

Sermon Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God



America's Perilous Position

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 6:7-9; 2 Chronicles 7:13-15 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: Romans 6:23

SUMMARY

While there are many aspects of American life we love, currently our nation is in a perilous position.

However, many people are unaware of this truth. Some can't see the danger, while others deliberately ignore the warning signs or just don't care what happens to our country. It's easy to be lulled to sleep because change happens slowly. Then suddenly we wake up and realize that America today looks nothing like it did in the past. By comparing its earlier state to its present condition, the dangers that await us if we continue down this path become painfully obvious.

SERMON POINTS

The Principle of Sowing and Reaping

Nations and cultures change, but biblical principles don't. We can't keep doing whatever we want in this country and expect the Lord to continue blessing us. In Galatians 6:7-8, we are warned, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

Each of us must consider what kind of seed we are sowing in our personal lives, our churches, and our nation. Are we expressing and standing courageously for our beliefs? Do our biblical convictions determine how we vote, relate to people, do our jobs, and worship God? Are the messages in our churches based on the truths of Scripture, or are they merely insubstantial sermons without any biblical foundation?

The principle in Galatians 6 guarantees that we will reap what we've sown, more than we've sown, and later than we've sown. No longer can we take for granted all the blessings of the past, because the harvest is near. Our nation is continuing to turn from righteousness to wickedness, sin, and deception. In the past, we would never have imagined that we could someday tolerate and accept so much evil and call it right and good. The future does not look promising for the next generation who will reap what we have sown.

Therefore, we cannot continue to deny or ignore the situation, thinking that life will continue as normal, undisturbed by the perilous conditions around us. Denial reveals that we've failed to heed Paul's warning not to be deceived (v. 7). Every single one of us will be affected by the state of our nation. Although we as Christians may not have sown the evil that permeates our culture, the church has been too quiet about it. It's time for God's people to take a deliberate, courageous stand for the truth and show that we are genuine believers and not merely those who profess to know Christ.

Signs of a Compromising Nation

When a country accepts ways of life that are forbidden in Scripture, its society will be marked by the following characteristics:

- **Immorality.** The culture will be driven by a desire for sexual freedom and indulgence that mocks genuine sexuality.
- **Greed.** People will do whatever it takes to acquire wealth, including cheating, stealing, and lying.
- **Pride.** There will be a sense of false confidence. People will think they don't need God because they can get whatever they want without Him.

- **Indulgence.** They will search in vain for self-fulfillment and happiness because true satisfaction only comes in obedience to God.
- **Slothfulness.** People will become dependent, no longer striving to do their best but expecting others to take care of them.
- **Ungratefulness.** Pride causes people to forget and take for granted all the blessings they've enjoyed by being a part of this country.
- **Irreverence.** Having laid aside God's Word, nothing is sacred anymore, and God is no longer revered.

The Danger of Judgment

Because we have chosen the way of sin rather than godliness, our nation is facing judgment. However, if we as the people of God stand up, speak up, and live out our faith and convictions with boldness, there is hope. We can no longer stay quiet and go our own way hoping that conditions will improve. The only way things will change is if we, the people of God, commit ourselves to live in obedience to Him and refuse to compromise our convictions. No matter what the cost, we must not yield to compromise by remaining silent.

America has become its own enemy, and its conscience has become dull and insensitive. Today truth is whatever each person wants it to be, and a sense of respect and reverence for the things of God has been lost. Although Christians believe God's Word and want to live righteously, the society around us has forsaken the Lord. The ideals and values upon which our nation was founded have been taken away from us. What was once righteous and good has been surrendered to the pursuit of freedom to do whatever one pleases. However, there is still hope if we will wake up, face the reality of our perilous condition, and stand for the truth just as the founders of this nation did.

Surviving Perilous Times

Second Chronicles 7:13-15 is God's promise regarding Israel's restoration after experiencing His judgment because of their rebellion against Him. Although this passage was specifically given to the nation of

Israel, the principles in verse 14 can also be applied by Christians today. 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, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

- **Humble ourselves.** This means we acknowledge God as Lord of our lives, subject ourselves to His commands and principles, and ask Him to search our hearts.
- **Pray.** We must begin to consistently intercede for our nation.
- **Seek God's face.** Coming before the Lord, we ask Him to show us His will for our nation and for every area of our lives so we can live as He desires.
- **Turn from our sins.** As the Lord shows us issues in our lives that are not right, we must repent of these sins and turn back to Him in obedience.

The responsibility of intercession rests on Christians. Repentance begins with us, not the world. We are the ones who must humble ourselves, pray, seek the Lord, and turn from sin so God can revive His church and heal our land.

RESPONSE

- What signs have you seen indicating that America has turned away from the Lord?
- Has this reality motivated you to consistently pray for our nation? If not, what is distracting you?
- One of the requirements for answered prayer is humility and repentance. What would humbling yourself involve? What thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions should you discontinue to become an effective intercessor for our nation?

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