## 103.5 Take the Fork in the Road

It seems that America has been taking the advice of the former NY Yankee catcher and sage, **Yogi Berra**, who purportedly said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." Many years ago, Americans had the opportunity to go the way of God or the way of hell. Which way have we chosen?

In all its imperfections, America had one redeeming quality: we intended to be a country that followed God and kept His commandments. Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor **John Winthrop** stated:

For we must consider that we shall be as a city set on a hill [Matthew 5:14]. The eyes of all people are set upon us so that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword through the world [Deuteronomy 28:37].

Those who immigrated to America developed a biblical worldview that incorporated the word of God into every aspect of life. The last line of our **Declaration of Independence** openly affirmed the signers' dependence on God. It reads:

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.

God is not as overtly mentioned in the Constitution as in the Declaration, but He is there nonetheless. He is present in the Constitution, similar to the Book of Esther. God is not mentioned by name or title but is unmistakably working to save the Jews. Consider these Bible-based precepts in the Constitution.

- "We the people" is the opening phrase of the Constitution. Not only do these words reveal the power base of the country, but they also come from biblical principles. Moses delegated responsibilities to PEOPLE following Jethro's advice in **Exodus 18:21** (NKJV):
  - <sup>21</sup>Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.
- Our Constitution divides our government into **three <u>unequal</u> branches**. These are the legislative branch (law-making), which is the most powerful, the executive branch (law-enacting), and the least powerful judicial branch (law-enforcing). This system provides checks and balances so that one branch does not dominate the others. All three branches are still accountable to the people in one way or another. The concept of the three branches comes from **Isaiah 33:22** (NKJV):

(For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King:

He will save us):

• The **Second Amendment** addresses the right to self-defense. It reads:

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

The population should be the well-regulated Militia for America and bent on defending life and property when necessary. The Biblical basis for self-defense is found in many verses. Luke 11:21 (NKJV) is just one. It reads, "<sup>21</sup> When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace." Psalm 144:1 (NKJV) is another, and the Psalmist wrote, "Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle-"

Our Forefathers and Mothers chose to use the Bible as the foundation for their children's education since "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). Benjamin Rush wrote about the importance of the Bible in education in 1787:

Let the children...be carefully instructed in the principles and obligations of the Christian religion. This is the most essential part of education.

The previous year he wrote:

... the only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid on the foundation of religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments.

We could regain our godly role if we returned to our Founders' biblical worldview and based our education on scripture. But, for the most part, Americans have taken the wrong fork in the road. As I prepare this podcast, the Oklahoma State Superintendent of Education, Ryan Walters, fights to remove pornographic material from our public schools. He is on the right track, while many of our "woke" educators are not. As a result of anti-God, anti-Bible activists, our country drifted away from God and is heading for the waterfalls. Jesus reminds us of that choice in **Matthew 7:13-14** (NKJV):

<sup>3</sup> "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup>Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Which fork in the road are we taking, to life or death? I fear we are seeing the condemnation and death of America on the horizon unless God intervenes. Most Christian Americans have lost our ancestors' Biblical Worldview and have put God on the shelf. The proof is in the widespread acceptance of immorality and the abominations God condemns.

Mainstream churches no longer speak out against sin for fear of hurting feelings. So, they remain silent in the face of decay and corruption. While we strive to "speak the truth in love," we must speak. Silence is not loving the lost. It is cowardice and loving self more.

God was not afraid of hurting feelings when He condemned the abominations of homosexuality (**Leviticus 18:22**), lying (**Proverbs 12:22**), injustice (**Proverbs 17:15**), and the prayers of one who ignores God's law (**Proverbs 28:9**). He was not afraid of hurt feelings when He rained fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah. You see, <u>He</u> is God. We are not. <u>He</u> knows what is right and best for us. We need to trust and obey Him.

The LORD will not be afraid to hurt feelings when He displays His justice on rebellious nations like ours. The sixth-century BC people of Judah can testify of this when Babylon took them captive, uprooting them from their homeland of Israel.

God is longsuffering, not wanting any to perish. He is gracious, merciful, and loving. He is also just and righteous. He will not allow us to mock Him indefinitely. When you come to a fork in the road, take the right one.

Keep The Light of a Godly Nation Burning!

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