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Our series continues with this text, "Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number" (Jeremiah 2:32).

Let me say, leadership can exalt a nation or wreak havoc upon it.

In less than a year, the Biden administration has not only brought great suffering but has also brought great peril upon America. In less than one year, all oil products have increased nearly 60% and most other products are up at least 20% because of inflation. Fertilizer is a petroleum based product, so the cost of food will escalate exponentially next year.

The Bible declares, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach (or disgrace) to any people (or nation)" (Proverbs 14:34). As a nation, Israel was highly exalted when its kings faithfully served Jehovah through acts of righteousness, however, Israel was debased and brought low when their kings were wicked and committed evil acts. It was so bad at one point that a donkey's head sold for 80 silver shekels, which was about 64 cents per shekel, amounting to about \$51.20 (2 Kings 6:25). We also read where a fourth of a cab of doves' dung (one pint) sold for five pieces of silver or about \$3.25. Those results were due to Israel's sin and rebellion against Jehovah.

You don't think because of our sin God's judgment can come overnight upon America? Consider this, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 33:12). To be a blessed nation means to be a happy and fruitful one. Regrettably the past blessings within our nation could quickly erode by the impending

WHEN A NATION FORGETS GOD! – Part 2

darkness prophesied by Joe Biden, which he called a *Dark Winter*.

This generation has no idea of the grave pain and suffering of previous generations. This is why today's generation is known as the *snow-flakes*, because they melt and whither with the smallest amount of adversity. People easily quit and run to "safe places" because they cannot endure hardness as a good soldier.

We are told, "... quit you like men, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13). The apostle Paul warns his young spiritual son, Timothy, "Thou therefore endure hardness (or hardships), as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 2:3). Enduring hardness means suffering evil or affliction because of living a righteous, godly life. The apostle Peter declared, "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing" (1 Peter 3:17).

I believe it is imperative today's church prepare for great persecution in the coming days. Most pulpiteers refuse to preach anything regarding suffering or heartache in this life.

Did you know, at one time, Adolf Hitler was very religious? He was baptized as a Catholic but soon abandoned his faith. Hitler did not mind if others attended church, as long as they did not change the way they lived or the beliefs they held. Hitler called this ideology, "Positive Christianity".

Most people don't understand this is exactly what we are witnessing in American Christianity today. That which is spewed from the pulpits today is a positive perspective concerning Christianity which de-

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nies true discipleship. True discipleship demands each believer bear their cross and endure sound doctrine. In this present hour, most Christians will not joyfully bear their cross and endure sound doctrine. Nevertheless that does not negate what the Word of God demands concerning true discipleship.

Jesus declared, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me". (Luke 9:23). When was the last time you heard a minister preach anything about denying one's self and bearing their cross?

Recently, I heard a man say, "I repent all the time." My response was, "Your repentance must not last very long because you curse and smoke pot every day!" People who daily live sinfully do not possess the Spirit of Christ. They are not merely missing the mark but living in sin.

The apostle Paul gave a great prophetic end-times warning as he penned his final letter to Timothy:

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ (Paul is declaring Elohim is his witness along with Christ), who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts (that which is forbidden) shall they heap (or themselves accumulate) to teachers, having itching (or tickling) ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned (or

turn their ears) *unto fables* (lies) (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

Many modern-day Christians will not endure nor embrace sound doctrine or preaching. Men no longer endure sound doctrine but rather seek that which is forbidden and accumulate teachers who tickle their ears. Think of Paul's words. Most preachers today sound, dress, and appear alike in a religious and hypocritical display of false virtue. Prophetically, Paul warns that laypeople will turn to fiction or that which is false. The apostle Peter gave the same warning: "And through covetousness (fraud and extortion) shall they with feigned words (or plastic words) make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not" (2 Peter 2:3). Never before has this prophetic Word been more evident than today!

Let me define *Positive Christianity*: Redemption without repentance, forgiveness without confession, followers of Christ without bearing a cross, a Heaven to gain without a Hell to shun, and a flagrant unwillingness to speak against sin and lawlessness.

Adolf Hitler used the term *Positive Christianity* in point 24 of the 1920 Nazi Party Platform, stating: "The Party, as such, stands for *positive Christianity*, but does not commit itself to any particular denomination" (text: *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*).

Though I am presently a nondenominational minister, and have been since 2002, I've witnessed most denominational preachers never speak of their denomination or address their tenants or doctrines. It's as though these men are unwilling to stand for anything and don't want to be identified with any particulars.

Nazism had been hostile toward Germany's established churches. How many denominational leaders today are crying against the sins and the evils of our nation? How many church leaders cry against abortion, sodomy, same-sex marriage, gay pastors, and vaccine horrors?

Just as it was in the days of Hitler, today's preachers are failing to stand. Publicly, Martin Niemöller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer were the only two Lutheran pastors who took a biblical stand in their evil hour.

Nazi *Positive Christianity* appeased Germany's Christian majority; implying it was not anti-Christian.

Today, Christianity has been marginalized by failures from the pulpits and our government not wanting Christianity to affect its policies. Most churches and denominations have disobeyed the words of Jesus, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). Sadly the light Jesus spoke of cannot be found on Capitol Hill! The church has compromised and hidden the light that should be shining ever so brightly over Capitol Hill. Through compromise and sin, the church no longer has a light on Capitol Hill. Therefore, Capitol Hill has no spiritual light; resulting in prayer being removed from our public schools and abortion being made legal.

Where were the spiritual leaders in 1962? They rolled over like dumb dogs and stood idly by, allowing prayer to be removed from public schools without a real battle. Then, in 1973, abortion – the murder of innocent babies – was made legal.

A full-blown culture war against God and Judeo-Christian values had begun. In 60 short years, America has nearly been destroyed!

Today, many say the church is holding back the revelation of the Antichrist; to which I say, "What a joke!" If the church could not keep prayer in school and keep abortion illegal, the church will not stop the Antichrist from being revealed.

Hitler prohibited churches from interfering with temporal matters. Therefore, Hitler banned school prayer, nativity scenes, and in 1938 he changed the name of Germany's "Christmas" to "Yuletide". Likewise today, "Merry Christmas" is replaced with "Happy Holidays". Today, American nativity scenes are removed and *Christmas* is now offensive because the root word is *Christ*.

During Hitler's tyranny, churches were not equipping Saints to stand against the abuses evident around them. Today's church is headed for the same great persecution, but most pulpiteers refuse to tell the truth concerning what is to come. These shepherds are blind and fast asleep.

The prophet Isaiah warns us from 2,700 years ago:

His watchmen (Satan's watchmen) are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy (covetous) dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand (or discern): they all look to their way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant (Isaiah 56:10-12).

The day came in Germany when there was not enough room for the cross and the swastika. Regrettably, America has also done away with the cross; replacing it with religion and humanism.

If the Lord wills, we will continue this message next month. Thank you so very much for your continued love and support for *The Voice of Evangelism International Ministries*. You will never fully know, until Christ returns, the great blessing you are to this outreach.

Serving Along Your Side,

David W. Lankford Pastor / Evangelist