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What Can Make America Great Again?

“What can wash away our sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus”

if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. --2Chron 7:14

It is beyond painful to witness the public unmasking of the unseemly and contemptable sexual behaviors of numerous titans of business, government, entertainment, education, and other spheres of cultural influence. Worse, while private-sector sexual misconduct, once aired, is being disposed with swiftness and finality, that is not currently the case in the hallowed halls of Congress. At this hour, elected officials are arguably slow-walking their “outed” colleagues, likely waiting for the next news cycle to blow the winds of adversity in another direction.

But, really—are these latest confirmations of rampant moral degradation in the United States of America catching any by surprise?

Frequent comments from our supporters, suggests strong concern that the Lord’s hedge of protection is being lowered, allowing the enemy of America (and our souls) access to what was previously well-guarded. Some even wonder if America is too far gone to be redeemed.

Colleague and friend, Dr. Marshall Foster, argues that our current national circumstances are very similar to those experienced by the founding generation more than two centuries ago. In the current issue of *World History Institute Journal*, he writes:

“Surprisingly, the Christian faith was in virtual collapse after the American Revolution. After seeing a miraculous victory against the British in the War of Independence, most citizens became lethargic about their faith and stopped going to church. Many indulged in real estate speculation and gambling, hoping for quick wealth. The upper class gave their children over to colleges that were filled with immorality and atheism, virtually abandoning the coming generation to godless philosophies from Europe and the French Revolution.

President of Yale, Timothy Dwight, explained how these philosophies corrupted the campuses. He said, ‘The dregs of infidelity were vomited upon us... the whole mass of pollution was emptied upon this country.’

With a worthless currency and a huge war debt, the nation faced bankruptcy. At the same time, the mighty French, once our allies, were now on the verge of declaring war on America. Chief Justice John Marshall, a devout believer, summed up how bad things were in the 1790s. He said, “the Church in America was too far gone to ever be revived.”

The college campuses of America in the 1790s became ‘seedbeds of infidelity’ says Dr. J. Edwin Orr, a premier scholar on great awakenings. He continues, ‘During the last decade of the eighteenth century, the typical Harvard student was an atheist... Christians were so unpopular that they met in secret and kept their minutes in code.’”¹

‘The radical leader of deist students led a mob in burning the Bible... Students disrupted [church] services with both profanity and spit. They burned down buildings and they forced the resignation of college presidents.’”

“In this state of unbelief, facing war with France and a collapsing paper currency at home, it seemed unlikely that the American republic would survive far into the 19th century. But Dr. Orr explains what happened next. He says, ‘The problem was too big for human ingenuity or human energy... Demonic forces with carnal collaboration had forced the churches into a corner. How did they retaliate and turn the defeat into victory? The one weapon left was prayer, and pray they did. In both Britain and the United States, an unusual spirit of prayer was poured out upon believers—the Union of Prayer in Britain and the Concert of Prayer in North America. Intercessors simply supplicated the God of the Universe to intervene on their behalf, in a revival of religion and an extension of the Kingdom of Christ on earth.’ [And] God answered the prayers of His people...”

According to Timothy Dwight, very few believers were on the Yale campus when he arrived in 1795. But, by 1802, the tide began to turn at Yale as one-third of the student body made professions of faith that year. Similar reports of salvations occurred on other college campuses, including at Amherst, Dartmouth, Princeton, and Williams—where in some cases, nearly half the student bodies testified to a “born-again” experience. Foster continues:

“This revival was not the work of slick promoters or top-down leaders. It came with power from God Himself who awakened and redeemed individuals from all strata of society. This awakening explains America’s success in the 19th century. Its fruit was supernatural. Individuals, freed from their addictions, became successful, resourceful and charitable, reaching out to the less fortunate. The nation prospered.”

“The transformative power of the gospel inspired Christian compassion, charity and social reform. The nursing movement, child labor laws, and care for the poor and immigrants came through the self-sacrifice and leadership of Christian believers. The abolitionist movement—the crusade to eliminate slavery—gained ever-greater momentum. This awakening was no spiritual bubble. Christians in the Second Great Awakening reestablished the biblical foundation of their nation throughout their institutions. In the fields of education, government, economics, science and technology the nation prospered like no other in history.” ^{ibid}

THE DANGER IN NOT TURNING TO PRAYER

Gary Bergel, writing for *Intercessors for America*, observed that in the sixth century B.C., the Babylonians conquered Israel, destroyed Jerusalem, and took many captives to Babylon. The prophet Habakkuk was highly perplexed because the Babylonians were so evil, he couldn’t understand how God would allow them to oppress His people. Bergel writes: “In anguish, Habakkuk cried out and God revealed His divine purpose in using the Babylonians to execute ‘a terrible yet redemptive judgment.’ Judah had lost its awareness of the Kingdom of God, and God was using the Babylonians to bring them back to an eternal focus.” ²

While many church-goers are satisfied with a few moments of pulpit-led prayers before and after each Sunday sermon, our appeal is directed to those who are willing to go much deeper—those who will offer a sacrifice of time and convenience to meet regularly with others to pray specifically for America.

If we thought there was another path to “Making America Great Again,” we would say so!

Rick Forcier

¹ Foster, Marshall, *World History Institute Journal*, November/December 2017

² Bergel, Gary, “Thy Kingdom Come,” *Intercessors for American Newsletter*, July/August 2000