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PROCLAIMING CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL OF LIBERTY

Peace in Our Time?



For two hundred years, one small island nation built the greatest empire since Imperial Rome. Its ships ruled the seas, its colonies covered the world and the sun never set upon the Union Jack. Its empire controlled the gold and diamonds of Africa and the treasures of India. Its major city was the world's financial center. This mega-nation had the world's currency and world trade itself was made possible only through the protection of her navies (which ended the age of the pirates).

On April 11th, 1912, the largest man-created object in history, the *Titanic*, set sail from Southampton as a symbol of this opulent empire. But, on April 12th the *Titanic* hit an iceberg and sank, sending over 1,500 souls to the bottom of the Atlantic. Looking back, this event

seemed a warning, an ominous sign for the Empire. Within three decades, the glory that was the English Empire was no more, and London, the jewel of the empire, lay wasted by the bombs of Hitler's Luftwaffe.

What went wrong? England along with most of Europe had abandoned their evangelical faith by the early 20th Century which was largely replaced by the Darwinian heresy of the survival of the fittest. The missionary movement

which had driven the age of exploration was replaced by greed as the driving force of colonization. The economic plundering of undeveloped lands displaced the building of independent Christian nations. Then England along with all of Europe was humbled by two horrific world wars, the loss of their colonies and a great depression.

Just when there was no hope and the barbarian Nazis were about to overrun Christendom, God raised up a leader and saved England from extinction. The character and vision of this seemingly over-the-hill politician has become legendary. His name was Winston Churchill. His words in the darkest days of WWII stirred the English to remember their roots as a Christian nation and by divine grace their nation was saved.

How did this extraordinary leader turn the tide? First, he was honest about the collapse of the Empire. He said "I have watched this famous island descending incontinently, fecklessly, the stairway which leads to a dark gulf. It is a fine broad stairway at the beginning, but farther on the carpet ends. A little farther on there is many flagstones, and little farther on still they break beneath your feet." While in parliament, before he was Prime minister, Churchill tried desperately to warn England about the growing Nazi evil facing them. While Hitler launched a *plan of rearmament*, breaking his post WWI agreements, England's leaders convinced themselves that Hitler's grievances were justified and that his demands were reasonable. Clinging to their deception, they signed treaties with Hitler, promising "peace in our time" which Hitler ignored. So the English quietly appeased Hitler with a new treaty. Churchill said "the English-speaking peoples through their unwisdom, carelessness and good nature allowed the wicked to rearm." He was hated for his

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warnings of Hitler's rise by the pacifists controlling parliament and became a political pariah during the 1930's.

The parallels to our time are obvious. A morally weak, secularized West, including America, is appeasing and making excuses for the worldwide Islamic Jihad, Russian totalitarianism and the Chinese military explosion and war preparations. We have allowed all of our enemies to "rearm" and prepare for war with us, and we have given them the money through *aid and trade* to pay for their nuclear nightmare scenarios.

A second Churchill strength was his knowledge of history which provided him with perspective for seeing both past and future events. He knew that history teaches lessons that men ignore at their peril. Churchill said "The greatest advances in human civilization have come when we recovered what we had lost: when we learned the lessons of history." Historian, Steven Mansfield, states, "Strong leaders throughout the centuries have learned to gain the experience of age and even of the ages, by learning what the past has to teach. History has the power to lift a leader out of the shortsightedness of his own times and give him the perspective of centuries." Today, our real history, which is infused with the power of Christian faith and Providential protection, is banned from public knowledge and censored from textbooks, and historical documentaries.

Third, Churchill saw as his life's purpose the reviving of the glory of Christendom and believed that a moral order governs in the affairs of men. Mansfield states, "For Churchill the primary issue of the war was faith. He firmly believed that WWII was a battle between Christendom and the sinister paganism of Adolph Hitler and throughout the War, he replenished his unusual moral courage in worship and prayer." He read Scripture throughout his life, discussed it with staff and friends and quoted lengthy passages from memory. Our public figures today, in vast measure, have been shamed into hiding their faith and promising that it "won't be the deciding factor in their decisions." In fact, God's answers are our only hope for our "dying empire." A leader who will not outline the Scriptural solutions to our crisis, as Churchill did, is not a Christian leader, but rather a coward or an imposter.

Finally, Winston Churchill called the English people to their duty to God and country, and they responded with faith and perseverance. As the bombs fell on London in the terrifying summer of 1940, Winston slept in a bunker beneath the city and walked with his wife through the rubble encouraging the frightened Londoners. Churchill's explosive energy and his words filled with faith and vision lifted people out of their numbing fear. Along with his humor and his tears, he led people to work toward a destined future of "Sunlit uplands". He believed that good would triumph over evil. He said, "Never give in to anything except honor and common sense."

Notice that Churchill did not call people to look to him or to the government for their needs. He challenged everyone to become a hero and believed that every Christian had a "duty to preserve the structure of a humane, enlightened Christian society." Compare this true Christian leadership with the politicians of our day who promote a god-like government to save us from the pain of our own rebellion from the true God. Tyranny, not liberty, is down that road.

Churchill's immortal words should call us to action and duty at this time of eminent peril for America. On December 30, 1941, Winston Churchill said, "Do not let us speak of darker days; let us speak rather of sterner days. These are not dark days; these are great days – the greatest days our country has ever lived; and we must all thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our stations, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our (nation). This is no time to speak of the hopes of the future, or the broader world which lies beyond our struggles and our victory. We have to win that world for our children. We have to win it by our sacrifices. We have not won it yet."

In this great day of peril, as we gather as families this holy season, may challenge and encourage one another as never before. Let's talk honestly about our self-imposed national crisis, confess our sins, and ask that our Gracious God would prepare leaders from our Christian homes to lead our nation away from the brink, as Churchill did for us all just six short decades ago.

Marshall Foster



The Cologne Cathedral is the largest in Germany and has lasted for 800 years, while Hitler's Third Reich lasted 12.

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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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