light. (Matthew 5). A light that is hid is not a light at all. Our light grows, develops and matures by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world. (Matthew 28:16-20).

On the day of Pentecost, as one-hundred and twenty believers including the disciples of Jesus Christ waited on the Helper promised by Jesus in Acts 1:6-8, a great sound was heard and the faithful in the upper room were filled

with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4). Peter went out, the same man who had denied Jesus three times (John 18:25-27), and preached to a multitude. He was preaching in the same city where Jesus had been crucified. He preached Jesus Christ as the Savior, Messiah, and the Son of God. The multitude listened and at least three thousand believed on Jesus Christ and were baptized. (Acts 2)

In Matthew 24, Jesus warns faithful followers that we will be hated, persecuted and suffer for His sake, but to preach the Word of everlasting life. Tell the whole world about Jesus, then He will return.

We must be ready to give an accounting of our faith whenever asked. (1 Peter 3:15). Be ready to share Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world. Not with pride and arrogance as if you have something to do with the grace and mercy offered by Christ, but humbly, as one dying man to another dying man. If you were dying of thirst and found a spring of overflowing, never ending water from which sprang life itself, and you knew of another, who like you was dying of thirst, would you not share? It is the same with Jesus Christ.

Are there people in your life that have not heard of Jesus Christ of the Bible? I am not referring to a TV Jesus or a be happy, everything can be ice cream and lollypops Jesus; I am referring to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Messiah, the Great Redeemer, the Savior of the World. What have you done, what have I done to share our Savior?

CHAPTER 4

Fight From a Position of Victory

ESSENTIAL STRATEGY TWO

When we fight relying solely on Jesus Christ, we are fighting from a position of victory -- Jesus won the war on the cross. The power of death was vanquished when Jesus gave Himself for the world's sins. When He rose on the third day from the grave, death was defeated for eternity. (2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Hebrews 2:14). Walk in the shadow of Christ's victory.

We already know how the war ends. No kidding, God has laid out His battle plan, His road map of the entire war. He has written it down in order that as a child of God you will not need to fear or worry. In the world there is worry, but in Jesus Christ there is promised peace. (John 16:33).

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
(Revelation 20:10).

A 50,000' view of God's battle plan:

- God creates the world and all heavenly creatures.
- Satan rebels against God and is cast down to earth.
- God creates man and woman.
- Man falls into Satan's trap and disobeys God.
- Through man (Abraham) God raises a nation, a people that are His. Through this nation the Savior of the world is brought forth.
- Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit is born of a virgin, a Jewish virgin. A descendent of Abraham.
- Jesus Christ, fully God and Fully man willingly gave his life on a Roman cross as a repatriation for the sins of the world.
- Jesus rose from the grave on the third day and death was defeated for eternity.
- Jesus ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the father. Whomever shall ever believe on Him shall be saved.

- Jesus Christ will return again, this time as King and Judge. He has already defeated Satan; and Jesus Christ will remove Satan as Ruler of the earth.
- Until Jesus' return, Satan rules the earth, but is limited by God.
- Until Jesus' return, war rages on earth and in the heavens between good and evil. This war is for the souls of mankind. Those who have surrendered to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are to:
 - Love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength;
 - Love our neighbor as ourselves; and
 - Stand firm in the faith, enduring to the end.

In *Stand Your Ground*, we focus on this last part of the battle plan, standing firm in faith, running *your* race with endurance to the end. An important part of running with endurance is sharing Jesus Christ with a lost and dying world.

If you are not saved (saved is a Christian term by which we mean having surrendered to Jesus Christ as Lord), all you must do to become a blood bought, born again child of God is believe on Jesus Christ. (1 John 5:10-12; Romans 10:8-16).

[I]f you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Romans 10:9-10).

Dying to self and living for God is hard to do; it's even harder to live out. But we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. (Philippians 4:13).

However, simply believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is not enough, the demons know that Jesus is the only Son of God, but they do not believe on Him to salvation and they are not children of God. (James 1:18-19; Mark 5:1-13). You must surrender your will to Jesus' will; surrender the idol of self to Jesus Christ. You must obey Jesus's commandments.

He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him. (John 14:21).

CHAPTER 5

Do Not Fight Alone

ESSENTIAL STRATEGY THREE

Jesus promises to never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5). Jesus cannot lie. (Hebrews 6:18). Jesus promises to send us a helper; a helper who empowers with power from on-high. (John 14:26; John 6:7). This helper is the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God.

Obedience to the Holy Spirit is the key to having more of the Holy Spirit, His power, blessings and guidance in our lives. We are taught in Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-26 that to those who are faithful with what they have been given by God will be given more.

Remember the ruler who had three servants? He gave one servant one talent, the other two talents, and the third five talents and left on a journey. Do you recall what happened? The servant with one talent hid his talent and it

was taken away when the ruler returned from his journey. The servant with two talents turned his talents into four talents. The servant with five talents turned his talents into ten talents. These two faithful servants were given more. (Matthew 25:14-30).

The Lord unmasked the meaning of this lesson. He did not leave interpretation of this parable to our own efforts. If we are faithful with our talents, gifts, and resources we will be given more; but if we are not faithful then what we have been given will be taken away.

In Mark 4:35-41 and Matthew 8:23-27 we are taught about the Disciples' encounter with a raging storm. While the Disciples' worried, Jesus simply slept through the storm. The Disciples thought they were all going to die. They awoke Jesus because they were afraid, as if He didn't already know about the storm. Jesus quieted the storm and admonished the disciples for being of so little faith.

There have been times in my life when God has allowed me to experience what it is like to walk in the power of unadulterated, uncompromised faith. These

occasions included flying in bad weather and walking in a storm with no shelter or protection from the elements.

I have had the opportunity over the past ten to twelve years, while flying, to exercise a meniscal drop of power that comes from unshakeable faith in Jesus Christ. I have flown as a passenger cross country by myself since I was about eight or ten years old, I am an old hand at commercial air travel. However, around 2010 or 2012, I was flying on a commercial flight through really bad weather. I was worried, not sure if scared, but definitely worried. I called out to God in my quiet voice and asked Him to calm the weather. Within seconds the weather calmed. This happened a few more times over the next couple years (I used to fly a lot) until one time my prayer didn't work. The Holy Spirit impressed upon me that Jesus expects each of us to use the power He has given us. I rebuked the wind and within seconds the weather calmed and I went back to sleep without a worry. This experience has repeated itself multiple times since then.

In 2016, after three years of prayer, with the help of my two grandsons and their dad, I carried a cross weighing

about 68lbs from Key Largo, FL to the Southern Most Point of the United States located in Key West, FL. Of the 102.5 miles from our hotel to the southernmost point, we walked 94.22 miles and walked across more than 20 bridges. This was done in the summer. To say the least, the Florida Keys are hot and humid in the summer. In order to accomplish our mission, we were required to average a little over 18 miles per day.

I started the week of walking with chest congestion that had me up most nights three or four hours each night coughing. This all subsided gradually until I only woke-up for a few minutes a couple times a night by the fifth night. Throughout the week the Lord gave me strength in spite of some nights having only three or four hours rest. Each day while I walked, I walked cough and congestion free.

The first day of walking the cross rubbed my shoulder/upper back raw. The cross took a couple layers of skin off my right shoulder and started on the left. The injury to my primary cross carrying shoulder could have tanked the whole walk. But my son-in-law fixed me up

with moleskin and athletic tape making a patch to cover both injuries.

I also had injuries to both my feet in back-to-back days. During the evening walk the first day, I experienced pain to the outside of my left heel. I thought my shoe was causing the pain; it felt like a razor blade in my shoe. When I stopped to address the pain, I found that I had a significant blister on the heel of my foot. Where the top and bottom of the foot meet was cracked open and oozing. Using a blister blow-out kit, I carried with me, I was able to patch up the injury. We finish 20+ miles the first day and kept going the next day.

I soon learned that it was not my shoe that caused the injury because the next day I was wearing a different pair of shoes and suffered the same injury but this time to my right foot. Like the left foot, using a blister blow-out kit I was able to patch-up the injury and finish 18+ miles on the second day and keep going the rest of the week.

Why is any of this important? As a reminder that just because you are following God's will does not mean that the road will be easy -- it was not easy for Paul,

Peter, John, or countless others before us ---- but it is worth it!

God shows up when we need Him. As we began the walk and the entire week, a significant offshore storm was threatening the Florida Keys. On the fifth day of the walk, the offshore storm decided making landfall was a good idea.

As I walked in the torrential downpour and heavy winds, with no shelter or protection from the elements, I laughed to myself as two thoughts came into my head: Satan didn't like what I was doing; and fighting this type of attack requires prayer and fasting. I jokingly told the Holy Spirit that fasting was out of the question as I was literally in the storm. I turned to my only weapon, I asked God to part the wind and rain like He parted the Red Sea for Moses or to calm the weather like he did on the Sea of Galilee. Within a matter of a few seconds to a minute the torrential rain and wind changed into a nice gentle rain (the kind that kept the mosquitos at bay and the humidity down).

Around me I could see the storm 100 yards away. It looked like God had parted the storm. For just a moment, I could imagine a little of what Moses felt like when God parted the Red Sea. In Romans 8:31-39 we are reminded that if God is for us, who can be against us? Jesus Christ through the Holy Ghost walks with every believer. During battle, He carries us when we are weak. (Psalm 28:7; 2 Corinthians 12:9). Why would you ever go to battle without Jesus as your General, your King, and your Champion?

CHAPTER 6

Have Your Brother's Back

ESSENTIAL STRATEGY FOUR

Roman armor, which the hearers of God's words in the first century would have understood, did not have a back. Why? Because we are meant to advance not retreat. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are supposed to have our back just as we are supposed to have their back. (Matthew 18:10; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26; and James 5:14-15).

In Mark 6:7-13, Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs to tell others about Him. He did not send them out in a cruel and dangerous world alone. In Luke 24:44-50, Jesus told the disciples to wait on the helper to come. In all, about 120 waited in an upper room, praying and waiting together. (Acts 1:15).

When the Apostle Paul traveled on his many journeys, he was accompanied by one or more traveling

companions; fellow servants of Jesus Christ. (Acts Ch. 13, 14, and 16).

In Matthew 18:19-20, Jesus tells us that when two or more of us are gathered in His name, anything we ask that is aligned to God's will, will be granted.

On one occasion when Peter was in prison pending execution, brothers and sisters in Christ gathered together and prayed for his safety. An Angel of the Lord appeared to Peter in prison and rescued him. (Acts 12:5-17).

The picture we have of the early church is of believers gathered together in each other's homes teaching, preaching and caring for one another. (Acts 2:46; Acts 20:20). The church, or body of Christ, is not buildings. The body of Christ is not church programs. The body of Christ is the individual members fitted together as God has ordained and directed. Each of us is different, each of us is unique; God designed the church that way. He designed the Body of Christ. Though different and weak individually, we are strong when brought together in Christ. (1 Corinthians 12).

CHAPTER 7

Gear Up For Battle

ESSENTIAL STRATEGY FIVE

We are at war; a spiritual war. As the Scripture teaches in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Powerful spiritual powers seek to steal from you and destroy all you hold dear. (John 10:10). As such, we must gear up for battle in the spiritual realm. To battle in the spiritual realm, God has provided armament that is

heavenly. God is calling each of us to put on His armor, pick up the shield of faith, arm ourselves with the sword of the Spirit, and join the fight.

Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. (Proverbs 30:5).

[B]e strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, TAKING UP THE

SHIELD OF FAITH with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is the word of God.

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints
(Ephesians 6:10-18).

Trust in Him who has saved you from eternal damnation. For the fear of man brings a snare, but whomever trusts in the Lord will be exalted. (Proverbs 29:25).

Civilians do not walk off the street on Monday and on Tuesday become a United States Marine. Future Marines must pass a series of tests as part of initial screening. Then there is Recruit Training (boot camp), a 13-week test of a recruit's ability and willingness to become a United States Marine. This training culminates in what is known as the Crucible. The Crucible is a 54-hour day and night test of endurance which tests a

recruit to see how he (or she) will react and respond to conditions of stress and simulated combat. After successfully completing the Crucible, recruits have succeeded in earning one of our Nation's greatest honors: the title of United States Marine.

Fighting Satan is no different. A Christian, generally speaking, does not come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ on Monday and then wake up on Tuesday as a Goliath slayer. The Christian walk takes maturing and nurturing. (2 Peter 5:17-18; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; and 1 Corinthians 14:20).

King David, a man after God's own heart did not wake up one day and say, wow, I have sat around all the days of my youth watching TV, playing computer games and now I think I will go slay the greatest warrior the Philistines have, a giant, a man among boys, Goliath.

King David did not go from sheep herder to dragon slayer or from sheep herder to King overnight. Before he slayed Goliath, David killed bears and lions. God was preparing him for the battle to come. (1 Samuel 17:36).

David stood face to face with Goliath with no shield, no sword; armed only with a slingshot and five smooth stones and most importantly, his faith in God. (1 Samuel 17:40). God taught David how to use his slingshot before he faced Goliath. God teaches Christians today, who seek His help, how to use the weapons He has already given us.

CHAPTER 8

Be Alert

ESSENTIAL STRATEGY SIX

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (I Peter 5:8-9) (NKJV).

In *A Nation Under Siege* and *The End Game* we make clear that there is and will be a cost to being a Christian. This cost may be your business, your security, your home, it may be your life. America today is a nation which values the unnatural sinful world of Satan over following Jesus Christ. The America of today seeks to eliminate all history that is different than the socialist one-world movement sweeping across America and Europe. The radical left not only seeks to silence blood bought children of God, but to destroy any memory of

our existence. Be alert, be as wise as a serpent and as innocent as a dove. (Matthew 10:16).

After a snake's head is cut off, it keeps moving. A rattlesnake can still kill you after it is dead. In the same way Satan who is described as a serpent in Genesis 3:1 and Revelation 20:2, will keep striking intending to kill, steal and destroy your soul in hell until Jesus Christ throws him into the Lake of Fire for all eternity. (Revelation 20:10).

Two places where your senses need to be especially alert are on mountain tops and in valleys.

Several years ago, while attending a family reunion at Lake Cobb in Oklahoma, I observed a family at a nearby picnic table. The little girl, I would guess about five or six years of age, was gently swinging her legs back and forth beneath her seat. Then it struck with lightning speed; a copper head snake was hiding in a little hole beneath the concrete picnic table (its venom is deadly).

A tractor was called to lift up the concrete picnic table and when the table was lifted, the park ranger blasted that snake with a shotgun.

In your life, Satan will at times attack straight on, a full-frontal assault. However, most times he attacks from ambush; disguising evil as something good for you, pleasing, enjoyable, and refreshing.

Ambushes often occur when we are either on a mountain top or in a valley. When we have experienced a success; or when we are weak, feeling defeated by life. In both, the euphoria of the mountain top or the despair of the valley, we can be vulnerable to attack.

On the mountain top we relax and let our guard down. On the mountain top we can begin to think more of ourselves than we should. On the mountain top we must be watchful for the mountain lion who seeks to kill, steal and destroy.

In the valley we can feel helpless, hopeless, and maybe abandoned by God. Satan may come dressed as an angle of light. He may offer what appears to be a quick

fix to overcome our troubles. In the valley, because we are tired, it is easy to let our guard down.

In order to root Satan out of his hiding places in your life you have to do the same thing the Oklahoma Park Ranger did. You must expose Satan and his temptations to light then blast him with the Word of God. God is more powerful than a shotgun or any other weapon formed against you. (Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 54:17). *“For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”* (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

Satan is clever and above all deceitful. He will come many times dressed as light. (2 Corinthians 11:14). He is a wolf in sheep’s clothing. (Matthew 7:15). You must be wise enough, smart enough, alert enough to recognize the traps being set for you. But, how can you see darkness disguised as light?

- (1) Walk close to the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 59:12).
- (2) Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5-7);
- (3) Walk with mature believers, who may provide wise counsel (1 Kings 12:8; Proverbs 16:31; Proverbs 20:29; Proverbs 24:6).

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12).

We fight from a place of victory (we make this point repeatedly). Victory was won on the cross. Unmistakably, for a time period set by God, Satan is the ruler of earth. But his power only goes as far as God allows. (Job 1:1-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).

In this world we will ultimately face death. Everyone dies, rich, poor, weak, strong, rulers, and slaves; we all die. But Jesus Christ defeated death and Satan on the cross. Jesus' resurrection from the grave ended death's hold on you if you are surrendered to Christ.

CHAPTER 9

Run With Endurance

ESSENTIAL STRATEGY SEVEN

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Running with endurance requires preparation. Long distance runners do not wake up one day and decide, I'll run the Boston Marathon today. Running with endurance requires commitment to something greater than yourself. For Christians this is Jesus Christ.

Scripture repeatedly reminds and encourages God's people that those who are faithful until the end will spend eternity with God. Those who fall short, who quit early, give up, will not. As the preceding chapters have shown, we cannot successfully run this race alone; we cannot run it without Jesus Christ. With Jesus Christ, we can do all things. (Philippians 4:13).

In running with endurance to win, you must:

- Gather Provisions
- Train
- Run *Your* Race
- Stand Firm on Faith
- Go through Battles
- Run until you cross the finish line

Our reward? Our reward is the wreath of life. (1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Timothy 4:6-8). When we have won

our race, we rest in the arms of our Lord, our Comforter, and Redeemer King, Jesus Christ.

Gathering Provisions

As we more fully discussed in Chapter 3, prayer and scripture reading go hand in hand.

Prayer – Prayer is the substance of the Christian life. In Acts 1:12-14, we are told to pray continuously. Pray without ceasing, rejoicing always, and giving thanks in all things. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Recall the Cross Carrying trip in the Florida Keys? On about the third day of the walk, a few miles from the next town, I headed into a part of the trail that was lined with mangroves on both sides of the trail. I was disappointed because I thought what good am I going to do out here? But then I thought, well it's just God and me so maybe some alone time with God?

I asked God if it was His will, would He show His presence to me (an Emmaus Road experience (Luke 24:1-35)). In what seemed like just a matter of minutes of my prayer, there was a bench in the middle of nowhere. I thought, ok, God wants me to sit down. As I was leaning

the cross against the bench, I saw a man running towards me on the trail (remember we are a few miles out of any town in a forest of mangroves). The runner never stopped but as he passed by, he put his hands together like he was praying and said “God bless you” as he went by.

Now, I am not claiming that God sent an angel to answer my prayers, even though God does still use angels to answer prayers. He also uses brothers and sisters in Christ to answer prayers. What I do know is that this encounter was not an accident or coincidence—There are no coincidences with God. He showed up and He wanted me to know that He heard me and was with me.

DO NOT EVER LET THE DEVIL CONVINC
YOU THAT GOD HAS STOPPED ANSWERING
PRAYERS.

Scripture Reading – Reading God’s Word is the underpinning of spiritual growth. The night He was to be taken away, Jesus tells His disciplines that anyone without a sword should sell their tunic (coat) and buy a sword. (Acts 22:35-38). This sword has a double meaning

which also represents the written word of God. This is the weapon we must wage war with.

In 2 Timothy 2:15, the Apostle Paul writes to a young minister named Timothy with these encouraging words:

Study and do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman tested by trial who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling and skillfully teaching the word of truth.

I ask you; how can we mature as Christians unless we read and study God's word?

Training

Professional athletes do not wake up one day and become all-stars, they start as a plebe, a trainee, a novice learning, practicing and testing their skills. These all-stars move through the levels, high-school, college, pros. Each new level growing, learning, being tested until one day, they are an all-star.

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in

the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Running Your Race

There is running your race and running *your* race. *Your* race is the race that God has set before you. The race God has called you to is *your* race, anything else is a counterfeit. If you are going to be able to run with endurance, you must run *your* race.

At the age of 17 I heard a call from God, a call to ministry. Those who knew me well when I was 17 can tell you that such a call was a strange call. I was not what you would call a church goer or religious; I loved football, parties and girls and not always in that order. I was saved when I was about eight years old but lacked Christian maturity or guidance. So taken aback by the call, I did everything I could for about ten years to prove that I was

unworthy. After about ten years I sort of forgot about it, I thought God had also. God never forgets.

For most of forty years I ran my race, not *my* race; not the race God had set before me. Don't get me wrong, there were periods within this time that I stepped onto God's path and ran *my* race, but it's hard. For me personally, a series of events led me onto God's path to run *my* race. But, don't kid yourself for a minute to think that is easy or that I do not need God's guidance to keep me on His path and to get me back when I step off.

To be clear, you may decide to be a missionary to the farthest reaches of the earth, but this may be your race instead of *your* race. But wait, being a missionary is a good thing? It is if being a missionary is what God has called you to do. Maybe you are running off to New Guinea but God's path is for you to be a missionary right here in America. Perhaps the call is to the poorest reaches of the Appalachian Mountains or the riches neighborhoods of Beverly Hills. Maybe your call is next door. Running any path that is not the path God has laid out for you is running your race, not *your* race.

Your assignment from God. "For such a time as this" is a statement of faith in God's grand design: that God has put you in the time period, place, location, and job that you are in, in order for you to do a job He has given you to do. (Esther 4:14).

I will be blunt, failing to do what you know God has called you to do, even if what you do instead is noble, selfless or heroic is a sin against God. (James 4:17; Numbers 20:8-12).

We must begin to live everyday realizing that God is closely watching us. God does not miss a single word or act you or I say or do or fail to say or do. We must begin to live as if the end is near and the fiery pits of hell are nipping at our heels.

Standing Firm on Faith

It may seem strange to say Stand Your Ground when history, events, and time move forward. By standing your ground we are not referring to being stuck in the past; we are not saying to bury your head in the sand and pretend that the world or America has not changed.

Instead, Standing Your Ground is standing firm in faith; not compromising on scripture; not compromising on prayer; not compromising on Jesus Christ as the only Son of God; not compromising on Jesus Christ being the **only** way to eternal life with God; not calling evil good and good evil; not surrendering faith for comfort, security or safety.

Stand Your Ground; stand on the unvarnished, unashamed, uncompromised Word of the Living God. For He is, He was, and He is to come. (Revelation 4:8). God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, He does not change.

We must prepare believers for the coming persecution. We must shake off politics as our savior and rely solely on Jesus. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power unto salvation. (Romans 1:16). A watered down, softened gospel is useless to a dying man. Nothing but the unadulterated, unvarnished, unchanged Word of the Living God will do. We cannot lighten the weight of the cross Christ carried.

If you say in public that anyone who does not believe on Jesus Christ as the Son of God and their Lord and Savior is doomed to hell, you will be called a hate monger, bigoted, narrow minded, not worthy of breathing the same air as the enlightened.

If you stand against the homosexual, transgender, multi-gender agenda you are called a hate monger, bigoted, narrow minded, and a threat to the New World Order, to the New America.

To stand against the murder of unborn children is to be considered a potential terrorist.

To stand for Biblical truth is to face the most vial hatred the radical left can muster.

But stand we must; Standing on the Word of God. Jesus promises, that every believer who endures until the end, will be rewarded with eternal life. (Matthew 24:3-14).

Jesus warns Christians to not even give a welcome to anyone who brings a message different than that delivered by Jesus. To give a greeting to such a one is to perpetuate their false teachings. (2 John 1:10-11). Have nothing to do with those who teach anything but the Word

of God. (2 John 1:10). WOE and WOE to anyone who changes the word of God. (Revelation 22:18-19).

We must tell people about man's fall, the need for a new birth, forgiveness through an atonement and salvation as the result of faith. These are the battle cry of the Christian faith.

Going Through Battles

Battles help you grow in Christian maturity. Battles prepare you for the next and greater challenge. Recall the plane trips where I encountered severe weather in chapter Five? God used those encounters and my knowledge of scripture to prepare me for greater battles.

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)

Recall the storm that was threatening all week during the Keys Cross Walk? Both before and after my battle on the fifth day, God used the storm to provide cloud cover, a good breeze and at times light rain to cool me off.

Those plane flights prepared me for the battle in the Florida Keys. What Satan meant for my harm; what Satan meant to use to discourage me; God used to strengthen me.

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:28-39).

What battles are you going through? What battles have you gone through? Do you know their purpose? Perhaps, these battles are preparing you for a closer walk with God? Perhaps these battles are preparing you for the next great battle. A walk with Jesus Christ is not one and done. To follow Christ is to invite persecution, hate, and hardship, perhaps even death. To follow Christ is a daily choice. Your battles help you prepare to run with endurance.

In a Christian's life, the outcomes of your battles will not always be what you expect, want or desire if you are focused on you.

Jesus, as He came close to the day of His sacrifice, asked God three times to take the cup (crucifixion on the cross) away from Him, but if it was God's will then for it to be done. Jesus was surrendered to God's perfect will even though it meant separation from God for a time.

King Herod, who ruled from the city of Jerusalem in the first century decided he would kill Christians. Herod had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword. Seeing that this pleased the Jewish leaders he decided to do the same to the Apostle Peter. (Acts 12). However, Peter was rescued by two angels. Did God love Peter more than James? Did God hear the prayers for Peter but not James? No, God simply moves in ways that are beyond human comprehension. God's ways are higher and wider than our ways. (Isaiah 55:9-11). God's understanding is beyond comprehension by man. What this one snapshot in time demonstrates is that God has a grand design that we do not

always understand, a grand plan that requires faith in a faithful God.

If God gives you an assignment, He will go before you. He will not fail you or abandon you. Do not fear or be dismayed, God is on your side. (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Sometimes it is God's plan for us to die as experienced by Stephen and James. (Acts 7:1-60; Acts 12:1-2). Other times it is to live out a long life like the Apostle John who, according to Church history lived a long life. To live for God is gain; to die is to be with the Lord for eternity. To live is gain, to die is gain; do all things in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:20-21). And if we are to live, strive to live a fruitful life in Christ. (Philippians 1:22).

Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For

the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. (Matthew 16:24-27).

Running Until You Cross the Finish Line

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. (1 Corinthians 9:24).

Enduring to the end, this is the quest of long-distance runners. This is the quest of the Christian running *their* race. This must be *your* quest in order that you receive the prize. (Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13).

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14).

To follow Christ is a daily choice. As Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, choose wisely:

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

CHAPTER 10

Sin

Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man [Jesus Christ] whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. (Acts 17:30-31).

As we finish Stand Your Ground, the Holy Spirit impressed upon me that we must address sin straight-on before addressing God's love in the next chapter.

At its core, sin is a separation from God. (Isaiah 59:2; Ezekiel 22). Sin can be an act or an omission. (James 4:17; Numbers 20:8-12). Sin is knowing what God has commanded you to not do, and doing it anyways.

Similarly, sin is knowing what God has commanded you to do and not doing it. Sin comes down to this, man (or woman) replacing God with self.

A brother in Christ mentioned to me recently that many who claim the mantel of Christian cannot name the Ten Commandments because they do not spend time in God's word (the Bible). Let's tackle this issue here and now. In Exodus 20, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These are not ideas, concept or notions, they are the Command of God, the Creator of all that ever has or ever will be created:

1. *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:3) (KJV).*
2. *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me. (Exodus 20:4-5) (KJV).*

3. *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7) (KJV).*
4. *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8) (KJV).*
5. *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Exodus 20:12) (KJV).*
6. *Thou shalt not kill. (Exodus 20:13) (KJV).*
7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14) (KJV).*
8. *Thou shalt not steal. (Exodus 20:15) (KJV).*
9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. (Exodus 20:16) (KJV).*
10. *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. (Exodus 20:17) (KJV).*

In Luke 10:25-28 and Mark 12:28-31, Jesus teaches that all ten commandments and the teaching of the prophets' rest on two commandments: Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength; and love your neighbor

as yourself (I really struggle with this second one). Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:21-48, that God's law can be broken outwardly in our flesh and inwardly in our spirit. Sinning in our heart, while hidden from others is never hidden from God. As an example, Jesus explains that to lust after a woman is to commit adultery in our heart and to be angry with your brother is worthy of punishment.

If anyone ever asks or if you want to know how to know what is right and what is wrong, go to the word, go to scripture. The essence of every sin known to man is addressed in the Bible. There is no sin created today that is not born of the sin of old. Here are a few examples of specific sins addressed by God:

- (1) Idolatry (Replacing God with Anything or Anyone): Exodus 20:3-8; Colossians 3:5.
- (2) Leading People Away from God: Exodus 20:4-5; Matthew 18:6; 2 John 1:10-11.
- (3) Abortion (An Abomination): Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:16; Ezekiel 16:1-43.
- (4) Murder: Exodus 20:13; Genesis 4:1-15.
- (5) Greed: Exodus 20:15, 17; Luke 12:15-21.

- (6) Injustice: Exodus 20:13-16; Exodus 23:1-7; Isaiah 1:17; Matthew 25:31-46.
- (7) Sexual Immorality (Adultery, LGBT+, other sexual perversions): Exodus 20:14, 17; Genesis 2:18-25; Leviticus 20:13; 1 Timothy 1:10.
- (8) Lying: Exodus 20:15-16; Exodus 23:1-3; Proverbs 12:22.
- (9) Cheating on Taxes: Exodus 20:15; Mark 12:13-17.

When you and I replace God with anything or anyone else, our depravity of spirit allows all types of sin to control our life. But you and I are not alone, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:21-23). The price of sin is an eternal damnation in hell where there is a weeping and gnashing of teeth that never ends. (Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 13:36-42). *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 6:23). In Jesus Christ there is hope; in Jesus Christ there is escape from eternal hell. (Matthew 13:43; John 5:24; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

CHAPTER 11

God's Love

I have written four books including this one, all with the intent of focusing the reader on Jesus Christ as King, Judge, Lord and Redeeming Savior. I have struggled with putting down on paper in a concise and readily understandable description the essence of how to be saved and what it really means to be a Christian. In the end, Jesus Christ does the best job of describing Christianity in a concise and readily understandable statement:

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is

not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. (John 14:23-24).

You are precious to God; He has loved you from the beginning. He saw you before you were born and scheduled each day of your life before you began to breathe. Every day was recorded in His book! (Psalm 139:16) (TLB). God does not wish that you should perish into the pits of every lasting hell. (Ezekiel 18:32). But He is also a just God and those who deny His Son are already judged for their unbelief. (John 3:18).

Yet, God's love is enormous. Your sins are not so great that they cannot be covered by the love and blood of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 59:1-20). He loved you and me so much that while we were still sinners He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer on a wooden cross as an atonement for the sins of the world. (Romans 5). An atonement for those who believe on Jesus Christ, the living Son of God.

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself . . . (1 John 5:10). And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life,

and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (1 John 5:11-12).

And how do we know we are saved? We take God at His word and act upon it.

If you want to surrender your life to Jesus Christ, do it. Living a life surrendered to Jesus Christ is action. Here is a prayer you can follow. You don't have to use these exact words, what matters is what is in the depth of your soul (heart):

Dear God, I am a sinner. Please forgive me of my sins. I reject the sinful path I am on and I surrender to Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of my life. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer or something similar, welcome to the family. I encourage you to:

- Tell Someone
- Get Baptized
- Study the Bible
- Join a Jesus Christ Centered Church

CHAPTER 12

Rapture

A discussion of running *your* race with endurance would not be complete without a brief discussion of the rapture. But, before discussing the rapture, we must look at what we will be raptured from.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9, God's people are warned that at God's appointed time the restrainer will be removed from the earth and at that time the anti-Christ will be revealed. The anti-Christ's *"coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved."* (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10). This is the time of great tribulation. During these end time events God will unleash judgments against the whole

world the likes of which have never been seen in the history of mankind. (Matthew 24:21-22). Men will wish to die but they will not repent of their evil deeds and turn to God. (Revelation 9:6 and 9:21).

We are told in Revelation 3:10 that God will spare from the final and great tribulation those who have trusted in Jesus Christ. The tribulation that unfolds in the Book of Revelation is described by many scholars as a seven-year period of time. Some theologians consider all seven years to be the great tribulation. However, other theologians believe that the Great Tribulation will be after the anti-Christ breaks his contract with Israel at the half way point of the seven years. (Daniel 9:27). Whether all seven years, the last half, or a single day is the great tribulation, all of it will be pain, hunger, disease, despair, and destruction like man has never known before.

So, what is the rapture? A person being raptured (taken up to heaven while still alive) has been recorded three times in scripture: Enoch (Genesis 5:24); Elijah (2 Kings 2:11); and Jesus Christ (Mark 16:19). Generally speaking, in Christian theology there are four theories for

the rapture, a pre-tribulation rapture, a mid-tribulation rapture (the half way point when anti-Christ breaks his covenant with the Jewish people), a post tribulation rapture, and those who teach that there will not be a rapture.

I firmly stand on two points: (1) before the rapture occurs, Christians will face tribulation unto death (Acts 7:1-60; Acts 12:1-2); and (2) God promises that before the Great Day of Tribulation, no matter what or how long this may actually be, He will remove from this earth everyone surrendered to Jesus Christ. (Revelation 3:10).

Additionally, based on 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9, it is my understanding that at God's appointed time the Holy Spirit will be removed from the earth. When this occurs, I believe that blood bought, born-again children of God will be raptured to Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 3:16, we are taught that we are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in us. In John 14:26, the Holy Spirit is promised to God's children as our comforter and to provide understanding. When He goes, we go. When the Holy Spirit is removed by God, the Anti-Christ will no longer

be restrained and will step forward in prominence on the world stage.

If you are to stand your ground, if you are to run *your* race with endurance, you must understand that suffering is to be expected when you are all in for Jesus Christ. You must understand that the war is not one and done. The Christian walk is a lifelong walk with Jesus Christ. But He does not expect you to do it alone. He will never leave or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5-6).

I keep being asked if there is hope for America, an opportunity for revival. I do not know. I know that the world's end time fate is sealed, America's end time fate is sealed. I know that the only hope for anyone is Jesus Christ.

EPILOG

I recognize that I have fallen short of God's call on my life. I have fallen short of God's call to run *my* race. I have compromised when it was easier to do so, when God's plan did not fit my plan. I lived a "me" centered life.

But I also know that we have a merciful God and all that turn to Him in repentance through His Son are forgiven, loved and cherished by God. I repented of my sinful life and pray continually in and through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that God gives me the strength, wisdom and courage to run *my* race. That I may run with endurance on God's path not my own, being a doer of the Word.

AMEN and AMEN



Stand Your Ground is
dedicated to our dad, Don
Brown, Sgt, USMC RIP Dad.

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EPILOG

Epilog

To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the Lord God, the creator of all that has been, is and will ever be, grant you peace in the knowledge that through Jesus Christ you have eternal security. May you be blessed, strengthened and encouraged through *America's Destiny*.

AMEN and AMEN



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