

JULY 2ND 2006 SERMON: OH SAY CAN YOU SEE, AMERICA?

Deuteronomy 6:10-19 Excerpts from James W. Moore book (O say can you See?)

Bubba went to a psychiatrist and said:

"Doc, I've got trouble. Every time I get into bed,
I think there's somebody under it. I'm going crazy!"

The Psychiatrist said: "Just come and talk to me, 3 times a week
for a year and I will get rid of those fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"Eighty dollars per visit," replied the doctor.

"I'll sleep on it," said Bubba.

Six months later the doctor met Bubba on the street.

"Why didn't you ever come to see me about those fears you were having?"

"Well eighty bucks a visit three times a week for a year is an awful lot of money!

My friend Curly cured me for \$10. I was so happy to have saved all that money and went
and bought me a new pickup!" "Is that so?! And how, may I ask, did Curly cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed! Ain't nobody under there now!!"

There are a lot of fears growing in America,
And many people want to cut the legs off our country
By lowering our standards and expectation.
But we will not eliminate our fears, we will exasperate them.

Ever since our forbearers landed in the Mayflower in 1620
Our noble traditions and morals in America have been eroding
We are in danger losing our virtue and spirit,
Our Judeo-Christian foundation.

I remember when we got electricity on the farm.
They brought the poles out in an old truck.
They parked it up on the hillside.
Then they went to work digging in the poles.
What they didn't count on was that the gears on the old truck
weren't what they used to be.
She slipped out of gear and plunged down that steep embankment.
One could hardly walk down without slipping.
And that truck rolled over the edge and crashed at the bottom
Because it wasn't maintained properly.
It was exciting for a young boy,
But devastating for the work crew.

We in America are sitting on a precipitous hill.
And its like our gears have been stripped that
Have held us in place
and we are about to plunge down
a steep and dangerous embankment with no hope.

Lucy ask's Charlie Brown to help her with homework.

"I'll be eternally grateful", she promises.

Charlie: "Fair enough. I've never had anyone be eternally grateful before"

Charlie says: "Just subtract 4 from 10 to find how many apples the farmer had left."

Lucy: "That's it???? That's it?!?! I have to be eternally grateful for that? I was robbed ! I can't be eternally grateful for this! It's just too easy!!!"

Charlie: With a blank stare, Charlie replies, "Well, whatever you think is fair."

Lucy: "How about if I just say 'thanks, Bro?', asks Lucy.

As Charlie leaves to go outside, he meets Linus.

Linus: "Where've you been, Charlie Brown?"

Charlie: "Helping Lucy with her homework."

Linus: "Well, I hope she appreciated it!"

Charlie answers: "Yeah...at a greatly reduced price!"

Has our freedom and spirit been risked and compromised in America?

Because we are content to have it at a greatly reduced price?

My prayer is that America will come back to her Heavenly Father and her Savior Jesus Christ who gave birth to this nation in the first place. God will save America when America repents and comes back to Him.

I. OUR SIGHT IS SHIFTED

WE ARE IN DANGER OF LOOSING OUR GOODNESS

IN our effort to be tolerant, acceptable, (which are commendable virtues)

Have we sacrificed our goodness, our morality, virtue, and integrity?

The things that make America great?

Pastor Brian Bauknight said: "We are in a moral quandary as a nation right now... We don't know what goodness is anymore. That which once seemed to define the American character has somehow slipped form our grasp. (What about American Character? July 1994 Brian Bauknight)

Mae West the old actress probably put it best when she said of herself.

"I started out as Snow White, but then I drifted."

That's what often happens in life.

Things turn out differently than we intended.

We begin to make certain assumptions.

We began to drift.

And when it comes to (Goodness)

Drift is something we cannot afford.

Because were drifting not in the direction we intended.

(Excerpts in a speech Pittsburgh Post-Gazette June 1004)

Our youth today do not know the faith heritage of America.

They may talk about the Bible but they have never read it.

Jay Leno doing his “man on the street” routine asked College student a few questions about the Bible.

1. Can you name one of the Ten commandments?

Sure said a young man: –Freedom of speech.

2. Can you complete this sentence?

Let he who is without sin.....She said: Have a good time?

3. Jay Leno turned to a young man and asked.

Who according to the Bible was swallow by a whale?

The young man smiled with confidence and said: Oh I know that one---Pinocchio

This country has a hole in its MORAL OZONE Layer.

Paul Harvey tells the story of an old man

SLIDE-JEFFERSON-Whose dream was to bring democracy and public education

together in the creation of a new public college where the students would practice self-governance.

Their would be no rules or regulations.

The college would be run by the goodwill and judgment of the students.

The college opened and it was only within a few months time that

The students proved time and again that they were not the models of goodness, discipline, and good judgment.

They skipped classes,

drank to excess.

wasted hours in frivolous pursuits.

And one night 14 students went on a rampage

That ended in a drunken brawl.

A professor was hit with a brick.

Others were beat up.

The trustees called a special meeting

The old man now 82 was asked to address the student body.

He spoke about the lofty principles upon which the college had been founded.

He said he had expected more, from the students.

He confessed that this was the most painful event of his life.

Suddenly he stopped speaking.

Tears welled up in his failing eyes.

He was so overcome that he was unable to go on.

The students were so touched that the fourteen offenders stepped forward to admit their guilt.

But they could not undo the damage.

So a strict code of conduct and regulations were instituted at the college.

That old man’s experiment failed.

Because the young students weren’t spiritually mature enough to realize that only a good and virtuous people

can secure and maintain their freedom.
 That college went on to become a great university in America
 On the fourth of July the man died.

SLIDE GRAVE-Engraved on his tombstone were these simple words.

Thomas Jefferson.
Author of the Declaration of Independence
And Father of the University of Virginia.

Someone said: America is great because she is good and
 if America ever ceases to be good she will cease to be great.

Apostle James wrote: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your heart, you double-minded. James 4:8 NASB

Life is better when were honest, truthful, loyal and caring.
 God knew that and that's why he gave us the truth of the Bible to live by.
 OH Say can You SEE AMERICA?
 But our sight has shifted.

II. OUR SIGHT IS DOUBLE

WE ARE BECOMING A SOCIETY OF SPLINTER GROUPS

My brother has a thyroid problem.
 Its causes his eyes to protrude.
 It also affected him by having him see double.
 Two images side by side but one up higher.

I have a pair of binoculars that I dropped and
 Now it does the same things.
 When I told him about the binoculars,
 He said, well maybe his eye problem
 Occurred because I had dropped him too many times
 as his older brother when he was a baby.

Right now our country says one thing and does another.
 We say we want to educate our children more civilly and responsibility,
 But yet schools refuse to teach the morality of right and wrong.
 We say we want law and order in the streets,
 but release the same violent criminals to return to those same streets.

A few years ago 11 people were murdered in NY City within ten hours.
 It barely caused a stir.
 Shortly after that a violent criminal who mugged and almost killed a 72 year old man
 Was shot by the police office while fleeing the scene of his crime. The jury awarded him
 \$4.3 million because the police shot him in the act of an assault.

The U in USA still stands for UNITED

United we stand, divided we fall.

Its not wrong to have diverse groups in America.
But there are times when our **vested** interests and **partisan** politics
Must take a back seat to our **common** good of the nation
And not the individual.

We must not allow our personal rights
Or the feathering their own nests.
Or the projection of my personal choice to
destroy the good of others or of this nation.

Dwight D. Eisenhower puts it:

A people that value its privileges over its principle soon loose both.

We killed 800 children through abortion in SD this past year
That represented more people than we graduated from the
Watertown and Aberdeen senior class together.
Year after year we have destroyed a graduation class of
Children who would now be home owners
And automobile owners.
Who would need an education
And clothing
Food and shelter, and the church.
We wonder why South Dakotas economy is in trouble?
And the population is shrinking.

God wants us to be a united people not a fragmented people.
The church stand as the conscience of society.
When the church gets sidetracked.
We are in a dismal spiral to oblivion.
It is faith, love, respect, service to others,
That makes freedom possible and the nation great.
No matter what the cost,

**OH SAY CAN YOU SEE, AMERICA?
III. BUT OUR SIGHT IS CLOUDED
WE'VE REMOVED GOD.**

Last year 3 million cataracts are removed in the United States.
A cataract is a clouding over of the lens of the eye.
Causes distorted vision.
If left alone no light can get through at all.

It is what the man in the bible experienced when Jesus touched him.
He said:

**Say: Mark 8:22 I can see people, but they look like trees walking.
Jesus touched him again and he was healed.**

Friends we must open our eyes,
Remove the cataracts
And fall on our knees
And seek God in pray.

**Jesus said in Matthew 6:22-23 The eyes is the lamp of the body.
If your eyes are good, our whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad,
your whole body will be full of darkness.**

In other words it is the way we see, look and view things,
That makes the man.

WHEN THE FRENCHMAN

Alexis de Tocqueville came to America in 1820 he was so fascinated with the greatness
of our country that he wanted to know what made the dream work.He said:

I looked for greatness of America in her fields and did not find it there.

I looked for the greatness of America in her industries and did not find it there.

I looked for the greatness of American in her churches and there I found it.

Have we removed God from our country?

**Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all
your heart.”**

We must not swallow the mistaken notion that
freedom of religion means Freedom from religion.

We have seen this pushed to ridiculous extremes
In our school and courts.

Not long ago a state supreme court threw out the sentence of a murderer who killed 70
year old women with an ax on the grounds that the prosecutor had unlawfully cited
biblical law to the jury in his summation.

This year a valedictorian speaker at her high school had the mike turned off when she
mentioned her faith in Jesus as her Savior.

In Illinois recently the word God was discovered in a second grade phonics textbook.
The second graders were told to strike it out. The **seven year olds** were told that it is
against the law to mention God in a public school.

America will not regain its sight and focus until Individuals Citizens
like you and me, begin to improve our vision.

This country got its vision from its Judeo Christian faith.
Job got it straight when he finally saw God--- he cried out.

**I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you. Therefore I
abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes**

Job 42:5-6

When Job saw God

Any sense of his own goodness or worthiness simply vaporized.

Behold I am vile. What shall I answer you? I lay my hand over my mouth Job 40:4

America has given us the cloak of freedom.
 But it's just like this coat I'm wearing.
 If I don't use it in the context of the maker.
 Its not right,
 It won't feel good
 It will look bad.
 And it would get worse the more I wore it the wrong way.
 Its not what the maker intended.
 Even if everyone started wearing their coats this way
 Still wouldn't make it right.

We in America are wearing our cloak of freedom far
 From the way our original founders intended.
 We must move back to the foundation of faith upon
 Which this great country was established.

II Chronicles says we can do this by:

If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14

1. Humble yourself

Let us come to today to the communion table with that spirit of humility,
 confessing your sins, seeking forgiveness as we remember
 Christ' sacrifice for us.

2. Pray --- Make this a daily discipline.

To pray for our country, its leaders and our responsibilities as Christian citizens.

3. PERSEVERE-- SEEK GOD'S FACE -

Turn our eyes upon Jesus and wait for God
 to do only what he can do in all circumstances.

Hebrew writer says:

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. Hebrews 10:36

So let us began today

And let revival begin in our hearts

So it can come begin again in our nation.

Join me at the communion table in this time of rededication and commitment.