**“REACHING TODAY’S AMERICA FOR CHRIST” SERIES**

**#2: The Foundations Have Been Destroyed!”**

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 11:3

**INTRO:**

 Ken Ham, president, founder and CEO of Answers in Genesis, recently wrote:

 “Something is happening to America – in fact, to the entire once Christianized Western world. Whether you get your news from television or online, the information is the same. The United States is no longer the country she once was. It is shocking to compare the worldview of today’s generation with the one embraced by older generations in the West.

 “America has the largest number of Christian churches, colleges, seminaries, resources and media of any nation in the world. Yet, her values and predominant worldview demonstrates that America is becoming less Christian every day. Western culture is changing. In fact, Western civilization as a whole is becoming less Christian in its worldview, whether it’s the United Kingdom, Europe or Australia. We are seeing moral relativism spread throughout Western culture like an infectious disease. There’s even talk that an ideological civil war is being waged in America. And as moral relativism enjoys greater national acceptance, Christians and their worldview are treated with increasing intolerance.

 “Simultaneously, Christians are not having an impact

on culture and those in it, choosing instead to remain content and safe within their own churches and Christian circles. We are not imparting the gospel in a way the next generation can grasp. Of course, the message of the gospel hasn’t changed, but the way people *think* has changed dramatically. Therefore, we must speak the truth of Scripture in the language of the culture” (*Gospel Reset*, pp. 15-18).

 What we are seeing is that which is identified by David in Psalm 11:3: ***“…if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*** Our foundations are being destroyed.

 First of all, I want to point out how

***AMERICA’S FOUNDATIONS ARE BEING DESTROYED.***

 Rachael J. Denhollander, in creation.com, points out two major parts of America’s foundation that have been destroyed.

1. *There has been a shift in legal philosophy concerning “The Establishment Clause” in the U. S. Constitution.*

 The Constitution simply states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” In other words, Congress cannot establish by law a state church or religion. European countries had state religions. Our founding fathers didn’t want that for the United States. Now, if any of the states wanted to establish a state church, that was a different matter. In fact, some of them had already done that. Constitutionally, there could not be a “national” church or religion. That’s what “The Establishment clause” is all about.

 In 1947, however, a shift in the way the clause was interpreted by the Supreme Court (in the case of Everson vs. Board of Education) became the beginning of the end for teaching creation science or Intelligent Design in the government school classroom. This opened the door to the so-called “science” of the “big bang” theory and the so-called “science” of atheistic evolution.

 It also opened the floodgates for ultimately banning God, prayer and the Bible not only from government schools but from any government-sponsored or government-financed program, institution or organization.

 The ramifications of such “legal” actions created an atmosphere in which atheism could thrive and people could, in essence, make up their own rules. It created an environment like the one mentioned in Judges 17:6, where Scripture says, ***“Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”***

1. *There has been a shift in governmental philosophy from a biblical one to a secular one.*

 America’s founders took a biblically based jurisdictional approach to government. This approach, which recognizes God’s supremacy, establishes four specific realms of authority: self; family; church; and civil government. While they’re all under God’s rule, each has different functions and purposes and are meant to oversee different areas of life. For example, the education of children and the management of family affairs is under the jurisdiction of the parents, not the civil government. The pastor of the church answers to God and the church’s leaders for what he preaches and how he shepherds the flock, not to parents or to civil authorities. The civil government oversees civil affairs, not personal, family, or church affairs.

 But as the biblical philosophy of government became lost in the rise of atheistic evolutionism and secularism, jurisdiction in the various areas of society and personal life were intermingled and confused. Civil government, by socializing education, began to take jurisdiction over areas it was never meant to control or regulate, which has gotten us to where we are now, with so many people thinking that the government ought to solve every personal and societal problem.

 This shift in governmental philosophy from biblical to secular has stifled Christians who are involved in academia, especially those in higher institutions of education to the point that there are very few biblical Christians teaching in our state colleges and universities. And in the elementary, middle and high school curriculums is the total absence of Creation Science, the belief in the biblical account of creation. Where the Bible used to be a common part of the curriculum, it has now been banned.

 While there is so much more I could say on this point, time restraints urge me to move on.

 Second, I want to say that

***WITH AMERICA’S FOUNDATIONS GONE, PERSONAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FAITH ARE DISAPPEARING AS WELL.***

 Ken Ham points out that when the word *God* is brought up in many of today’s public schools, both students and teachers wonder which *god* is being referred to – the Muslim god Allah, or a Hindu god, or the Buddhist concept of god, or some new age god?

 He says that in previous generations when someone referred to a “Bible story” they were talking about some historic account from the Bible. Now when such a reference

Is made, so many people associate it with something fictional – a myth or fairy tale.

 Among “Millennials” (those born between 1982 and 2002), more than half of those who used to attend church services no longer go. Two-thirds of the young people in the church stop attending by the time they reach college age.

 Of the “Millennials” that attend church regularly, nearly half of them do not adhere to the authority of the Word of God. In other words, they believe things contrary to the Bible. For example, they believe same sex marriage is okay, and they believe that to get into heaven, one just has to be a good person.

 The church was launched in a world largely populated by pagans, and it did quite well. Within a hundred years the majority of the known world of the day had heard the gospel of Jesus. Yet, today the church is struggling to convert and hold on to the children and grandchildren of its own members! Why?

 We have tried to place capable campus ministers on the campuses of our state colleges and universities and encouraged our kids to connect with these ministries, but from what I hear from the directors of campus ministries, our church kids aren’t connecting.

 So, the products of our Sunday Schools and youth ministries are, by and large, leaving the church when they leave their hometowns to go off to college.

 Ken Ham says: “90-95% of kids from church homes attend public schools, where they are taught that evolution (biological, geological, astronomical, anthropological) is fact and not the unsupportable belief that it is. In these schools the Bible has been ignored and ridiculed. Scripture’s God is mocked, taught as myth, or even relegated as a banned topic. These schools have essentially replaced Christianity with their religion of secularism, as students are taught that life and the universe are explained by natural processes, apart from the supernatural intervention of a Creator. Students are indoctrinated with what is called ‘scientific evidence’ that supposedly disproves the Bible’s account of origins. Sadly, most Christian parents and church leaders haven’t taught these students how to defend the Christian faith against such secular attacks. Most churches and Christian homes have not equipped young people with answers to the skeptical questions and statements they hear concerning the Bible. The result of this is that many of them begin privately doubting God’s Word by middle school age, eventually walking away from the Christian church” (*Gospel Reset*, pp. 35-36).

 The late Francis Schaeffer wrote in 1991:

 “The basic problem of the Christians in this country in the last eighty years or so, in regard to society and in regard to government, is that they have see things in bits and pieces, instead of totals. [Christians have very gradually] become disturbed over permissiveness, pornography, the public schools, the breakdown of the family, and finally, abortion. *But they have not seen this as a totality – each thing being a part of a symptom of a much larger problem. They have failed to see that all of this has come about due to a shift in the world view –* that is through a fundamental change in the overall way people think and view the world and life as a whole [emphasis added]” (*A Christian Manifesto*, p. 440-441, 1991).

 Rachael J. Denhollander concludes:

 “And this is still where many are today, fighting a battle in one area while accepting compromise in another, treating symptoms but ignoring the disease. The time has come where Christians must either acknowledge God’s lordship in every area, recognizing that ‘Spirituality, after you are a Christian and have accepted Christ as your Savior, means that Christ is Lord of ALL your life – not just your religious life, and if you make a dichotomy in these things, you are denying your Lord His proper place,’ or very possibly suffer permanent defeat.

 “Christians must be willing to stand by and defend truth in law, government, science and every area of life, lest these foundations crumble altogether, and one awakens the next day to find evolutionist Richard Bozarth’s prediction has come true: In the rubble of a decaying biblical worldview, there is little left but the ‘sorry remains of the Son of God.’”

**CONCLUSIO**N:

 Many preachers will not speak out in this area because it means talking about issues that are political as well as theological, but there are issues that need to be exposed to the light of the truth of the Word of God! The United States is traveling down a road that has always led to destruction! The foundations laid by our forefathers have been destroyed stone by stone, brick by brick, and our politicians are more concerned about getting re-elected than about fixing the problem.

 I realize that I am only one voice “crying in the wilderness,” with only a few to hear my voice, but I will continue to “cry out” because I must.