

# Can America Return to God?

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 5th

**Malachi 3:7** *"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts."*

Last week we discussed the importance of navigating the shifting storms of life with a clear understanding of where we are, as well as where we intend to be. If we fail to understand this, we can end up adrift or even shipwrecked. Can this happen to an entire Nation?

*It did happen to Israel! Can it happen to America?*

America's confidence in our media has taken a beating. Can you imagine mainstream media's reporting on the following true historical stories:

- Charter of New Community states their intention of: *"propagating of Christian Religion to such People, as yet live in Darkness and miserable Ignorance of the true Knowledge and Worship of God"* Virginia Colony Charter 1606
- Charter of another Community states: *"Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith...a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts ..."* The Mayflower Compact Nov. 11, 1620
- "New England Confederation formed whose constitution boldly states: *"we all came into these parts with one & the same end & aim, namely to advance the kingdom of our lord Jesus Christ, & to enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity & peace..."*  
The New England Confederation wrote the first American "Constitution" in 1643.
- *"Congress votes to invite Gospel preachers to lead in daily worship at the Capital, And to specifically pray for God's intervention in the affairs of the Country!"* 1774
- *"Government leaders unanimously declare their belief in a Divine Creator and acknowledge their accountability to Him, actually claiming such Truths as "Self evident."*  
Declaration of Independence, 1776
- President claims that: *"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."* And prayed publicly: *"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection."* George Washington
- President makes the following statement: *"We've staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves ... according to the Ten Commandments of God."* President James Madison
- Legislation was passed today in Congress to affirm that: *'The Congress of the United States approves of and recommends ... the Holy Bible for use in the schools.'*  
Congress: 1782 (Paid for by federal funds)
- "Further Inquiries reveal that almost every state legislature has passed a law requiring all elected officials to take the following oath: *"I do profess faith in God the Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ His only Son... and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be given by divine inspiration."*
- The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has just issued this statement: *'Divine Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.'*" John Jay, Oct. 12, 1816

These true stories reflect the general belief of Americans for hundreds of years. As recent as 1952: (Zorach v. Clauson) The Supreme Court upheld private religious instruction in public schools Stating: *"We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being. We guarantee the freedom to worship..."*

### What happened to change us so drastically?

Between 1955 and 1962 there were six new appointees to the Supreme Court. In 1962 the new "Supreme Court" heard a case based on the following "pre-approved prayer".  
*"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our Country."* Valedictorian Prayer 1962

This Supreme Court decided that such a prayer was "unconstitutional" (Engel v. Vitale) claiming (wrongfully) that our Founding Fathers never intended "Public" prayer to be encouraged, misquoting an excerpt from a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association about Religious liberty. Justice Potter Stewart (the only dissenting vote to remove Scripture from school) wrote: *"It led not to true neutrality with respect to religion, but to the establishment of a religion of secularism."* (Humanism)

God warned 3000 years ago that *"Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god."* Ps 16:4  
2300 years ago God pleaded with His people: *"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?"* Malachi 3:7

He did the same through the prophet Jeremiah: Jer. 6:16,17 *"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, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken."*

Jeremiah spent his ministry reminding God's people of God's promise and warnings as in Deut. 11:26-28 *"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, to go after other gods..."*

Saying No to God and His will is to say "Yes" to Satan!

This has become America's official public policy with predictable results! Ps 16:4

Imagine what God could do with those who are willing to say "Yes" to Him! Ps 16:6,7,8

- 1) Sincere Gratitude: Ps 16: 6 *"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places, yea, I have a goodly heritage."*
- 2) Service: 7 *"I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel:"*
- 3) Surrender: 8 *"I have set the LORD always before me"*
- 4) Strength: 8 *"because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."*
- 5) Serenity! 11 *"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy..."*

Like Israel in Jer. 6:16, God challenges us to: *"ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, And ye shall find rest for your souls."* Israel said: *"We will not walk therein"*

### What will you say (and do)?

Mal. 3:7 *"Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD, but ye say Wherein shall we return?"*  
Vs 8 *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me!..."*

If we refuse to return to God, what might we be robbing God of?

What might we be robbing ourselves of?