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# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

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## WHAT IS WRONG WITH AMERICA? WHAT CAN WE DO?



The root of America's problem is not politics or economics, it is sin. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Racism isn't the problem. The Bible is color blind. According to the Bible, all men are children of Adam. There is only one race, and that is the human race. Skin colors are simple variations in genetic pigmentation (melanin). Skin color is skin color, but only the heart has moral and spiritual significance, and man's heart is universally corrupt. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). That is

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## ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT CAPTURE

On June 7, 1967, Israel recaptured the Temple Mount at the end of the Six-Day War at the hands of the 55th Paratrooper Brigade. Commander Mordechai Gur broke radio silence to announce, "The Temple Mount is in our hands!" It was the first time in nearly 2,000 years that Israel controlled the real estate where her ancient temples stood. The second temple was destroyed in AD 70 by the Roman legions under the general Titus. The Six-Day War recaptured not only the Temple Mount, but also Samaria and the Golan Heights (ancient Bashan) overlooking the Sea of Galilee. The return of Israel to her land in an unregenerate state is necessary for the preparation for Daniel's 70th Week, which begins with a covenant with the Antichrist by a spiritually-blind Israel and the building of the third temple, which will be desecrated by the Antichrist when he presents himself as God and demands global worship. "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" (Da. 9:27). "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains. ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Mt. 24:15, 16, 21). Revelation 11 describes the measuring of the third temple and the preaching of the two prophets of God during the first half of the Antichrist's reign.



*Temple Mount*

## WHAT IS WRONG WITH AMERICA? WHAT CAN WE DO?

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the white man's heart, the black man's heart, the brown man's heart, *et al.* The Bible doesn't specify a sin called "racism." It describes, rather, idolatry, hate, pride, envy, covetousness, theft, kidnapping, murder, malignity, boasting, disobedience to parents, blasphemy, fornication, lying, false witness, and other such things. Jesus said that these come from man's heart and defile him (Matthew 15:18). All colors of men are made by God, all live and move and have their being in God, and all are accountable to God. The only thing that can change hearts is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and this is the business of the New Testament church, which is the only institution on earth that is called "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). The thing that made America strong once upon a time was New Testament churches, and the only thing that can help America today at the most fundamental level is strong New Testament churches. Yet even the churches that consider themselves to be staunch Bible-believing "fundamentalist," "Baptist," etc., are as weak as water, for the most part. They are party churches, not power churches, not prayer churches. They are entertaining the saints, not disciplining them, coddling them, not reproofing them. They are so eager for members and pew sitters and tithers that they care almost nothing for maintaining a regenerate membership, though that is the first mark of a true New Testament church (Acts 2:41-42). The fathers aren't the spiritual leaders of the homes. The mothers aren't the keepers of the home. The children aren't properly disciplined. The families are worldly. The youth are worldly. Even the elderly are worldly. The members aren't true pilgrims; they are settled down in the world, flowing along comfortably with the world. Just look at their social media. The pastors are so backslidden and cowardly that they accept this as the status quo, yet still consider their churches to be true churches. The only thing that can really help America is for Bible-believing churches to take the eternal Word of God seriously, stop playing games, stop partying, stop focusing on politics, shut down the gym and open up the prayer rooms, stop the feasting and start the fasting, start rebuking and disciplining sin, start building godly homes, start requiring *serious* Christianity of anyone who serves in *any* ministry, get serious about the requirements of church membership, get really zealous about getting the gospel to every soul as far afield as possible, training leaders, starting new churches, emphasizing the imminent return of Christ, preaching the judgment seat of Christ, caring more about God's feelings than man's, fearing God more than man. I'm very glad that I know of churches that are doing exactly this, and they are prospering, but they are in the very extreme minority.



Ronald Reagan

**HUMAN LIBERTY AND THE LIMITATION  
OF GOVERNMENT POWER**

Woodrow Wilson

"Ronald Reagan stated at St. John's University, NY, March 28, 1985: 'Government that is big enough to give you everything you want is more likely to simply take everything you've got.'"

Woodrow Wilson warned in New York, 1912: "The history of Liberty is a history of limitations of governmental power, not the increase of it. When we resist, therefore, the concentration of power, we are resisting the powers of death, because concentration of power is what always precedes the destruction of human liberties" (cited from William Federer, *Change to Chains: The 6,000 Year Quest for Control*).

# A PRAYING CHURCH IN THE PAST



*Metropolitan Tabernacle*

In my experience, fundamental Baptist churches today are typically not praying churches. A mid-week prayer meeting in which the people actually pray is rare. Special prayer meetings before the services and before Bible conferences and “revivals” is exceedingly rare. And if a church does have real prayer meetings, they are poorly attended. Metropolitan Tabernacle of London, England, during Charles Spurgeon’s pastorate (1854-1882) is an example of a praying church. Thousands were saved with changed lives as evidence. The preaching was powerful and the church was very aggressive in evangelism (e.g., street preaching, aggressive tract distribution, 27 Sunday Schools and Ragged Schools ministering to over 8,000 children with 612 teachers). But Spurgeon attributed the life-changing power largely to prayer. “Spurgeon regarded the prayer meeting as ‘the most important meeting of the week.’ He often said that it was not surprising if churches did not prosper, when they regarded the prayer meeting as of so little value that one evening in the week was made to suffice for a feeble combination of service and prayer meeting. ... A.T. Pierson, who ministered at Tabernacle

during Spurgeon’s last illness, said, ‘This Metropolitan Tabernacle is a house of prayer most emphatically ... prayer is almost ceaselessly going up. When one meeting is not in progress, another is. ... There are prayer meetings before preaching, and others after preaching. ... No marvel that Mr. Spurgeon’s preaching has been so blessed. He himself attributes it mainly to the prevailing prayers of his people’” (*Wonders of*

**“Are churches in a right condition when they have only one meeting for prayer in a week, and that a mere skeleton?”**

*Grace: Original testimonies of converts during Spurgeon’s early years*, p. 14). Spurgeon warned about the prayerlessness that characterized many of the Baptist churches of his day and he attributed the “Downgrade” in doctrine in the Baptist Union to the weak spiritual condition of the churches. He wrote, “Are churches in a right condition when they have only one meeting for prayer in a week, and that a mere skeleton? Churches which have prayer-meetings several times on the Lord’s-day, and very frequently during the week, yet feel their need of more prayer; but what can be said of those who very seldom practice united supplication? Are there few conversions? Do the congregations dwindle? Who wonders that this is the case when the spirit of prayer has departed?” (*The Sword and the Trowel*, Aug. 1887).

# A PRAYING CHURCH TODAY

Northside Baptist Church in Adelaide, South Australia, was founded in 1977 by Ian Western. In 2015, Ian's son, Simeon, was called to be the pastor. In recently communication with me, he said, "NBC was built on prayer for the Holy Spirit's power for witness and tireless soul-winning efforts. Repentance and faith were emphasized in the preaching of the Gospel in distinction from some of the 'quick' methods that were common at the time. One of the steps I have sought to take, with God's help, to strengthen the church since becoming pastor is to emphasize prayer. In addition to our regular Wed. night prayer meeting, we now have a prayer meeting before soul-winning on Saturday and a Sunday afternoon prayer meeting

at 5pm for an hour before the evening service. We have a weekly prayer chain that runs from 8pm Sat night to 8am Sun morning. People commit to an hour of prayer in their homes in that 12 hour period. We have regular all nights of prayer, about one every two months on average. We divide the night into three-hour segments and have teams come and pray throughout the night. We usually assign a prayer leader and we use a prayer guide. We usually have a key theme we focus the prayer night around (e.g. lost souls, revival, missions)." (This communication was in the context of material I am gathering for the last chapter of our new book *The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists*.)

## PRAY FOR AMERICA

Prayer is the only thing that will have a significant effect on America's terrible spiritual and moral condition. Almighty God, who is in control of all earthly authorities, has specifically instructed His people to pray for their governments. Surely, we can pray such a prayer in perfect faith that He will answer and help us. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). God's Word says, "The king's heart *is* in the hand of the LORD, *as* the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will" (Proverbs 21:1). That goes for presidents and congressmen and governors and mayors and justices, etc. Effectual prayer on the part of God's people will do far more for the nation than political activity. Forty years of conservative political action has gained what? A vilely immoral, bitterly divided nation. Where are the praying churches? We have a praying church, and I know some others. How about your church?



### INFORMATION

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).