



THE EXHORTER'S CALL

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Page 1 of 3

AMERICA'S REAL PROBLEM

The media debate has already begun about the next presidential election. Commentators are quick to cite a long list of woes as they seek to assign fault for the decline of American power and influence in the world: terrorism, war, "failed" foreign policy, etc. Yet, no commentator has identified the core destabilizer.

According to a survey released last month, 92% of American homes have a Bible...so far, so good. Unfortunately, this same survey indicated that only 20% of women and 40% of men have ever read from it! It is appalling that 80% of women and 60% of men could neglect even an occasional reading of scripture. The consistent rationale respondents gave for such meager statistics was that the Bible was no longer relevant to the world of today. I find it difficult to understand how they reached that conclusion if they've never read from the Bible!

It is a sad realization that so many Americans have little or no scriptural foundation. Skeptical documentary programs on secular cable networks will likely be the only exposure they have to the Word of God. After two centuries of bearing witness to the world of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, America itself has become a wide-open mission field; populated by a generation with little or no scriptural foundation.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." Hosea 4:6

America is in a state of crisis. The moral and ethical decay of society can be directly traced to a rejection of God's Word that began to take root in the 1960s and has reached its zenith a generation later. Compromise within the Church, secular revisionism of scripture by scholars, and apathy on the part of a pleasure seeking people have proven the prophetic words of Jesus Christ in *Matthew 24:12* "*And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*"

However, the Bible also gives the solution to America's troubles. Frankly, it has nothing to do with terrorism, war, or foreign policy; rather, it is strictly a domestic issue...

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and 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." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Christians (so called by His name) should be at the forefront in leading our nation to repentance for long rejecting God's Word. We are in desperate need of a spiritual revival. *"I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8*



שְׁאֵלוֹ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Yē-rū-sha-lā'im ←--- Shalom ←--- Sha-alū



STILL THE “APPLE OF HIS EYE”

Zechariah 2:8 “For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.”

God describes the nation of Israel and the Jewish people as the “apple of His eye.” Furthermore, He gives a staunch warning to those nations that would seek to “poke” God in the eye. Assuredly, this will elicit His quick reflexive response. I challenge you to produce any empire, kingdom, or civilization still in power after such folly. Yet the heathen rage (for example, Iranian President Ahmedinijad) and continue to imagine a vain thing (Please read *Psalms 2* for further clarification).

The “apple of His eye” is an apt description of Israel for another reason.

The “apple” of the eye is a well known metaphor for the pupil. Interestingly, the pupil dilates (grows larger) in darkness; seeking any light that can be found. During the darkest moments of Israel’s long and troubled history, they have repeatedly opened up to seek their God and draw nearer unto Him.

Conversely, the pupil has another function. When light is present, it constricts (grows smaller) to shut out unwanted light. Nothing could provide a more accurate portrayal of the continued denial of Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, within most Jewish hearts today. Despite the benefit of precious Holy Scripture: *“That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.” Mark 4:12 (See also Isaiah 6:9-10)*

Thankfully, God has promised that this will not forever be the case.

“But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.” 2 Corinthians 3:14-16

The full and completed restoration of Ezekiel’s “dry bones” is fast approaching and the breath of God’s spiritual insight will radically eliminate all blindness (Please read *Ezekiel 37* for further clarification).

It will be a glorious day when the Apple of God’s Eye finally perceives the Light of the World!



1 Corinthians 2:14

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE

There are many fine intellects within the theological world, yet we continue to see criticisms and rejection of the Word of God by seminary trained academia. There were many Scribes, Pharisees, and Rabbis who were meticulously trained and familiar with the Tanakh (Old Testament scripture) and yet missed the Promised Messiah in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Trying to grasp the things of God with the intellect alone is akin to stomping the brakes in a car to stop while driving on ice. It seems the logical thing to do but ends up wildly off the mark!

. It is not that the intellect is to be discarded, but rather, that it is to be in subjection to the spirit; in particular to the spirit yielded of a new birth in Christ Jesus. As any intelligence analyst knows, encrypted information can only be accurately translated with the key code of the originating author.

What is the spiritual key to unraveling the mysteries of God in the Holy Bible?

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Choose to believe what seems unbelievable in the Word of God and you will be rewarded far beyond your present understanding. Believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ today and meet the all-knowing Master Encoder. His Holy Spirit will forever decode for you the life and truth in His Holy Word.

Rick Wagnon is a born-again Spirit-filled believer that was saved eternally and securely by the grace of God, through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. His father was a full-time pastor that raised Rick with a solid foundation of faith, knowledge, and hunger for God’s Word. Rick’s professional background has been in law enforcement, protective security, and anti-terrorism; serving as a supervisor and trainer in these fields. Recently he transitioned to the field of public health preparedness to coordinate disaster response training. He also performs additional duties related to intelligence, security, planning, and logistics. Rick is married to a beautiful, loving wife of faith and blessed with two fine sons that love the Lord. He has served as a church trustee, usher, children’s church teacher, and itinerate guest speaker. Rick believes in living as a bold witness for Christ, loves to worship the Lord, and is available for special speaking engagements in your area.

