

OUR CHALLENGE IN A STRANGE LAND

In Psalms 137:1-4 a once free and proud people are carried away bound and captive into Babylon. Their captors wanted to be entertained at the Israelis expense.

The question is asked, "How shall we sing the Lords song in a strange land?" How indeed, for now, liberty so long taken for granted has been taken away and people without any concept of bondage are bound. How did they become bound? The reasons are many, but I will declare three.

1. By ignoring God's Word and despising the warnings of His prophets.
2. Pursuing anything and everything but godliness.
3. Complacency in taking for granted their experience with God.

The same is happening to the United States of America and the Church of Jesus Christ in America. For we are following the exact pattern of ancient Israel.

All over the U.S. there are attacks on the Christian Faith in all walks of life. Let me state it emphatically. This nation was founded by Christians with the expressed desire to worship, not a generic god, but the God of the Bible AND HIS SON JESUS CHRIST! Not Alla, Buddha, Confusion, Great Architect of the Universe OR ANY OTHER PRETENDER god. And those patriots wrote our constitution which provided for atheist or any other belief to be free to practice or not practice their religion, if any.

But they were abundantly clear this was, is, and ever should be "One Nation Under God", the God of the Holy Bible. It was clearly espoused this was and should be a Christian nation!

However, this is a strange land today!. Christians are losing freedoms and criminals, pornographers, perverts, Islam, Wicca and ANY other belief system are given deference and preferential treatment. The agenda that seems to be sweeping the nation with a maniacal fanaticism that defies common sense, will bring unrestricted abortion, repeal of Defense of Marriage Act and unrestrained ungodliness. All in the name of hope and change.

This agenda is almost totally consumed in academia, media and politics, especially, Washington D.C. This mania defies common sense but prevails and any tactic is acceptable if it furthers their agenda. How we are marching as sheep to the slaughter, sleep walking into bondage with barely a whimper of protest. A strange land indeed!

The Church of Jesus Christ is bound and basically irrelevant in our generation. Ignoring the Word of God, pursuing everything but godliness and taking our relationship with God for granted, we have drifted from the uncompromising truth that makes us who we were meant to be. Foundational truths as the Deity of Christ, Salvation through faith in His shed blood as the only means of salvation. The power, person and manifestations of the Holy Spirit, the authenticity of the Bible and it's authority as absolute truth, are just a few that most confessed Christians no longer believe. And we are bound, among the thorns (Lk.8:14), and the fruit is corrupted.

Divorce rates among those claiming Christ are higher than the pagans. The Church is as disfunctional as the world and probably more so. Churches of America are fighting over music styles, carpet, roof color, eaten up with power struggles, pursuing pleasures, wealth and promiscuity. A strange land indeed!

The remedy? Those not caved in and corrupted by this tide sweeping church and nation, SING THE LORDS SONG BOLDLY, LOUD AND WITHOUT COMPROMISE!! In spite of all the anxiety, concerns, distractions and pursuits, GRIT YOUR TEETH AND GUT IT OUT!

"Hunger and thirst for righteousness" (Matt 5:6). Thirst and seek God(Ps.63:1-4) Have a "humble and smitten spirit, trembling at God's Word (Isa.66:2). Love what God loves(Micah 6:8), "do justly, love mercy and walk humbly before your God". Hate what God hates(Pro.6:16-19), a proud look, lying tongue, murder, heart devising wicked imaginations, feet running swift to mischief, false witnesses, sowing discord. And we cannot ignore II Chron. 7:14, "If MY people, who are CALLED BY MY NAME, shall HUMBLE themselves, Pray, and SEEK MY FACE (this is not redundancy, there is a difference in petition prayers and seeking God's face), and TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN, I will hear from heaven, and WILL FORGIVE THEIR SINS and HEAL their land." (Emphasis mine)

Unless and until this happens our challenge will continue to be how to sing the Lords song in this strange church and land. But make no mistake, some of us are going to sing it! SO SING BELIEVERS, SING!

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