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PROCLAIMING CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL OF LIBERTY

Hidden in Plain View



English Common Law and Magna Carta laid the biblical foundations for America's founding documents.

As American Christians our reasons for optimism and hope are hidden in plain view. First, the major news story of the 21st century – which the secular press is not reporting – is that Christianity is winning the world and secularism is losing. Christianity has become a major force in every region of the world and on every continent. It is both the fastest growing religion and the first worldwide religion in history. Even in the Middle East, “hundreds of thousands of Muslims are converting to evangelical Christianity and are celebrating their first Easter this year...even under the constant threat of persecution or death,” as documented by bestselling author, Joel Rosenburg. And the godly converts from Africa and Asia are moving back to evangelize Europe and America, since Western

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Christians have lost their zeal. In England some of the largest churches are led by pastors from Nigeria. Secularism, which dominated much of the 20th century, is dying. The institutions that were corrupted by this hollow philosophy are collapsing and leaving devastation in their wake. Communist China, North Korea, Russia and Cuba are poster children of secularization and are regimes doomed to failure. The humanism of Western Europe and America has given us failed welfare states, cultural and educational systems in moral and intellectual freefall and societies that scarcely desire to produce children. Professor Peter Berger of New York University, premiere expert on religion and culture, says that our technological era has created a “myth of secularization” which fails to meet the needs of the human heart.

The great pillars of Western Civilization have been increasingly hidden from plain view in America for the past one hundred years. Secular humanists have been promoting an unsustainable illusion that Western values, such as freedom and family, can be maintained without their Christian foundation. Dinesh D’Souza, a scholar at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, warns us that America’s values are based on Christianity and that we destroy Christianity at our own peril. He says, “Unfortunately for the critics of Christianity, even values they care about will . . . eventually collapse. Consider our beliefs in human equality and the value of human life. We may say we believe in human equality, but why do we hold this belief? It is the product of the Christian idea of the spiritual equality of souls. We may insist we believe that all human life has dignity and value, but this too is the outgrowth of a Christian tradition in which each person is the precious creation of God. There is no secular basis for these values. And when secular writers defend them they always employ unrecognized Christian assumptions.”

A second reason for optimism, especially in America, is that we are the heirs of the greatest heritage of liberating truth the world has ever known. The kingdom of God, working

through believers, has progressively revealed His pattern for societal success. Christianity was the foundation of English Common Law, instituted by the believer, Alfred the Great, in the 9th century. Magna Carta, signed by King John in 1215, written by a minister and built upon the common law tradition, systematically codified a biblical view of society. This treasured document ensured the freedom of the church from state tyranny, the freedom of individuals to a just trial, the right of private property, no taxation without representation and the right to bear arms. By the time we come to America and the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, these principles were well refined and understood by a people who knew the Bible. The form of government and the laws of our nation were squarely centered upon the biblical model for success. By His grace, in spite of unrelenting attacks, these documents are still revered today by millions and the Constitution is still the law of the land. Of all the people in the world we should be the most optimistic, because we have the pillars of the Constitution on our side. But we must study and work through our representative system to correct the laws that are unconstitutional that have swept into our government since Christians abandoned the leadership of society. We are the government in our political system and God will hold us accountable for how we govern. Then, as we become engaged again, we can train, elect and support representatives to uphold the limitations already inherent in the Constitution.

A third reason for great optimism is that God brings spiritual awakening and cultural renewal when His people realize they have become self dependent or dependent upon civil government rather than on Him. Our fallen natures tend to cause us to forget that He gave us the power to gain wealth, and we are facing the inevitable consequence of that folly at this present time. The stage is set for the needed sincere submission to our Lord by His church in America. Our current period of economic trouble and general societal decay may be the final straw that will lead

us back to our only lasting security: obedience to the God who made us and His Law.

Last month, we discussed the Clapham Group, a small group of Christian political and business leaders who sparked a total cultural transformation of the decadent English Empire in the 19th century. This superpower was saved out of a more decadent and corrupt condition than is facing America today. Against all odds, they acted on the belief that God would give them ultimate victory. They knew that Christianity was the only foundation for a successful civilization. They saw through the façade of the corruption and materialism that had hijacked their culture for over one hundred years. They knew it would self-destruct. They repented of their own sins. They were revived and became totally committed. And they remained in their positions of leadership to permeate the culture with the truth of God.

These few – these very few – “these band of brothers,” knew that thousands of English believers had given their lives to give England a nation of laws rather than of men. These brave believers called both the Parliament and the people back to their principles, appealing to their consciences and seven hundred years of Christian law traced back to the Common Law under Alfred the Great. A few stood for truth and the nation followed.

Can this happen in America today? Of course. We share a deep common Christian heritage of liberty with England. We are still the largest evangelical country in the world and the major support for missions and freedom worldwide. The illusion that secular humanism can build a better world is collapsing before our eyes. Thousands of charities, ministries and values-based political action groups are already permeating the culture. Christians have the numbers, money and skills needed to restore our hurting nation. May God now instill in us the will to become informed and do what is right.

Marshall Foster



America's founders in prayer

“Our economic trouble and societal decay may lead us back to our only lasting security...”



Founded in 1976, the Mayflower Institute is dedicated to proclaiming Christ's Gospel of liberty to the world, and provides seminars, tours and educational resources to prepare Christians to biblically and historically defend the faith in all areas of culture.

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MAYFLOWER INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 4673
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359
866.566.1620
805.529.7747 (fax)
www.mayflowerinstitute.com