



WEEKLY SERMON

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Message: Patriotic Message

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Text: Proverbs 29:18; Lamentations 1:12

The strength of our nation does not come from Washington or from any of its political leaders. The strength of our nation comes from God through the strength of its churches which comes from strong families. Let us ever remember that the secret of America's greatness lies in the sovereignty of God and in the influence of the Bible, the Living Word of God. Unique in the world is the fact that this nation was founded by godly men who stood with absolute conviction on the Bible.

In Proverbs 14:34 we read, "**Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.**" America is great because America was founded and established on "**Righteousness.**" In Deuteronomy 11:26-28 what God said of Israel could be said of America, "**Behold I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.**"

For decades, pulpits thundered the truth of this text keeping America, "**One nation under God.**" The French Statesman Alexis de Tocqueville wrote this in the early 19th century as he traveled throughout our nation:

"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her rich minds and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her public school systems and her institutions of learning, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her democratic congress and her matchless constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with RIGHTEOUSNESS did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Yes, the greatness and the goodness of this nation came into being because our foundations and roots were anchored in God and in the Word of God. What made America great was not:

because of the men and women in the U.S. House of Representatives or Senate, nor is it because of the president of the U.S. in the White House - nor is it because of the eight men and one woman on the Supreme Court of the United States.

What has made America great was:

the courageous stand of our founding fathers who stood upon the Word of God and RIGHTEOUSNESS. It was the flaming PULPITS of God's men proclaiming the righteousness of the Word of God, and God's people living RIGHTEOUS lives from the MORAL ABSOLUTES of this book.

May the immortal words of Samuel Francis Smith's hymn "My Country, Tis of Thee" written with the back drop of the American War of Independence continue to inspire us with a perpetual heritage.

In His Amazing Grace

Pastor David Niklas

PS: If you have forgotten God's Goodness, then you need to read this.

Me: (in a tizzy) God, can I ask you something? **God:** Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad? **God:** I promise.

Me: (frustrated): Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today? **God:** What do you mean?

Me: Well I woke up late, **God:** Yes.

Me: My car took forever to start, **God:** Okay.

Me: (growling) At lunch, they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait. **God:** Hmmm.

Me: On the way home, my phone went dead, just as I picked up a call. **God:** All right.

Me: (loudly) And to top it all off, when I got home, I just wanted to soak my feet in my foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work. Nothing went right today! Why did you do that? **God:** Well let me see the death angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me: (humbled) Oh... **God:** I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that might have hit you if you were on the road.

Me: (ashamed) ... **God:** The first person who made your sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what they have, I knew you couldn't afford to miss work

Me (embarrassed): Oh. **God:** Your phone went dead because the person that was calling was going to give a false witness about what you said on that call, I didn't even let you talk to them so you would be covered.

Me: (softly) I see. **God:** Oh, and that foot massager, it had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry God. **God:** Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me in all things, the good and the bad.

Me: I will trust you God. **God:** And don't doubt that my plan for your day is always better than your plan.

Me: I won't God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today. **God:** You're welcome child. It was just another day being your God, and I love looking after my children.

“Apathy – Death by Indifference”

INTRODUCTION: This morning, please listen carefully as I un-burden my heart on a matter of great concern. In Revelation 3:1-3 we read,

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. (2) Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. (3) Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”

Again notice verse 2, “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.”

Someone made this statement, “Civilizations do not just die. Their leaders and people are first deceived, then they are destroyed by God.”

This is why you and I are so important to what happens in our family, church and nation. Today as believers, we have to make a choice not only for our lives, but also for the lives of our children and grandchildren's future. **Will it be ruin or revival?** There are no other choices!

Today's culture provides us few if any incentives for godliness. Biblical standards once accepted as convictions by believers are now shrugged off as “old-fashioned and IRRELEVANT.”

Someone said: “There are still enough believers in this country to move America from godlessness to godliness.” If you believe that, then we have a chance. If you don't believe that, then God help our children and grandchildren.

Another said, “Citizenship in a free country is a blessing from God.” Our great system of self-government assures every Christian a voice in the affairs of the nation. But we have disobeyed our Lord, we have ceased to be the SALT of the earth and the LIGHT of the world as Christ has commanded, and as a result the moral fiber of America is rotting away. **OUR PRICELESS FREEDOM IS IN GRAVE JEOPARDY** - as atheism is penetrating every area of our national life. America is faced with the greatest spiritual crisis in its history. We are in danger of losing our nation by default, and with it our individual freedoms and possibly our very lives.

PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THIS: If that should happen, our opportunity to fulfill the great commission throughout the United States and around the world will also be lost, and 100's of millions will never have an opportunity to receive Christ as Saviour. Remember America is the last strong hold of freedom on earth and the citizens who are dedicated to God are the only resource for the preserving of our freedoms, including our freedom to worship and to serve God.”

If you take a look at most issues that are facing the church today, you will discover that in most cases there is “**INDIFFERENCE**” on the part of the average believer within the church.

Who cares if the officials in the church and the government lie?

Who cares if many of the major businesses in our nation promote homosexuality?

Who cares if I as a Christian make a little wager on the Lottery?

Who cares about the abortion issue, since it hasn't touched my home?

Who cares if my neighbor dies and goes to hell? I am saved and on my way to heaven, and he wouldn't be interested anyway. Really, what concern is that to me?

Who cares about the spread of pornography, since I watch the x-rated videos and TV programs in my own living room?

Who cares about illicit drugs, witchcraft or Satanism?

Really, who cares? With these issues in mind, turn with me to Proverbs 29:18 and underline this verse in your Bible unless you have already done so. **“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law (that is the Word of God), happy is he.”** Now let me ask you a number of thought-provoking questions.

QUESTION: Why are people dying and going to hell today? You might say, because of unbelief, and I would agree. John 3:36 tells us, **“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”**

But let's face it. People are also going to Hell today because of our apathy to Mark 16:15 to **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”** What about soul winning?

**How concerned are you about soul-winning?
Are our efforts reflective of our hearts?
Didn't Jesus command us to go into the world and preach the gospel?**

Yet, the pitiful efforts put forth to fulfill this command is appalling. The result is that the world's population is increasing by millions who have no access to a clear message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Why? Because of indifference.

Is Paul speaking to us in I Corinthians 15:34 where he said, **“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”**

QUESTION: Why are churches suffering from spiritual apathy within their midst? Someone has said that if the **“Holy Spirit was removed from the average church, 95% of the program would just keep right on going.”** If we think we are in good shape, then:

Why are fornication, adultery and divorce so rampant in our Bible believing churches? Everyone is doing it, so why should I sweat it, why should I care if it doesn't directly affect me?

Why are our churches filled with people who are just concerned with a part time, convenient religious experience?

Why do pastors have to twist people's arms to give, to serve, to get involved in the work of the ministry?

Why are so many professing Christians barren, empty, hurting, confused, and in spiritual bondage?

QUESTION: Why are Christians apathetic, with no desire to even live a consistent Christian life? Observable in the religious life of American churches is a **“SHOCKING NUMBNESS.”** While there are churches which are alive and productive, the other side of the coin reveals a deep, settled **“SLEEP”** in many congregations, even in the fundamental churches. So in what way has the church become apathetic?

We show apathy by sporadic attendance which has a depressing effect on the corporate life of a church. The attitude is they will never miss me, which by the way is untrue here.

We show apathy by irresponsible leadership. Yet the Bible teaches us from I Corinthians 4:2 **“It is required in stewards (people entrusted with responsibility) that a man be found faithful.”** Many people give of their time to their activity but seldom attend the mid-week prayer service and frequently miss Sunday evening services.

We show apathy by exhibiting fleshly attitudes that are not from the Holy Spirit, thus producing carnal, careless ministries and attitudes that begin to sow discord among the brethren.

We show apathy by neglecting our stewardship of giving of our time, talents, and treasures.

Apathy simply declares, **"I don't care!"**

QUESTION: Why is there is so much apathy in our nation? Perhaps this bumper sticker says what Christians are experiencing; **"There's too much apathy in this country... BUT WHO CARES?"** I believe we live in a world in which we simply do not care. A snug complacency has settled in. There is no vision in this nation for **RIGHTEOUS LIVING.**

Remember Proverbs 14:34? It reads, **"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."**

Edmund Burke said, **"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."**

QUESTION: Why are families falling apart, when men and women split the scene and children go every which way? In Proverbs 29:18 we read, **"Where there is no vision, the people perish..."** Again, there is no biblical vision for marriage and for the upbringing of children. Families are established and maintained by a vision. Do you have a VISION for your family or are you only just drifting along?

This is not the time to just sit back and take it easy for the cause of Christ. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, said in Lamentations 1:12,

"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of His fierce anger." Notice again those words, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?"

Jeremiah did all that was in his power as a prophet of God to warn the people of Judah that if they did not repent of their sin and idolatry they would suffer judgment. For months Jeremiah was moved to uncontrollable weeping, but others seemed not to care. **"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?"** Apathy is a death by indifference

I. Love dies by indifference. Love is like a fire. If it is fed the right fuel it burns. If there is no fuel the fire goes out. Legions are the husbands and wives, brothers and sisters and one-time close friends who have let love die by indifference.

II. Health dies by indifference. Despite the most earnest warnings from the medical profession, there are millions who destroy their lives by indifference to their health.

III. A law-abiding society dies by indifference. We live in America that simply cares only for wealth and prosperity. We only care for what is best for ourselves.

IV. The old-time faith dies by indifference. Remember the purpose of Jude 3-4 where he writes,

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (4) For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Why do we need to **"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"**? Because the old-time faith is virtually dead in many Christian denominations. By the way, it appears to be dying in many of our so called **"Evangelical churches"** as well.

There was a time when churches may have differed strongly on such things as the sovereignty of God, the free will of man, the security of the believer and the mode of

church government. But it was unthinkable to question:

**The divine inspiration of scripture,
The fall and depravity of man,
The virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ,
The substitutionary death of Christ for sinners on the cross,
The bodily resurrection and the salvation by grace through faith,
The second coming of Christ, and
The eternal bliss for the saved and the eternal torment of the lost.**

It's surprising how few today know **WHAT** they believe nor **WHY** they believe it. It may be even more surprising to know that the average preacher doesn't believe the truths of the old-time faith. But who cares, what does it really matter anyhow?

Folks, we must ever be mindful of Jude, verse 3 where we are exhorted that we "**should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**" For us "**the old-time religion should never be set aside for the contemporary religious fad of the day.**"

V. Useful lives die by indifference. The story of Abraham's nephew is told for us in Genesis 11-19. Lot had enough faith that he joined Abraham in leaving his country and his father's house and going to the land God promised to show him. Of Lot we read in II Peter 2:6-8, that he was "**a just and a righteous man**" and yet the unlawful deeds of the wicked in Sodom "**vexed his righteous soul.**" Lot, according to

Genesis 13:10-12, "**lifted up his eyes and beheld the plain of Jordan...and pitched his tent toward Sodom.**"

Genesis 14:12, "**...and dwelt in Sodom.**"

Genesis 19:9, "**...and would needs be a judge**" or a community leader in Sodom."

As a result:

Lot's wife developed such a love for Sodom that God turned her to a pillar of salt for her lustful looking.

Lot lost everything material he owned and

Lot's daughters got him drunk and conceived children by him.

Oh, my friends be very careful how you live. How tragic so many of God's people start out well, but in the end their lives for Christ die by indifference and they wreck and ruin their children along the way.

VI. Eternal souls die by indifference. Is there anyone who really intends to be lost forever? Yet, it is obvious from the scripture and experience that the majority leave this life in unbelief. There are many reasons but probably the most prevalent one is the belief that "**there's plenty of time, I've got other things that are more important to me right now, I'll get around to it before I die.**" I would remind them of the words found in II Corinthians 6:2, "**...now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**"

VII. Churches die by indifference. Christ rebuked the Church of Laodicea in Revelation where we read in verses 14-17,

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; (15) I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. (16) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. (17) Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked..."

Perhaps you ask what these verses have to do with the church today. I believe the answer is contained in the phrase, "**far too long.**"

Far too long we have played at the business of **just going to church**. Where the **services are just the ordinary**, where the congregation does not have an "**ear to hear what the spirit of God has to say;**" or a **desire to respond to the message.**

Far too long we have just gone through the **motions of Christianity**, singing a few songs, hearing a sermon, going to some church activity and back home again with no change in our lives. Most of our talk is just religious talk. It is a lot of **HOT AIR** with no real substance.

Far too long we have made the **church calendar full of activities** and made the church a play time instead of a place of worship where our souls are changed and our hearts are taught and we are ready to go forth to win the lost for Christ.

Far too long we have prayed for the **lost to be saved** and seen nothing happen.

Far too long we have been in the **dry, barren, spiritual wilderness** thinking this is what Christianity is all about and not knowing we are starved and thirsty for the real things of God.

Far too long we have been without the **prayer meetings** that are full of God's people pleading for forgiveness and for God's intervention in the things of our lives.

Far too long we have neglected the **MOURNER'S BENCH**, where we confess and plead for the mercy of God to forgive us.

The prophecy of the last days says that churches will give way to indifference and apathy. They will neither be **hot** nor **cold**. They will be **lukewarm**. The spirit of apathy is all around us.

The believers in the churches may die by indifference. However, they can rise again if they take heed to Psalm 85:6, "**Will thou not REVIVE US AGAIN, that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?**" What then will Revival bring?

When **REVIVAL** comes we will be overwhelmed by a spirit of **conviction of sin**. Confession of sin will be the order of the day.

When **REVIVAL** comes, **agony over sin** will be so great that the thought of prolonging life in the midst of such wickedness will be intolerable.

When **REVIVAL** comes, long forgotten **sins against members of the Body of Christ** will be remembered with great grief as we begin anew and as Christians who have lived like heathens begin to manifest the love of Christ for one another.

When **REVIVAL** comes, we will **re-focus upon the Cross of Christ**.

When **REVIVAL** comes, **God's timing, purpose and plan** will rule the day.

When **REVIVAL** comes, there will be an **intense interest in the Word of God**.

When **REVIVAL** comes, **agony of souls will inflame us**. Prayer for the eternal welfare of others will become a passion.

When **REVIVAL** comes **holiness** will become a prime object of life. "**To be like Jesus**" will become the theme song of the revived.

When **REVIVAL** comes, **prayer** will become pure delight. It will be the "**sweet hour of prayer.**"

The encouragement in all this is that apathy in a church can be reversed. We all must respond enthusiastically to God's tasks for us.

In Romans 13:11 we read, "**And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep.**"

In Matthew 5:13 we read, "**You are the SALT of the earth, but if the SALT have lost its savor, with that shall it be salted? It is thereafter good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.**" Now **SALT** penetrates as it makes its presence felt. That is what you and I are to do in this world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The choice is ours. Will it be **RUIN** or **REVIVAL**? Will it be **APATHY** or **VICTORY**? May I challenge you to let **APATHY** be our foe and **VICTORY** be our friend. What should our action be? I believe it is found in Jeremiah 14:20-22,

"We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee.(21) Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us. (22) Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things."

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**Apathy - Death by Indifference**" then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "**...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**"

Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**"

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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