

An Appeal from a Christian Father

TODAY's Father's day message is not *TO the FATHERS* but rather message *FROM the FATHERS*

PARENTS - I'll be speaking to the young people, so we will practice a sort of "role reversal." Parents, do what your teens do in church:

- TEXT your best friend
- LISTEN to your IPOD
- For the real spiritual, place your Bible in your lap, put your head in your hand while looking down at your Bible. This gives the appearance of being deep in thought while actually allowing you to sleep. Be careful, though, because if you fall sound asleep, you run the risk of your head falling out of your hand and doing permanent spinal chord damage. Consult with your doctor before attempting this maneuver.

Our main question for our young people today: How can you **REMAIN FAITHFUL** when so many are **FALLING AWAY?**

- I. **Spiritual Direction in America.** The following statistics demonstrate that America is becoming more of a secular society.
(BARNA, 2005 survey cited in "Strategic Discipleship," by Aubrey Malpuhrs, 24)
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|----|------------|-------|----------------|
| A. | Builders | 64-82 | 46% unchurched |
| B. | Boomers | 45-63 | 53% unchurched |
| C. | Busters | 26-44 | 70% unchurched |
| D. | Millenials | 7-25 | 65% unchurched |
1. Percentage of unchurched Millenials will dramatically rise as church members leave home
 2. America is quickly becoming a SECULAR Nation. The implication of this will be noticed in several ways, including
 - a. Knowledge of basic spiritual truths will continue to diminish. In our witnessing, we cannot expect that people understand that "all of us are sinners." The concept of sin is not understood or rejected by secular culture.
 - b. We must also anticipate that society will grow more and more opposed to the values and standards of Christians. Expect greater opposition to common sense issues related to the family, gender, justice and freedom. Laws that were written when our nation was essentially theistic in thinking will either be erased or reinterpreted according to the post-Christian values of our day.

II. **What Happened in Great Britain?** To see where we are right now, all we have to do is look back to the nation from which we originated. I believe that the USA is only a matter of 20-30 years behind the UK in cultural trends. The UK went through the transformation we are now experiencing in the 1960's and 70's. It has now grown to the point that there is great hostility toward Christians in the UK. We can expect the same here.

- A. Alan and Barbara Tucker are friends of ours in Wales. We met them on a mission trip to Wales in 2001. They lived through the spiritual demise of their once spiritually strong nation.
1. This was their church in Abersychan, Wales. At one time, the UK was the world's greatest **MISSIONARY CENTER**, sending out the likes of Hudson Taylor, Adoniram Judson, George Whitfield, William Carey, John and Charles Wesley, and thousands others.
 2. In the **1950's** attendance at this typical Welsh church averaged **400-500 on Sunday**.
 - a. When we arrived in 2001, the church building was falling apart.
 - b. No teens or children had visited the church in the past 10 years.
 - c. The last child that anyone remembered attending was now in her 30's
 3. **Alan and Barbara** witnessed this decline in their lifetime.
- B. **Today in GREAT BRITAIN**, according to a recent **POLL of Church Going British people in the Sunday Telegraph**:
1. Thousands believe they are being turned down for promotion because of their faith.
 2. **1 in 5 say they faced opposition at work because of their beliefs.**
 3. **Christian hospital worker told crucifix is infection risk**
 4. **Caroline Petrie**, a community nurse, **fired for offering to pray for a patient.**
 5. New guidelines that warn that **employees face dismissal** if they share their faith with colleagues at work.
 6. The guidelines have been drawn up by the **British Humanist Association (BHA)**, an atheist group, with the help of a £35,000 grant from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), a taxpayer-funded body.
 7. As many as **44% said they had been mocked by friends, neighbours or colleagues** for being a Christian, and **19%** said they had been ignored or excluded for the same reason.

8. There has been a **series of cases** over recent months featuring Christians who have been **suspended after expressing their religious views**, including a teacher who complained that a staff training day was used to **promote gay rights**.
9. **3 of 4 said there is less religious freedom in the UK now than 20 years ago, and 1 in 5 said persecution of Christians is worse in this country compared to other European nations.**

UK Telegraph, May 30, 2009, By Jonathan Wynne-Jones

www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/5132964/Atheist-wins-right-to-have-baptism-removed-as-he-did-not-consent-as-a-baby.html (Debaptism News)

- C. **De-Baptism certificate.** On the website of the National Secular Society, you can purchase a “de-baptism” certificate to renounce the baptism performed on you when you were a child. Now, I believe strongly that infant baptism is a practice totally void of any Scriptural merit. The point is that people are eager to “undo” the teaching and traditions of their parents as they are now enlightened as Secularists.
1. 100,000 have purchased this \$10 certificate
 2. The next step is to enact laws that will identify any form of religious education as child abuse. Regardless of your position on infant baptism, it is easy to see where this type of mentality is leading to.

III. **Could it happen here?**

A. **Right now, Congress is about to enact US Federal Hate Crimes Legislation**

1. Passed the House (HR 1913)
2. Currently before the Senate as S. 909 "Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act."

(This is NOT an attack against any political party. This is the reality of what is going on right now in our Congress)

3. Democrat majority will attach the bill to an amendment to another "must-move" bill, denying committee hearings, and completely side-stepping the minority right to debate and amend.
4. The amendment will mirror a House bill H.R. 1913, already passed 249-175 along strict party lines, which makes "sexual orientation," "gender," and "gender identity" into federally-protected classes under the law, and codifies federal protection of up to **547 types of sexually deviant behaviors**, including:
 - a. **Incest** - sex with one's offspring (a crime, of course)
 - b. **Necrophilia** - sexual relations with a corpse, also a crime
 - c. **Pedophilia** - sex with an underage child, another crime
 - d. **Zoophilia** - a crime in numerous states
 - e. **Voyeurism** - a criminal offense in most states
 - f. **Fronteurism** -rubbing against an unknown woman's buttocks

- g. **Coprophilia** - sexual arousal from feces
 - h. **Urophilia** - sexual arousal from urine
5. Attempts by to add amendments stating "pedophilia is not protected as a sexual orientation" were specifically blocked and defeated by the Democrat majority. **Lesbian Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI) led the charge against an amendment that would have excluded pedophiles from the bill. She claimed that pedophiles would not be defined within "sexual orientation," but wouldn't put that in writing, and refused to define the phrase "sexual orientation." The American Psychiatric Association lists 547 sexual deviancies as "sexual orientation" in the DSM-III manual of clinical psychoses.
- B. In Canada, where "hate crimes" laws already passed, the **Alberta Human Rights Tribunal** actively forbid evangelical **pastor Stephen Boisson** from expressing his moral opposition to homosexuality. The tribunal also ordered Boisson to pay \$5,000 "damages for pain and suffering" and apologize to the "human rights" activist who filed the complaint. His crime? In 2002, the pastor wrote a letter to the editor of his local newspaper in which he denounced the homosexual agenda as "wicked" and stated that: "Children as young as five and six years of age are being subjected to psychologically and physiologically damaging pro-homosexual literature and guidance in the public school system; all under the fraudulent guise of equal rights." The Canadian government tribunal ordered the Christian pastor to "cease publishing in newspapers, by email, on the radio, in public speeches, or on the internet, in future, disparaging remarks about gays and homosexuals."

IV. **Why is this happening in the USA?**

- A. **God's People have forsaken the Lord.**
- B. RIGHT NOW, there is a **BATTLE for Our HEARTS and MINDS**
- C. A Biblical example of a time when God's people faced the ridicule of the world forces is the conflict between HEZEKIAH and SENNACHARIB
 - 1. (2 Chronicles 32:1) *"After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself."* This challenge came after a great time of spiritual revival under Hezekiah. He led the people in destroying the idols around them. Sennacharib's testing was to meant to determine if their faith was real
 - 2. 32:8 *"The People were encouraged"* with Hezekiah's words. They accepted the word of the Lord. (2 Chronicles 32:8) "With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and

to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.”

3. But a challenge was raised to Hezekiah’s sermon. As the city walls were surrounded, Sennacharib cursed God. He told the people that they would die. He told them that everything they believed in was false, and for the moment, he had the weapons and soldiers to back his words up. (2 Chronicles 32:10-15) *“This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria says: On what are you basing your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege? When Hezekiah says, ‘The Lord our God will save us from the hand of the king of Assyria,’ he is misleading you, to let you die of hunger and thirst. Did not Hezekiah himself remove this god’s high places and altars, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You must worship before one altar and burn sacrifices on it’? “Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the other lands? Were the gods of those nations ever able to deliver their land from my hand? Who of all the gods of these nations that my fathers destroyed has been able to save his people from me? How then can your god deliver you from my hand? Now do not let Hezekiah deceive you and mislead you like this. Do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your god deliver you from my hand!””*

Essentially, Sennacharib said the following:

- a. “Your WORLD SYSTEM is INVALID”
- b. “It is FOOLISH to trust in the LORD”
- c. “Your LEADERS are lying to you”
- d. “Your only HOPE is accept our WAYS”

D. TODAY Christians face the same challenges by the militant atheists and the cultural revolutionaries of our day. They say:

1. “Christians are hate filled bigots”
2. “Christians are scientifically ignorant”
 - a. In May, 2009 the evolutionists proudly spoke of IDA, the fossil find that was the sought after “missing link” that would prove evolution true. As I thought about this, I wondered, “if evolution is only now proven to be true, then was everything I ever heard about it a lie????
 - (1) NY Times, Major news networks promoted this find as groundbreaking. It was on TV, etc
 - (2) This was finally “PROOF of evolution”
 - (3)

- b. Not so fast.... We come to find out now that IDA is just another hoax perpetrated by the evolutionists to push their agenda
 - (1) **Robert Morley. "Ida purchased by THE HISTORY CHANNEL with book and movie rights"**
 - (2) **"Chain of evidence - IDA passed through several hands without documentation"**
 - (3) **"Ida is nothing more than an extinct lemur"**
<http://www.thetrumpet.com/index.php?q=6277.0.116.0>
- 3. **EVEN CHRISTIANS** attempt to shake your faith.... Listen to the following statements by Christian leaders:
 - a. **"Christians who believe in the rapture and second coming are dangerous - going to start WW3"**
(<http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/index.php?p=1465&more=1&c=1>)
 - b. **Rick Warren's** chief apologist recently posted an article on the Internet that said ministries that defend the faith (he referenced Lighthouse Trails) were like mentally unstable cultists, "who are not normal people, average complainers, critics and typical dissidents who are generally unhappy about life itself . . . they are deadly."
 - c. **Tony Campolo**, in his book "Speaking My Mind," says that "'rigid' Christians who believe in the possibility of Jesus' soon return" are "the real problem for the whole world." According to Campolo, they are to blame for wars, and a host of other evils in the world.

V. **What happened to Sennacherib?**

- A. At the moment of greatest despair, after HEZEKIAH and the people were shaken, GOD DESTROYED 180,000 ASSYRIANS
- B. Other than the FLOOD, this was the GREATEST ACT of JUDGEMENT recorded in the BIBLE!

VI. **Spiritual Survival. Here is the main part of this message. For Christian young people to survive, they must have something more to hold onto than just preserving the religion of their parents. In Wales, the older generation tried to preserve the wonderful church buildings, the old hymns, the great church tradition. But in the end lost an entire of generation to secularism. Here are four necessities that will keep a young man or woman true to the Christian faith. I will also give a verse with each truth.**

- A. **Trust the Bible.** (Joshua 1:8) *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*
 - 1. 2000 years of attacks (Higher Criticism, Scientific accusation)

2. THE BIBLE STANDS!

- B. Separate from Sin.** (2 Tim 2:19) *"Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."*
1. If SATAN cannot keep you from becoming a child of God, he will do everything he can to keep you from **LIVING LIKE ONE**
 2. False teachers will try to entice you to follow their evil ways.
 - a. (Jude 4) *"For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who **change the grace of our God into a license for immorality** and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord."*
 - b. (1 John 2:3-6) *"We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."*
- C. Rejoice in What God has Given you.** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*
1. A heart of thankfulness
 2. Rejoice in your **manhood, womanhood**
 3. Rejoice in your physical appearance and academic abilities
 4. Rejoice in the family God has placed you
 5. Rejoice in the stage of life
 6. Be positive
- D. Worship JESUS and ONLY JESUS.** (Matthew 22:37-38) *"Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."*
1. Anything, or anyone we love more, serve more, worship more is an **IDOL**
 2. Only a personal relationship with CHRIST will be sufficient to keep you in the faith
 - a. *Illus* in Great Britain, they rallied around their **BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS** and **SENTIMENTAL MEMORIES**
 - b. **PARENTS religion** is not enough
 - c. **Denominational loyalty** is not enough
 - d. **MAINTAINING beautiful facilities** is not enough

e. **KEEPING THE CHURCH GOING** is not enough

f. **PRESERVING DOCTRINAL HERITAGE** is not enough

Young men and women, you are the only hope for a generation that will continue to love the Lord and promote the gospel.