

More Apologetics – Less Apologies!

Psalm 9:17 "The wicked will be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

How do we as a nation forget God? By allowing laws to be placed on our statute books that clearly violate God's laws and steers us away from His will for our nation.

The Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act, the Civil Union Act, and many other laws that provide more protections for criminals than victims, is a clear indication that South Africa is moving very quickly away from God's authority and protection and to a more man centred approach.

However, the prevailing human rights culture that followed the era of apartheid is used of the devil to deceive people into believing they have guaranteed their rights and protections when what they have actually done is move further away from the only One that can protect them – Jesus Christ.

Consequently, the fact that the godless seek their salvation in the laws of man is understandable – but what is not, is that the very institution God placed on the earth to warn people and nations that salvation lies not in their human efforts but in the God of the Bible - remains mostly silent.

We must not view this as mere laws on our statute books but rather a reflection of the philosophy, will and social acceptance of an entire nation that we no longer require God's laws for guidance and protection but that we choose to place our trust in our own human wisdom and strength.

1 Timothy 3:15 "The Church of the living God is the ground and pillar of truth."

Consequently, the Church is ordained by Jesus Christ to prophetically proclaim the Word of God into the nation to provide both the foundation (ground) and support structure (pillar) for society.

Without the foundation and support structure provided by the truth of God's Word, the nation invariably moves into Godlessness and error bringing with it internal strife, corruption, and lawlessness which ultimately leads to massive social dysfunction & destruction to society.

Many Christian leaders in this nation and in the nations of the world have adopted the very un-Biblical stance of political correctness to appear non-threatening and non-offensive to the world.

This strategy demands they remain silent on the fundamental principles of Biblical Christianity. However, as the Scripture says in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

Consequently, watering down the Scriptures or remaining silent to accommodate those outside the Church not only dilutes the power and authority of God's Word; it empowers the enemies of God to take more ground for the kingdom of darkness - emboldened by a weak and indecisive Church.

As the Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 10:5 believers are commanded to "Cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

This is not an apologetic and passive stance. Casting down arguments that challenge the authority of Christ is a bold, decisive and aggressive defence of the truth of Scripture against every attack.

As the Scripture says in 2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." There is nothing passive or apologetic about this Biblical command.

Christian leaders have become far too apologetic about the authority of Scripture. Most of the silence emanating from the Church today is a result of fear. Fear of man, the fear of being controversial, the fear of being attacked and maligned in the media and the fear of self.

However, as the Scripture say in 2 Timothy 1:7, God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love, power and a sound mind." The basis of our fear therefore is self serving & self preservation.

However, are fear, silence and self preservation evidence of Christ like character? As the Scripture says in Philippians 1:27 28, "Only let your conduct be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel. (28) And not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God."

Consequently, we need to see more Biblical apologetics and less apologising from the Church to provide a consistent and convincing rationale for the hope we have in Christ Jesus.

The apologetics I am referring to is firstly the Apologetics of proof; in which the Church publically and consistently presents a rational basis for faith.

Secondly, Apologetics as defence - which answers the objections of unbelief - the Apostle Paul describes his mission as "defending and confirming the Gospel." Phil 1:7.

And thirdly, Apologetics of offense – which involves attacking the foolishness of unbelieving thought-, Psalm 14:1. Non Christian thinking is foolishness according to Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:18 "for the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." The function of apologetics therefore is to expose that foolishness for what it is.

Consider what the flood of secular humanism has given us; enormous increases in divorce, abortion on demand, an explosion in single parent families, thousands of child-headed families, drug & alcohol abuse, gangs, spiralling crime rates, HIV/AIDS, and the related health epidemics, homelessness, hunger, unemployment, government deficits, increased taxation, political corruption, degeneracy of the arts, mediocrity in education, interest groups demanding "rights" of all sorts without the corresponding responsibility and at the expense of everyone else – and the pollution of the environment.

Secular humanism which promotes the notion that God is not God – man is god and the ultimate standard of morality – has given us the messianic state, which claims all authority and seeks to solve all of mankind's problems (secular salvation), but which generally makes things much worse.

A Christianity that rests completely on the authority of the Scriptures is the only genuine alternative to the bankrupt philosophies of secular humanism not only because it provides a comprehensive

philosophy of life (Biblical Worldview) but because it also provides a message of hope (the Gospel of good news) to a dark & dying world.

Significantly, however, there is no good news in secular humanism just a message of hopelessness, purposelessness and despair.

Historians reveal that of the 88 civilisations that existed in history every one of them that moved from a strict moral code to eventual social decadence and immorality were destroyed from within.

South Africa and many other nations around the world face a similar threat - Increasing social dysfunction and lawlessness as we rapidly move away from God's protective boundaries.

The tragic evidence of this is played out nightly on television news broadcasts.

Post-apartheid South Africa is desperately trying to establish equality and justice in a nation ravaged by the oppressive systems of the past. We have a Human Rights Commission, Equality Court and other institutions attempting to promote righteousness, equality and justice for all.

But equality remains elusive and justice a mere dream. As the Scriptures says in Isaiah 59:13 -14, "In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. (14) Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off, and equity cannot enter. (15) So truth fails..."

Truth currently lies wounded in the streets of South Africa. When truth becomes a casualty in a nation, righteousness, justice and equality fail - because truth is the foundation of these virtues.

As the Scripture says in Psalm 11:3, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Truth established on the Word of God was once delivered & entrusted to the Church of Jesus Christ. When the Church fails to promote that truth in society – darkness & despair reigns.

The question I am asked repeatedly both inside and outside the Church is this, "Why is the Church in South Africa so weak?" Why is the Church losing its influence in society so rapidly and allowing so many un-Godly philosophies to flood into our country without us even putting up a fight?!

The answer to that is very simple. The Church is ignoring the Great Commission to go into all the world and uncompromisingly preach the Word of God without fear or favour because it is primarily inward focussed. There is more world in the Church today - than there is Church in the world!

The very simple explanation for this is that those advancing a godless and wicked agenda in society are far more bold, committed and uncompromising than those called by God to uphold His Truth.

What is lacking amongst South African Christians today is conviction. There appears to be no conviction to defend and uphold the integrity and authority of God's Word in the public domain.

There appears to be little conviction in the Church today to address the many social ills demanding our attention. Most Christians believe issues, like prostitution, sexual abuse of women and children, the murder of the unborn and rampant sexual immorality is the responsibility of government.

To a large extent, the Church has abdicated its responsibility and has relinquished its mandate to be salt & light to society.

Much of the Church today is so inwardly focussed that we have grown accustomed to the moral decay all around us. However, that moral decay has now seeped into our sanctuaries and is threatening to undermine the very authority & integrity of God's Word in our pulpits.

The tacit acceptance of abortion on demand and homosexuality is spreading like wildfire through the Church because we take great pains to appear politically correct while ignoring our duty to God to be faithful to His Word. We don't mind offending God but we dare not offend the wicked.

As the Scripture says in Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world and not according to Christ."

With every piece of humanistic legislation enacted in Parliament that violates God's law – we move further away from God's protective covering and into a place of darkness and vulnerability.

South Africa's smooth transition from apartheid into democracy in 1994 clearly indicates that God's hand is on this nation and that He has a unique plan for us among the nations of the world.

But whether we want the plan and purpose of God for our nation is debatable. How many Churches or Christian citizens are actively opposing evil & promoting righteousness, truth & justice in society?

Most Christians seem to have accepted abortion on demand and special rights for homosexuals. We have accepted these ungodly laws because it is far more convenient to ignore these abominations – than to actively and passionately work to eradicate these laws from our statute books.

We faced pivotal times in our nation's history when the country could have been plunged into civil war. The assassination of Chris Hani comes to mind. But God guided us through that crisis.

So why have we forgotten God's grace and mercy on this nation so quickly? Because the Church of Jesus Christ in South Africa is not fulfilling its prophetic obligations to remind the nation of God's goodness and to warn its people of the impending disaster that awaits those who forget God.

Martin Luther King offers this timely warning, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."

The prophetic zeal Martin Luther King refers to is what is missing in the Church of Jesus Christ today.

Where are the modern day Prophets of God challenging the contemporary prophets of Baal to prove that their god is the true God? Where are the modern day Prophets of God calling the Church to recapture its zeal for the things of God and to faithfully uphold the truth of His Word?

The dire lack of prophetic utterance in the public domain of our nation has hastened the onset of moral decay and spiritual darkness. However, it doesn't have to be this way because God, through His Son Jesus has given us His Church every spiritual blessing to be 'Salt & Light' to the nations.

As the Scripture says in 2 Peter 1:3, “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.”

When the Church withdraws into self imposed cocoons and shuts out the world – the consequences for society are devastating. The absence of the Church in the world produces moral chaos.

A British High Court declared recently, “There is no place in the law for Christianity”. Lord Justice Munby and Mr Justice Beatson made the remarks when ruling on the case of a Christian couple who were told that they could not be foster carers because of their view that homosexuality is wrong.

The judges underlined that, in the case of fostering arrangements at least, the right of homosexuals to equality “should take precedence” over the right of Christians to manifest their beliefs and moral values.

In a ruling with potentially wide-ranging implications, the judges said Britain was a “largely secular”, multi-cultural country in which the laws of the realm “do not include Christianity”.

Campaigners for homosexual rights welcomed the judgment for placing “21st-century decency above 19th-century prejudice”. Christian campaigners claimed that it undermined the position of the Church of England.

The ruling in the case of Owen and Eunice Johns, from Derby, is the latest in a series of judgments in which Christians have been defeated in the courts for breaching equality laws by manifesting their beliefs on homosexuality.

Make no mistake - the precedent set in the British High Court will eventually make its way to our shores. Please be aware that secular humanism and every other godless philosophy currently infiltrating our nation are not interested in competing with Biblical Christianity or even existing alongside it – Secular humanism’s ultimate aim is to eradicate Biblical Christianity and replace it with a soppy all inclusive gospel that tolerates sin and reduces God to mere spectator status.

Once a bastion of Christianity, Britain is now rushing towards paganism and certain destruction. A weak and passive Church has opened the door to every Godless philosophy in Britain. That nation has lost its identity and is struggling against an onslaught of Islam & other pagan traditions.

All the high priests of secular humanism need, is a weak, compromised and ineffectual Church to help them advance their evil agenda.

During December 2010 Cape Town Tourism – working closely with homosexual activist groups – announced a bold plan to promote Cape Town as the premier homosexual destination in Africa.

CTT used rate payer’s money to invite homosexual tourist groups to Cape Town to enjoy the Mother City Queer Project Party and used the occasion to declare Cape Town the “gay” capital of Africa.

I challenged CTT’s right to use rate payer’s money without their consent to promote a lifestyle most ratepayers do not agree with. I was attacked in the press as a hateful homophobe for daring to question CTT’s pro-homosexual agenda and their use of public funds to promote perversion.

During the debate that raged in the press for more than three weeks a number of alleged Reverends wrote to the newspapers or sent me emails claiming that Jesus preached an inclusive Gospel that apparently condoned homosexual behaviour & not the message of “hate” I was articulating.

My message of “hate” is that God loves all people and sent His Son Jesus to die for the sins of the world. However, the Bible clearly condemns homosexuality as sin. God loves the homosexual but hates the sin of homosexuality. Thus, homosexuals must repent of their sin, turn to God for forgiveness and seek His purpose for their lives before they can be included in His eternal family.

Incidentally, only one single Church leader in Cape Town entered the fray to defend the integrity of the Scriptures. The rest remained silent as an evil agenda sought to establish itself in the city.

This lack of conviction amongst the Church leadership in South Africa is troubling - especially when it concerns issues fundamental to the Christian faith like human sexuality, marriage & the family.

The boldness of the wicked and the silence of the righteous indicate a disturbing global trend that the Church of Jesus Christ has given up the fight to defend the family and have largely abandoned the Biblical command to advance the kingdom of God in every area of life.

But the Spirit of God has not called us to be weak, fearful and ineffectual. The Scriptures declares in Rom 8:37 “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

God has called His Church to be watchmen on the walls of the city – not hidden within the walls of the sanctuary

As the Scripture says in Isaiah 62:6, “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem, they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent.”

Consequently, God is searching for men and women of faith prepared to take up their positions on the walls of the city to sound the alarm and prophetically declare the Word of God with conviction.

As the Scripture says in 2 Chronicles 16:9, “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts is loyal to Him.”

My question this morning is will God find men and women in South Africa whose hearts are so tuned into Him that they cannot help but enter the battlefield to defend His name and uphold His truth - even if it means persecution.

My prayer is that God will find such people in our midst today and that the Church of Jesus Christ in South Africa will prevail against the enemies of God – for the sake of our future generations.

God bless you.

