

IN GOD WE TRUST

By

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Throughout the nation we have forgotten what it means to trust in God, and instead we seek solutions to our ills through all kinds of human systems — secular education, government agencies, governmental regulations, high technology, psychiatry and psychology, military power, and economic manipulation.

Few churches seem to trust God's method of drawing people to himself through the truth and the power of the Gospel.¹ If attendance at the service is low and members not being added each week, a new and bigger program is proposed.

In a great number of churches, the emphasis is not on the simplicity of the Gospel and the teachings of Christ, but on psychology and counseling.

The big issue with many Christians today is government. To any alert citizen it is obvious that society is crumbling, that our nation is being invaded by barbarians from every side and that we are bankrupt — financially, socially and morally. No longer does our citizenry, including the law makers, have the moral fiber to hold to the constitution, and the younger generation, along with millions of immigrants, do not even understand the basic principles of that constitution. We have traded responsibilities for rights and duties for desires.

Christians are looking to politicians and political solutions, in spite of the fact that one cannot see on the horizon any political party or national political figure truly aligned with Christ and a God-first agenda. It is easy to think that the nation can be “saved” by using the means of political power to accomplish Christian goals. But invariably the power of the politicians becomes the end to be served, rather than the means to a just end.

The truth is that we cannot put our trust in government or any other human power. Throughout history nations have traveled down this road to their destruction, and we haven't much farther to go this direction until the disintegration of our own American becomes visible to all.

It is time for Christians to focus on the kingdom of God and to put our trust in Christ the King. Jesus emphasized that to be His true disciple one must renounce dependence upon the world.² If our form of government and our freedom are to be saved, it will be by the power of Christ, who has all authority, and only when we turn from worshipping the idols of the state to trusting our lives and future to the Lord.

What we have today is a great portion of the nation who claim to believe *in* God but not very many who *believe* God. It is one thing to believe God exists, and quite another to believe that His word is the absolute truth and trust Him to keep it in spite of all obvious obstacles.

Such trust means that we accept God's definition of sin and recognize His justice in condemning it. Yet among Christians are a vast number who refuse to recognize that sin exists and who say that to identify anything as sin is being judgmental.

Religious leaders, supported by the media, are challenging their churches to erase that part of scripture that identifies the sin of homosexuality, as it offends too many people in this age of permissiveness. God's law can no longer be trusted to describe what

is right and best, rather denominational assemblies trust in the vote of its membership. In effect, they are saying, "What God calls sin is no longer to be considered as such in this enlightened age. We must stop considering a person sinful just because he violates God's laws. Instead, we must accept such a person and show him our love and respect for the very reason that he chooses a different lifestyle." The same attitude is demonstrated with regard to the wholesale killing of the unborn, sexual activity outside of marriage, and many other practices forbidden by God.

If we cannot trust God to give us commandments that rightly govern our relationships here, how can we trust Him to do right in judgment? If we cannot believe the life He wants us to live now, how can we believe in the life eternal?

In the early days of our nation, the children were educated in Christian schools, but when public schools were created with tax money, people began to trust their children to the state. Many excuses are given for choosing government schools: the children need to learn how to interact with society; they can witness for Christ in the public schools; they will be able to participate in social activities. But a high school teacher told me just recently that in her class there are six young people on probation and five pregnant girls. That's social interaction, government style. And how many Christian pupils actually "witness" for Christ in the school? Do they speak up when evolution is being presented, and do they refuse to sit through sex-education presentations where the discussion denigrates their faith and insults their moral values?

In spite of the many Christian teachers involved, public schools are the major channels of propaganda for secular humanism and are the humanist's strong arm for the destruction of Christian morals and the free enterprise system which is the basis for our economy. It is admitted even by the educators themselves that a large percentage of those who go through the system come out illiterate.

It is time that Christians recognize the evil of the humanistic culture and take a stand to see that their children are taught the truth of Christ and His commandments. Bold action requires courage, and that courage is derived from trust in God.

Throughout our nation there is a frantic striving for security, which results in greed and corruption. Trust in God abolishes this goal of security. Instead we can "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," knowing that the necessities of life will be supplied.³ This is the promise of Jesus. Trust Him.

Many are gripped with a bundle of fears, fear of a total economic collapse and fear of a New World Order which embraces a new religion that excludes the truth of Jesus. All of this may very well happen. But it should not cause fear in the heart of one whose "life is hid with Christ in God."⁴ Whatever direction the world powers take, we are still in the hands of One who has authority over them.⁵

What we are called to do here in the last decade of the twentieth century is to testify to the world in word and deed that we are part of a kingdom not of this world and that *we are going a different direction and to a different destiny.*

One reason we so often fail at this is the lack of trust. We take action only when we are assured of the exact results. To abandon present ties and walk by faith into the uncertain future is foolishness to the world, but it is not the way of trust. The future belongs to God, so Jesus said, "Be not therefore anxious for the morrow."⁶ The anxiety will diminish in ratio to the increase of our trust.

Do not think I am suggesting that we cease our labors to help our neighbor, our community and our nation. But the present government is humanistic and anti-Christ, and for these reasons it must be under God's judgment. It has become "a god unto itself and determines for itself what is right and what is wrong, what is virtue and what is sin."⁷ Jesus prayed that we not be identified with the world,⁸ and Paul wrote that Christ died "that he might deliver us out of this present evil world."⁹

We are called to uphold God's truth and righteousness in very facet of life. Such service to God and our fellowman does not depend on government and, in fact, must be performed in spite of and, if necessary, in opposition to government. This requires the kind of faith and trust exemplified by the apostles when the officials forbade them to teach in the name of Jesus. They answered, "We must obey God rather than men."¹⁰ even though they had already been imprisoned twice for defying those in power. It is only when we are willing to fully trust God with our whole lives that we are able to be obedient in the face of fierce and powerful opposition. Such trust can become a light to those in the world's dark misery.

It is not by our effort or ability but by our faith that we are brought into fellowship with God. Neither sickness, suffering, hardship, nor persecution can stop the process by which God conforms His children to His own image.¹¹ he is able to accomplish it all after the counsel of His own will.¹²

"For God gave us not as spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline."¹³ In God we trust.

REFERENCES

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| 3. Matthew 6:33 | 10. Acts 5:29 |
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