

## The Real Problem

A man went to his doctor and said, “I hurt all over. If I press my finger to my head I hurt; to my side; to my neck. . .” His doctor said, “Let’s take X-Rays.” Afterwards the doctor came back to his patient and said, “You’ve got a problem and we’re going to have to operate. You’ve got a broken finger.”

We point our finger at SCOUTS; POTUS; Congress; liberals; conservatives and say, “That hurts!” – The problem is with us; we have a broken finger – according to scripture, there is one primary source of a nation’s ills and that is, a complacent, carnal church.

**Romans 2:21-23 (ESV) – <sup>21</sup>you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? <sup>22</sup>You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? <sup>23</sup>You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. <sup>24</sup>For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”**

God gives repeated warnings and solutions to our issues. In the familiar conversation with Solomon, God declares in **2 Chronicles 7:13-15 (ESV, esp. v. 14):**

**<sup>13</sup>When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, <sup>14</sup>if my people who are called by my name 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. <sup>15</sup>Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.**

If we fail to follow God, there are ramifications that we do not want. So, what do we do about it? The text gives us the answer.

1. We need to HUMBLE ourselves and acknowledge that we are powerless to right this nation on our own. We tried on own and it doesn’t work
2. We need to reignite our PRAYERS. Specifically, we need to confess sin and ask for God’s intervention.
3. We need to SEEK HIS FACE. We don’t need to just seek His hand, i.e., what He can give us. Rather, we need to get as close to God as possible
4. We must REPENT OF SIN. We cannot seek the face of God if we are separated from Him. Are we: Immoral? Watching pornography? Greedy? Racist? Sowing seeds of discord among brethren? We must repent and draw close to God.

Do not forget the role of courage in standing for the truth. **2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)** reads:

**<sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear [timidity] but of power and love and self-control.**

Biblical heroes were courageous – Hebrew Midwives (**Exodus 1:15-22**); Moses defying Pharaoh in leaving Egypt (**Exodus 14**) Rahab (**Joshua 2**); Esther (**Esther 4**); 3 Hebrew boys into the furnace (**Daniel 3**); Daniel in lions’ den (**Daniel 6**); Obadiah hiding the prophets from Ahab and Jezebel (**1 Kings 18:1-6**); Peter and John (**Acts 5:23**);

Our Founding Fathers were not wimps but mighty religious (Christian) people!

56 Signers of Declaration of Independence: **And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.**

They knew if our bid for independence succeeded they would have a new, struggling nation; if it failed, they faced torture and the hangman as traitors. They went forward with courage and faith in God.

This is the same kind of resolve we need today – to stand for truth even when not popular; as in NT times we acknowledge that we are aliens/foreigners in this culture. If we take a bold stand for truth today we may be labeled:

- Intolerant
- Racist
- Homophobic
- Unloving and hateful
- Bigoted

If church stands for truth it may be attacked, even literally. Antifa and BLM targeted church buildings in their riots. Churches were targeted in the Covid lockdowns. Canada of all places is arresting Pastors and literally locking up churches, forcing congregations underground. That should not surprise us. Satan always attacks the people of God.

**1 John 3:13 <sup>13</sup> Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.**

**John 15:18-20 <sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you . . . <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.**

The problem is, too many Christians today do not want to be hated by the world. They do not want to resist evil. Too many churches and too many church leaders would rather conform to the world than transform it. So, when illegal and unconstitutional governmental decrees come down they willingly submit rather than courageously resist. Then they wonder why their church rolls contain the apathetic, defeated church members.

God needs us to be bold and courageous. **Matthew 10:28 (ESV):**

**And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Keep The Light of True Solutions Burning!