

## Pray for our Nation

### Announce

Rachel book signing, May 5, Barnes and Noble

### Cultural Comments

I came across a new headline that surprised me-

**AUSTRALIA CALLS WORLD TO PRAY &  
FAST FOR 7 DAYS FOR USA**

PLAY VIDEO of this call to prayer.

**There is a fight for the destiny of the  
USA right now. The destiny of America  
hangs in the balance. The Lord is calling  
His people to arise and pray for the  
United States of America. It is time to  
contend. Lana Vawser from Australia**

I do not believe those who say the US is doomed,

God is finished- US/God is going to judge us.

I believe- US has a unique role to play in the  
world- as we have turned from God

we have lost sight of that role.

We need a national revival if we are going to fulfill  
the role God has given us among the nations.

I called the church- pray- Supreme Court- heard  
oral arguments-for/against-redefining marriage  
Redefinition of marriage- is part of a larger battle-  
we are in a fight for our religious freedoms.

### **The War against Marriage and Family**

The family- which begins with the union of a man  
and a woman is a morally unique institution.

It is irreplaceable in its role in society.

**Gen 2:24 For this reason a man shall  
leave his father and his mother, and be  
joined to his wife; and they shall become  
one flesh.**

When- child- procreated through- joining together  
of a man/woman- deep spiritual ties- created  
in that man/woman which take them beyond  
their own selfish desires/focus.

Families break up- when these deep spiritual ties,  
built into mankind, are ignored/put aside.

## **Righteous Laws**

I very much believe in righteous laws and we  
should work to get righteous laws passed.

We must use our freedoms/responsibility to vote.

However we need to be careful not to believe that  
laws alone will fix our problems.

Righteous laws are important- but they do not- in  
and of themselves- solve our moral problems.

The danger in relying on laws to legislate morality  
is that we inadvertently transfer authority to the  
state to define/maintain moral standards.

If we abdicate to the political process as our only  
hope- it replaces the church/family as the  
primary defenders of moral values.

## **Christianity and Civilization**

If you look at history, Christianity, as viewed by-

Apostle Paul- resulted in a cultural revolution-

>restrained mans sexual desires

>elevated the status of women,

>validated the significance of marriage, and

>instilled Christ like love into marriage

Unfortunately, our ethics today come out of the  
idea/philosophy that God is dead.

**As a result people believe one's**

**individual desires define who they are**

**and give them authority to act anyway**

**they want to act.**

We have inverted the role of culture.

Today, freedom is not found in withholding my desires for the sake of civilization

(Christian view) but in expressing and asserting my desires as I choose.

We have lost the sense that Christianity is responsible for moral order in civilization.

The result is an increase in immoral behavior, people on people violence, lawlessness.

**Col 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.**

Of course this is only possible in Christ where one dies to himself/resurrected into new life.

We are in the middle of a cultural war- but how is the church to respond?

**How does the church respond?**

The church, which is the pillar and support of the truth, must stand for truth/not compromise.

We must also give ourselves to prayer for our nation- as we see those in Australia doing.

Regardless of how the Supreme Court rules- God has a plan and it will not be stopped.

**We are a people of hope who carry a message of hope for a world in desperate need of hope.**

The mission of the church has not changed.

**Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

We must stand both ...

- >uncompromisingly as far as the Gospel, but
- >we also stand hopeful because of- Gospel.

**1 Peter 3:14–15**

**<sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,**

**<sup>15</sup>but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;**

Gentleness is not weakness- but it is humility- humility in- way we represent God to the world. And we are reverent because we are fearful that we do not to misrepresent God to the world. I do not believe it does well to represent God as a mad/angry God waiting to judge everybody. God is a God of love and He will eventually judge sin- but today we are in a season of His grace. As Chuck Colson said ...

**We do not impose anything. We propose. We propose an invitation to the wedding feast, to come to a better way of living. A better way of life. Chuck Colson**

That is our job- to invite people to experience the benefits of the KofG/experience God's love.

**The Protection of God**

Launching off of this I want to share with you some thoughts God spoke to my heart.

## **Psa 61.1-8**

**v1-2** whatever we face as a nation/individuals we must direct the cries of our heart to God.

This is particularly true when our heart is faint with fear/anxieties/hopelessness/despair.

There are many facing personal struggles that can take the breath away.

There are others who hear the news and become fearful/discouraged/depressed.

Turn this into a prayer- God, lead us to the ROCK that is higher than I- allow me to experience the reality of Your presence.

**v3-4** Thank God that He protected you, that He is your strong tower against all that this life might throw against you/nation.

And ask Him to keep you in a safe place.

**v5-6** I have- inheritance among those- fear God. I use this to thank God for prolonging and sustaining my life- physically/spiritually.

**v7-8** we will live in the presence of God forever, regardless of how hard life is here.

**Psa 61:7 ... Appoint lovingkindness and truth that they may preserve him.**

Make this a prayer- thank you God for appointing lovingkindness/truth to preserve me/nation.

Lovingkindness is not just sentimentality.

The word speaks of ...

>God's love for us, people who desperately need to be forgiven for our sins,

>His strength to be able to preserve us,

>His steadfastness, or faithfulness towards us, even when we are unfaithful, and

>His overflowing generosity towards us.

God's lovingkindness will never fail us.

**Deu 7:9 "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;**

God's grace is unmerited, but there is a mutuality in our relationship- God is looking for our love and worship in return.

Truth- speaks of that which is certain, cannot be false, conforms to God's view of reality.

Often we see the spiritual as having less reality or substance than the natural.

When Jesus walked through- walls of-upper room  
He had more substance than the walls.

The unseen (supernatural) world has a greater reality than the seen (natural) world.

We want the truth of God's world to sustain us, not the shifting truths of this world.

We must be willing to adjust our understanding of truth to align itself w/God's perspective of truth.

It is truth that sets us free-not some lie we believe

What you believe is very important- because it becomes your reality.

**What you believe about God, yourself, others, and your circumstances, dramatically impacts your walk with God.**

I would encourage us- for our personal lives and for the life of our nation- to pray and ask God-

**Psa 61:7 ... Appoint lovingkindness and truth that they may preserve him.**