

“Ask for the Old Paths” Jer. 6:16

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov. 1st

History has a way of repeating itself. (See 1 Cor. 10:11,12) One of its many lessons is that the current of “popular culture” is always away from God! 1 Jn 2:15,16

This was true of Ancient Israel (See Judges 2), as well as ancient (and modern) America.

While America was founded by Faithful people seeking to worship God, the very next generation began wandering from him.

God raised up several faithful preachers and gave us the “Great Awakening” that re-ignited a spiritual passion in the colonial days; and influenced the thinking (and behavior) of our Founding Fathers. The Declaration of Independence opens with an acknowledgment of God and closes with:

“for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

Even the “midnight ride of Paul Revere” (April 18,1775) illustrates this truth. When Paul arrived at the home of Pastor Clarke to warn Hancock and Adams, the Pastor had already prepared his people for the inevitable battle. *“I have trained them for this very hour.”*

He had preached repeatedly about the abuses of the King’s policies and the responsibilities of Christian men to oppose tyranny. It was his church members who stood against the English soldiers on Lexington Green. (April 19th, 1775) Pastor Clarke was not alone in his patriotic stand. **Pastor Peter Muhlenberg**, after preaching from Eccl. 3; removed his robes to reveal the military officer’s uniform. He then asked who would join him in resisting English tyranny. On that day 300 men from his church stood up and joined Pastor Muhlenberg, forming the 8th Virginia Brigade.

His brother Peter’s brother Frederick was a pacifist pastor, who felt the church shouldn’t get involved. When English troops burned his church down, he joined the patriotic cause, becoming the 1st Speaker of the House (Congress) as well as the first Patriot to sign the Bill of Rights.

The 56 men who pledged their “lives, fortune, and sacred honor” paid a high price:

- Nine died of wounds or hardships during the war.
- Five were captured, imprisoned, and tortured.
- Several lost wives, children or entire families.
- One lost his thirteen children.
- Two wives were brutalized by the British.
- All were the subjects of manhunts.
- Twelve had their homes burned.
- Seventeen lost everything they owned.

What should we be willing to “Pledge” as Christian Citizens?

We should be willing to Pledge to:

1. **Ponder our position.** (with God and Government) 1 Kings 18:21

“How long halt ye between two opinions? (Çâ’îph: divided mind {See James 1:8}) if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”

This election is about more than personalities or policies; It’s about Biblical Principles!

A. Faith is under Fire! *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”*

The following has been Declared Unconstitutional: *For Kindergarteners to recite: “God is great, God is good.” For an Elementary student to ask and for the teacher to answer whose birthday is being celebrated at Christmas. For two Middle School students to bring their Bibles to class, which were confiscated, called “garbage,” and trashed! For an Honor Guardsman to say: “God bless you, this family, and may God bless this country” at a veteran’s graveside!”*

For a county government building exterior to display our national motto: “In God We Trust!”

B. Family (Traditional) is under Fire!

- 1) Sanctity of Marriage.
- 2) Rights/responsibility of Parents.
- 3) Gender dysphoria. (DSM-IV: Gender Identity Disorder) (Tumblr has a list of 112 genders!)

C. Freedom (“Life, Liberty, the Pursuit of Happiness”)

1 Kings 18:21 *“if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.”*

- 1) You cannot follow both! (2 Cor 6:14-18; 1 Jn 1:5-7)
- 2) One of the consistent marks of idolatry was child sacrifice! (Ps. 106:34-43)
- 3) One modern alias for “Baal” is “Planned Parenthood”!

Over 61,628,584 American Babies have been sacrificed since 1973!

2. Honest pondering should lead to repentant Prayer! 2 Chr 7:14

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, ... pray, ... 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.”

1 Tim. 2:1-4 *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ... for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God... Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”*

3. Participate!

Edmund Burke *“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing!”*

Samuel Adams *“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote... that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.”*

Rev. John Witherspoon: *“Those who pay no regard to religion and sobriety in the persons whom they send to the legislature... are guilty of the greatest absurdity and will soon pay dearly for their folly.”*

Charles Finney *“The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men, and take consistent ground in politics, or the Lord will curse them!... Christians seem to act as if they thought God didn't see what they do in politics. I tell you He does see it – and will Bless or Curse this nation according to the course the Christians take in politics.... “If Satan rules in our halls of legislation, The Pulpit is responsible for it! If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our Government are ready to fall away, The pulpit is responsible for it!”*

Senator Ted Cruz: *“In the last election, 54 million evangelical Christians stayed home.*

If Christians will simply show up and vote our values, we'll turn this country around.”

Jer 6:16-19 *“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. ... behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it!”*

Will you pledge to Ponder, Pray, and Participate?

Deut. 30:19,20 *“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, I have set before you life & death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that thou and thy seed may live. That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and ... cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days:”*