

A Fearful Thing - The Nation that Forgets God

- I. Introduction:
 - a. **(Ps 9:17)** “The **wicked** shall be turned into **hell**, and all the **nations that forget God.**”
 - i. Grim warning from David to the nations of the world
 - ii. Hell = Grave – a place apart from the realm of the living – nations will be destroyed
 - iii. Forget = ignore
 - 1. **(Ps 53:1)** “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.”
 - a. Fool = impious
 - b. Forget – ‘oblivious’ to God
 - i. **(Rom 1:20)** “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse”
 - 1. Clearly sees God’s invisible attributes but refuse Him as God
- II. What are the characteristics of a nation that forgets God?
 - a. A Nation that Forgets God is a Nation that takes God out of their lives
 - i. Change God into their Idols
 - 1. **(Rom 1:21-23)** “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.”
 - ii. Idol of Self – ignore God’s blessings
 - 1. Count themselves as sufficient in being their own provider
 - 2. Fail to thank God for all things
 - 3. They are proud, self-willed, loves to have their own way
 - 4. **(James 1:17)** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
 - iii. Idol of money and material wealth – live in “paradise” now!
 - 1. These material things will one day be destroyed
 - a. **(2 Peter 3:10)** “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”
 - 2. We need to look to that which is everlasting

- a. **(Matt 6:19-21)** “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
 - b. **(Matt 6:24)** “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
 - c. **(1 Tim 6:17-19)** “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”
 - 3. It’s not a sin to be rich – Sin to serve riches and wealth
 - 4. The nation that forgets God is the nation that makes its economy its God!
- b. A Nation that Forgets God is a Nation whose government forgets their role and duty to God
 - i. It is God that sets or allows people to rule over another
 - 1. **(John 19:10-11)** “Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”
 - ii. **(Rom 13:1-4)** “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore **resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God:** and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For **rulers are not a terror to good works,** but to the **evil.** Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For **he** is the **minister** of God to thee for **good.** But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for **he** is the **minister** of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth **evil.**”
 - iii. **(1 Peter 2:13-14)** “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto **them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers,** and for the praise of them that do well.”

- iv. These rulers overstep their duty when their laws conflict with God's
- c. A Nation that Forgets God is a Nation that forgets God's laws
 - i. (**Job 21:13-15**) "They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?"
 - ii. God's laws are just
 - 1. (**Ps 33:4**) "For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth."
 - 2. (**Prov 30:5**) "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."
 - iii. Without God there are no absolute morals
 - 1. No standard for what is correct behavior.
 - a. Morals would be based on what we and others around us think to be correct
 - b. What man has the right to impose his standard of morals on another? Only God has this right!
 - 2. Survival of the fittest would be correct – Strong survives at the expense of the weak would be the correct – theory of evolution
 - a. "Still another idea is **natural selection**, a process by which the individuals better suited to their environment tend to leave more descendants. All living organisms must compete for a limited supply of food, water, space, mates, and other things they need to successfully reproduce. Scientists use the term fitness to refer to an individual's overall ability to reproduce." (World Book Encyclopedia)
 - b. If there was no God and we came about because of evolution then it would be "immoral" to not do everything in your power to be the most successful
 - i. Kill
 - ii. Steal
 - iii. Cheat
 - iv. Lie
 - v. Hurt those that are weaker!
- d. A Nation that Forgets God is a Nation that Call Evil things Good, and Good things Evil.
 - i. (**Isa 5:20**) "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"
 - ii. Homosexuality

1. Homosexuality acceptance as an alternative and acceptable lifestyle – Those that teach against it are evil – Hateful – Discriminative
 - a. **(Lev 18:22)** “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”
 - b. **(Rom 1:26-27)** “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”
 - c. **(1 Cor 6:9-10)** “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall **inherit the kingdom of God.**”
 - d. Effeminate – “a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness” (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
 - e. Abusers of themselves with mankind – “one who lies with a male as with a female, a sodomite” (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
2. Homosexuality is not an acceptable lifestyle – They are lost! – We must keep warning them!
- iii. A Nation that Forgets God would want to change marriage to suit the homosexual population.
 1. Defenders of homosexuals being not against nature use the fact that homosexual encounters happen in the animal kingdom – But what about the 3 to 5% of the animals that have monogamous relationships – They are always heterosexual! – You never see animals of the same sex engaging in a long term monogamous relationship
 2. Bible’s teaching on Marriage
 - a. **(Matt 19:3-6)** “The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them **male and female**, And said, For this cause shall a **man** leave father and mother, and shall **cleave to his wife**: and they twain shall be **one flesh**? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh.

What therefore **God hath joined together**, let not man put asunder.”

- i. Marriage is a bond between a man and a woman – God joins (not the state) this union

3. This brings us up to another evil that many call good:

iv. Adultery

1. “If it doesn’t work you can always get a divorce!”
 - a. America is plagued with this mind set:
 - b. As we just read – Marriage is a serious lifetime commitment – between a man and a woman – God joins them
 - i. **(1 Cor 7:39)** “The wife is **bound** by the law as **long as her husband liveth**; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”

2. The Pharisees didn’t like this ‘new’ doctrine of Christ:

- a. **(Matt 19:7-9)** “They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the **hardness of your hearts** suffered you to put away your wives: **but** from the **beginning** it was not so. And **I** say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, **except it be for fornication**, and shall marry another, **committeth adultery**: and whoso marrieth her which is put away **doth commit adultery**.”
- b. Moses suffered (allowed) them (by the will of God) to do so for the protection of the woman – without the writing of divorcement she would not be able to be remarried and would have no livelihood
- c. Jesus went to the original law – brought it back – at the beginning it was not so
 - i. “For this cause shall **a man** leave father and mother, and shall **cleave to his wife**: and they twain shall be **one flesh**?” **(Vs. 5)**
- d. The only exception for a divorce is for the cause of fornication – else will lead to adultery

v. Abortion

1. “It’s good to spare the unwanted child from this cruel world!” – mercy killings of the Nazi Regime?
2. “It’s evil for someone to speak against the woman’s ‘right’ of her body!”
 - a. Who is upholding the baby’s rights to live?
3. We must speak the truth and defend the innocent and helpless

- a. **(Ps 82:3-4)** “Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.”
 - i. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**” (Declaration of Independence)
- 4. The unborn baby has life – living – murder is murder whether in the womb or out
- 5. The unborn baby is a unique creation of life from God
 - a. **(Job 31:15)** “Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?”
- 6. The Bible speaks of the baby out of the womb in the same way that it speaks of the baby in the womb
 - a. **(Gen 25:22)** “And the **children** struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the Lord.” – Esau and Jacob
 - b. **(Luke 1:41)** “And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the **babe** leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost”
 - c. **(Luke 2:12)** “And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the **babe** wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”
 - d. **(Luke 2:16)** “And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the **babe** lying in a manger.”
- 7. The Bible warns us against the shedding of innocent blood – especially to the idol of ourselves
 - a. **(Ps 106:36-38)** “And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their **sons** and of their **daughters**, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.”
 - i. Specifically mentions sons and daughters (specific) – not children (generic)
 - 1. Individual members of our families – these were young people!
- 8. The nation that forgets the sanctity of life is a nation that forgets God

vi. Child Discipline

1. Government gives us a right to kill our unborn children, but once their born they want to take away the right and responsibility to rightly discipline them
2. It is our responsibility to teach our children correctly
 - a. **(Eph 6:4)** “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
 - b. **(Col 3:21)** “Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”
 - i. Parents do not have the right to emotionally and physically abuse their children but they are obligated to raise them correctly
 - c. **(Prov 3:12)** “For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”
3. In raising our children that must include teaching them consequences for their actions
 - a. **(Prov 19:18)** “Chasten thy son **while there is hope**, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.”
 - b. **(Prov 23:13-14)** “Withhold not **correction** from the child: for if thou **beatest him with the rod**, he shall not die. Thou shalt **beat him with the rod**, and shalt **deliver** his soul from hell.”
 - i. Beat – not abusive – corrective – not out of anger but out of love for his/her soul
 - ii. Rod – Slender stick – “switch” – stings but can’t kill them with it, can’t even bruise them – not a ball bat!
 - c. **(Prov 22:15)** “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but **the rod of correction** shall drive it far from him.”
4. A child without correction is truly ‘abused’
 - a. **(Prov 29:15)** “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”
 - i. Rod + Reproof = Wisdom
 1. Rod – gets their attention
 2. Reproof – teaches them
 - b. Left to himself brings shame
5. **(Prov 22:6)** “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
 - a. If proper discipline is exerted will not teach one to be violent – it will teach one not to be violent

III. These are some of the characteristics of a nation that forgets God. What can we do?

- a. Remember Nations are made of Individuals – You must keep from forgetting God
- b. Continue in well doing
 - i. (**Gal 6:9-10**) “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
 - ii. (**2 Thess 3:13**) “But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.”
- c. Continue to correctly raise children
 - i. (**Prov 22:6**) “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
 - ii. They can continue and pass on the torch of not forgetting God!
- d. Be not afraid to defend your faith
 - i. (**Phil 1:17**) “I am set for the defense of the gospel.”
 - ii. (**1 Peter 3:15**) “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”
- e. Live faithful until death
 - i. Ultimately we are also citizen of a greater nation – nation of God
 - 1. (**Col 1:12-13**) “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath **translated us into the kingdom** of his dear Son.”
 - ii. Let us endure till the end
 - 1. (**Luke 9:62**) “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
 - 2. (**Mark 13:13**) “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

IV. Conclusion

- a. The nations that forget God will be turned into Hell – Destroyed!
- b. They may be oblivious of Him now but one day all knees will bow
 - i. (**Rom 14:11-12**) “For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”