



God, Government, and You

A Nation in Search of a Soul!

We are a nation in crisis because we have lost our moral and spiritual compass. Our problem is not a political problem, it is not a philosophical problem, and it is not a social problem solved by programs and free handouts. Our problem as a nation is a spiritual problem because we have drifted so far from God.

**Psalm 33:12 (NASB) – *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.***

Timeline of Classes

The class will take place over the course of ten weeks and we will cover several topics with regard to our nation and how we respond as Christians to the current events taking place around us.

| God, Government, and You | | |
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| Week | Topic | Summary |
| September 30 | Playing God: Part 1 (Abortion & Stem Cell Research) | Is there any nation, any government, or any man that is wiser than God? In this study we will examine what happens when a nation begins redefining basic moral codes and values that God has instituted since the beginning of creation. |
| October 07 | Playing God: Part 2 (Health Care Reform) | |
| October 14 | At the Crossroads: Part 1 (Siding with Iran or Israel) | Every nation and every individual will find themselves standing at the crossroads at some point in their existence, one road leads to life and the other to destruction. What if a nation chooses the path of destruction yet proclaims it is the best path for the citizens? |
| October 21 | At the Crossroads: Part 2 (Human Rights) | |
| October 28 | Giving All to Caesar (Love of Money) | God continually reminds us of the danger of the love of money. He warns us of the destruction that follows a life of indebtedness. Does this just apply to individuals or does it apply to a nation as well? |
| November 04 | Searching for True North: Part 1 (Homosexuality) | Is there a true north when it comes to a nation's moral compass? Are morals meant to be defined by the next government officials in office? What is right and what is wrong and how do we respond? |
| November 11 | Searching for True North: Part 2 (Sanctity of Marriage & Family) | |
| November 18 | A Nation in Search of a Soul | Does a nation have a soul? Can a nation recover from turning away from God and if so then how can it be done? It starts with you and your church! |



God, Government, & You Study Two – Silencing God

“America is the greatest nation in the history of the world — the richest, most powerful, most envied, most consequential. And yet America is the same nation that leads the industrialized world in rates of murder, violent crime, imprisonment, divorce, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, single-parent households, teen suicide, cocaine consumption, and pornography production and consumption. “America is a place of heroes, honor, achievement, and respect. But it is also a place where heroism is often confused with celebrity, honor with fame, true achievement with popularity, individual respect with political correctness. Our culture celebrates self-gratification, the crossing of all moral boundaries, and now even the breaking of social taboos. “Despite our wonders and greatness, we are a nation that has experienced so much social regression, so much decadence, in so short a period of time that we have become the kind of place to which civilized countries used to send missionaries.” – **William J. Bennett**, former Secretary of Education under President Reagan.

- Reflect on this previous statement by William Bennett. ***Is this a true statement?*** Explain.

As we examine the moral fabric of our nation, we can honestly declare that it is steadily eroding and doing so at a fast pace. We know for a fact that our nation was founded on Biblical principles and with the understanding that any nation that pursues God will be supported by God. We have seen our nation literally go from “*Leave it to Beaver*” to “*Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*” in less than fifty years.

- *What are other examples of our eroding moral fabric in this country? Explain.*

Our eroding moral fabric is not an accident in this country for it has been a long process in which the fabric has become unwound and re-spun with immorality. The more that we as a country stray from God, His values, His moral code and His commandments that He has asked us to follow then we will grow more distant from an absolute truth as well as an absolute standard of morality and integrity. The eventual result will be threat God’s great hand of protection and His wise providence will no longer be evident upon the country of the United States of America.

It is evident that we have grown distant from God and this can be seen by comparing two basic statements of Government leaders, the representatives of our country from the beginning of our country to our current day president and we can see that we are a nation at risk and a nation that is attempting to silence God.

“It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect. – **George Washington** – *1st Inaugural Address*

“We Americans do not consider ourselves a Christian nation, or a Muslim nation, but rather, a nation of citizens who are bound by a set of values.” – **President Barack Obama** – *Press conference in Turkey – April 06, 2009*

- *What are ways that our nation is trying to silence God?*

Our current study will examine this subject in greater detail as we break our study down into two basic segments. The following segments will be the course of our current study:

- **Section One – Infringement of the State on the Church**
- **Section Two – Prayer: Removing God’s Hand from His People**

Section One – Infringement of the State on the Church

Isaiah 55:6-13 – Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."

- *What does this passage declare about pursuing God and His Word?*
- *What does it declare about ignoring God and His Word?*

We continually read throughout Scripture of the blessing of the Lord being upon a nation that pursues Him as their God. We also read of the curse that falls upon a nation that turns away from God. There are many ways that we find ourselves fleeing from God as a nation but there is only one way that we surrender (**With All of Our Heart, Soul, and Mind.**)

Today, we watch headlines, listen to congressional and presidential addresses, and we read policies that are mandated into law that are opposite of fearing and honoring God. Our government has chosen the side of pleasing man over honoring God and His ordinances which means that God will eventually give our nation over to the desire that it craves to pursue with its heart. Read the results of what happens when God gives a people and a nation over to the desires of their hearts.

Romans 1:21-25 – For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised. Amen.

- **Does this text describe our nation today? In what ways? Explain.**

One major way that our nation has fled from God has been in the area of declaring the separation of Church and State in such a way that it literally tries to silence God and His Word in all political and public matters. Let us begin this part of the study by briefly looking at the 1st Amendment where the courts declare this policy comes from.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

- The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Questions to Consider

- *What does the First Amendment state in your own words?*
- *Does it declare that the Government has the right to determine what a church can or cannot state? (Facts on Hate Crimes Bill)¹*
- *Does the 1st Amendment hinder or help our country pursue God? Explain.*

The First Amendment has two very important clauses that we need to pay careful attention to. The first clause is the “**The Establishment Clause**” and the second is the “**Free Exercise Clause.**” These two clauses simply state that the government does not have the right to mandate a state church like the Anglican Church of England and it cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion.

Section Two – Prayer: Removing God’s Hand from His People

The second section of our study deals with the area of prayer and the government. Over the last several decades there has been a large assault on the Christian’s right to pray publicly and for our government officials to recognize God in a public manner.

- *Why has prayer and recognition of God been taken out of public speeches and wiped off governmental buildings? Explain.*

The first landmark case that set the tone for prayer being removed from the public arena comes to us with the case of *Murray vs. Curlett*. It is described below.

Madalyn Murray O’Hair – Filed for the lawsuit, *Murray v. Curlett*, which led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling that ended the practice of daily prayer in American public schools. O’Hair later founded American Atheists and became so controversial that, in 1964, *Life* magazine referred to her as “the most hated woman in America.”

- *What happens when a Christian stops praying? What does impact does this have on their lives?*
- *What happens when prayer is ripped away from a nation? Explain.*

Psalm 46:1-3, 10 – God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹ Note – A copy of the Hate Crimes Bill and the Fact Sheet can be given to you upon request.

Psalm 68:4 – Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds his name is the LORD - and rejoice before him.

Isaiah 40:14-15 – Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding? Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

One of the results that we have seen as a nation that is adrift in the area of prayer is seen in the area of the fallout since this landmark court ruling. We have seen that after prayer was removed from school then the ungodly men and women of our country laid siege to our government with lawsuits and complaints about God being recognized by our leaders even in the smallest degree. Examine one court ruling in 2005.

One Nation Under God Illegal (Wednesday, September 14, 2005)

Judge rules Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional – 'Under God' reference not appropriate for public schools, he says Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional, a federal court judge ruled today, saying that the pledge's reference to "under God" violated school children's right to be "free from a coercive requirement to affirm God."

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/09/14/MNpledge14.DTL#ixzz0Rx2VidSU>

- ***How can we respond to this attack as Christians?***

Psalm 14:1 – The fool has said in his heart, There is no God.

Conclusion

We have been charged by the Word of God to confront ungodliness and unrighteousness in the most Godly and peaceful manner that we can. We have a great responsibility to educate ourselves in order to be ready to give a defense for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Many will seek hope in days ahead and are currently looking for "Hope they Can Believe In!" Let us give them the real Jesus!