

Losing Our Sin Sense

One of my favorite stories from the War for American Independence was a conversation between Dr. Benjamin Rush and John Adams. Rush had been surveying the medical facilities for the Continental Army and was discouraged. He returned to the Continental Congress and spoke with Adams. Here is his version of the event.

Upon my return from the army to Baltimore in the winter of 1777, I sat next to John Adams in Congress, and upon my whispering to him and asking him if he thought we could succeed in our struggle with Great Britain, he answered me, "Yes, if we fear God and repent of our sins."

Adams turned Rush's question from one about an earthly conflict to a spiritual one. The American Revolution dealt with the spiritual issues of freedom and slavery more than physical geography. The king wanted to enslave the colonists and control their unalienable rights. The Revolution moved to the spiritual since God authored those gifts. We have the same issues with a government that wants to take away your God-given rights and make you a slave to its system where "you will own nothing and be happy."

We treat God lightly, to say the least. We have forgotten who He is and who we are. He is God; we are not. Our ancestors understood Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV): "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account." With all of the distractions around us, we tend to forget our sinfulness and that we are accountable to HIM.

Our Founders and Framers periodically called their communities to fasting, prayer, and humiliation days. They understood our country's need for God. Samuel Adams said: "I thank God that I have lived to see my country independent and free. She may long enjoy her independence and freedom if she will. It depends upon her virtue." In other words, it depends upon our commitment to God. When Abraham Lincoln set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation, he cried out: "We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God." Does this sound familiar?

See if this passage of scripture seems like modern America:

"When I would have healed Israel, Then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered, And the wickedness of Samaria. For they have committed fraud; A thief comes in; A band of robbers takes spoil outside.

²They do not consider in their hearts *That* I remember all their wickedness; Now their own deeds have surrounded them; They are before My face.

³They make a king glad with their wickedness, And princes with their lies.¹

The era in which we live is the most deceptive of my lifetime. As the prophet says, they have "committed fraud." I am personally at the point where I trust very few people to tell the truth about anything. The MSM, politicians, education leaders, and medical-industrial leaders have given us a flow of deceptive fiction. It seems, as many point out, "If the spokesmen in these industries are moving their lips, they are lying."

Hosea spoke of the "thief coming in and a band of robbers taking the spoil." Can we apply this to the millions of illegals entering America? The government is using your tax dollars to finance them. That sounds like theft upon theft. The tax system we are under steals your income, and now they add the invaders' expenses to our tab.

The northern kingdom of Israel left God and eventually went into the Assyrian captivity. While God wanted to redeem them, they were lost. Hosea 7:13 tells why:

¹ Hosea 7:1-3 (NKJV)

¹³“Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction to them Because they have transgressed against Me! Though I redeemed them, Yet they have spoken lies against Me.”²

God rescued America from Great Britain, but we have blatantly spoken against Him and left Him. Why should our consequences be any different than theirs? After their sins, Adam and Eve could not hide from God in the Garden. Neither can we.

God continues to seek our redemption in Christ. However, so many people neglect the viable truths of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection and reach a point of no return, so they cannot accept Him. As Hosea points out, many are guilty of speaking lies, accepting abominations, and devising evil against God.

He is aware of us, no matter if we think we can hide from Him or if He does not exist. The Psalmist wrote, “The fool has said in his heart, “*There is no God.*” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.” This could also read, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘No, God’” as they reject Him.

A significant quality of God’s person is that he or she remembers their condition without God and humbly appeals to Him for His mercy, presence, and guidance. The apostle Paul knew the crimes of the priests who crucified Jesus and the wickedness of the Roman Empire and Nero. He still meekly referred to himself as the “chief” sinner.³ He recognized his need for and dependence upon God and His grace.

How different would we be as a nation if we removed our arrogance and selfishness to recognize our sinfulness and God’s holiness humbly? One of the benefits of having godly leaders establish our country is that they focused the American colonies on God. Before we declared independence, on May 17, 1776, the Continental Congress declared a National Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer. John. Witherspoon delivered a sermon at Princeton University that day titled “The Dominion of Providence over the Passions of Men.” In it he stated:

“If your cause is just, if your principles are pure, and if your conduct is prudent, you need not fear the multitude of opposing hosts. What follows from this? That he is the best friend to American liberty, who is most sincere and active in promoting true and undefiled religion, and who sets himself with the greatest firmness to bear down profanity and immorality of every kind. Whoever is an avowed enemy of God, I scruple not to call him an enemy of his country.”

We are unquestionably in a mess as a nation. We have forgotten God and gone our own way. He is the answer to every issue we are facing, and we need to be honest with Him.

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² Hosea 7:13 (NKJV)

³ See 1 Timothy 1:15