## America. Repent!

When Jesus first began to preach to the people, he said, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of the heavens has approached" (Matthew 4:17). And being one of his disciples, I say to the people of my country, Repent! They need to repent because there is so much sin and wickedness here.

Often when I perceive the many evils that are afflicting the United States of America (as well as other nations) I think within myself, "Oh, how the world needs the knowledge found in the word of God showing how to maintain peace and justice in a society."

Since my country has forsaken its Biblical roots, its social systems are becoming increasingly corrupt. Justice and righteousness are slowly decaying. Indeed, the whole meaning of justice has now become perverted, and violence is increasing at an alarming rate. I have learned from the Bible, the word of God what true justice is.

My eyes have been enlightened to see how a nation is made healthy and strong. For Solomon said, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). I can see with tearful eyes how far my country has drifted away from righteousness. True also are Solomon's words, "For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow" (Ecclesiastes 1:18). I am reminded of the time Jesus approached Jerusalem during what is called his triumphal entrance. He looked down upon the city and wept, saying, "If thou knew, even thou, indeed even in this thy day, the things for thy peace. But now they are hidden from thine eyes" (Luke 19:42).

Thank God I can still rejoice because there remains a righteous minority. And I am by no means alone in sounding the alarm, for I have read many books and articles written by my countrymen who are trying to reverse the trend. But most citizens have gone astray into the broad path, following the seductive, but treacherous ways of evil. These words from Paul's letter to the Romans describe where Americans are heading, led by spiritual degenerates who now control most of the institutions and the social mechanisms used to mold the minds of the people:

Because, although knowing God, they did not glorify him as God, nor were they thankful, but became vain in their reasonings and their heart was darkened without understanding. Professing to be wise, they became foolish, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image like corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed things, and creeping things.

And for this reason God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, to degrade their bodies among themselves, who changed the truth of God into the lie, and worshiped and served the creation against him who created it, who is blessed into the ages. Truly. Because of this God gave them up to shameful passions, for even their females changed the natural use into what is against nature. And likewise also the males, having left the natu-

ral use of the female, burned in their lust toward each other, males with males producing shamelessness, and receiving in themselves the recompense of their deviancy that was fitting.

And just as they did not approve having God in knowledge, God gave them over to an unfit mind, to do things that are not fit; having been filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; being gossips, slanderous, God-hating, aggressors, arrogant boasters, contrivers of evil things, disobedient to parents; without understanding, untrustworthy, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful. Who, knowing the righteousness of God, that those who commit such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but also favor those who do (Rom 1:21-32).

Like the nation of Israel, America began as a people devoted to the Lord. Even now we can read the words of our national slogan inscribed on all our money—In God we trust. But like the people of Israel, Americans have rebelled and deserted their heavenly Father, and so God is taking away wisdom from the country. Those words Paul wrote describe a principle of cause and effect, a law of nature, a timeless truth about behavior and its consequences. And this very process is being manifested in my country today. Thus, we are becoming a more foolish and barbaric people. Consider this prophesy from the Song of Moses, which prophesied their apostasy:

For I will proclaim the name of Jehovah. Ascribe ye greatness to our God. The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice, a God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and right is he. They have dealt corruptly with him. [They are] not his sons, [it is] their blemish, a perverse and crooked generation. Do ye thus requite Jehovah, O foolish people and unwise? Is not he thy father who has bought thee? He has made thee, and established thee (Deuteronomy 32:3-6).

I know of no other country in the history of the world that has been blessed by almighty God as much as we have. In times past we were a devout people, and the Lord was with us. We were a people who loved the word of God, and inscriptions on many of our public buildings still remain to show it. Even when we were still a colony of Great Britain, Bostonians created the world's first public school system based upon "The Old Deluder Satan Law."

That was a law created to promote an educated public who could read for themselves about God's truth from the Bible, thus avoiding Satan's deceit. All but one of our great Ivy League universities began as schools for Christian ministers. Our government and our laws were all founded upon the righteousness of the Bible. We called ourselves a Christian nation. Our capital city, Washington, D.C., was a shining light where truth and justice prevailed. But now these words of Isaiah describe what it is becoming:

How the faithful city has become a harlot! She who was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers. Thy silver has become dross, thy wine mixed with water. Thy rulers are rebellious, and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes, and follows after rewards. They judge not the fatherless, nor does the cause of the widow come to them (Isaiah 1:21-23).

I thank God that our government still defends the fatherless and widows, but our capital city is very decadent, and the country as a whole is now the murder capital of the world. And theft, bribery, and such like are becoming increasingly common. Alas, it seems a perpetual weakness of mankind that prosperity, instead of increasing gratitude to God, most often increases pride and rebellion against him. The following prophesy about Israel, which is recorded in the song of Moses, seems also to apply to our country:

He made him ride on the high places of the earth, and he ate the increase of the field, and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock, butter of the herd, and milk of the flock, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the finest of the wheat, and of the blood of the grape thou drank wine. But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked. Thou have grown fat. Thou have grown thick. Thou have become sleek. Then he forsook God who made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation. They moved him to jealousy with strange [gods]. With abominations they provoked him to anger (Deuteronomy. 32:13-16).

Surely, the Lord must now likewise be angry with the majority of Americans because they have let their great prosperity make them proud, and they have literally grown fat, and have forsaken the God of their fathers. They worship their own modern false gods—freedom, human rights, democracy, equality. They no longer understand who they are and from whence they came. They have cut themselves off from their roots, and are like withering branches. They are like a lamb that has wandered away from the protection of its shepherd.

They are like the children of Israel about whom Isaiah spoke these words: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for Jehovah has spoken. I have nourished and brought up sons, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his owner, and the donkey his master's crib, [but] Israel does not know; my people does not consider" (Isaiah 1:2-3).

They have cast his name out of our institutions, and have forbidden anyone to teach his Word in our public schools. Consequently, the population is becoming more ignorant. They are becoming more foolish than a dumb ox who knows its master; for they are rejecting their heavenly Father, and are embracing their great enemy, the Devil. They are provoking the wrath of God, who is just to punish an ungrateful and adulterous generation. Isaiah continued, when he said,

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, sons who deal corruptly! They have forsaken Jehovah. They have despised the Holy One of Israel. They have gone away backward. Why will ye be still stricken, that ye revolt more and more? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness in it, [but] wounds, and bruises, and fresh stripes. They have not been closed nor bound up nor soothed with oil. Your country is desolate. Your cities are burned with fire. Your land—strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers (Isaiah 1:4-7).

Although enough righteous Americans remain to keep God from bringing such destruction on a wide scale, nevertheless, most of our inner cities have reached the level Isaiah described. For they are full of evil and wickedness, causing what social scientists (proud, blind fools) claim is "natural urban decay." They have become criminal societies where violence and murder are a constant threat. They are like a concrete jungle where savagery and lawlessness reigns. Riots and arson have left huge burned out areas of wasteland within them. Foreigners (Asians, Latin Americans, and others, including many illegal aliens and vagabonds) are flooding into them taking possession of what remains, while most of their former inhabitants have fled to the countryside. But unless they return to God, the blight will follow them. Compare modern Detroit with what it was before Americans decided to become pagan.

But the people's guilt is not limited to the culture of the slums. Our highest government officials are supporting extreme filth which they falsely call "art," and virtually our entire entertainment industry is using all of its resources and influence to pervert and corrupt the souls of the people. One former leader of the cult of Satanism once said that if the Devil had a public relations system to promote him and his evil ways it was our entertainment industry—a modern Babylon of the type described in the book of Revelation (Revelation 18), a gaudy whore grown rich from merchandising sinful and unwholesome pleasure. Yet, it continues to be supported and praised by the general population, including our most highly educated and cultured citizens.

Jesus said, "...the tree is know by its fruit" (Matthew 12:33), and here is some of the fruit of this adulterous generation:

- Vulgarity is spreading through the land like a thick smog; it is heard in their speech and their music; it is seen on their most popular television shows and motion-pictures; it is read in their best-selling books and magazines. They are blackening their bodies with tatoos.
- The pursuit of immediate, selfish pleasure is now a universally accepted goal. Our spendthrift rulers justify such folly in government by using the logic of one of their heroes (a deceased sex-pervert named John Maynard Keynes) expressed in his oft-quoted statement, "In the long run we are all dead." Hence—bluntly expressed—their

monetary policy is, "Spend now and let later generations pay the bill after we are all gone." This attitude is sometimes even frankly proclaimed, as illustrated in the statement of the bumper stickers that retired couples proudly display on their recreational vehicles: "We are out squandering our children's inheritance."

- Such things as lying, cheating, unfaithfulness, bribery are considered clever tactics in the "game of life"; while the only sin is getting caught. Honest people who trust their neighbors are considered fools and easy prey.
- One concerned author wrote, "A criminal law professor from Fordham University in New York City told me that, as a practical matter, the stealing of a car in New York is not now a crime. Over one hundred thousand cars are stolen there each year, yet there are only about a dozen persons in New York prisons serving time for car theft."
- A journalist wrote, "Greed is the universal motive, sincerity is a pose, honesty is for chumps, altruism is selfishness with a neurotic twist, and morality is for kids and fools."
- Another said, "There are theaters of violence, rebellions and uprisings
  of all sorts, mass hypocrisy and false sincerity fueled by television,
  and a general decline in courtesy and a decay of decency."
- Another is so troubled with our loss of values that he wrote a book entitled, *The Death of Ethics in America*.
- Dishonesty is commonly found even in places considered to be temples of truth. A recent survey at one of our highly respected universities found that one-third of scientists believed that some of their colleagues had committed fraud.
- Our great system of higher education appears to be rotting from within. The titles of these two recently published books describe the unhealthy condition of American universities: *Impostors in the Temple: American Intellectuals are Destroying Our Universities and Cheating Our Students of Their Future* written by a professor with a Ph.D. from MIT, and *ProfScam: Professors and the Demise of Higher Education* written by a journalist who is the son of a university professor.
- History is rewritten to revile truth: facts are called lies, and lies are called facts.
- Even when lies are not openly proclaimed there is an insidious censorship that deceives by omission. Here is a brief listing of what one professor reported in his book *Censorship: Evidence of Bias in our Children's Textbooks*: "In a total of 670 stories from grades three and six readers not one reference to representative Protestant religious life was found. Sixth-grade social studies text neglected, often to the point of serious distortion, Jewish and Christian historical contributions. Aggressive feminist themes were prominent in many of the texts. None of the social studies books dealing with modern American

- social life mentioned the works 'marriage,' 'wedding,' 'husband,' or 'wife'; nor did these books ever represent being a mother or a homemaker as a worthy and important role for a woman."
- The author of the book, *The Terrible Truth About Lawyers*, (himself a lawyer) describes our legal profession as predominantly a fraternity of parasites who no longer care about justice. He said the best way to deal with them is to avoid them, but because of their control of the government they are making this increasingly difficult.
- Homosexuality is widely accepted, and homosexual marriage is becoming increasingly legal, as well as child adoption for them.
- Not long ago a professor at Stanford University (one or our top-rated universities) was suddenly exposed as a homosexual who had been molesting a young boy for the past five years. Soon afterward he committed suicide. Instead of being ashamed of this man, the leaders of the university eulogized him at his funeral ceremony, and then promptly honored his memory by passing unanimously a formal memorial resolution establishing an award in his name to be presented annually to some worthy scholar.
- The feminization of American culture is at a fever pitch. One observant author wrote the following: "Never before in the history of the species have groups of women attacked men with more verbal violence than during the past decade of the United States. Never before have the conventions of gender differentiation been so thoroughly challenged. The initiative in the rhetoric of gender relationships is clearly now in women's hands. Men can seem badly on the defensive. Some feminists enjoy Amazonian games, attacking men as unnecessary and masculinity even as dangerous."
- Even at Harding University where I taught for twenty-five years, which advertises itself as a Christian institution, I have been verbally attacked by both faculty and students, males and females, for teaching God's truth about the different roles for men and women.
- Marriage is now a high-risk venture—an easy way to have your life destroyed.
- Parents (especially fathers) are mocked and looked upon with contempt; children are portrayed as being nobler and wiser.
- Parents who discipline their children are in danger of being cast into prison, or having them taken away by the state.
- Having illegitimate children is considered normal; while a virgin is considered an unhealthy freak.
- With regard to teaching, another concerned scholar lamented that teaching in America has been reduced to a form of popular entertainment, and drawing an audience is too often the focus of education.
- One young Polish student studying in the United States was heard saying, "When I first came here, it was like going into a crazy world,

but now I am getting used to it ... I can tell it is not a good thing to get used to."

- In some of our public schools young children have been given graphic lessons by prostitutes on how to commit fornication, including examples of many perverse forms; while teaching the ten commandments is forbidden—a criminal offense.
- Pupils in schools scorn their teachers, and scoff at education. Many teachers have been assaulted, some even killed. Police patrol the halls of many schools in an effort to maintain order.
- The greatest problems threatening the education process before WWII were the following: students talking out of turn, chewing gum, making noise, running in the halls, getting out of line, wearing improper clothing, and not putting paper in the wastebasket. Today they are: student drug abuse, alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, and assault.
- Another concerned author wrote the following about some popular children's literature: "New and destructive standards are now being embraced by our country and old ones rejected. Our society has developed a taste for explicit sex and sensational violence. For these reasons, [even] comic books are now preoccupied with the same kinds of subjects that are exploited in films, rock music, and other media. Children who read comic books are exposed to scenes of sexual perversion, gruesome savagery, nudity ... the world of contemporary comic books .. .is a world that loves self-gratification and hates religion."
- People have been taught for years that human beings are no better than wild animals, and so it is becoming more difficult to tell the difference.
- Murdering little babies is legal, and even promoted as a noble act. In the four three decades over 50 million have been murdered. Almost ten times the estimated number of Jews murdered by the Nazi's.
- Armed bandits and marauding gangs are robbing and murdering people in broad daylight in the inner cities.
- Random drive-by shootings by thrill seekers, which murder and disable innocent citizens are becoming so common that people shrug their shoulders when they hear about it.
- Criminal punishment is a farce. A prison sentence of several years
  usually means a few months of quiet vacation time; a life sentence
  means a few years spent with some loss of freedom. Many vicious
  crimes are dismissed on a technicality, or the man is freed "on probation."
- The idea of executing any criminal (even the most vicious murderers) is called "cruel and barbaric." Instead, those guilty of heinous crimes are given a public forum, funding, and sympathy for their "illness."

- With rare exceptions, the only time God's name is used is when they utter profanities.
- Our foolish citizens regularly elect cowardly, evil men, and those who
  love evil men, to rule our country. And rarely during elections are
  righteous men given other choices.

Here are a few examples of how our government rewards sin and punishes righteousness:

- Those who marry must pay more taxes than those who live sinfully together.
- Having a child out of wedlock qualifies a mother for special aid and services not available to a married mother.
- Drunks and drug addicts are classified as handicapped persons, and are given special care and a regular pension paid for by working men.
- The rulers of our government defend the "right" of men to burn our flag, curse our country, and broadcast messages throughout the land urging people to go out and kill police. But anyone who publicly condemns homosexuality can be prosecuted for committing what they call a "hate crime".
- Innocent victims of crime must bear the costs of the damages they
  have suffered, while violent criminals have been awarded millions of
  taxpayer dollars by our judges.
- Our judges have allowed criminals to successfully sue their victims for liability if they happened to have been injured in the process of committing their criminal act.
- The rulers of our government take money away from honest citizens to pay for the defense of the criminals who war against them.
- And if they are imprisoned, criminals are allowed to continue to rob and fight against the people. A professor who once worked for a state prison system told me that at any one time there is an average of one lawsuit per prisoner filed against the public. And the public is required by law to pay, not only for all the government apparatus needed to defend and process the lawsuit, but also for the convict's lawyer.
- Convicts in prison are entitled to continue receiving their government welfare payments, while at the same time, being provided free medical services, free legal services, free educational services, free clothing, free room and board, free access to television and other recreational facilities. And many states do not require that they perform any labor. My son tells me that when he was in the Navy serving his country he never had it so good. He was confined to a ship for many months, assigned to very cramped living quarters, and required to labor long hours often in stressful conditions. Those who oppress us are treated better by our wicked rulers than those who serve us.

• I heard one criminal say that the best way to break out of prison now was with the legal system.

But perhaps the greatest perversity is this: Those responsible for corrupting this once god-fearing nation piously proclaim themselves to be champions of a "higher morality." In fact, they are lying hypocrites of the highest rank! They are wolves in sheep's clothing. They are a brood of deadly serpents; offspring of the Pharisees whom Jesus said were like glittering coffins: attractive on the outside but inside are full of death and putrid decay. And the curse which Jesus proclaimed against those hypocrites will fall upon these modern instruments of the Devil as well. Many of them even boast of being children of hell, and that is definitely where they are going. Jude wrote about such men:

Woe to them! Because they went in the way of Cain, and rushed to the error of Balaam's reward, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are reefs in your love-feasts, feasting together, fearlessly tending to themselves, waterless clouds carried along by winds, autumn trees without fruit, who died twice having being uprooted, wild waves of the sea foaming out their own shame, wandering stars for whom the gloom of darkness has been reserved into an age (Jud 1:11-13).

Like the Devil himself, these men are "vessels of wrath made for destruction" (Romans 9:22).

As you can see, my brothers, I am exceedingly dismayed by what is happening in our country. I love America and its people, but most have turned away from the ways of God. The people are like Adam and Eve who were persuaded by Satan to stop trusting God, and to disobey him. And now their minds are confused about how they should live. They are not wicked people; in their hearts they love justice and mercy. They are sheep lost in a modern wilderness of the evil philosophy of humanism and ethical relativity, and so they are more easy prey for the truly wicked.

I have read many books about the spiritual degeneration of one part of American society or another. Often the authors attribute the cause to an elite few who have obtained the power to determine values and set standards. These disciples of the Devil are now at the head of the major institutions that shape the minds of the people, and they control most of the social mechanisms used to influence public opinion.

Hating righteousness, they sell their souls to the Devil and serve him by working to pervert the minds of the people with clever propaganda. Being deceived themselves they use cunning tactics and crafty devices to discredit the truth and to make lies appear attractive. They are manipulated by the Devil to manipulate the public just as the Nazis did with the Germans citizens, and the communists did with the people of the Soviet Union. But like all the wicked, their days are numbered. In due time God will expose and defeat them.

In the meantime God is gently calling his people. I thank God that the situation is far from hopeless. There is still much good here. America is a long way from the stage described by the author of Chronicles:

And Jehovah, the God of their fathers, sent to them by his messengers, rising up early and sending, because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling-place. But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and scoffed at his prophets, until the wrath of Jehovah arose against his people, till there was no remedy (2 Chronicles 36:15-16).

I hope and pray that God will continue to show us mercy and keep sending remedies. Join me in praying that the many lost sheep of our country will awaken and accept God's remedies for the evils that beset us. Our Heavenly Father is both willing and able to save his prodigal children. Great is his love and his patience. Jesus told his disciples that God is like a loving shepherd who searches for his lost sheep, and he said, "So it is not a purpose before your Father in the heavens, that one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:14). The book of Isaiah also contains these touching words flowing from the mouth of our Heavenly Father:

Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes. Cease to do evil. Learn to do good. Seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, says Jehovah, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye are willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword, for the mouth of Jehovah has spoken it (Isa 1:16-20).

I rejoice in the hope that these words give, but I must confess, the warning in them alarms me. Although the international climate currently looks very secure for America, nevertheless, if the people do not repent of the vice and injustice in the land, the sword could fall upon them in another way. If they continue to sow the wind, will they not also reap the whirlwind? (see Hosea 8:7).

I cannot prophesy as Isaiah or Hosea prophesied, but I can read the signs. A terrible civil war within the country itself is a distinct possibility. Americans are becoming more alienated toward each another. Racial and ethnic division is growing, with bitterness and hatred fermenting beneath the surface. This nation of diverse peoples has been held together by our Christian spirit of brotherly love, and that spirit is becoming ever weaker; injustice and vice are destroying it.

But I hope such a catastrophe never happens. I pray daily that the Lord our God will help me do what I can to encourage my countrymen to repent and turn back to the Lord our God and to his Kingdom. We, his faithful ones, may be few and insignificant in the eyes of men, but Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth and the leaven of the world. We do

not need to be important in the world to have great influence for good because the power of God is with us.

For Paul wrote, "But God chose the foolish things of the world, so that he might humiliate the wise, and God chose the weak things of the world, so that he might humiliate the powerful. And God chose the common things of the world, and the disdained things, and the things that are not, so that he might make useless the things that are, so that no flesh may boast before God" (1Co 1:27-29).

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