

When a Nation Forgets God...

Video- NBC cuts “under God” from Pledge of Allegiance

<http://nation.foxnews.com/media/2011/06/19/nbc-cuts-under-god-pledge-allegiance>

This was not a clip from an obscure NBC affiliate in an extremely liberal area of our country. This was the network’s carefully, professionally prepared introduction to the Master’s golf tournament broadcast through affiliates nationwide and around the world. Does it represent a composite sentiment of everyone at NBC? I hope not. But it does, at the least, reveal a broad and diverse sentiment among many in America to remove all semblance of the God of America from the public arena. And this is not about sensitivity or tolerance. It’s about unbelief and it’s about hostility toward the Christian faith!

After hurricane Katrina, Billy Graham's daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, was interviewed on the Early Show. Jane Clayson asked her, "how could God let something like this happen?"

She said, "I believe that God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives, and being the gentle Father that He is, I believe that He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and his protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

1 The fool says in his heart, “God does not exist.” **P**salms 53:1 (HCSB)

I guess there are a good many people in our nation today, many who are in powerful and influential places, who are proving themselves to

be quite the fool. How is it that they, though a part of a very small minority, have done so much damage to the positive influence and presence of Christianity in this nation who's very founding principles and laws were based on the bible and Christian values? Has the church as a whole just sat down and let the noisy and obnoxious few dictate their agenda against the public view and knowledge of God? Who's to blame for the powerful current trend toward the secularization of America? Consider Paul's letter to the church.....

1 Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God. **2** So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do good and you will have its approval. **4** For government is God's servant to you for good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For government is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong. **Romans 13:1-4 (HCSB)**

Clearly the God-ordained purpose of government is to protect and serve those who conduct themselves properly and punish those who do wrong. But what if our government presumes upon itself to do more, much more, than protect the innocent and punish wrong? What if our government takes it upon itself to interfere and control the personal affairs of its citizens? What if,

under the guise of political correctness or tolerance, it becomes illegal to call sin sin and call sinners to repentance? What if our government presumes upon itself, outside the will of the people, to control and manage what we teach our children, what doctor we use, or use our tax dollars to pay for abortions? What if our government changes the value standard upon which our laws are based? There may come a day when you or I will have to respond and Peter and John did.....

29 “We must obey God rather than men. **Acts 5:29** (HCSB) It is interesting to note and even quite alarming to observe what went on in Germany in the 1930s and see similar trends in our nation today.

William Shirer “The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich”- “It would be misleading to give the impression that the persecution of Protestants and Catholics by the Nazi State tore the German people asunder or even greatly aroused the vast majority of them. It did not. A people who had so lightly given up their political and cultural and economic freedoms were not, except for a relative few, going to die or even risk imprisonment to preserve freedom of worship. What really aroused the Germans in the Thirties were the glittering successes of Hitler in providing jobs, creating prosperity, restoring Germany’s military might, and moving from one triumph to another in his foreign policy. Not many Germans lost much sleep over the arrests of a few thousand pastors and priests or over the quarreling of the various Protestant sects. And even fewer paused to reflect that under the leadership of Rosenberg, Bormann and Himmler, who were backed by Hitler, the Nazi regime intended eventually to destroy Christianity in Germany,

if it could, and substitute the old paganism of the early tribal Germanic gods and the new paganism of the Nazi extremists. As Bormann, one of the men closest to Hitler, said publicly in 1941, “National Socialism and Christianity are irreconcilable.”

The experience of Nazi Germany reminds us that whoever controls a nation’s laws also controls a nation’s agenda and its values. R. J. Rushdoony has observed that behind every system of law there is a god: “If the source of law is the individual, then the individual is the god of that system...if the source of law is our court then the court is our god. If there is no higher law beyond man, then man is his own god... When you choose your authority, you choose your god, and when you look for your law, there is your god.” Look behind the law and there is your god!

What happens when a nation forgets God? Listen to what God said through Jeremiah the prophet regarding Judah in its last days before the invasion of the Babylonians.

¹ [This is] the word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah (which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon).² The prophet Jeremiah spoke concerning all the people of Judah and all the residents of Jerusalem as follows: ³ “From the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah, until this very day—23 years—the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken to you time and time again, but you have not obeyed. ⁴ The LORD sent all His servants the prophets to you time and time again, but you have not obeyed or even paid attention. ⁵ He announced, ‘Turn, each of you, from your evil way of life and from your evil deeds. Live in the land the

LORD gave to you and your ancestors for ever and ever. ⁶ Do not follow other gods to serve them and to worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger by the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm. ⁷ “ ‘But you would not obey Me’—[this is] the LORD’s declaration—‘in order that you might provoke Me to anger by the work of your hands and bring disaster on yourselves.’ ⁸ “Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts says: ‘Because you havenot obeyed My words, ⁹ I am going to send for all the families of the north’ —[this is] the LORD’s declaration—‘and [send for] My servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will bring them against this land, against its residents, and against all these surrounding nations, and I will completely destroy them and make them a desolation, a derision, and ruins forever. ¹⁰ I will eliminate the sound of joy and gladness from them—the voice of the bridegroom and the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ This whole land will become a desolate ruin, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon for 70 years.’ ¹ Jer 25:1-11 (HCSB)

It was only after many years of God pleading with His people to repent and return to Him that He chose to use a king and nation more evil than Judah to bring judgment on His people. God did this with the intention of leading those who truly knew and loved Him back to a right relationship.

When a nation forgets God- (worst first)

3. It will experience God’s wrath

Many nations throughout the history of mankind have risen and fallen. America is not immune, just because of her spiritual roots, from the judgment and wrath of God. If the majority of

Americans keep putting people into positions of authority who have no regard for God and His purposes, we will all suffer the consequences.

21 He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and establishes kings. **Dan 2:21 (HCSB)**

God has judged the nations patiently and righteously throughout human history and He is judging America . Roe V. Wade alone ought to be enough to stir the fear of the wrath of God in the heart of any true follower of Christ. Six states now having passed laws allowing gay marriage. That should put more fear into us. Our schools and public places have stripped of any semblance of God.

God has judged and will judge all the nations including America . It either has happened, is happening, or will happen...

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knows except Himself. ¹³ He wore a robe stained with blood, and His name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies that were in heaven followed Him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. ¹⁵ From His mouth came a sharp sword, so that with it He might strike the nations. He will shepherd them with an iron scepter. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: **KING OF KINGS**

AND LORD OF LORDS **Rev 19:11-16 (HCSB)**

Before God brings judgment on a nation.....

2. God calls to repentance- He is amazingly patient. His preference on a personal level as well as to nations is restoration and reconciliation not judgment and wrath. Those are last resorts. The Lord spoke through Jeremiah for 23 years. It was at the dedication ceremony for Solomon's temple that the Lord declared.....

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. **2** Chron 7:14(KJV)

God has always preferred repentance and reconciliation over wrath and judgment. That's obvious throughout the whole bible. God prefers that America return to her spiritual, righteous roots and begin to honor Him again.

1. God's people must be agents of reconciliation

It is crucially important that we elect God honoring, bible believing Christians to places of power and leadership. It is relatively insignificant to me to know a person's education or experience. I want to know about their walk with the Lord. I want to know how their faith will effect the way they govern and serve the people. I want to know about their previous governing experience how their faith and values have affected their leadership and the way they vote on issues that matter.

But that said, it is still primarily the church's responsibility, one person, one family, one community at a time, to turn our nation back to God. No matter how corrupt, ungodly, and abusive our

current government is or becomes, we are commanded to be salt and light, to be agents of real hope and change. ¹ First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ¹ Tim 2:1-4 (HCSB)