



**AMERICA
IS NO LONGER
WHAT IT
ONCE WAS**

**(Part 2)
BUT WHAT ARE
WE TO DO?**

by

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Home Missionary Baptist Church

America Is No Longer What It Once Was

(Part 2)

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INTRODUCTION



We live in a time when America is far removed from what it once was. There is no doubt that God shed his grace upon this country, just as he did with Israel and Judah. America today is unrecognizable as the America that once was. In these two sermons, Brother Gordon exposes the development and promotion of the Satanic, secular religion of humanism, its promotion in our public schools, and the effect it has had in turning this nation away from the principles it was founded upon.

While we have witnessed many changes that have subtly brought about the change towards the advancement of an evil, humanistic, secular society, not all has changed. While America may no longer be what it once was, God is still God. And we as God's people have a job to do.



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I'd like to turn to Isaiah chapter 5, Isaiah chapter 5. we'll read the first seven verses. *“Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.”*

Again, this chapter begins with a song about God's vineyard, and we're told in verse 7, that this Vineyard is Israel and Judah. It's a picture of God's gracious and abundant blessings upon Israel, upon Judah. The last part of verse 2, and in verse 4, He declares that in spite of all His blessings, in spite of all His provisions and long-suffering, that they had failed God. Beginning with verse 5, He pronounces judgment upon them, that is specific judgments. Then He proceeded to declare the reasons for such. We looked at that in Part 1.

Reading through these verses, as we said in Part 1, we see that Israel is no longer what they were in verse 2. Again this is a picture of our country, a picture of many countries, I suppose, but it's definitely a picture of our country. America is no longer what it once was.

As we've already said, God has abundantly shed His grace

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upon this country, still is. It's manifested by the fact that she's still here. He has manifested the utmost long suffering toward this country. He's been abundantly merciful to this country. But due to sin and due to weakness, the United States is under, and has been for a long time, the judgment of God. The judgment that's talked about here, the removing of the hedge, the same judgment that's talked about in Romans chapter 1, God withdrawing.

For decades, in this country, there has been an all-out assault on God, on His word, on morality, on common sense. America, again, is no longer a God-fearing, a God-honoring, a God exalting nation. America, by the wildest stretch of the imagination, cannot be called a Christian Nation. It has been de-Christianized a long time ago. Now it is a secular, profane nation, having adopted and embraced the religion of humanism. Which, by the way, is simply Marxism in different clothes. This country has embraced that. The spirit of antichrist is behind it, pushes the agenda of the religion and the perverseness of humanism. The result is, we're, again, or no longer what we were.

Our nation, as we said this morning, is overrun with slave masters. You could make a long list. We're told over and over that we are in bondage to no one. We tell ourselves that. But America is an enslaved nation, it is a nation in bondage. You can tell you're self, "Sure we have some liberties that some other nations don't have." But don't kid yourself, we are an enslaved nation.

We're no longer a righteous nation. God and God's ways have been blatantly and continually ignored and rejected. Hatefully cast aside as foolishness. The result, of course, is we have become idolatrous, we are immoral, we are wicked. When I say "we", I'm talking about the nation. We're abominable, we're self-indulgent, self-sufficient society of postmodern, post God society. The masses are bowing and sacrificing at the altars of humanism, at the altars of Satan. These altars are called entertainment, they're called education, the list goes on and on. We're a vile Nation. We're an ungodly nation. We're a shameful Nation.

A nation that has sanctioned the slaughter of over 56

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million babies is wicked. There's no getting around it. It is a wicked, shameful Nation. We we have slaughtered over 56 million babies in the guise of women's rights. Now, as a nation, we have sanctioned sodomy under the guise of gay rights. I hate to use that word but ... but it's under that guise.

So, we have to ask what is next? Rights for pedophiles. They're already upset. They want their rights. "They're born that way." That'll be next. What about those who believe in bestiality? What's going to happen when a man wants to marry his dog or his cat? Where does it stop? It doesn't. It doesn't stop. This is a sick, sick society. We are a nation that promotes, approves, glamorizes, and applauds these things. You have a sex change and you're on the front cover of every magazine in the country. Sick nation.

We are entertained, and again, please, when I say "we", I don't mean you and I sitting here, but this nation is entertained by these things. They celebrate these things. People have bought into the lie, that by so doing, that by promoting, and approving, and glamorizing, and applauding these things, we do these things because we are a progressive and enlightened society. That's sick also. We're anything but progressive. We're progressive towards hell. We're certainly not an enlightened society. We're a very ignorant society.

Proverbs 14:34, "*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach [a source of Shame] to any people.*" Romans 1,verse 18, "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [or suppress and restrain] the truth in unrighteousness;*" America is not exempt. Shame is reproach to any people. The United States, no matter how great she was, is not exempt. But for some reason many seem to think that this country is exempt. We're not.

This nation is under the wrath of God and doom is eminent. The recent judicial dictatorship mandate, concerning sodomy, puts every religious institution, with Biblical convictions, in legal jeopardy and especially pastors. The question is, "What are we as

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God's people to do?" That's what we want to preach upon in Part 2. "America Is Not What It Once Was. So What Is A Child Of God To Do?" What is a child of God to do? Again, we could go on for a long time. We're certainly not going to cover everything that perhaps needs to be covered. There are some basic truths that we must come to realize.

First of all, we need to be a people of self-examination. Notice in Isaiah 5, and verse 2, again. Following the statement of verse 2, how God took care of His vineyard. "*And it [that is the vineyard that He had so richly blessed, that He had made such provision for] brought forth wild grapes.*" Then God calls to them in verse 3. He says, "*Judge I pray you betwixt me and my vineyard.*" He's calling upon God's people to examine themselves.

This is a call to judge between God and themselves. This isn't a call for you and I to judge between ourselves and the wicked people of the world. It is a call to judge between ourselves and God. We see this all through the Old Testament. God would call upon His people to judge themselves, to examine themselves, to repent. David expresses this attitude in Psalm 139, verses 23 and 24.

The call to examination is a call to repentance. It is a call for God's people to be ashamed because of their sin. It is a call to humility. It is a call for God's people to turn from their own sin. It is a call for God's people to draw near to God. It's a call for God's people to get serious about God. It is a call for God's people to surrender to God, to surrender to the ways of God.

Here we are, living in a time when America is no longer what it once was. A time when our nation is doomed. Our first response, our first response should be to fall on our knees and cry out to God in repentance. When the Supreme Court further denies God and legislates in favor of evil, and they're not going to stop, and when we see evidence of the fact that our society is absolutely absorbed and captivated by, and drawn to, and submerged in the mire and the muck of sin, we ought to fall on our knees before God, examine ourselves, repent wherever we need to repent.

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That's what God's people ought to do.

It's a time for God's people, we're in the 11th hour, it's time for God's people to be done with hypocrisy. To be done with spiritual formality. To be done with all the superficialness. To be done with all the spiritual shallowness. To be done with all the indifference and the lackadaisical attitudes about serving the Lord and about being in God's house. You would think, in the day in which we live, those who profess faith in Jesus Christ would be filling the church houses. But that's not the case. You can't even get all your members to come. It's a sad day.

One of the first things we need to do is repent and be done with just being part of the religious crowd. It's time for God's people to cease filling their lives with the clutter of the world. To stop loving this world, to stop pursuing this world. It's time to come out from the world and be ye separate. It's time for God's people to be done with all the prisons. To be done with all the prisons of pride, and worldliness, and circumstances, and problems. It's time for God's people to stop with the Lord not a priority of their lives. To stop not having the Lord be the central focus of their lives.

God's people need to fall on their knees and cry out to God. 2nd Chronicles 7, verse 14, "If my people", my people! We have to realize we're part of the problem. Are we willing today to truly and honestly examine and judge ourselves by God's standards?

Secondly, we need to be a revived people. Here we are, perilous times, evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, the agents of Satan are becoming more and more bold, and they're going to get bolder by the day, more and more determined, and God's people, for the most part, to some degree, have been conformed to their society. It's time for God's people to plead with God that He would revive us personally.

You see, most of God's people don't get it. "*Oh, we need a REVIVAL in America!*" You don't revive goats, you revive sheep. You do not revive the United States government. We as God's people, individually, need to be revived. We need to be revived. Is

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that going to change the nation? Probably not. But that's not what it's about anyway. It's about simply getting right with God. So we need revival.

That we would have more of an appetite, more of a desire, more of an interest, more of an excitement, more of a passion, for the spiritual over the earthly. Here we are in the last days, living in a country that is doomed, and God's people are playing games. They're still busying themselves in the world as if nothing's wrong. We need to be a revived people. Again, we preached on revival many times. When I talk about revival I'm talking about something that upends our lives. Something that consumes whatever it is that needs to be consumed in our lives. There isn't a one of us here that does not have something in our life that needs to be consumed. Oh, that God would consume whatever it is that needs to be consumed, bring lasting change.

I preached a message on laying our Isaacs down. We need a revival that will cause us to lay our Isaacs down. Here we are in the situation that we're in and many of God's people are holding on, with all their might, to their Isaacs. It's time to lay them down. It's time to lay them down.

We need a revival that will cause us to know that we are entirely His. A stirring of epic proportions. Revival that will cause us to look beyond, or move us beyond looking at Jesus in the ordinary religious way. A revival that will move us beyond the status quo. A revival that will move us beyond church service. A revival that will cause us to ascend to heavenly places.

What we need is for God to rend the heavens and come down among us. That there would be a disrupting display of his power upon our lives, upon our homes, upon our churches. That God would rain upon us, that God would breathe upon us, causing us to get right with God, causing us to be more determined for God, causing us to be more passionate for God, living thoroughly, and fanatically, and obsessively for the Lord. That's the kind of people we need to be in these times.

Thirdly, we need to be a Christ like people. Here we are in

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a reprobate society, a time of satanic heresy and blasphemy. A time when we are surrounded by and bombarded with the spirit of antichrist. We're surrounded by heathen talk, heathen ways, heathen pursuits. A time when the current and trend of the world is simply evil. And it's time for God's people, like Christ, to be pure, to be holy, to live dedicated lives. To live clear, well defined, unmistakable, visible, obvious, and pronounced lives for the glory and honor of God. We need to be like Christ.

Christ always knew what it was about. Always! We must come to the realization of what it's about. We must come to the realization of what life is about. What it's about is to serve God. And most don't get it. Oh that God would bring us to the point when we realize what it's about. It's not about what most people are fighting over today in the Lord's churches. That's not what it's about. We better wake up! Christ never forgot, never lost sight of, what it was about.

Fourthly, we need to be a people of prayer. Daniel in chapter 6, has been in Babylonian captivity for 60 plus years. A decree is signed that it was now against the law to pray to the God of heaven. We read in verse 10, and "he kneeled [down] upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." I don't believe that Daniel ever stopped praying through this entire captivity. I don't believe he ever stopped. We come to the book of Acts, chapter 4, Peter and John are told by the authorities not to preach the name of Jesus. They returned to the church and told them what happened. Notice in Acts, chapter 4, these familiar verses, verses 23 and 24. "*And being let go, they went to their own company [and there's a message there, their own company], and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they [their own company, the church] heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:*" Oh, it's time for God's people to lift up their voices unto God and say Lord thou art God and we need you.

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Notice in verse 29, verse 29, *“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.”* We need to pray, “Lord behold their ways. Give us boldness to be what we ought to be, to do what we ought to do.” Verse 31, *“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”* In Acts, chapter 12, James the brother of John has been killed. Peter is cast into prison with the intent to kill him the next day. But we read verse 5, *“but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”*

In verse 12, upon Peter's miraculous release, he came to the house of Mary. And we read where many were gathered together praying. We need to be praying. We need to be praying. We need to be praying for one another like we've never prayed before. We need to be praying for pastors of the Lord's churches.

We need to be praying for churches. We need to be praying for the preaching of God's word. We need to be praying for the souls of men. We need to be a people of prayer. For decades there's been, again, this cultural war. An all-out assault on biblical values. The cultural war has been all but lost. But there is a God. A miracle-working God and He can fix anything. We say we believe that. You would think, looking around, seeing the mess we're in, seeing the direction that we are headed, knowing that there's a God in heaven that is able, and knowing that we can cry out to him, you would think that God's people would band together, fall upon their knees, and cry out to God in prayer. That's what you would think. But it's not happening. That's not the case.

There are less people, I can only speak for or myself, there are less people banding together in prayer in the Lord's churches than any other time in my ministry. I see less praying, I'm talking about banding together in prayer, you may pray much at home, and that's good. But we need to be a people of prayer. A people who are willing to rearrange their lives in order to pray. We know our nation is doomed and under the wrath of God. Your children, your

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grandchildren are going to live in a terrible world. You would think that God's people could pray and band together. But it's not happening.

In the New Testament, we see that they were a church that prayed much. They kept on and on and on. We need to be a people so burdened that we can do nothing else but pray, that we have to pray. We stand in need of a miracle and God is able. Don't give up. Pray! Pray and when you pray, pray some more. Again, pray for one another, holding up one another's hands.

I have never, in my ministry seen a time where God's people, and I'm talking about our sister churches, have been more critical of one another than they are today. It's sad. It's truly sad. We need to be holding up one another's hands, praying for the preaching of God's word. Praying for the salvation of souls. We ought to be praying more than any other time in our lives.

Fifthly, we need to be a people who realize where their allegiance lies. Most don't get it. Again, I'm not talking about here, but everywhere. Jesus said in John 18, verse 36, "*My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*" We belong to His kingdom and we are His servants. That is our position in His kingdom. That must never, ever be forgotten. We belong to His kingdom. That is first and foremost.

We as God's people need to come to the vivid realization, that we belong to a kingdom that is not of this world. He is the king and we are His servants. We are here on His business. We're not here to pack in as much fun as you can have in a lifetime. We are here on God's business. We are here as His representative. We live in the midst of a country, and in a world, as far as that goes, that rejects Jesus Christ as King, stands vehemently opposed to Christ as King. We need to be a people who point to Jesus, look to Jesus, and vehemently declare He's my King. He's my King. We need to be that people. To stand in the midst of all the humanism, the political correctness, in the public opinion, and the materialism,

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and simply declare without any hesitation and with great compassion and zeal, and boldness, and courage, and resolve, and declare “He is my King. I'm going to follow Him.” That's what we need to do in this day.

Those around us, bewitched and duped by a society cleaving to that which is repulsive in God's sight, and are sunk in the misery of such, in a country that has its eyes upon false remedies, looking for answers, and they don't even know what the questions are, looking for answers and solutions in the lies of the perversions of humanism, and we as God's people need to realize we're here as God's messengers. We're here as God's messengers. And we must speak the message of the King. We must tell the sodomites about the Lord. That's what they need.

We must have a zeal to stand up, again, and point to Jesus Christ and to speak up for Christ. “Well you can get thrown in jail if you do that.” That's coming. That has nothing to do with anything. We're here on His business, we're not here on our own business.

May I say, we must also come to the vivid realization that we are not first Americans and then Christians. We are to be Christians first and foremost, and we live in America. We live in America. We live in America. We have been taught all of our lives to be patriotic. We're patriots, which is one who vigorously defends their country and is prepared to defend it against all enemies. The problem is the enemy is ruling us. The enemy is ruling us.

So, the question must be asked, in regards to how we've all been taught to be patriotic, what is a child of God to do when a country in which they live becomes evil? Do you think for a moment that the Christians in North Korea, or in Iran or in some of those other places, where they are being martyred, do you think for a moment that they feel patriotism when they see the North Korean flag go by? I don't think so. I don't think so. Do you think those Christians in Iran feel a patriotic duty to that flag? I don't think so. So what is a child of God to do, when a nation in which they live is

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evil? Well I'll tell you one thing, we need to be aware of the feeling of patriotism getting in the way of, an eclipsing being a patriot for the Kingdom of God. That, we need to be aware of. I respect the United States flag for what it represented. I do not respect the government that that flag represents today. I don't. That may offend some. But there comes a point, and it should always be so, spiritually must trump patriotism. It has to because we are first Christians. Yes, we live in America, but we are first Christian and we need to pledge allegiance to God. That's where we need to pledge our allegiance. Again we need to be a people who know what it's about.

Sixthly, we need to be a unified people. Something that the agents of Satan do very well, for the most part, they're pretty unified in their effort. They ... you don't hear them . I mean they may not agree on every point, but you don't hear them . all the bickering. Because they see the big picture. They see the big picture. And they are willing to wait. That cannot be said of the so-called conservative movement. You got, what? I don't even know how many people are running for president in the GOP. Sixteen, eighteen. They're going to tear each other to shreds and do what they do every year. "Well well he doesn't dot that ' i ' exactly like I do. I'm not voting for him. He doesn't cross that ' t ' like I do. I'm not voting for him. He's an enemy." And that's what happens. That's what happens. They will divide over almost anything. It's almost like they're in a contest to see who can be more conservative, who can be more right. And they're looking for what is wrong. Sadly, that's true of God's churches, too. In fact I believe you can see a pretty accurate picture, if you look at the Tea Party, I believe you can see a pretty accurate picture of the Lord's churches. They'll argue about anything, get sidetracked, lose sight of the big picture.

You know, there is a reason why the subject of unity is repeatedly addressed to the churches of the Lord in the New Testament. I mean it's address over, and over, and over, and over again. There's a reason. And the reason is not merely because

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unity has been official, it certainly is. But that's not the reason that it's repeated over and over and over. The reason is because of the proneness to division. I mean 1st Corinthians 1, verse 10, 1st Corinthians 1, verse 11, and on and on we can go. You can go all through the Epistles and you see this call to the Lord's churches to be in unity. In Philippians 1:27 “... *stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together* ...” Striving together!

You get on Facebook and people are arguing about all kinds of stuff. And it's entertaining to lost people. I have a son-in-law who's even made comments about it. Christian's arguing about stupid stuff. They're just looking for something. There has to be a unity! That's why nothing will ever get done in this country. You'll never have a million people march in peace. You'll never get a million people to agree. They might agree for 5 minutes, and then they'll find out, “Well that person, they don't believe head covering or that person believes in a holiday.” And on and on it goes. Stupid stuff! It's a big part of the problem.

There must be a unity, and identifying the cause. Again, Peter and John went to their own company. They went to the people that they were attached to. They went to the people where there was a tender and warm union. And that ought to be true of every one of the Lord's churches. They went to the people in which they were joined to and fused and blended together in heart and in soul. We need to be a people of unity. The pettiness, the back biting, the clamoring, it's got to stop! “Well I'm just taking a stand.” Nothing wrong with taking a stand, but it doesn't mean that everybody that doesn't agree with you is your enemy. And God's people had better wake up to that fact. I don't see it happening, but oh what a need. Without division and with one heart, that we could agree on this, that we need to pledge our allegiance to God. With one heart that we would do that.

We need to be a people, lastly, not discouraged and defeated. No matter the direction of the country, and no matter how steeped in wickedness she becomes, God has not changed. He's not going to change. He is. His word has not changed, His

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word is not going to change. It is His word. We were talking before service. I believe if you were to talk to young people today, the vast, vast, vast, majority sees nothing wrong with what just transpired. They see nothing wrong with it. But God's word hasn't changed. God's word hasn't changed. And God's people need to know and have a firm deep-rooted conviction of such. And we need to live such everyday.

And we cannot be afraid. You say, "Well it might be against the law." So be it. We cannot be afraid to speak the truth. We must live in the reality of who God is. We must live in the reality of what God's word is. We must confidently, optimistically, and with assurance, believe these things and not be discouraged and defeated. I get more discouraged, I'll just be honest with you, I get more discouraged with God's people than I do with what goes on in our nation. I don't expect the nation to act any different. I really don't. I expect lost people to act like lost people. I expect followers of Satan to act like the devil. That's what I expect. But God's people, it's amazing, it's just unbelievable, that God's people are so intertwined with this world that they don't even have time to come to the house of God. And yet they will tell you how concerned they are. I'm sorry, but I don't believe a word of it. I don't believe it. You can tell someone else that story, I don't even want to hear it. I don't believe it.

We need to get to get concerned enough to pray. We need to get concerned enough to come to God's house. We need to realize it may not be much longer for this kind of worship service ... where we can have this kind of worship service. It may not be much longer. We ought to be excited to get together with God's people. But we live in a time when people have very little time for God's house. Very few will travel to attend any conferences or anything like that. Very few. It's sad. Because, you would think, because they would realize what's going on, that every conference of our sister churches would be jam packed. You wouldn't even be able to fit them all in the building. But that's not what's happening. That's not what's happening. Christians have

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been martyred in North Korea for a long time. They've been martyred in China. They've been martyred in Iran and Iraq. Christians in this country, for the most part, unconcerned. And they'll be unconcerned until they come and knock on that door. They can knock on Fellowship Baptist Church down the road. That won't concern us. But when it comes knocking on our door, it'll be a different thing. That's just the way it is, worldwide, or nation nationally. Jesus said in Luke 21:28, "*look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*" I take great courage in that. Jesus Christ our redeemer, our savior, is coming again. And He's coming for us. All around is evil, disruption, and chaos. But on the horizon is the coming of Jesus Christ. And we need to be living in the confidence of such. We need to be living in the anticipation of such. I'm telling you when we do that there's courage in that. We find courage in that. We find strength in those truths.

Again, we all know we live in a nation that's not what it once was. And it's sad. It truly is. I wish things were different, but they're not. And we live in perilous times. And by the authority of the scriptures we know that matters are going to get worse. We know that. But we as a people of God, living in this mess, must realize first we are the people of God. We are the people of God. And God in his providence, God in his wisdom, has placed us in this time, has placed us in this place in our lives. And God and his wisdom and providence has blended us together as a body of Christ. We need to realize that. We need to realize that. It doesn't mean that we don't have disagreements, but we don't lose focus on what it's about. We don't lose focus on why we're here. God, in His will meant for you and I to be together at this time. You say, "Well I don't like that." Well, you need to get over it. That's what God has done. That's what God has done. "Well I would rather that God put someone else in my life." Well he didn't. Get over it. We're to serve God together. We are here for his honor, we are here for his glory. We need to be courageous, we need to be bold, we need to be what we need to be, do what we need to do. God help

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us.

And, again, that we would pray for one another like we've never prayed before. That we would pray for sister churches like we've never prayed before. That we would see, that we would not lose focus on what it's about. I'm so tired of people, and I'm not talking about sins, I'm so tired of people in our fellowship, man has been serving God faithfully for many, many, many, years, decades, and he does one thing that they don't agree with totally, and I'm not talking about sin, and they drop him. It's like they're looking for reasons to be angry, looking for reasons to be upset. "We're done with him!" That makes them more righteous, I suppose. It's got to stop. It's got to stop. We must not consume one another. I'm not talking about compromising truths, that's not what I'm talking about.

God help us to be what we ought to be. There are preachers in our fellowship that I do not agree with on some things. That doesn't make them my enemy. There are things that you and I may not agree on. That doesn't make us enemies! That needs to stop! God help us, these are sinful times, that we be what we need to be. That we would all say, "God, just start with me." That's where we need to start. Each one of us need to look within, personally, that God would begin with us.