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THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXVII ISSUE 6

JUNE 20, 2003

Three Questions for American Christians

These three articles are reprinted from "The Baptist Heritage". Some references to time may be dated, but the principles and truth discussed are as valid today as they were in 1996.

1. Can I Sincerely Pray "God Bless America?"

While I am certain that many who read this issue of The Baptist Heritage will not agree with the position stated in this article, I firmly believe that it expresses what ought to be said, and should be said in unmistakable terms. Believers must be called to consider this particular topic and must be confronted with the implications involved. Just in case, you have been 'Rip Van Winkling' along, this 'year of our Lord 1996' is important for our nation. Some have described it as the most crucial time in the nation's existence; however, that seems to overlook Valley Forge, Fort Sumter, Pearl Harbor, and a few other times. Even so, this is indeed a crisis time.

For too long, 'America' and 'Christianity' have been so intertwined in sermons, that in the minds of many sincere believers, the two are simply synonyms. Christianity has been clothed, by politicians and preachers, with the garb of patriotism, capitalism and the free enterprise system—in short, many 'Christians' have become convinced that America is the Kingdom of God come on earth and that this is, or is supposed to be, the Promised Land. Too many 'Christians' try to take the promises and the laws given to Israel and forcibly apply them

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this and that

Editor and Staff

Jerald L. Manley Gary Roland
Dorothy Gundersen J. Alan Wolf

AMERICA AT WAR

There is no doubt in the minds of most Americans that this nation is at war. Terrorists are a different style enemy than the opponents America faced in her previous wars. From The War of Independence through The Gulf War, America fought nations. Certainly, every war had a foe with a different ideological foundation and that difference was a precipitate cause of the conflict. Whether the British in 1776 or 1812, the Spanish in 1898, the Germans in 1917 and 1941, Korea, Viet Nam, or even the cold war with the Soviet Union, every nation and the ideology that resulted in war was coexistent. Now, we are confronted with an enemy that has a religious ideological identification but the enemy is not confined or defined by national borders—not even our own. A factor complicating this war is that the national leadership does not view (or is not willing to admit) the philosophy that fuels this war on America as a religious ideology. Totalitarianism (WW I), Nazism, Fascism, and Expansionism (WW II), and even Communism were clearly labeled for what they were—the ideology that caused nations to be our enemies. In this conflict, politically correct, post-modern America handicaps herself because she cannot bring her-

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this and that

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self to denigrate or malign any religion except biblical Christianity.

However, there is a greater war against America than that of these 'crusading' Islamic warriors. There are principalities and powers motivated by Satan attempting to conquer America. I believe that the purpose is to quench the light of the proclamation of

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the truth of the word of God. The liberty of America gave believers the greatest opportunity ever to spread the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world. That is changing under the pressure of the emergence of 'a national religion'—the state church of America is quickly evolving from the contemporary ooze of the politically correctness of post-modernity. Those anchored to the Bible are under increasingly heavy attack and the battle is going against them. Not only are they outnumbered and outmaneuvered, believers are falling victim to the wiles of the devil.

As an example, for generations, in spite of the national sins and failures, America was a country sending Christian missionaries—now she needs them sent to her. Even among those claiming to be mission minded, the majority of American churches are more interested in the erection of playrooms (AKA Children's church, youth activities, Family Life Centers, and a myriad of special social programs) and the construction of new whopper-sized auditoriums than they are in sending missionaries. Sound systems in many Baptist churches exceed in cost the actual annual dollar amount disbursal to legitimate mission projects.

The next issue will, the LORD willing, deal with those marvelous sound systems. Trivial? Wait and see.

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—Pastor Manley

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purpose of being very direct and most personal.

If you have not received the LORD JESUS CHRIST as your Saviour, then you are spiritually dead even while you continue to live physically. Your grave plot may be purchased already or it may be bought by those you leave behind. Your tombstone may even now be carved awaiting only the addition of the date or it still may be a part of a boulder in a quarry. Your physical funeral may be in the very near future or it may not be scheduled for many years. It is scheduled, for "it is appointed unto man (every man and every woman) once to die." Just as surely as you are alive, you will leave this life to face God someday. That someday could be any of the days of your life.

Today, you are yet alive physically; but you are already dead spiritually. You are a dead man, a dead woman, a dead youth still walking, still talking, still moving, still breathing; but you are spiritually dead. You have the life flowing from Adam; you need the life flowing from Jesus Christ. Ephesians, chapter 2, declares that all who have not received the atonement provided by the blood of Christ are already dead in trespasses and sins. Those who do call upon the name of the Lord are made alive in Christ. John 3, verse 36, states beyond the possibility of confusion that if you have not believed on the Son of God then you shall not see life—church membership or no church membership, baptism or no baptism, good intentions or no good intentions—but the wrath of God already abides on you just waiting for the day you step into eternity. Verse 18 of John 3 plainly says "he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." The difference in eternal life and eternal death, Heaven and Hell, is the acceptance or rejection of the blood of Jesus Christ as the sole means of salvation.

Life does not come through churches, religious rites or good intentions; it comes through God's simple plan of salvation. Christ Jesus died for our sins and whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Come to Him today; do it now, without delay.

—Pastor Jerald Manley

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to this land. I would that I had a handful of change for every time I have heard some preacher (most preachers that I hear are Baptist) proclaim, to loud "AAAAAMENS" (never to an AAHHHHMEN, of course), that God called America into being and that this is a Christian nation—or, when they are appealing to the masses—a Judaic-Christian nation.

After all, as we are often reminded, the Supreme Court once upon a time (sounds like a fairy tale) ruled (in one decision) that the United States is a Christian nation. So what, the Supreme Court once also ruled that Dred Scott was a non-person because he was a slave; that babies in the womb are a mere appendage of the body and may be discarded as a woman would a ruptured appendix or a cancerous tumor; that "the well being of the land" (AKA public policy) takes precedence over time honored, strongly held, sincerely believed, fervently practiced, Bible based religious beliefs; that prayer in public is an affront to the conscience of the non-believer while profanity is a constitutionally protected free speech right, that burning the American Flag is protected free speech—need I continue to cite the bad judgment exercised by the Supreme Court?

While we have often been fortunate, as a nation, to have decent honest judges sit on that high bench, we have also been unfortunate to have some who apparently were neither and some who never seem to have even bothered to read the Constitution a single time! I have no fear in predicting that the Supreme Court of the United States (which opens every session with "God save the court") will be found often reversed and frequently overruled at the final review before the Great White Throne by the living and true God! The Supreme Court is not a credible authority on whether or not America is a Christian nation.

I quickly and gladly concede that when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, they (the Pilgrims) were predominately Christian in personal faith, moral conscience, and in both private and public practice—there is even some evidence to indicate that several were actually Baptists in affiliation. *The Mayflower Compact* is a marvelous piece of historical record to read and certainly expressed sincere Christian desires and intentions.

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Yet, in the passage of time, religious persecution (NOT BY THE PILGRIMS but) by 'the established church' in Massachusetts, Virginia, Maryland, and elsewhere was common. A century and a half later—four or so generations from the Pilgrims, when the founding fathers wrote the Declaration of Independence (largely the verbiage, as all authorities affirm, of Thomas Jefferson—a man who literally took his scissors and removed all supernatural events or teachings from the New Testament to produce the real "Jesus" [which act he declared to be as easy as distinguishing "diamonds in a dung-hill"]—The Jefferson Bible is available through any book distributor as ISBN 0-8050-3853-1) and the Constitution, they (the founding fathers) were not predominately Christian in personal faith, moral conscience and in both private and public practice. The molders of the nation were merely "greatly influenced in their thinking by the Bible, moral values, and their church (sic)."¹ These founders (Jefferson was not one of the framers of the Constitution as he was in France), except for three² were identified as "orthodox members of one of the established Christian communions: approximately twenty-nine Anglicans, sixteen to eighteen Calvinists, two Methodists, two Lutherans, two Roman Catholics, one lapsed Quaker and sometime-Anglican, and one open Deist—Dr. Franklin who attended every kind of Christian worship, called for public prayer, and contributed to all denominations."³

These may have been good men, perhaps the greatest that this nation has ever produced, and they certainly assembled a noble document, properly ranked among the greatest ever written by mere men—but they were not inspired by God and the Constitution is not a sacred or spiritual Covenant made by or with God.

It is not my purpose to defame any of the founders and in such a short article I could not give biographical sketches of each of the 55 delegates (sixteen of whom did not sign the document and some who did, did so with reluctance). It is also a historical fact, though no current history text used in the public schools would dare to reveal it, that Patrick Henry, elected as delegate from Virginia, so strongly opposed the concept of a Federal Constitution because it would place too much

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abundance for indebtedness, and her character for role-playing. Doing so, America turned from life unto death, and from that turning to her final demise, only a few short years passed.

Artificial, mechanical means prolonged the breathing lungs and the beating heart through the eighties and early nineties, but the brain waves had ceased and soon the inevitable shake of the doctor's head forced the plug to be pulled. The sham may continue, but America is dead.

We now await the funeral. No announcement has been made because the death is being denied. For varied reasons, funerals may take place years after a death or are held in secret and some are never held; but this funeral will be held. Sodom had a funeral. Gomorra had a funeral. Jericho had a funeral. Samaria had a funeral. Jerusalem had a funeral. Babylon had a funeral. Nineveh had a funeral. Assyria had a funeral. Greece had a funeral. Troy had a funeral. Rome had a funeral. And America will have her funeral. It may be fire falling from heaven, defensive walls tumbling down, invaders from the south, invaders from the north, enemies entering by deception and infiltration, falling from the rot of decay within or perhaps something entirely new; it makes no difference, the funeral will come because America is dead and the God of Recompenses is alive.

I do not know when the funeral of America will be held, but I know Who will schedule it—Who will preside over it, and Who will bury her. The funeral will be conducted by Almighty God. Perhaps He has the funeral scheduled to transpire before the Rapture, perhaps afterwards, perhaps during the Tribulation, perhaps this week, perhaps before the year 2000; perhaps it remains years away. I may see it and I may not. You may see it and you may not. All of that is immaterial; the funeral will come even if it seems delayed, because America is dead and God is alive.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART

I desire to become very personal. I wish to address my comments to you who are reading this article, just as if you and I were sitting across the table from each other right after supper. I have no intention of being offensive; however, I have every desire and

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of the world had found the magic elixir and would live forever. She drank deep of the sparkling potion thinking she had found the fountain of life; instead, she imbibed a deadly poison that, though slow in its action, was deadly in its results. From the moment she began to sip of that compound, she was as surely dead as if she were already in the grave. America thought she had discovered what all the previous generations had sought but never found; America turned all her energy to passion. Her desires, whether for material comfort, mental ambition, physical pleasure, or spiritual euphoria, became the consuming lust that took all the energy of her existence. In her attempts to fulfill all these cravings and to do so all together and all at once, she exposed herself to the fullness of sin. Sin became the game of society and social sin swept the nation. Whatever had been repugnant to her goodness, she now pursued with a Manhattan Project effort. Whatever had been perversion to her purity, she now embraced with the same effort she expended to put men on the moon. She fell in love with the love of sin. As sin presented the glittery cup, she drank deeply, entirely forgetting that "sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death." America died, consumed from within by her own sinfulness; and she died with neither bang nor whimper, right in the midst of the wild party. So seductive was her death, so successful was the party, that her dying spasms were mistaken as sighs of pleasure by her guests, and she died alone in the midst of the frivolity, unnoticed, and unmourned. She is dead though no network made mention and no news reporter has announced the passing.

How shall we remember America? We might describe America as the prophet described Nineveh of old, "the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart I am and there is none beside me" (Zephaniah 2:15) noting that America, as did the city, ascribed to herself those attributes reserved to God alone. No equal geographical space on earth had the abundance, variety, and wealth of resources as did she. No equivalent political space on this earth had the freedom and opportunity, as did she. The freedoms of her social, religious, and intellectual independence were coveted by the rest of the world. Yet, somewhere, sometime, for some reason, America exchanged her liberty for license, her freedom for bondage, her

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power beyond the state level that he refused to attend any sessions. Nor will it be taught that, finding the Constitution ratified, he led the fight to force the States to adopt the Bill Of Rights—all of which were left out of the original Constitution. Henry, perhaps the greatest orator and statesmen of his age (I think in American History.) was adamant for the Declaration ("I know not what course others may take . . . but give me liberty or give me death!"), but he feared and warned against the potential excesses coming from a central government. Leave reading the Federalist Papers for a while and take the time for a diligent reading of the Anti-Federalist Papers! (Yes, those are book titles and both are in print!) You just might find that Henry and others were right about some things.

I hasten to the point of this article "Can I, that is, do I have the ability by virtue of God-given authority to ask the Lord God Almighty to bless America? The word "bless" is interesting in its derivation as it comes to us from the Anglo-Saxon word (*bledsian* derived from *blod*) for blood and has the connotation of blood used as a means of consecration. (Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition gives the meaning of bless as: "to hallow or consecrate by religious rite or word, to invoke divine care for, to approve, to confer prosperity or happiness upon"—and then gives as the archaic use, which choice, by the way, will prove very often to identify the use of the King James translators—"to protect" or "to preserve"). Therefore, the question is "Do I have the authority from the Great Creator God of Heaven, the Lord God of Hosts, to ask that He would give America happiness and prosperity through His protection and preservation? Can I ask the Almighty God to bless this land—to consecrate America through a covenant of blood?

Certainly, I MAY say the words asking God to bless America, but CAN I pray them with a sincere expectation for God to do so? The question is not of the form that the sentence takes but the sincerity of the expectation. On what scriptural basis could I anticipate that God would or should bless America?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, is there an indication of any desire on the part of America (as a nation) to receive the blessing of

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God? This preacher has not found the smallest trace of evidence that America (as a nation) has any desire whatsoever to receive the blessing of the God of the Bible. Now, if that blessing were to come from Zeus, Apollo, Thor, Gaia—Mother Earth, the Earth Goddess, little green men from Mars, or giant purple women from Venus, then America would rush to accept it. But as long as the God of the Garden of Eden and of the Ten Commandments, and of Golgotha's Blood-stained Cross, the Empty Tomb, and the Great White Throne Judgment—the God of 'Thou Shalt Not' and the God of He That Honoreth Not The Son Honoreth Not the Father That Sent Him, in other words, the God of the Bible—is the One from Whom the blessing would come and to Whom the accountability must be given is involved, then America would reject the blessing by super majority vote! IF THE QUESTION WERE PLACED ON THIS NOVEMBER'S BALLOT [DO YOU WANT THE GOD OF THE BIBLE TO BLESS AMERICA?] IT WOULD LIKELY NOT RECEIVE AS MANY FAVORABLE VOTES AS MICKEY MOUSE GETS FOR PRESIDENT!

You desire proof? If the statistics of the polls are correct, then the MAJORITY of Americans deny the possibility of the Virgin Birth or Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ, reject the infallible inerrant inspiration of the Bible, repudiate the necessity of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus for salvation, and believe that they (individually or collectively) are the determinants of right and wrong. Americans by majority vote in these polls also endorse the continued butchering of unborn babies, desire to recognize the practice of homosexuality as a proper lifestyle, wish to eliminate the terminally ill and unproductive, make marijuana and its companions an acceptable recreational activity, prevent any mention of the God of the Bible in the "public" schools, and amend the Bill of Rights to fix Bible-thumpers and gun-nuts. Americans gladly accept the mass murderer Jack Kevorkian as a legitimate medical authority, Phil Donahue as a valid social commentator, Dan Rather as a genuine newsman, Madonna as a real singer, and the Dalai Lama as a great religious leader! I surely have no need to detail America's illogical choices for rational politicians.

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ties but apparently went into remission for forty years, as the character of the nation seemed to grow even stronger through the burdens and sacrifices of the Great Depression and World War II. Reappearing in the sixties, however, these seizures became violent. Obviously, urgent measures were needed, if America's health was to be salvaged. In her desperation, America chose alternative cures rather than to endure the possible horrors that many predicted would result from the catastrophic surgery some suggested as vital. Those alternative 'medicines' proved to be her destruction. She tried them all and in abundance. From material idolatry to sexual perversions, from Eastern mysticism to Satan worship, from old paganism to New Age religious practices, from indulgence with drugs to inundation with alcohol, from lasciviousness to luxury—America freely gave herself in extravagant dissipation. America died of an over-dose of gratification.

America was a good country, for the most part, a moral and decent, even God-fearing country. She never became a true Christian, but she surely had all the outward evidences of Christian knowledge and biblical values. Like so many others, she knew the truth and adapted her lifestyle and manners to conform to that knowledge, but she never truly repented of sin and turned to God for salvation. In the dark hours of bloody battle or other adversity, America could pray with the saints; but in her times of prosperity, America would play with the sinners. Even after her terrible experience when the roaring times of sex, drugs, and booze came to a sudden stop in 1929 and such an awesome harvest of broken banks, broken lives, and broken hearts was reaped, America would fall again as soon as prosperity returned. It took a generation, but the fabulous fifties began an unparalleled expansion of her economy and an unimagined elevation of her living standard that continues nearly fifty years later, with only minor 'corrections' along the way. America reached for the moon, and she got it. Then, at the zenith of her physical glory, America died.

The death might appear sudden, but it was not. The death rattle began in the turbulence of the sixties and grew worse in the rebellion of the seventies. America's was not a skin problem but a disease that attacked the very vital organs deep within the body. She began to believe that she alone of all the empires

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is a fraud intended and used to deceive. America is dead, she just has not been buried yet.

The charade cannot be maintained much longer because the corpse cannot be kept intact much longer; already the delicate nose can detect the smell of death and the keen eye can discern the pallor beneath the cracked make-up. It will not be long before the buzzing of flies will attract the attention of even the duller minds. Already, high in the sky a few, slow circling vultures fly, waiting for the commotion to cease so they can feast on the carcass. America is dead; the funeral has not yet been announced, but it is scheduled.

America was a great country before her strength was drained by moral decay, when her freedoms were honored not cleverly manipulated, when jails had the bars on the windows and the locks on the doors and homes were left open and stayed safe, when her leaders kept the doors to their bedrooms closed, when her preachers identified sin by name, rank and serial number, when baseball was still a game, when George Washington had his own holiday, when culture meant something different than the slime that slides out of a test tube, when babies were welcomed by both parents and not slaughtered by doctors, when her military was entered with pride and her soldiers did not wear pantyhose, when family meant marriage, home and responsibilities, when gay was an adjective and not a noun, when women wore hats, gloves, and clothes in public, when booze was sold in beer joints and not in gas stations and at religious round-ups, when children were well educated in reading, writing, and arithmetic but were well ignorant of sex, smut and drugs, when teachers fought running in the halls, chewing gum, spit-balls and talking out of turn, and when police-persons were called peace officers. Those were good, old days; those days when America was great because, as Tocqueville wrote, she was good. She ceased being good; and, as he predicted, she, thereby, ceased being. America is dead; the internment awaits.

Before her death, America displayed several distinctive symptoms of a specific disease. Convulsions began in the twen-

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The sad, but true, fact is that America does not want the true God anywhere near America!

Well then, IN THE SECOND PLACE, where might I turn in Scripture to find that God promises to answer a prayer to bless this sin-laden, guilt-ridden, ungodly nation? It will not be found in the Books of Moses, not in the works of the prophets, not in the Gospels, not in the Epistles, and not in The Revelation. Rather, in every section of the Book, one will find clear promises of judgment on any nation that rejects God, His word, and His Son.

Preachers and believers alike must wake to the truth—judgment, not blessing, awaits this nation. I hope the Rapture occurs before this happens (IT WILL OCCUR BEFORE THE PROPHESED TRIBULATION), but it may not. America does not desire, nor does she deserve the blessing of God. She merits the wrath of an indignant offended righteous God and she will receive it in His time.

1. Faith of Our Founding Fathers, Tim LaHaye, page 30
2. *ibid*, page 30
3. M. E. Bradford as quoted by Dr. LaHaye, page 30

2. *How did America Die?*

CORONERS SUMMARY: The corpse was described as a corpulent, grossly bloated, body of an elderly, malnourished and seriously abused female suffering from several forms of malignant carcinoma that had spread into all the vital organs and the bones. Any of these would have eventually resulted in death; however, the exact cause of death was found to be a particularly malignant form of heart disease: a heart exercised with covetous practices (2 Peter 2:14), hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13), and rotted with the unbelief of departing from the living God (Hebrews 3:12).

"Land of the Pilgrims' pride"—older Christians fondly remember America in terms of this descriptive phrase from "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." Their land of memory no longer exists. They may recall the prayer with which the hymn ends, "Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King." However, even few of

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them, and apparently none others, know that the last line of The Star Spangled Banner is a prayer and a praise to the God of Heaven:

"Oh, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand between their loved homes and the war's desolation; Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven-rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just; And this be our motto: In God is our Trust!"

When the ACLU finds time to read that last verse of our National Anthem, that organization will undoubtedly bring suit to remove it on the basis that it is a religious sentiment sponsored by the government—a breach of the wall of separation of church and state. Actually, it little matters what the ACLU and the other *remove-all-vestiges-of-America's-religious-past* gang do now. This is true for two simple reasons—(First) America, "the land of the Pilgrims' pride" has died, and (Second) those who now use the name of America no longer know Who God Is. In fact, America no longer knows whether the question should be 'if God is' or 'what God is.' However, in her quandary, America is absolutely adamant that whatever or whoever her god or gods and goddesses might be, she will not allow the Holy God of the Bible to be considered as a possibility?

The first two presidents of this republic were prophetic in their messages to the nation. George Washington's Farewell Address contains the following prediction, now blood-chilling in its foresight,

"Reason and experience both forbid us that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

John Adams later wrote,

"The United States Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other."

How wise and how right both men were in their warning of the potential demise of their nation.

The "land of the Pilgrims' pride," this "sweet land of liberty," became, in the late middle of the twentieth century, the

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George Washington all knew the same America. The America of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and, Patrick Henry was the same America of George Patton, Dwight Eisenhower, and Douglas MacArthur. Tom Mix, Wild Bill ("Red Ryder") Elliot, and John Wayne knew the same America as did John Chisum, Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett. Dolly Madison, Annie Oakley and Shirley Temple all grew up in the same America. But the America they all knew has passed away; she died and the corpse is awaiting burial. Not one of those patriots would recognize this apparition of today as the America of his/her heart and mind. The America for which Francis Scott Key, John Philip Sousa, and Irving Berlin wrote songs, for which Alexander Hamilton, Henry Clay, and William Jennings Bryan gave speeches, for which John Paul Jones, Sergeant York, and Audie Murphy fought, for which Nathaniel Hawthorne, Crispus Attucks, and Gus Grissom died—that America is gone. This tawdry caricature, this cheap imitation of the reality that once was is as grossly distorted from the original as if it were being viewed in the warped mirrors of the fun house of a carnival. The America all those patriots knew was a sweet land of hope, of opportunity, of freedom where the peoples of many nations were melted, merged and molded into one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all. Certainly, that old America had her problems, but her problems were problems of deeds not character. America did not always live up to her knowledge; she corrected her bad habits far too slowly, but she did try. Now, she is dead.

America is deceased; she simply has not been entombed yet. The corpse is painted, polished, and paraded, but the appearance of decay can already be detected. When the occasion calls for her appearance, an excerpt from an old film is dubbed into modern settings to convey the illusion of her presence and vitality. Even so, the observant observer will notice that the words are not in synchronization with the movement of her lips. And, though the voice is almost perfect, the mimicry falls short. The accent is wrong; the breathing is unnatural, and the phrasing is missed. The lady is dead and what is shown as alive

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over to all manner of wickedness, a body ravaged by the effects of over-indulgence, and God's offer of salvation ignored.

Dear Reader, before your heart becomes hardened and your conscience becomes seared, realize that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. "Fear God." That sentence (1 Peter 2:17) is, I believe, the shortest one in the New Testament—not verse but sentence, only two words with just seven letters in total. Eternal Truth is always easily expressed with simple words, such as:

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Harden not your hearts.

Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

3. When Will The Funeral Be?

Those few remaining who can personally recall the glory days of America, when she was the envy of all the world and the desire of all peoples, remember a place that has passed away and is gone forever. This place now known as the United States of America is not the "good old US of A." George M. Cohan would testify under oath that this current creature is an impostor and a poor counterfeit attempt at that. Kate Smith would deny she ever knew this America or anyone remotely similar. While it is likely that less than 20% of my readers know anything about either George or Kate, my readers are the poorer for that ignorance. I would not swap one flag waving Kate Smith for a million flesh-waving Madonna's, nor would I trade ten million slop-writing Webber's for one song writing George Cohan. No intelligent broker would even offer such a deal, knowing the exchange would be laughed out of intelligent, polite society. The America that George and Kate knew is gone.

Teddy Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and

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home of arrogant anti-followers-of-the-God-of-the-Bible residents and the bitterly sour land of the libertine. Absolutes and Morals were replaced by Majority Vote and Popular Practice. Americans have forgotten that majority vote takes its final existence in the form of mob rule; the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ is *THE* example of what the majority of humanity would always like to do with God.

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His anointed, saying, Let us cast away their cords from us" (Psalm 2).

In the seventies and the eighties, some so-called Christians resorted to describing what is right or wrong in terms of the will of an entity they called 'the moral majority,' rather than standing upon the old, non-negotiable moral absolutes of the Bible. Rather than proclaiming that "Almighty God, the Judge of all the earth, says this is right and that is wrong," these (perhaps well-meaning, but) totally ill-advised and wrongly led people proclaimed the message that *America should be moral because the majority of her people want her to be moral*. In other words, it was on the authority of the expressed will of the majority of people that abortion on demand be stopped, that homosexuality be opposed, that promiscuity be condemned, that the rate of illegitimacy be reduced, and that drugs be eliminated from the streets and the schools of the nation. Morality was reduced, by preachers, to the will of the majority.

This was, regardless of what was allegedly intended, a surrender of the uniqueness of biblical Christianity. The very concession that the morals of America should be determined by the majority of Americans was a victory for humanism and the Devil himself. This surrender was an immense assistance to the forces that helped bring about the death of America. From that change in the pulpit message in Baptist churches forward, the standard by which morality was now forever to be determined and to be regulated in America was yielded to 'the will of the majority.'

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How it was possible for good godly people to fall into this wicked path is explainable only by the fact that the people followed the wrong leaders. Leaders, who themselves measured spirituality as 'success by numbers' and not as 'faithfulness in obedience,' were easily duped by Satan to believe that the amassing of numbers alone (AKA: the majority) would or could 'save America.' By violating Scripture in their compromises, these very preachers became the accomplices, if not the henchmen, of those who eventually accomplished and rejoiced over the death of America.

Sadly, an alleged Baptist preacher led (whether wittingly or unwittingly only eternity will reveal) this movement to change the underlying authority for America's morals. From that era onward and forever, America would never again be held to the standard of Absolutes, of The Commandments issued by the God of Heaven; His 'opinion,' the revealed word of God, no longer would carry any more weight of authority than would the desires of any others who might cast their votes or raise their voices. Americans were not accountable to the law of God, but to the whim of the masses.

All men and women were not created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights under this substituted standard; instead, humanity was legislated and adjudicated equality and then graciously permitted by their most kind and benevolent government the privilege to enjoy certain specified and often licensed freedoms. Whereas the founding fathers and mothers had envisioned freedom as 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,' freedom was redefined as the pursuit of happiness and the revoking of all restraints. Liberty, by definition, is a life ruled by boundaries established by authority and America determined to have no master, especially not the God of her fathers and mothers. Morality (once called righteousness by Baptist preachers) was reduced to the determination of one man, one vote. Everyone was freed from the alleged bondage of responsibility to follow a God defined order; everyone was released to do whatever was right in his/her own eyes. One person's (any and every one person's) vote

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God, sin, or the Bible.

God was deported beyond the borders and the paganism of the whole world was imported. From the East came philosophies that had for centuries held those lands of their origin in the bondage of filth, ignorance, and poverty. From Tibet came a man claiming to be god in the flesh. From Korea came a false messiah. From China came alternative medicines (some of which are nothing less than witchcraft but fervently accepted by Christian and non-Christian alike) and the wisdom of Confucius and Mao. From India came Transcendental Meditation and other mystical blends of Buddhism. From Native Americans returned shamanism, blended with the witchcraft of Africa and the superstition of South America. From the ancient past rose the goddesses. All that had prospered America was discarded—replaced by all that had impoverished other peoples. In this new moral America, intelligent men and women pack suitcases, put on track shoes, and commit suicide to get aboard a space ship hiding behind a comet. Thousands gather at various convergent points to stand with upraised hands chanting UMMMMMMM together to bring peace to the world. The leading 'role models' of politics and Hollywood taut the science fiction lunacies of L. Ron Hubbard as religion. In the current edition of *Religions in America*, on finds listed, as a valid religion, a group who *worship Elvis and await his return*. The concocted "force" of Star Wars is designated a religion in Australia and could be in America.

America did not become irreligious, she became ungodly. Like the Israelites of old, the God that brought them into the land was discarded for the gods of the pagans that were removed from the land. America has become the land of pyramid power, of crystals and chants, of the dream catcher, of the psychic, of the Satan worshiper, of the extra-terrestrial abduction, of reincarnation, of all that was mental-ward material a mere fifty years ago.

America dead spiritually, lost all her fear of God and that was the cause of her national death. She died with a heart hardened by rebellion, a conscience dulled by sin, a mind given

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lived in peace and harmony. It is true that the Native Americans had major quarrels among themselves, but the Pilgrims did not set about destroying Native Americans. However, while the Pilgrims were landing and trying to survive, others were moving in on this new land. For generations school children were taught about the Pilgrims and very little was said of these other settlers. In my view, it was because the Pilgrims were possessed of a noble purpose and were respected and considered as representing what America desired to be, while some of the others had quite different motives in mind.

As the Pilgrims were busy in New England, 'New Spain' was also being established. There the motive was quite simple; the search was for gold, the fountain of youth, and more gold. What are now Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America were plundered and pillaged. In America, what are now Florida, the Southwest and California were given the same treatment for the same reasons. The middle of the Gulf States was designed as a 'New France' where the pursuit of pleasure came even before the search for treasure.

Sadly, it is my observation that after the course of time the land of the Pilgrims' pride has succumbed to the heritage of the lust and greed of the pleasure and treasure seekers. Beginning in the late middle of this century, all mention of the God of the Pilgrims and of America's godly heritage disappeared from the education of our young and as the basis for our government. The Pilgrims were forgotten and misidentified with those later arrivals, the Puritans, some of whom (but by no means all) were indeed tyrannical, self-righteous, and Christians in-name-only. The following generations of American 'Christians' were lumped together with all who arrived on these shores and presented as being the gold seeking, slave making, land plundering, pleasure loving pillagers that some settlers and some professing Christians indeed had been. The Christian heritage was defamed and destroyed. The Bible's authority was denied and deleted. Court cases were overturned on the basis that the courtroom had a wall display of the Ten Commandments or when the prosecuting attorney made reference to

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was now as important, as decisive, as authoritative as once had been the declared will of Almighty God. Men and women were not only equal with each other, but they were now viewed as superior to God—having the deciding vote on right and wrong.

America was inundated with a slick new slogan every season to sell this premise, such as 'different strokes for different folks,' 'whatever floats your boat,' 'have it your way,' 'as long as it is personal, it is nobody else's business,' 'question authority,' 'let your conscience be your guide,' 'follow your heart'; 'if it feels good, it must be right,' 'decide for yourself, God gave you a brain,' 'don't knock it, if you ain't tried it,' 'only you know what is right for you,' 'try it, you'll like it,' 'where you are, god is,' and on and on. Post Modernism assumed the power of the controlling legal authority for the Republic. As a result, almost overnight, core values and community standards became the newly established absolutes used to determine the moral tone of each local community. Such absolutes were anything but absolutes; they were always floating in transition, awaiting the next wave of voting, the next voice of leading. Every 'adult' became liberated to do anything he or she enjoyed or just wanted to try to discover if it might be enjoyed. Integrity, Honor, and Virtue became as optional as clothing, or, perhaps I should say that clothing became as optional as Integrity, Honor, and Virtue. Duty, Responsibility, and Accountability were discarded as denigrating words. Liberty was redefined as licentiousness and lasciviousness; depravity and amorality became the signs of the times. This newly defined freedom became the motto of the masses: *leave me to do and be what I want to do and be*. What previous generations had sent missionaries and ambassadors around the world to change was now the accepted conduct for Americans. The nation of America, not just Christians, but the government itself, once sent missionaries and ambassadors abroad to fight and to stop infanticide, witchcraft, opium dens, and pagan idolatrous practices. Suddenly, all those vices and more were on Main Street and playing quite well, as the saying goes, in Peoria. It is no wonder that America died.

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When America lost her absolutes, she no longer had a fear of God. She determined that the God of the Bible would not be her God; but she now worshipped gods and goddesses in abundance. One popular female personality announced on national television that "I am god"; but then, according to her, everyone else is god also. An elected politician described (in his Earth in the Balance) the earth as a goddess and proclaimed

"it seems obvious that a better understanding of a religious heritage preceding our own by so many thousands of years could offer us new insights into the nature of the human experience (Page 260)."

One wonders to whom or to what this man took his oath of office when he said, "so help me God." Sir, you were raised, you claim, as a Baptist. If so, then you were not given a religious heritage, you should have been given revealed truth. With more concern for trees, snails and mice than for human babies, the politicians and jurists have had forty million babies torn from the womb, tortured and butchered in the name of freedom. Their stifled cries, smothered in the pillow of a woman's constitutional right, would prove in any honest courtroom, as a single exhibit, that the moral and the God-fearing America of the Pilgrims' pride is dead.

The self-described moral majority and the media named religious right were the driving force in electing as president a man whose wife made major decisions of her (and his) life based upon consultations with an astrologer, who checked to see what 'the stars' decreed. Only four years after his retirement from two terms of office, the new moral America sent into the Oval Office a man whose wife did not consult astrologers to let 'the stars' tell her what to do, she employed a medium who communicated through séances with the dead for advice and counsel. (And, her pastor described her as "one of the leading lay theologians in the Methodist church today".) Within four years of the president of the moral majority leaving office, the president elected by new moral America began his term of office by appointing openly homosexual men and women to the highest positions in the executive and judicial

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branches of government. Even when the polls reported that the overwhelming majority of Americans believed that President lied as a way of life and was been continually unfaithful to his marriage vows, the same polls reflected that just as many Americans, the new moral majority, approve of his job performance. Before you get mad at me for writing about these two presidents, think over what I wrote. I am indicting a whole nation, not two men. I am writing about morals in general and not politics in particular; and, I have the same right to do so as did John the Baptist when he told King Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife as his wife. Apparently, no civil law, Roman or Jewish, was in question; John the Baptist did not appeal to what the majority of the kingdom thought; John simply said that the God of Heaven had written a set of laws that stood above the will of any majority or the whim of any King. You may be as mad at me right now as MS Herodias was with John the Baptist; you may even wish you could have the head of old Jerry the Baptist on a platter. But you have no honest alternative other than admit that the statements I have made are truth; and, while truth may be unpleasant or unwanted, it remains truth. Americans find this new moral climate favorable, I find it deplorable. It matters not what the majority of Americans vote, God's Absolutes will never be rescinded, repealed, or revised. The new America accepts, in violation of Scripture (Deuteronomy 18:10-12), astrology, necromancy, broken vows, and lying tongues because the America of the Pilgrims' pride is dead.

Those Pilgrims came to this land to be free to worship God according to the stipulations of His revealed word and after the dictates of their hearts. They wrote a specific document, *The Mayflower Compact*, before they stepped ashore pledging themselves to do exactly that before the God of Heaven. When they landed, they stopped to pray before any other task was undertaken. For generations, Plymouth Rock stood as a reminder of how this land came to be and the Book of the God of those Pilgrims was 'the bulwark of the land.' Those Pilgrims had no problems with Native Americans; the two communities

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