

# GREG'S NOTES

## A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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### AMERICA, THIS IS YOUR WAKE-UP CALL!

Matthew 5

I have traveled around the world quite a bit, and I still believe that the United States of America is the greatest country on the face of the earth. We have our flaws and our weaknesses, but I still believe it. But our country is facing a spiritual and moral crisis right now. We are facing problems at home and abroad. And there are continuing conflicts in other parts of the world. To me this is a warning—a wake-up call for America.

So what is our position as Christians and what should we do?

#### PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **We need to stand for truth whether it is popular or not.** We need to stand on whatever the Bible says on every topic. No wavering. This is non-negotiable. We believe all of the Bible is the Word of God. We are to stand on what Scripture says and not back down.
2. **We must use a language that people can understand.** Sometimes in our attempts to preach the gospel, nobody even knows what we are saying. Sometimes we're answering questions no one is asking, or using Christian verbiage they don't understand. We can't assume our listener understands biblical terminology. We must adapt to the people we are speaking to like Jesus and Paul did.
3. **We need to bring the message of the gospel to people.** When we do, some will respond favorably. Some will not. Paul summed it up like this, "Now wherever we go, He uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the good news which is like a sweet perfume. Our lives are like a fragrance presented by Christ to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved than by those who are perishing" (see 2 Corinthians 2:14).
4. **Before we can effectively tell them, we must first live it.** Nothing is worse than a hypocritical Christian. If you are going to contradict what you believe by the way that you live, if you are not going to seek to live as a follower of Jesus, do us a favor and keep it to yourself. Real followers of Christ are to create in others a thirst for Him (salt) and expose the darkness of this world with the truth (light).

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### RELEVANT REMINDERS

It is possible for God to turn a nation around, but what are we to do?

- We need to infiltrate, not isolate. We are to be salt and light in the world, so let's not evade, but invade.
- We need to pray. We need to get right with God and turn from our wicked ways. Revival starts in the house of God.
- We need to preach the gospel. That is the message that America needs to hear.

### APPLICABLE ACTIONS

What kind of world would we live in if every Christian behaved just like you? How many would be attracted or turned off by the gospel? What kind of general opinion would people have of Christianity if you were its sole representative? You might say, "Greg that is a lot to lay on one person." Wait a second. You are the sole representative of Jesus Christ in certain situations. You may be the only Christian some people see. You may be the only Christian in that workspace. In that classroom. In that neighborhood. You are the only one. They are literally evaluating how they feel about God depending on you. "That is too much pressure," you might say. Deal with it. You are His representative so do everything you can to be a good one.