

What Kind of People?
America 09, Part 4
Slide Notations

Part One: Recap... Talking about tough stuff/times is what believers are supposed to do to know where we are, what has to be done, and what ‘manner’ of people we are to be! Issachar’s brave “understood their times and what they were to do.” **1Chron 12.32** To understand and know what needs to be done, we must know what’s happening! Nothing negative about being positively, righteously, morally, pro-active!

Recap... We have been watching the headlines... Trillions of dollars in debt; never been this way before, future uncertain... *Must be people of covenant with God!* Societally, morality has become the dirty word... now “good is evil, evil is good!” *Must be people of (w)holiness, like God!* Politically, Gov’t overflowing its banks... *Must be people who know the true gov’t upon Jesus shoulders/never fails!* Info gathering/CFC/CNS/Healthcare...

Headlines... *"If you get an email or see something on the web about health insurance reform that seems fishy, send it..."* "I am not aware of any precedent for a President asking American citizens to report their fellow citizens to the White House for pure political speech that is deemed ‘fishy’ or adverse to the White House's political interests," –Sen. Cornyn “The freedom of speech may be a pesky annoyance, but welcome to representative democracy and the reality of opposing views, Mr. President!” –Tony Perkins, FRC

Headlines... CFC: “when logged in to CARS, your computer is considered a federal computer system and is the property of the USG.” “any or all files may be intercepted, monitored, recorded, copied, audited, inspected and disclosed to authorized CARS, Dept of Transportation, and law enforcement personnel as well as authorized officials of other agencies both domestic and foreign.” What’s true for the dealer w/your info is true for you/home – do not click “I agree”

Headlines... H.R. 1388 Civilian National Security Force: “cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives that we’ve set... need a CNS that’s just as powerful, strong and well funded...” (18-25 yr olds.) Requirements: may not engage in protests or petitions, take positions on union organizing, engage in partisan political activities, be engaged in religious instruction, worship services, construction or operation of religious facilities...

Headlines... Abortion is included in the health care overhaul. House Democrat Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) was asked... Q: “we know that over 90% of abortions are purely elective, not medically necessary. Why is this being covered when abortion is clearly not health care?” A: “[This is a] basic benefit plan developed by, um, health professionals... Abortion will be covered as a benefit by one or more of the health care plans available to Americans, and I think it should be.”

Headlines... Censorship? Principal Frank Lay and athletic director Robert Freeman are scheduled to go on trial next month on criminal contempt charges for a lunch time prayer. If convicted, both are subject to fines and imprisonment. Santa Rosa, FL 8/11/09 Michelle Winkler is also being prosecuted after she asked her husband -- who is not a school employee -- to say a prayer at an employee-of-the-year banquet.

Religious headlines show, the church has been deceived by her worldly lusts – dissipated by her worldly pursuits – detached from an intimate relationship w/God...

Recap... America was great because she was good and when we ceased “striving for the mark of the prize we have in Christ” we stopped being great! “Called as the mouthpiece of God!” **1P4.11** “To endure hardships/persecutions/suffer for the cause of Christ.” **2T2.3, 1P4.16** “To ask, in faith, nothing wavering.” **Jam1.6** “To know and understand our times and to take appropriate action!” **1Chron 12.32**

Recap... Realized that if our Christian Nation is going to be healed, restored, it will only be by God’s people doing things God’s way! “My people, bearing My name and nature, humbling themselves, praying, seeking My face, and turning... will get My attention and healing power!” **2Chron 7.14-15**
We closed asking, “Will we be healed?”

Part Two: Will we...Be healed? Restored? The people who called out “Yes” were localizing the question! Will we? By faith, we will! “So, YES!” Left w/personal challenges to face! Need to re-present ourselves to the Lord!

Character formation/name recognition... Self-esteeming humiliation... “TTWSUF!”
Communication/silence for listening... Behavior correction/course redirection... Will receive My power for healing!

Will we...? Let me ask you again, with this filter: Do you see the American church... Turning from it’s pursuit of world/ways? Searching for God’s face, presence, like He really was the all in all? Praying night /day – in all forms of prayer – stopping/waiting to hear His voice/noise? Humbling before God for waywardness... Do you see that in the record/Word for any generation of the last days Church?

1Timothy 4.1 The Spirit speaks outspokenly that in the latter times some will depart; desist, desert, draw away from the truthfulness of God, believing lying spirits and receiving instructions of devils (coming from their demand to only hear what they want to hear **2Chr 18**)... having their conscience seared with a hot iron!

2Timothy 3.1-9 Be alert to the dangers of those latter times. Men will be selfish takers, always wanting more; more of what everyone else has. They will think more highly of them-selves than they should, trash talking everyone and every-thing, unsubmitted, disrespectful, unthankful, unholy... loving what God gives more than they love Him, all this and more while keeping up a form of godliness... but they have no power... never come to knowledge of the truth... they’re done, they will be exposed!

2Timothy 3.13-4.1-4 Evil men and imposters will advance in their deceptions and deceivings... But you preach the word, convenient or not; reproving, rebuking, exhorting, with endurance and doctrine for the time will come when they not hold themselves to the Word but will interpret life by their secret lusts and they will find teachers to tell them they are right. They will let go of God’s truth to live their lie!

2Thessalonians 2.3 But don’t be agitated or fearful about the end of times, as though it’s going to take you by surprise, because on the checklist of things that must happen first, two items are very significant: first, the apostasy; a remarkable falling away from the truth, which Secondly, opens the way for the man of sin to ascend, the injurious son of destruction...

These are Christians veering off, becoming powerless, unable to learn; unbridled lusts leading them to defection and the rise of our greatest enemy!

The key to God’s healing for America is with the Church! But will we return to His Word, minister to the world in love, discipline ourselves for true service, and commit ourselves to pray?

Most calls to pray are answered by self-serving, undisciplined Gethsemane style pray-ers... “it’s late, I’m tired and now I’m sleeping while I trust You to do the work!”

If the future holds no healing for America because the American Church will not answer... the only question left to ask is, ‘what kind of people should we be?’

Landed in this mess... Being scoffers... walking after our own lusts saying, “When is He coming? Nothing has changed. You guys have been saying the same thing for years.” Of course we are being willingly ignorant of the Word. But know this; the Lord is not slack concerning His return! He is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but that all who will turn will have the time to turn around... **Only way out...** But it’s all true! All things will come to a cataclysmic end! Knowing that what kind of people should we be? Holy in lifestyle, devoted to godliness; Anticipating and diligently working toward that moment; Found by Him, in peace, pure and unblemished; judging that this extra time is given to us by the Lord for the salvation of all... I can’t let myself be lulled into the errors of the wicked, I must be steadfast! **2P3.1-18**

Part Three: What kind of people? A Metaphor: “Ladies and gentlemen, this is the Captain. I regret to inform you that during that last turbulence we developed a fuel and hydraulic leak. The crew has tried to resolve the situation with no success. I will keep the plane flying as long as I can. Our best estimate is fifteen minutes... before we come down in the mountains below. I am sorry. Prepare yourself in the way that feels right...”

Four kinds of people... The Deniers! “This isn’t happening! This can’t be happening! It’s all going to work out! Tomorrow will be even better!”

“They deal falsely and heal slightly saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace! Why weren’t they ashamed?” **Jeremiah 6.13-17** The watchmen are blind, ignorant, dumb dogs; warning not, loving slumber... come they say, fetch wine, have a drink... all is well, and getting better.

Is56.10-12

So many believers denying the words, ways, model of the Lord regarding these days... just want things to go on like always... and get even better!

From the upper room to this very moment, the outlook of the Church was the ‘last days’ full of persecution, suffering for faith’s sake, struggle against the flesh and the world...etc.!

The early Church knew absolutely nothing about the form and context of modern day Christianity! They had an urgent mission requiring all the strength they could muster!

Four kinds of people... The Self-seekers! “If we’re going down I’m going out in a blaze of glory!”

“The enemies of the cross are those whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, whose glory is their shame, who mind earthly things...” **Ph3.18, 19** “People whose mind is on the flesh, mind the things of the flesh...” **R8.5** “Since Christ has suffered for us, you shouldn’t live the rest of your time in the flesh to the lusts of men...” **1P4.1,2**

So many believers have bucket lists that are nothing more than “fleshly things I want to do before I die...” as though that was the end of the experience and there was no accountability!

Four kinds of people... The Hunker-er’s! “I wish I had time to say good-bye. I’m going to sit here and think my happy thoughts to the end!”

“I’m coming, but let me say good-bye! Jesus said, ‘no man having put His hand to the plow and looking back is fit...’” **Lk9.61,62** “Don’t only be concerned about your things, watch out for others too.” **Ph2.4**

Far too many believers don’t actually know what it means to finish strong, right to the end!

Four kinds of people... *The Believers!* “I only have fourteen minutes left to find out who is unsaved and bring them in!”

“They were men who understand their times and what they need to do!” **1Chron12.32** “I’m going home and it’s profitable to me – but here’s what I’ll do, for this moment I’ll live for your furtherance...” **Ph1.21-25**

Fortunate and well off are the “sold-outs” He finds vigilant when He returns!

Luke 12.37-40 Fortunate and well off are those who have sold out to do His will and whose service He uses to extend His cause among men; whom He finds untiringly at work when He comes... the truth is that for them, He will once again clothe Himself in the garb of a servant, make them recline for dinner and come and serve them Himself...!