

# GOD BLESS AMERICA

*"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee" // Psalm 85:6*

PRAY

WITNESS

VOTE





# AWAKE AND ARISE!

by Byron Foxx

*Welcome to this 2024 Special Edition of the GOD BLESS AMERICA Magazine! Please take a few minutes to read it now!*

I want to bring one verse to your attention immediately. Ephesians 5:14, *"Wherefore God saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."*

That verse is a sermon in itself. First, there is an identification of the sinner and the backslider. They are described as asleep and dead. Second the verse has a call to action: Awake and Arise! Finally, the verse includes a glorious promise: Christ shall give thee light!

"Awake...and arise." That is addressed to each one of us individually. A Christian cannot serve God any other way! The Christian faith is not only a great sermon but also a great service. Our faith is a great message, and also a great mission!

Presently, America is not geared to a spiritual emphasis. Oh, we are making deals and making money, but God has been forgotten. It is rare to find a man who is thirsting for God. Many Christians are wayward, indifferent, and backslidden. God wants His people to be alive and active in His great work!

There are three actions God's people must take quickly:

**PRAY** - The way back to God is the way of prayer. *"If my people...shall pray."* There will be no great awakening in America without prayer. Every Christian should have a prayer list and a prayer life. Do you? Does your family hear you pray?

**WITNESS** - We believe that everyone needs God! We know the gospel is the message that must be delivered up and down every street. Let's make plans now to witness of Christ at the market, at the post office, the barber shop, in the family, among friends, and at every turn let's point folks to the Savior! When did you last attempt to lead someone to Christ?

**VOTE** - 2024 is a giant election year in America. Get involved. This is a great opportunity for God's people to make a difference. No perfect officeholders or candidates exist, but we must vote according to the Bible.

We have our mandate from God Himself -  
**Awake and Arise!**



**Byron Foxx**

*Evangelist | Music Publisher | Founder  
& President of Bible Truth Music*

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# THE CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE ON THE FOUNDING OF AMERICA

by David Gibbs Jr.

Historically, the United States of America has been a bastion of freedom in a world filled with dictators, restricted liberties, and government control. At its birth, our new country designed a structure of checks and balances to protect our freedoms. The branches of our government are essential to protect our freedoms, including our religious freedom. Governmental systems are far from perfect, but the idea of limited government was the defining issue at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. This approach to government was guided by our religious ancestors.

## **FOUNDATIONAL FREEDOM**

Who were our ancestors? After leaving their home country of England, the colonists

eventually settled in America. They wanted to relocate to a place that allowed religious freedom. In order to establish a new government that would allow religious liberty, the United States would need to put a Constitution in place that would make it impossible for the government to restrict this God-given right from its citizens. As they debated the issues, many representatives declared that they would never agree to ratify a document that did not remind the government that it could not infringe on the rights of its citizens. Their insistence resulted in this amendment:

*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.*

It is important to note that these are specific restrictions on government policy, not a



complete list of rights. These prohibitions were intended to limit government, not U.S. citizens. In our Constitution, our founding fathers meant to protect citizens by limiting government power. They wanted to practice their biblical faith freely, without a tyrannical power like the English throne imposing rules on faith and practice.

But our second president, John Adams, warned, "It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue." Because of the impact of morality upon the nation's legal outlook, it is vital that we pass Biblical values to the next generation. Rebelling against God's revelation will only destroy us.

## **THE JUDGES CYCLE**

When I think of America today, I am reminded of God's chosen people of Israel in the book of Judges. Joshua's final words to that

nation admonished them to prove, *“Whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not”* (Judges 2:22). The Israelites entered into a cycle of disobedience, repentance, and restoration that they repeated many times. That cycle in Judges should be a wake-up call for America. Like Israel, our nation has experienced times of public devotion to God followed by periods of turning our backs on Him. We are now in a period of public sin and disobedience; we have expelled God from our halls of government and our classrooms. We have told God that we will follow our own rules rather than His. Now America is full of unrest. We must cry out to the Lord for revival and deliverance, just as the children of Israel did. God has promised to be faithful to His own. His desire is that we would cry out to Him and stand up for righteousness in a land that promotes promiscuity and immoral behavior.

## ABRAHAM'S INTERCESSION

We must intercede for our country. When I think of America today, I also think of Abraham's encounter in Genesis 18:16-32. Three visitors from the Lord had been enjoying Abraham's hospitality. As they were about to leave, they looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah and began to speak about what would be done to those wicked cities. Abraham then began to make appeals to the Lord, trying to convince Him to change His mind about the destruction of those cities. He asked the Lord not to, "*Destroy the righteous with the wicked*" (verse 23). Abraham asked the Lord to save the city in which He finds "*Fifty righteous within the city*" (verse 24). According to chapter 19, there were not even ten righteous men in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and those cities were destroyed. God is looking for men and women who will stand firm on biblical principles and not be swayed by worldly philosophy in our nation.

## FAITH IN PRACTICE

Like our ancestors, we must seek to exert our Christian influence on our nation. As I travel across America, I meet many Bible-believing Christians who are truly seeking to live for the Lord and stand in the gap as intercessors (*Ezekiel 22:30-31*). These precious people have the blessing of God on their lives, and they are the reason for God's continued blessing on America. I pray that our intercessions for America will be fruitful, and that God will find enough righteous in our nation to withhold His judgment and send revival to America. May God find us to be faithful servants as we seek to do His will for our lives.



**David Gibbs Jr.**  
*President of the Christian  
Law Association*

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# SALT AND LIGHT IN A DIRTY WORLD

by Chad Connelly

Should church members get involved in the public arena? Should Christians be actively involved in the free elections of the United States of America? Yes, and through recent efforts, Christian believers have become like salt and light to influence their local areas. They have voted carefully, built relationships with candidates, helped to ensure election integrity, and brought a Biblical worldview into the discussions of the issues of our day. But we need your help. We need more believers to get involved in the public arena to be like salt and light in their local areas.

Corruption is festering, so we need to start bringing Biblical truth into the marketplace

of ideas before it is too late. Paul told us that we could be *"casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God..."* (2 Corinthians 10:5). We can courageously cast down arguments because we have confidence in Biblical truth. Believe it or not, there are more than 80 million eligible voters in the Christian community but only 30 million participate in elections regularly! Why is this? A remarkable number of evangelicals aren't even registered to vote. How can we address this problem in our circles? Pastors could lead their congregations to do non-partisan voter registrations in their churches to help their people be good stewards of their God-given citizenship. That's the first and most essential way that we could start bringing Biblical truth to bear on the issues: register to vote. Then, as part of their normal preaching and teaching, pastors could teach their people how to use their Biblical values to vote wisely.

One of the objections we hear is that politics is a dirty business. And that's true. People who don't know the Lord act like people who are lost, especially in the political arena. And the more that believers avoid this arena, it just gets dirtier and dirtier. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus told us that believers would be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Using those two illustrations, He was teaching that the world is growing worse as it rots away in darkness. And Jesus said that His solution for this corruption is that His followers would be like salt and light in every area of life. We are God's "Plan A" and there is no "Plan B." Let's face it. Saying that politics is a dirty business is just an excuse for avoiding the public arena. The word "politics" refers to the activities involved in governing a country.

Since Romans 13 teaches that *"the powers that be are ordained of God"* then government is a God-ordained institution. Paul went on to explain that an elected official



is *"the minister of God to thee for good."* In America, we still have the right to choose these elected officials. Shouldn't we do everything in our power to be sure that the "ministers of God" we elect are good leaders? That's the right way to start cleaning up this dirty business.

How can we be salt and light if we are not engaged in public matters? There are no "sides;" Christians don't have to always be for one political party or another. Christians just need to be Christians. Daniel Webster wrote, "Whatever makes men good Christians makes them good citizens." Christians need to study political platforms and policies carefully rather than merely following personalities. Pastors should help their people register to vote. They should teach them how to vote conscientiously using Biblical values. They can do so without violating congregational unity. The only way believers can influence the political arena is to be involved in it. We need to vote and

hold our elected representatives accountable for their actions. If politics is a dirty business then shouldn't "salt and light people" be more involved rather than less involved? It's such a dirty business because Biblical truth and discussions of the Christian worldview are largely absent. With your influence, our political leaders could become statesmen rather than showmen.

Let's face a hard fact. Candidates for political office know that politics is a dirty business. Many of them are men and women with good reputations, but they know that most Christians have abdicated their roles. So these candidates, sometimes for the highest offices in the land, don't have Christians talking to them personally. Think about that. No believers are whispering in their ears to assure them that they are praying for them. Very few of Christ's followers are sharing Biblical wisdom with these leaders when they wrestle with tough policy issues. Compassionate, Spirit-filled believers

who will share the good news of Christ with political leaders are few and far between.

*Yes, politics is a dirty business, but we need more believers to get involved in the public arena to be like salt and light in their own local areas.*



**Chad Connelly**  
Founder & President  
of Faith Wins

# THE GREAT DANGER OF FORGETTING GOD

by Byron Foxx



Consider these sobering words in Psalm 9:17, *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* The same God who judged Adam and Eve devastated the world with a flood, divided the rebels at the Tower of Babel, and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. The book of Obadiah was written to express God's judgment against the Edomites with the words, *"as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head"* (Obadiah 1:15). This warning, which applies the principle of sowing and reaping, is for every nation. The Bible includes exact illustrations of why our nation ought to respond rightly to the Lord at this moment: Nineveh repented under the preaching of Jonah, and

God relented, postponing His judgment, but they hardened their hearts over time. As the prophet Nahum predicted, they were destroyed. Here is the plain truth: God has indeed destroyed the nations that have forgotten God and this should be a wake-up call to our nation.

Why has God destroyed nations? Throughout history, doomed nations have been laden with many sins. Here are a few:

**Pride:** Proverbs 16:18 says, *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."* Proverbs 29:23 reminds us *"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit."* And Proverbs 13:10 says, *"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."* Much of the division and contention we observe in our government is the result of pride. But remember: God has destroyed proud nations.

**Violence:** In Psalm 11:5, we see *“The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth,”* Recent news articles demonstrate just how violent our country has become. And let’s face the fact that some of the worst violence has been committed against helpless babies in their mother’s wombs. God despises such violence.

**Drunkenness:** There are 75 Scriptural warnings against drinking alcoholic beverages. In fact, there is more scripture condemning the use of alcoholic beverages than about adultery, hypocrisy, blasphemy, and pride. Proverbs 23:31-33 puts it this way: *“Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.”* Drunkenness and its close friend, reveling, are the ruin of many in our day; pleasure and self-gratification are

the goals. Personal testimonies, marriages, and integrity can be ruined in a single night of foolish behavior.

According to Scripture, how does God judge wicked nations? What should a nation expect if it continues to rebel against God?

**War:** Israel turned to false religion, and God allowed a war to come. For instance, Judges 2:12-14 states, *“And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger. And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.”* Wicked Belshazzar learned this lesson the hard way

on the night his nation was defeated. Would you cry out to God that we would not lose our nation the same way?

**Natural Disasters:** When Pharaoh refused to obey the Lord, what happened to Egypt? You know the answer. God unleashed severe plagues, including the fouling of the Nile, their central water supply. When natural disasters strike, stop to think about this way that the Lord deals with nations. Each disastrous earthquake, fire, or flood should remind us that God is the ultimate Judge of our nation.

**Pestilence and Disease:** In I Samuel 5, the Philistines took the ark of God and put it in with their false god Dagon. God then struck the Philistine nation with emerods (tumors). In Numbers 16:46-50, God sent a plague upon Israel because the Jews had embraced pagan immorality. Over 14,000 people died in this plague. Raging disease is a very real danger for nations that forget God.



**Inept Leaders:** Have you noticed how our national leadership is declining? Why is this happening? God uses wicked, disgusting, inept rulers as judgment on countries. Daniel 4:17 declares, *"This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."*

May God help us to repent and turn to the Lord to ask for His mercies. If our nation continues to turn its back on God, we should expect only destruction from the hand of the Lord.



**Byron Foxx**

*Evangelist | Music Publisher | Founder  
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A stack of newspapers is shown on a wooden surface, with the top newspaper slightly open. The background is dark and textured.

# IT IS TIME FOR SOME GOOD NEWS!

by Scott Pauley

Civilizations crumble and cultures corrode, not because of political or economic issues, but because of spiritual ones. Sin destroys everything it touches. The daily news cycle is full of war, strife, murder, perversion, and every type of corruption because this is what happens when men rebel against God.

The only thing that can transform a life or a nation is the good news of salvation through the Lord Jesus. It is the gospel of Christ that makes all the difference! The Christian message is not one of moral reformation or societal improvement - it is the truth that sinners need a Savior, and His name is Jesus.

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*If you truly know Christ as your Savior, you have both the opportunity and the responsibility to share the gospel with others.*

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When the Apostle Paul wrote to first-century believers living in Rome, conditions were not favorable for followers of Christ. Rome was the worldwide center of commerce and trade. It was a city of material wealth and prosperity, and yet it was a place filled with idolatry and immorality. Nero became emperor at sixteen years of age. This vile man assassinated his own mother, killed two wives, married a man, and finally took his own life at the age of thirty.

The Roman government was no friend to God. Nero would lead a great wave of persecution against the church and would eventually have their chief spokesman,

Paul, put to death. Yet Paul does not spend his ink, his time, or his energy attacking Nero. The preacher led no political uprising or riot. Instead, he used his influence to spread the gospel.

In this very doctrinal treatise, he advises believers to honor authorities, obey the law, and demonstrate the love of God (Romans 13). He knew that the weapons in this raging conflict are not physical, but spiritual (2 Corinthians 10:4). The Word of God, the power of prayer, and the enabling of the Holy Spirit are at our disposal. Our assignment is to do what no one else can: get the gospel to every person (Mark 16:15).

In evil days and a troubled nation, we are called to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). The Apostle began his inspired letter to the Romans this way, *"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God"* (Romans 1:1). Immediate attention is brought to Jesus Christ and to "the gos-

pel of God." The name of God is found 153 times in Romans because this book is about God! We must acknowledge that men cannot do what only God can do and only God can change the human heart.

If you truly know Christ as your Savior, you have both the opportunity and the responsibility to share the gospel with others. It's time to take it personally. Paul gave three gospel statements that we can make our own:

## **I Am a Debtor**

*"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise" (Romans 1:14).* Those who have received the wonderful truth of the forgiveness of sins and peace with God are obligated to give it to others. We are not in debt to sinners because of what they have done for us or deserve from us. We are in debt because we have been entrusted with the good news that everyone must hear.

The gospel cuts through prejudice, party, and preference. All people need Christ.

## **I Am Ready**

*“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also” (Romans 1:15).* Are you ready? Settle the matter of your salvation. Consider what Christ has done in your life. Then, simply share what you know. This is something all of us can do right where we are. Don't wait for Rome to improve or conditions to become more favorable for Christians. People need Christ now. He is the only hope for this world and the world to come. Be ready!

## **I Am Not Ashamed**

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).* Sinners have become very open about their rebellion these days. The blush and shame

are gone. It is time for those who believe the gospel to be bold about giving it. This is our moment, and we must not miss it.

God has allowed us to live at this critical time in our nation. True Christians must say: "I am a debtor... I am ready... I am not ashamed." We cannot change everyone, but we can reach someone. We cannot do everything, but we can do something. Like Paul, let's give ourselves to God and the work of the gospel.

May the final words of Paul to the Romans be our prayer: *"To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen."*



**Scott Pauley**  
*Enjoying the Journey*  
*Evangelist, Beckley, WV*



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# PRAYING AND FASTING FOR A NEEDY NATION

by Thomas Alvis

*In perilous times like these, the Bible shows believers how to use the news of the day to go to our knees in seasons of prevailing prayer and fasting.*

## **Biblical Examples of Prayer and Fasting**

Scripture is filled with examples of those who fasted and prayed in desperate times. Israel fasted and prayed as Samuel and the army faced the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:6). Esther and her people fasted for three days in the face of danger. Nehemiah showed believers how to face the troubles of his nation with prayer and fasting. When he

learned of the great affliction and reproach endured by his people at Jerusalem, he *“mourned certain days and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven”* (Nehemiah 1:3-4). Daniel resorted to prayer and fasting as he wrestled with the geopolitical change of his day. Proud Babylon had been defeated as the Medes and Persians rose to power. According to Daniel 9:1-2, the prophet began to search the Scriptures to understand the importance of those recent events. As he did, he testified, *“And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the LORD my God...”* (Daniel 9:3-4).

When faced with a massive invasion, King Jehoshaphat set himself to seek the Lord with prayer and fasting. *“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities*

*of Judah they came to seek the Lord”  
(2 Chronicles 20:3-4).*

## **How to Pray and Fast for Your Nation**

Praying like Jesus: Jesus fasted as He prayed and assumed that His followers would do the same (Matthew 4:2; 6:17). Jesus did not say, “*If you fast,*” but “*when you fast*” (indicating that it would be a personal choice). But Jesus emphasized that His followers would fast (Matthew 9:15). Paul reiterated that prayer and fasting is the right approach when your family faces times of trouble (1 Corinthians 7:5). Now it’s time to fast and pray for our nation.

Praying like the Apostles: Prayer with fasting is associated with some of the most significant developments in the Book of Acts (Acts 11:6; 13:2-3; 14:23). Even under domination by the empire of Rome, these men chose to depend upon the Lord as He built His church.

Praying like our Ancestors: England fasted when they were threatened by the coming invasion from the Spanish Armada. (God answered and sent a storm to destroy the Spanish fleet.) Our Continental Congress called for a day of national prayer and fasting when we were facing the Revolutionary War. Our American ancestors confronted the depravity of their day with prayer and fasting. Evangelist James McGready pastored three churches on the Kentucky frontier after the Revolutionary War. He asked the believers in those three churches to make this commitment: pray and fast on the third Saturday of each month. In 1796 he wrote, "We feel encouraged to unite our supplications to a prayer-hearing God for the outpouring of His Spirit, that His people may be quickened and comforted, and that our children and sinners generally may be converted." And a year later, the Lord sent a sweeping revival that filled those Kentucky camp-

grounds with the fear of God as repentant sinners cried out to the Lord.

No matter how bad things look, the right thing for believers to do is cry out to the Lord with prayer and fasting. Would you be willing to pray and fast that the Lord would pour out His Spirit upon our nation as He brings sinners and saints to repentance?

Abraham Lincoln called for a day of national prayer and fasting during the Civil War. Today, American Christians know very little about sacrifice. But sacrifice is God's requirement. Jesus said, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me"* (Luke 9:23). How do we deny ourselves? We could temporarily set aside food. We could deny ourselves luxuries or sleep, or sports time. When did you last give up anything for the purpose of concentrated prayer? Fasting is not about food, it's about putting God first in your life. Perilous times call for powerful

Biblical responses. It is time for God's people to commit ourselves to focused periods of prayer and fasting. Only God can turn the hearts back to Himself. Oh, that we would cry out to Him as the Psalmist - *Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? (Psalm 85:6)*



**Thomas Alvis**  
*Pastor of Mount Moriah  
Baptist in Powhatan, VA*



# THE GREATEST CHOICE

by John Wilkerson

Now is the time for us to make the greatest choice of our lives. Election time is a nation's moment to choose elected officials. However, there is an even greater choice each of us must make—a choice that will determine where we will be for all eternity.

In 2008, when the Florida Gators won the national championship, Tim Tebow used eye black to display John 3:16 under his eyes. This verse, seen by millions, was searched online by 94 million people that night. It reads, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Why is John 3:16 the greatest verse?  
It contains...

## **1. The Greatest Person: "For God..."**

1. God is the Creator of the universe, making everything from nothing.
2. God is the Sustainer, providing everything we need to live.
3. God is the Ruler of the universe, governing with perfect wisdom and power.
4. He is the greatest lover, unmatched in His capacity to love.
5. God is the Judge. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess to Him.

## **2. The Greatest Love: "...so loved the world..."**

1. The word "so" signifies the immeasurable extent of God's love directed toward each of us individually and collectively.
2. Despite the lie that God doesn't care, the truth is that God loves each of us deeply.
3. Jeremiah 31:3 says, "*Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.*"



### **3. The Greatest Mass of People:**

**"...the world..."**

1. God's love extends to every person, regardless of age, race, or status.
2. God's desire is for all to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

### **4. The Greatest Sacrifice: "...He gave His only begotten Son..."**

1. God's love is demonstrated through the greatest sacrifice: giving His Son, Jesus Christ.
2. The depth of this sacrifice is beyond understanding. God gave His Son to suffer and die for our sins so we would not have to pay for them ourselves.

### **5. The Greatest Gift: "...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

1. Jesus is the greatest gift; central to this verse and the Gospel.
2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"For he hath*

*made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

3. Through Jesus, we receive the righteousness of God, without which we cannot stand before God.

4. Jesus' sacrifice makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God.

If God is willing to take you as you are with all your sin, would you make the greatest choice to take Him as your Saviour? Call out to Him in simple faith, ask Him to save you from an eternity of paying for your sin in Hell, and accept the greatest gift: eternal life with God through Jesus Christ.



**John Wilkerson**  
*Pastor of First Baptist Church  
of Hammond, Indiana*



*Jim Scudder gives Israel's president a flag made with the names of current hostages.*

# **BLESSING ISRAEL AS A NATION**

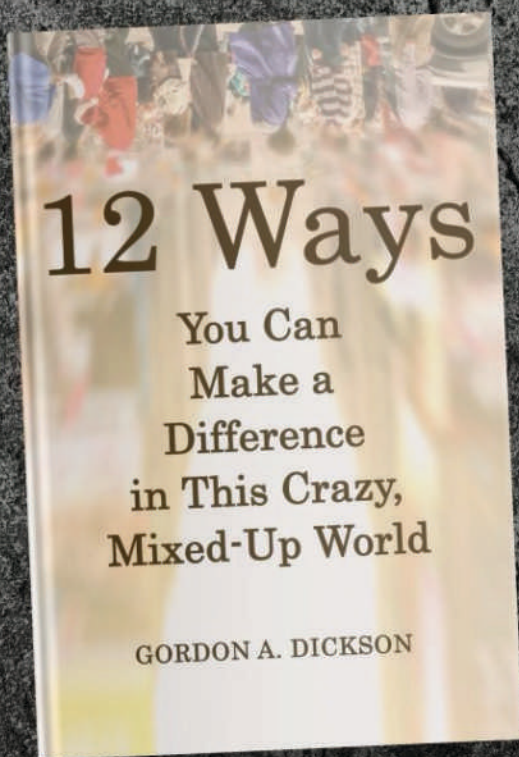
by Jim Scudder

America's foundation is the Bible, a mostly Jewish book. When America was born, Israel did not exist. When the US was at the zenith of its power after WWII, Israel was being reborn. On May 14th, 1948, Israel declared independence. Just as the Scriptures predicted, Israel was a nation again. The United States was the first nation to recognize Israel. This is one reason God

gave us our blessed nation - to support Israel. Since the Hamas massacre, America needs to support Israel more than ever. It will bring us God's blessings - something America really needs!



**Jim Scudder, Jr.**  
*Pastor in Lake Zurich, IL  
& Host of InGrace.tv*



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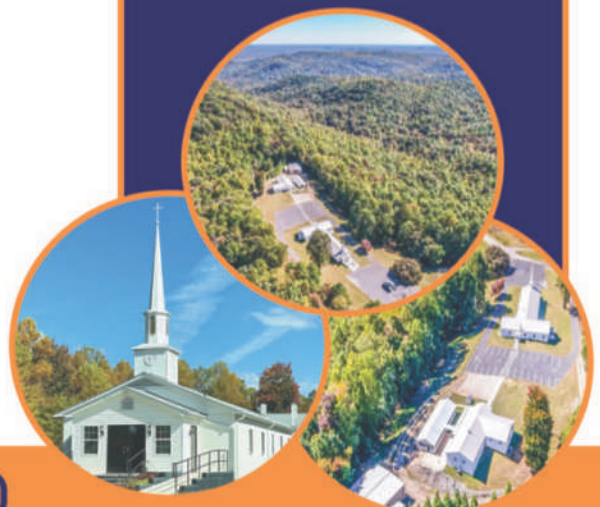


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# SOW AS YOU GO

by Paul Chappell

The Great Commission is worthy of—and even calls for—purposed times and strategic plans for spreading the gospel. This is why at Lancaster Baptist Church we have multiple scheduled times for soulwinning each week. It's why every student at West Coast Baptist College is involved in ministries of soulwinning and evangelism on a weekly basis as we "train laborers for His harvest."

The reality is that the only hope for any person is salvation by Jesus Christ. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

What is true of individuals is true on a broader scale as well. The only hope for a nation that is openly rejecting God is for the people

in that nation to hear the gospel and trust Christ as their Savior.

Here's the good news: there are many people who will trust Christ if you and I will share the gospel with them. Paul, who also lived in a pagan society, said *"that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city"* (Acts 20:23). Even as you read this article, the Holy Spirit is preparing hearts to hear the gospel. Will they hear it from you?

As important as it is to schedule regular times of soulwinning, there is a danger in seeing only those times as opportunities to share the gospel. There are people we encounter daily who need the Lord. We want to be ready to lead them to Christ, even if not on a Thursday night at 6:30 or a Saturday morning at 10:00.

Acts 8:4 tells us of the early Christians, *"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."* So how do we also develop this "everywhere

mentality” where we are ready to share the gospel at all times? I suggest four ways:

## **1. See People as Souls**

The Bible tells us that when Jesus “*saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them*” (Matthew 9:36). When we see people, we too often are moved with frustration at the inconveniences they bring or are moved by intimidation of what they would say if we spoke up with the truth. Remembering the eternality of a soul as you encounter people throughout your day or week will help give you boldness to share the gospel.

## **2. Look for Opportunities**

When you make a specific soulwinning visit, go also to the homes on both sides of the people you originally purposed to visit, invite them to church, and see if there is an openness for you to share the gospel.

When you’re going through the checkout at a store, give the clerk a gospel tract.



When a coworker tells you about a difficult situation, offer to pray for him, and then tell him what a difference knowing Christ personally makes in your life.

You would be surprised how many opportunities there are to share the gospel when you are looking for them.

### **3. Steward Relationships**

Less than two months after Jesus rose from the dead, the Apostle Peter preached in Jerusalem, and Acts 2:41 records, *“the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”* What an incredible victory for the gospel as Peter preached that day!

But do you remember who led Peter to Christ? It was his brother, Andrew (John 1:41). Andrew’s faithfulness to witness to his own family played a part in the backstory to Pentecost.

God has placed specific relationships in your life—family, neighbors, coworkers, friends, your barber, accountant, child’s soccer

coach. See these relationships as a gift from the Lord, and nurture them for the purpose of sharing the gospel.

You probably will not share the gospel every time you see that person. But even if the person doesn't respond to the gospel the first time you share it, continue to nurture that relationship for future opportunities to share Christ.

#### **4. Obey Every Prompting of the Holy Spirit**

When the Holy Spirit nudges your heart to speak to someone about salvation, don't ignore His prompting. You have no idea how God may be preparing that person's heart. But He knows, and He prompts us to witness for Him at just the right moments. (Think of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-35.)

This is one reason why it is important that we surrender to be filled with the Holy Spirit: *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians

5:18). When we live surrendered to the Holy Spirit, we will be more sensitive and obedient to His promptings to witness. And we'll have the opportunity to share the gospel and bear fruit in times and places we never expected.



**Paul Chappell**  
*Founder & President of  
West Coast Baptist College*

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# A CALL TO ACTION FOR PASTORS

by Michael E. Edwards

*Pastor, it is not hyperbole to state that we are at a crossroads in America. Everything that matters to freedom-loving people is in jeopardy of radical change or even disappearing.*

As Bible-believing spiritual leaders we must accept and faithfully discharge our responsibility to influence our families, our churches, and ultimately our nation in the recognition and support of Biblical values. I am exhorting every pastor to take three actions right now!

**1. Engage Them:** There is an old Irish proverb that states, *"You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind."* For too long we have observed the downward spiral of our culture and consistently bemoaned it, but we

have not always done what we ought to influence it. In the vernacular of our day, we are the “influencers” for Biblical values. Please use this magazine and its digital edition as a vehicle to engage with your congregation and educate concerning the need to defend and support Biblical values.

**2. Educate Them:** We are at times conflicted about being too “*political*.” I get that, and have been concerned myself about striking the right balance. However, we must remind ourselves that life, the family, training our children, freedom of worship are not political issues but Biblical issues. I urge you to spend some time teaching and reminding your people how to walk worthy in the light of Biblical values.

**3. Encourage Them:** Let’s encourage our congregations with three calls to action:

- **Emphasize Prayer:** As individuals, as churches, and in our communities let’s pray for revival in our hearts that will influence our nation. Join us on October 22, 2024 for a day of prayer and fasting.

- **Emphasize the Gospel:** People need the Lord. We must renew and emphasize the priority of the Gospel. We must recognize that the greatest result of ministry is a life changed by the Gospel. It must always be our top priority.
- **Emphasize Christian Citizenship:** To be responsible Christian citizens, we must know how the Bible addresses current issues, where candidates stand on those issues, and we must vote. Sad to say, reputable pollsters report that less than half of voters who claim to be evangelical vote consistently. I would suggest that is not proper stewardship of our citizenship.

As David stood looking over the Valley of Elah listening to the giant Goliath cursing and blaspheming the God of Israel, he was motivated. As all of Israel stood behind the barriers and in the trenches, young David proclaimed, *"Is there not a cause?"* How could they do nothing in the face of such a crisis? That decision eventually led him into

the valley to face the giant with a sling and five stones. And in response to his faith and his action, God gave him the victory! We must move like David did that day. It is time for prayer, preaching, and standing for Biblical values!



**Michael E. Edwards**  
*Pastor Emeritus | Director  
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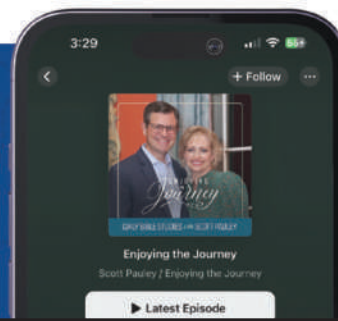
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