

How Easily We Forget

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My Father's House

Time To Remember

Over and again in the scriptures, we are asked to remember. I think the reason is because we so easily forget. How easily we forget that Jesus died for each and every one of us. How easily we forget that what Moses brought down from the mountain was not ten suggestions, but ten commandments. How easily we forget that this was a nation under God. How easily we forget that constitutionally, we believe these truths to be self-evident that all men are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, the first of which is the right to life.

Silence from the pulpit

About a decade ago, Don Wildmon, of the American Family Association, wrote: "Today, 4,000 innocent, precious lives of unborn babies were snuffed out," and

300,000 American pulpits were virtually silent.

The networks make a mockery of Christians. Greed, lust, violence, immorality are standard fare. Movie after movie and program after program contain anti-Christian episodes. News articles condescendedly refer to the right-wing Christians, that is, those who uphold traditional Christian morality and values. Those who speak out for the sacredness of human life are branded as extremists. I personally never believed the day would come when I would be considered part of the RRR -- radical religious right. I never believed after Bob Hope was censored for saying "hell" on the radio, that the day would come when every ultimate blasphemy and obscenity would be public fare. Despite it all,

300,000 pulpits are virtually silent . . .

Teenage suicide is the highest it has ever been. Christian morality cannot be taught in schools, but atheistic immorality and secular humanism can. Ever since that day in 1963 when a Masonic Supreme Court took God out of public schools, violence, rape, suicide, murder, Aids, and promiscuity have escalated. Heavy metal and rock music fill the air waves and our children's minds with music that legitimizes murder, satanic worship, sodomy, sadomasochism.

And 300,000 pulpits are virtually silent . . .

A majority of states now have lotteries. Here in Connecticut, we have the largest casino in the world. Tens of thousands of people are addicted to gambling.

And the pulpits throughout the state are silent . . .

Really Important Matters

What important matters are being dealt with in our churches? Parish bulletins say, "There will be meetings to plan the parish supper." "We will raise some money to put a new floor in the kitchen." "The sermon last Sunday was on how to have a positive attitude." And best of all, "We are organizing a softball team, fashion show, bingo and cake sales."

The Church hasn't always been silent. It was through the work of Christians that slavery was eliminated from Great Britain. Two-thirds of the members of the Abolition Society in New England were Christian clergymen. No, the Church was not always silent. The Church spoke out on issues such as child labor laws and [abused] wives. The Church has been responsible for getting rid of cannibalism and the binding of women's feet in China. The Church has spoken out about prison reform and reform of asylums for the insane. But today that seem to be no longer the case.

Can The Church Make A Difference?

The answer to this question is that in the past, it always has. Many valiant saints and martyrs have stood up for Christ, even at the cost of their lives. Peter and Paul, Andrew, James and John, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon, and Jude, Basil, Prisca and Aquila, Francis and Clare, Thomas a Becket, and Thomas of Canterbury, Mother Theresa, Padre Pio, Pope John Paul II have all made a difference in the Church.

Pastors Leading the Way?

Recently, at a convention attended by people from all over the U.S., the speaker asked this question: "Do your pastors speak out on the great issues of our day?" Though there were hundreds of people from various denominations all over the country, not one raised his hand. "Are you satisfied about the way your pastors are addressing the great issues of our time?" Not one hand went up! Though we be active in the battle, *if we are not fighting where the battle is the hottest, we are traitors to the cause.*

I have asked people why their pastors do not speak out. The answers are always the same: They are afraid . . .

Many do not understand that we're not only to render unto God what is God's, but we're to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. They do not understand that our whole culture is going to hell in a handbasket, and most people in the churches are doing nothing about it. Most preachers are guardedly saying nothing about it. God have mercy upon us.

The End of an Era

Many prophets of our time feel that we are living in the end of an era. Western civilization, as we know it, is about to collapse, just as sixteen civilizations before it have collapsed. Gibbons, in his landmark book, *The Rise and Decline of the Roman Empire*, stated: "The reason for the collapse was widespread immorality, pornography, decline of family life, and a lowering of appreciation of the dignity of human life. In most major colleges today, there's not even a single course on Western civilization. There are virtually no courses on Christianity and few courses on ethics; but

there are lots of classes on feminism and homosexual rights. You get nothing about the Christian foundations of this country -- how our founding fathers established us as a nation under God.

Slouching Towards Gomorrah

One of the pivotal books of this decade is *Slouching Toward Gomorrah*. The title speaks volumes in itself. The media are the number one formant of the American soul. Religion is seventeenth. In the early Church, abortion was considered such a heinous sin that if a woman had one, she was excommunicated from the Church. Now, it's all right to pull a baby three-fourths of the way out of the mother's womb, stick a pair of scissors in the back of its neck and suck its brains out. Sodomy, the sin for which Sodom and Gomorrah were punished, is now called *Gay Rights*.

Passionate Intensity

The leaders of the abortionist movement, the homosexual movement, the feminist movement, the atheists, the evolutionists, and all the left-wing activists are "full of passionate intensity," while so many Christians lack conviction. One historian said that the people who have the intensity will be the people who win. A great rabbi said that if God is not of ultimate importance, He is of no importance. Jesus never told us to seek the Kingdom of God. He said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." If God is not above all else, the most important person in your life, He is not God at all. If we are lukewarm, He will spew us out of His mouth.

Soldiers for Christ

Christ wants to make us soldiers for Him. We are met on a great battlefield as a test of whether this nation or any nation so conceived and dedicated can long endure. If we priests and ministers really preached the gospel and all its intensity, I'm sure that some of those now filling our churches would exit. And many of those who see us as weak would be attracted. It's a good thing for a follower of Christ to be considered "radical".

Listen Carefully

So today, listen carefully. We as patriotic American Christians, as faithful members of the Church founded by Christ, as servant leaders, say clearly that there is a God who gave us ten commandments. There is one God to whom we owe total allegiance.

Ten Commandments

First, we must pray, worship and honor him with all of our minds and hearts.

Second, we must hold His name with reverence and call upon Jesus by name often. There is nothing like that name, nothing so powerful. We must study His gospel, listen to His messages and follow His ways.

Third, we must reverence and worship our God daily and especially on the Sabbath. We must keep the Sabbath sacred and holy. We must attend Mass hopefully with our families and try not to be engaged in servile work.

Fourth, we must be obedient to God, to Jesus, to the Church, to our parents and to all always authority. This often will demand a death to self.

Fifth, we must not believe in nor practice violence in any form -- gossip, slander, fighting, arguing, mercy killing, abortion, capital punishment, war. We must be gentle and kind, forgiving and loving, especially of our enemies.

Sixth, we must be pure in mind and heart, never practice promiscuity, adultery, artificial birth control, pornography, self-abuse, oral sex, or sodomy. We must love sinners and not their sins. This calls for frequent reception of the sacraments, control of our thoughtlife and avoidance of temptation.

Seventh, we must be honest and not infringe upon the rights and property of others. Our aim should simply be not to steal, but to tithe and be generous of our time, talent and treasure -- especially to the poor.

Eighth we must be truthful and sincere striving not to lie ever nor to be hypocritical nor deceptive.

Ninth, we must be content with the valid love and affection we receive from family, spouse and friends never lusting after others.

Tenth, we must be content with the material possessions we are graced to have and not be envious or jealous of others.

All that is necessary is that the remnant stand up. Some years ago, Edwin Burke said that all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. Jesus is calling us to be the faithful remnant. He has promised that if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, I will hear from heaven and heal their land.

Christ Is Counting Upon Us

We are the light of the world. WE are His body. We are His hands, His eyes, His lips, and His feet. He wishes to work in us and through us with His wisdom, His love and His power. In the end, we shall overcome. Yes, as the Civil Rights activists sang, "We shall overcome, we shall overcome someday." So come Lord, Jesus, mold us, fashion us, use us for your mighty work.