

The physician who should pamper a man in his disease, who should feed his cancer, or inject continual poison into the system, while at the same time he promised sound health and long life—such a physician would not be one half so hideous a monster of cruelty as the professed minister of Christ who should bid his people take comfort, when, instead thereof, he ought to be crying, “Woe unto those that are at ease in Zion: be troubled, you careless ones.”

—Charles Spurgeon

A dense black cloud was coming up behind us.... You could hear the shrieks of women, the wailing of infants, and the shouting of men.... People bewailed their own fate or that of their relatives, and there were some who prayed for death in their terror of dying. Many besought the aid of the gods, but still more imagined that there were no gods left, and that the universe was plunged into eternal darkness forevermore.

—Pliny, on the eruption of Vesuvius, A.D. 79

DEADLY DENIAL



Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: "When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand." So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

—Ezekiel 33:2-7

THE THREAT OF the rumbling volcano was seen for hundreds of miles as she belched acrid smoke and spewed suffocating ash. Releasing but a wisp of her deep-seething anger darkened a cloudless blue sky and polluted the pristine mountain air. Washington State authorities raced to evacuate

tourists and residents as the scientific community asserted to all who would listen that the writhing mountain could erupt at any moment.

Sirens blared the shrill forewarning that the fury of the volcano might soon be released in an explosive river of molten lava, destroying everything in its path. Families fled from the impending danger in fear of their lives. Leaving their homes and dreams, they ran with little more than their memories, forsaking possessions in a rush to escape to safety. The swift exodus saved almost everyone from the furious wrath of the fuming volcano.

Harry Truman was not one of them. He was caretaker of a lodge on Spirit Lake, five miles north of the boisterous, smoldering peak. Harry felt the incessant rumbling of the enraged mountain. He coughed from the sulfurous smoke and gagged on the choking ash. He heard all of the warnings, looking on as the guests at his lodge joined the hurried flight of frightened families downhill to safety. He ignored the pleas of his vacating visitors and refused to follow his fleeing coworkers or join his escaping neighbors. Entrenched in fatal obstinacy, he refused to leave, even when his sister phoned, begging him to go. I can still remember Harry smiling on national television declaring proudly, "Nobody knows more about this mountain than Harry. It don't dare blow up on him."

On May 18, 1980, at 8:32 A.M., Mount Saint Helens exploded. In seconds, everything was completely obliterated for 150 square miles. Harry, the lodge, and Spirit Lake were instantaneously entombed in fifty feet of mud, rock, and volcanic ash. That devastating eruption at Mount Saint Helens released a force 500 times greater than the nuclear bomb that leveled Hiroshima. Harry should have heeded the warnings.

Apocalyptic Rumbings

There is a smothering indifference in the American church to the grave danger looming in the hellish darkness that hovers over the United States. While the tranquilized church contentedly sleeps unaware, a terrifying national calamity could erupt at any moment with hell's putrefying fury. Are the caretakers of His American flock oblivious to the fact that our nation is perched on a rumbling peak, poised to explode in cataclysmic devastation? If they are asleep, someone needs to sound God's shrill siren to immediately arouse them. If His shepherds are awake, then how in God's name can they remain silent as His sheep naively graze on a writhing mountain doomed to explode?

Is it possible that, like Harry, the caretakers of God's people are in deadly denial of the grave peril of impending retribution for our grievous national sin? Has our reprobate culture inoculated them from the eternal truth that shedding innocent blood will sow a sure recompense of shed blood which, apart from repentance, must be reaped? After four bloody decades, has abortion fatigue plummeted pastors into a deceptive spiritual coma that justifies their lukewarm spirits as they silently acquiesce to the murder of the innocent unborn?

How has this lethal rejection of reality made Christian leaders oblivious to America's imminent danger for her heinous sin? Don't they hear the terrifying rumbings that warn of the approaching day of her apocalyptic retribution? The air is polluted with sulfurous ash. Can't they smell the odious stench of hell's putrid belching, which is threatening to erupt in deadly terror? Where are the prophets of God—those who will arise courageously in the name of God to shake these apathetic leaders until they awaken and repent from their cruel indifference?

Our National Accountability

On our watch fifty million unborn children have been led to slaughter. Are American pastors, who are so biblically educated, unaware that this holocaust has brought our entire nation under a condemning curse of bloody guilt? Our land is polluted in innocent, shed blood, and God is not silent regarding the consequences for our national abomination:

So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.

(Num. 35:33)

This terrifying scripture alone should be more than enough to provoke all of God's leaders to call the church across America to repentance and prevailing prayer. Our national sin of shedding innocent blood has left a grave debt that must be paid in full. That debt of shed blood can only be repaid in shed blood. The cold-blooded murder of fifty million unborn children has put the entire population of the United States at deadly risk. Apart from deep national repentance, this bloodthirsty curse will eventually decimate the population of the United States and devastate American civilization as we know it.

The preoccupied church is not guiltless, and believers will not find a way of escape without leading the entire nation into repentance.

Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these. Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely His anger shall turn from me. Behold I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

(Jer. 2:34–35 KJV)

The scarlet stains of innocent shed blood have soaked America's skirts. Her filthy rags are sodden with the issue of blood that pours continuously from Lady Liberty's haunted, hollow womb. This blood has also splattered on the pious, religious garb worn by multitudes of professing believers who say, "I am innocent; surely His anger will turn from me."

Criminal Complacency

When *Roe v. Wade* legalized the murder of the unborn, American Christians should have agonized in unrelenting prayer, imploring heaven for divine intervention. Our complacency was criminal. The church nationwide should have united in prevailing prayer against this national abomination until abortion in America was abolished. With holy outrage, the trans-denominational church should have been unified and mobilized in repentance for our national sin, interceding for the lives of the poor innocents and praying for our nation's return to moral and judicial sanity. Instead, we chose the feeble weapons of politics and protest over prayer and penitence.

Neglecting God's remedy, we sowed the frail power of political activism and reaped the murders of fifty million unborn children. Where politics failed, our united, fervent prayers would have prevailed. While Ronald Reagan stood as one rare exception, many leaders on the right engaged in pro-life political posturing to win votes, but once they were elected they avoided engaging in real pro-life battles to win this war on human life itself. Many of these conservative politicians have done little more than appease the pro-life Christian right.

Will we ever learn that political activism is a weak substitute for the limitless power of God that can only be obtained through fervent prayer? Political activism is noble and our votes have value, but only prayer can cross the threshold into the miraculous. Nothing but prayer is capable of empowering

our efforts in the battle between life and our vile culture of death. The Christian right organized politically, but the church at large neglected to assemble in kingdom-advancing, nation-altering prayer. Hence the carnage of unborn multitudes continues unabated, and our nation is wobbling at the very brink of terrifying judgment.

The deadly wounds abortion has inflicted on our nation are not political or judicial; they are spiritual. No messianic candidate will ever be elected who will have the power to heal our mortal national wound. There are no congressional fixes, governmental remedies, or political pharmaceuticals to treat the malignant guilt our nation bears for slaughtering fifty million innocent unborn children. The heavenly medicines of repentance and prayer are the only possible cures that can heal Lady Liberty from the bloodthirsty curse of her bleeding womb.

Father, Forgive Us

Though we mobilized believers in politics and protests, when we neglected to unite the church in persevering prayer, we became the reluctant but guilty accomplices in this national holocaust. God's light is exposing the guilt of spiritual lethargy that many believers have tried to cloak in the threadbare rags of political activism. "Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these" (Jer. 2:34). It is time to cleanse the tattered, bloodstained robes of self-righteous Christians, who neglect prayer while they arrogantly assert their innocence: "Behold I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned...."

How dare we say we have not sinned when God declares that we are stained with the blood of the souls of the poor innocents? Believers will not be immune from the outbreak of judgment that will spread across our defiled, unrepentant land. The frayed fabric of our society will unravel and impact every American.

DEADLY DENIAL

Our national sin will incur national judgment unless, as a nation, we invoke heaven's mercy. There is no place to run for safety but to the feet of God—and nowhere to hide from the terrible fury of His righteous indignation.

While the four decade massacre of the unborn innocents continues to this day throughout our land, only a few of God's people are committed to stopping it with the heavenly remedy of prevailing prayer. Astoundingly, for most it has been church as usual. The indifferent church has been stained with the blood of the poor innocents. With acquiescing apathy rather than overcoming outrage, most professing believers have quietly condoned the barbaric butchery taking place in America. Still, it is not too late for grace and mercy to triumph over guilt and judgment. Our repentance must be sweeping and swift, before the full force of national judgment erupts without remedy.

God's leaders must boldly call for repentance for our atrocious guilt, while declaring the clear and present danger of an ominous national recompense. What devastating natural disaster or savage act of terrorism will it take to drive the church to her knees? Must we reap the catastrophic bloodbath we have sown before the slumbering church awakens to repent before the face of God? Will we regard the clarion call to proclaim the Bible's condemnation of the murder of the unborn, or will we continue in terminal spiritual denial, until devastation awakens us to our sin? Remember the words God spoke to Ezekiel:

But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

(Ezek. 33:6)

AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN PRAYER

God forbid that church leadership would remain silent while every person entrusted to its care is in deadly peril! Church leaders have a grave responsibility and an urgent duty to mobilize their parishioners in prayer. United, on our knees, we must plead with God for mercy until we receive forgiveness and gain heaven's intervention. All across America pastors and congregations must turn towards God and build altars of fervent prayer and ardent intercession to beseech God for national repentance.

The Scriptures are clear. Our blood will be shed unless the shed blood of the Crucified Redeemer cleanses our land from this filthy curse of bloodthirsty guilt. United in indifference, the continuing complacency of the church will seal the dreaded fate of a guilt ridden nation damned in a bloody rebellion against God and nature.

There is only one solution. The church, by humbly uniting in a great wave of repentance and prayer, could call upon heaven to fulfill God's infallible promise: healing obtained through repentance. Our obedience to meet God's conditions on our knees would release the glorious grace to forgive our sin and attain God's astounding promise to heal our land:

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

(2 Chron. 7:14)

Pastor, run for your life—along with your congregation—to the altar of hell-shaking, world-swaying prayer! Lead your assembly into repentance. Gather the people of God to pray to save our country from the impending fury of hell's molten devastation. Do it now—before hell erupts! Do it now—for the sake of your flock, for their children, and for all future generations of Americans. Unless the American church falls

DEADLY DENIAL

on her knees, Lady Liberty does not have a prayer. Minister of God, I implore you in the name of Jesus, from this day forward, give her your prayers, and those of your congregation! We are all in grave peril. To continue in denial would be deadly! The silence of God's leaders is inexcusable! In God's name, I beseech you: Call your parishioners to prayer—today! Do it now before the full fury of judgment explodes and nation-altering devastation erupts!