

## WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG WITH AMERICA

### Romans 1:18-32

#### I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. The purpose of Memorial Day is to honor the men and women of the United States military...who have died in the service of their country...Memorial Day is also a good time to pray for our nation.
- b. Some say that it is unchristian to be a patriotic American...they say that Christians should see themselves not as Americans but as global citizens ... citizens of the world...to me that is nonsense!
- c. America is my home land...this is the land of my birth ... I love America...I am loyal to America...I am proud to be an American...I think America is the greatest nation on earth and the greatest place in the world to live...I want God to bless America...and I constantly pray that He will.
- d. That doesn't mean that I don't care about and respect...the rest of the nations and peoples of the world.
- e. I know that Jesus didn't die just for Americans...I know that God loves all the people of the world equally...I want to see the whole world come to Christ...and it is my responsibility as a Christian to be interested in...and invested in global missions and evangelism.
- f. But America is my home...I love my country...I'm proud of my country...I pray for my country...my country has been good to me...if necessary I would die for my country.
- g. I still get a lump in my throat when I see old glory flying in the breeze...my heart is still touched when we pledge allegiance to the flag...I still get teary eyed when I hear the Star Spangled Banner...I hope I never do get cold or indifferent to these things...and I hope you don't either.
- h. Yes, our nation has its problems...but before we look at what is wrong with America ...let me remind you of some of the things that are right about America.

#### II. WHAT IS RIGHT WITH AMERICA-

- a. One thing that is right about America is the founding of our nation...our nation was founded on God and His Word...and dependence on God has characterized our government, national and social life for generations...until now.
- b. Another thing right about America is that there are still many Americans who are good ... decent ... hard-working...and honest...a majority of Americans still

profess belief in the God of the Bible...still believe that the Bible is the Word of God ... still believe in prayer...still believe that God's Hand was in the founding of our nation...and that God has been the source of our nation's many blessings and preservation.

- c. A majority of American's still reject evolution and believe that the God of the Bible created the heavens and the earth...are pro-life...believe in the moral teachings of the Bible ... and espouse biblical values...even if they do not always live by them.
- d. The greatest thing that is right about America...and that which has protected our nation from the greater judgment of God...is that American Christians have been and continue to be the world's greatest force for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.
- e. In the last century...75% of all international missionaries...and 75% of all mission funding and material aid...came from Christians in America...95% of the world has received some kind of Christian witness ...due largely to the missionary zeal and giving of American Christians.
- f. Another thing that is right with America is our historic support of the nation of Israel...God promised to bless those who bless Israel...and our nation has been blessed by God because of our support of Israel...based on our shared religious heritage and the teachings of God's Word.
- g. Another thing that is right with America is that in a world full of suffering, tyranny and oppression...our nation continues to be the greatest haven and the greatest force for liberty, freedom, and opportunity ... in the world.

### **III. WHAT IS WRONG WITH AMERICA-**

- a. What's wrong with America is that over the last 50-60 years our nation has increasingly turned its back on God...and because we have our nation has begun to experience God's judgment...and despite what is right with America ...if this nation does not turn back to God soon ... disaster is inevitable.
- b. In Romans 1:18-32...Paul speaks of the wrath of abandonment...the wrath exhibited by God when He turns His back on a rebellious society.
- c. When a nation continually and relentlessly rebels against God ... eventually God will abandon them to the consequences of their own choices.
- d. Three times in these verses you will find the phrase "God gave them over"...this phrase was used in ancient times of a convicted criminal who had been handed over for punishment.

- e. When a nation rebels against God and refuses to repent...eventually God will give that nation over to punishment...God will begin to withdraw His restraining grace ... and allow sin and its consequences to run unrestrained in that nation...God allows that nation to reap what it has sown.
- f. In this passage, Paul gives four indications that God's wrath of abandonment has come upon a nation.
- g. **First, God withdraws His hand of blessing and hedge of protection...**by every indication God's hand of blessing and His hedge of protection...that has surrounded this nation since our beginning has begun to come down.
- h. Our nation has never been more spiritually anemic...God no longer answers our prayers as He once did...God no longer works in America as He once did...our nation has never been more fractured and divided...crime and strife are rampant...poverty and want are growing...our nation's economy is fragile...family, social and educational structures are falling apart...we are rife with political chaos and corruption...and our nation is becoming more exposed to aggression and attack.
- i. **The second indication that God's wrath of abandonment has come upon a nation is rampant sexual immorality...***Romans 1:24 (NIV) "Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another."*
- j. When a society is awash in pornography, sexual immorality, fornication, adultery ... when such is accepted, approved and exalted...you know God's wrath of abandonment is in operation.
- k. **The third indication that God's wrath of abandonment has come upon a nation is rampant homosexuality...***Romans 1:26-27 (NIV) "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion."*
- l. When a society embraces, defends and exalts homosexuality, lesbianism and other such perversions... you know God's wrath of abandonment is at work.
- m. **The fourth indication of God's the wrath of abandonment is depraved and perverted thinking...***Romans 1:28-32 (NIV) "Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;*

*31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."*

- n. When a society advocates, appreciates and celebrates what God calls sinful and wretched... and depreciates what is virtuous and godly...you can know God has abandoned that nation...He is allowing that nation to reap what it has sown.
- o. By all indications...God is in the process of abandoning America, because our society has first abandoned and forsaken God...God's restraining grace has been pulled back and this society is getting more immoral and depraved every day.

#### IV. CONCLUSION-

- a. The greatest threat to this nation is God's wrath...the only hope for our nation is God's grace...is there any hope for our nation?...*Psalm 81:11-13 (NKJV) "But My people would not heed My voice, And Israel would have none of Me. 12 So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels. 13 "Oh, that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways!"*
- b. The only hope for our nation is to hear the Word of the Lord and begin to obey it...*Psalm 11:3 "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*
- c. **Stand Up.** Models of godly living. (*Hosea 7:8 (NKJV) 8 "Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned."*) Advocates for righteousness. Salt and Light. Godly values and standards. Participation in political arena.
- d. **Speak Up.** Share the gospel of Christ.
- e. **Reach Out.** Good works. Compassionate service for Christ.
- f. **Kneel Down.** In prayer for America and our neighbors.