

9-11-01 Ten Years Later: How Has America Changed?

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Bible Text: Acts 17:16-34

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We will get back to Mark next week. I must confess to you that I am burdened and my spirit is heavy. I would have much preferred to preach from Mark.

Once you find your place in Acts chapter 17 and verse 16, would you stand for the reading of God's Word?

Now let me give you a little context. Paul is in Greece; Athens, Greece specifically. He is on one of his missionary journeys as a church planter. He goes into cities and he preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is what Paul does. Some get saved and they start churches. We have a record of Paul's visit in Athens in the Scripture.

What I would like to do is preach through this text and talk to you about my thoughts on America 10 years after what I believe was and will be the most tragic thing that I have ever seen in my lifetime. I certainly pray you will say the same.

Do you remember where you were on that fateful day?

“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.”¹

Is your spirit stirred within you when you see America?

Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him. Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. (For all the Athenians and

¹ Acts 17:16.

strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)²

That sounds like Facebook to me - either saying something or seeking something new. I wonder how many of you would be honest and say, "I spend more time on Facebook than I do in the Word of God."

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed.³

Let's pray.

Father, my heart is so heavy this morning. Ten years have just flown by, God. Ten years have zoomed by. For me, dear God, it feels like I was just yesterday watching the news, scrambling on Fort Bragg, responding to the devastation. It seems like it was just yesterday. Dear God, wake us up in Jesus' name. Amen.

I suspect unless you were involved in the attack on Pearl Harbor or there on the island that for you as well as me, this is the most incredible thing you have ever seen in your entire life.

² Acts 17:17-21.

³ Acts 17:22-34.

I would say that for those of us that are old enough to remember, especially those of us that were young adults or middle aged adults, this was incredible.

I was at the Fort Bragg dental clinic trying to get my dental status straight and at first the initial report was a plane hit the first building and I thought, "Surely that is an accident. How did that happen, but surely it is an accident." There is no way in my wildest imaginations would I ever conceive of the idea that radical Muslim fundamentalists would hijack planes and fly them into the tallest buildings in New York City. If you would have asked me, "Could that ever happen?" I would have said, "No, no, no. That is a ridiculous idea." And yet it happened in our lifetime.

And the typical question that is asked of those who wonder and are outside of Christianity or maybe even those inside Christianity is: Where was God on September 11, 2001? Where was He? Where was God on that day? Why didn't God intervene?

And the best answer that I can come up with for the response to that question is: God was on the same throne in the same way that day as He was the day before and the day after. God did not move. He didn't move. He was just as sovereign on that day as He was the day before and just as sovereign today as He was 10 years ago, and there has never been a day He has been less sovereign and there will never be a day in which He is more sovereign, for He can be neither more or less, for He is God. And when you are God, you can't be more of anything or less of anything for He says, "I change not."

Another typical question that is thrown in a Christian's face as we talk about a sovereign God is: Well, why didn't He save more lives?

But the answer to that is: He did. Don't you dare charge God with unrighteousness, not for a milli-second.

The stories abound of people saving lives. The stories are incredible. The heroic stories just keep coming out. Welles R. Crowther was not a firefighter, he was a stock trader. He played lacrosse for Boston College. He has got a great video on ESPN website or YouTube. You ought to watch it. You ought to hear how this man continued to go up into the building and help people come out.

And a woman who was saved by Welles even said, "Someone had to die so that I could be saved." Wow! She doesn't even realize it and she is preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. She doesn't even realize it and she is giving a gospel testimony as she speaks.

As I have been watching Fox News and other news outlets and paying attention to the videos, I haven't heard anybody talking about the providence of God. Providence is a word that is just gone from our vocabulary. Look at the definition: "God conceived as the power sustaining and guiding human destiny". ([Merriam-Webster](#)) This is not the definition you find in 1828 Webster's dictionary. Note the word "conceived." That is a word to introduce doubt. "Conceived" is a word to introduce doubt. Some people believe that he is the power of sustaining and guiding human history. Obviously the author does

not believe that for he would have directed the sentence a lot differently. He believes that there are some people who believe in providence.

And I am here to tell you this morning that even the evangelical churches have walked away from the providence of God. Even the evangelical church has decided that God didn't do that, couldn't do that, wouldn't do that. And they have created a new god.

How many can remember 10 years ago when Congress was united on the steps of the capitol and singing *God Bless America*? They were not singing *Allah Bless America*. They were not singing *Buddha Bless America*. They were not singing *Karma Bless America*. They were singing *God Bless America*.

And we all knew what God they were talking about. They were talking about the God whose Son was Jesus Christ who dwells as the Holy Spirit inside believers, the triune God. That is the God that they were singing about.

It just makes me so mad that Congress is completely divided. They can't get together for anything. They can't accomplish anything and the only thing anyone is concerned about is the economy.

In Acts 17:16, Paul walks into Athens and his spirit was stirred in him when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. And I am here to tell you right now that city is New York City. That is Los Angeles. That is San Diego. That is Washington, DC. That is Philadelphia and we can go on and on and on and on.

What kind of country uses modern technology to text everybody to bombard a store so that 50 people show up and steal right off the shelves and there are so many people in the store they can't do anything about it? What is happening to America?

Ten years later, today, folks, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg forbids clergy from attending the 9/11 ceremony. They can't even attend. No clergy are allowed. No firefighters are allowed. No police are allowed. The very firefighters that saved lives can't even attend the ceremony.

What is going on in America? What is happening to our nation?

How many of my age, 40 and older, wonder: What is the future of America going to hold? How many are as concerned as I am about the future of America? What is happening to our nation?

How many people will turn around three months later, nine months later, a year later and vote for him to get back in office? It is unbelievable.

Don't you understand that America is beginning to see the gospel and Jesus as strange gods? Don't you understand that if you believe that Jesus Christ rules and reigns, died on

a cross, rose again, ascended to be with the Father and is someday coming again, that you are a stranger? If you believe that, you believe in some strange foreign god?

The only god that you are allowed to believe in in America is the god who is the god of everyone. That is that ecumenical nonsense god that nobody gets offended, doesn't judge sin, is always kind, compassionate, loving and tender. That is the god that you are ok to believe in. That is the god of the media. That is the god of the president.

Paul preached the gospel. Paul preached the pure, unadjusted gospel. That is what he preached. The only hope for America is the gospel. But that wasn't the case in Athens; they didn't want to hear about the gospel. They didn't want to hear about a man who lived back then. They were interested in telling something new or to hear something new. They talk, talk, talk, and nothing ever gets accomplished. It is nonsense on top of nonsense.

And you don't think that is America?

How many of you can go three hours without looking at your Facebook? It is crazy. It is unbelievable how that is affecting us. I am either going to read something new or post something new. That is it. That is America. This is America, always looking for a new this; this is a new age. New age philosophies are infiltrating the church.

So Paul goes to the top of Mars Hill. By the way his sermon is engraved in Greek on the plaque on the right of the hill.

And he says, "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious."⁴

And that is what I see. I see America just becoming too superstitious. We talk about karma. We talk about faith, best of luck to you, good luck. What a coincidence.

You never hear talk of providence anymore.

Ari Schonbrun wrote a book entitled "Miracles and Fate on 78." This man was talking about miracles and fate. Does he not understand that miracles and fate do not go together? How stupid of a title? I have got to tell you that miracles are created by a sovereign God who is all-powerful and can intervene as He sees fit. Fate is determinism. The two are completely opposed one to another. Fate says, "Hey, there is no point in anything, because it is all determined ahead of time." Belief in miracles says there is a God I can pray to who will intervene and save lives. The two don't go together. It is impossible. There is no such thing as luck. There is no such thing as coincidence. There is a sovereign God ruling and reigning in your life bringing things in, taking things out, constantly orchestrating His predetermined will for you and you collectively participate in that and submit to that and yield to that and cooperate with the God of the universe as He sees fit.

⁴ Acts 17:22.

So I wonder to myself, “Is America’s future described in verse 23?” Is that where we are going? Look at verse 23. Is that where we are going? Is this where we will be?

Paul says, “For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.”⁵

Do you understand that in the country England, the very churches where Charles Spurgeon preached the gospel of Jesus Christ have now been bought by Islamic folks and are being turned into mosques? The very pulpits where Charles Spurgeon preached the gospel of Jesus Christ are now mosques where men and women gather to pray to Allah. And if you know anything about history, you will see that we are being led as a country by our leadership to become just like Europe. We are on the same glide path as England is.

Do you understand that at one time England was a great missionary sending country? Do you understand at one time missionaries came out of England in incredible numbers? The church was just preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and evangelists like Wesley came out of England. All come out of there bringing revival to America and now you go there and Muslims have taken over the country.

And I want to tell you right now. We are on the same glide path. If America continues on its current glide path will the God of the Bible who judges sin and saves men through the blood of Jesus Christ be the unknown God? You know that on the politically correct glide path that we are on, all gods are equal. All gods are good. You worship your god. I will worship my god. Don’t mess with my god and I won’t mess with your god.

Look at verse 24.

“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth.”⁶

Most Christians don’t really believe that he is Lord of heaven and earth. Most Christians really don’t believe that he is the κυριος (koo’-ree-os) of heaven and earth. The κυριος (koo’-ree-os) is the master. The κυριος (koo’-ree-os) is he to whom a person or thing belongs about which he has the power of deciding. Jesus Christ was the κυριος (koo’-ree-os) of flight 11, 175, 77 and 93.

But have we received a wake up call from this? Absolutely not. Have we responded appropriately? Absolutely not. Have we as a nation drawn closer to God since this event? The answer is clearly no. Has America forgotten that the God of the Bible is the Lord of heaven and earth? The answer is yes, absolutely. There is no question about it. New York City Mayor Bloomberg, again, in light of hurricane Irene coming right down there decided that we ought to hope and pray that mother earth redirects the hurricane.

⁵ Acts 17:23.

⁶ Acts 17:24.

And I want to tell you what makes me so sick is that there are Bible believing Christians who voted for him. I don't understand that. I don't get it. I am not talking about political parties right now. I am not talking about political parties at all; I am talking about analyzing every single candidate and making a decision as to where they are.

The idea that God permitted or directed planes to fly into the twin towers and the pentagon is repulsive to most Americans. There is no way in the world that we can respond to that judgment. People died. Yes, people died. God wouldn't do that, because people died. God doesn't do things where people die.

Really?

Do you know why we are thinking that way? It is because we don't know our Bibles.

Turn to Acts five. That is why we are thinking that way because we don't know our Bibles. Take your Bible and turn to Acts five, please. We don't think that God is capable of judging sin.

And just so I can walk this dog back just a little bit further here, why did we go to Afghanistan? Because of 9/11. Why did we go to Iraq? Because of 9/11. Why are we billions and billions of dollars in debt? Because of 9/11.

God's judgment wasn't just on that day. Why is the economy upside down? Because we are in debt. Why are we in debt? Because of our response to 9/11. Why is it that the number one thing that everyone is concerned about in the next election is the economy? Because we don't worship the God of the Bible. That is why. We don't worship the God of the Bible. What god do we worship? The god of money: that is the god that America worships.

America will vote the antichrist into office if he can fix the economy. You don't think that is going to happen? Please turn to Acts five.

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.⁷

That is the entire issue right there. The issue is we do not believe we are sinning against God. We believe we are sinning against each other and God can mind his own business. That is where we are.

⁷ Acts 5:1-4.

We don't think that the God of heaven is offended by the fact that the assembly on ground zero won't have one Bible believing preaching Christian present. We think God is ok with political correctness. God is not ok with political correctness. God is a jealous God who seeks to be worshipped by his people and he doesn't tolerate people worshipping other gods.

So what happens? What happens in our text? "And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things."⁸

Just imagine that offering plate being passed by you, my dear brother, and after you pass it and didn't put your tithe in, and you pass it on, then you fall out dead right there. Can you imagine?

And then you, his wife, shows up three hours late because, well, this is where the preacher always uses the opportunity to tell the female joke about being three hours late. You come in and the text says that Peter gives you an opportunity to come clean with the story. But she sticks with the story that her husband had her conspire with and she drops out dead. And then what is the response? What fell upon the church? Great fear.

How long did the great fear last from 9/11? Did it last a week? Did it last a month? How long did the great fear last? Was it a couple of days? Did the great fear last for a couple of days? Was it maybe a month and all of a sudden it was business back to normal in America? How back to normal? I will tell you how back to normal.

Put the gays in the military. That is how back to normal. How back to normal? Borrow and print more money until the American dollar is not worth a thing because we are printing and printing and printing? How back to normal? Take us so far in debt that our grandchildren will be paying this off. How back to normal? Social security, where is it? Who knows if you will get a penny of your social security? That is how back to normal.

You say, "I didn't come to church to receive a political speech."

You won't normally hear this. But I will tell you right now it seems most appropriate on the 10 year anniversary of 9/11 to talk about how America responded to the greatest tragedy in our lifetime.

And I will tell you right now. We did not respond appropriately. We have determined that it was the Islamic fundamentalists that did this thing and we don't need to worry about God.

Verse 25 says:

"Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing."⁹

⁸ Acts 5:5.

⁹ Acts 17:25.

Do you understand that God was happy before he made man? God doesn't need us. God does not need us. God doesn't need anything. Within the Trinity there is perfect fellowship, perfect communion, perfect love, and perfect happiness. God does not need you.

Oh, it is wonderful to think that God needs me. That is my way of elevating myself. That is my way of thinking highly of myself. God needs me.

God does not need Sean Harris. God is just fine without me. The God of the Bible doesn't need anything from man. He was just fine before He created man.

Verse 26 says:

“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth.”¹⁰

America has forgotten that all people were made from Adam in the image of God. America has completely walked away from that. We have allowed the secularists to introduce evolution into our mind set so well that we don't think that God created anybody, and we think that people who do believe in creationism are stupid fundamentalists.

Has America forgotten its own Declaration of Independence? The answer is yes. It would do well for these politicians to reread these documents.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator...”

Go talk to a Hindu about their Creator. They don't believe in a Creator. Go talk to a Buddhist about a Creator. They don't believe in a Creator.

You say, “Why are you bringing them up?” I will tell you why I am bringing them up. Today in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC there will be a Buddhist nun praying to some god who will be holding hands with a Hindu priest who will be holding hands with the leader of the North American Islamic society. Can you imagine? The very religion that inspired men to fly planes into the twin towers is going to be honored in our own National Cathedral. That should make you mad. I mean spitting mad. You should not be ok with that, unless, of course, political correctness has so infiltrated your thinking that you don't even know how to think right anymore.

“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed.”¹¹

He has determined the times.

¹⁰ Acts 17:26.

¹¹ Acts 17:26.

Job said it like this.

“Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.”¹²

You say, “Why did some people die on 9/11?”

They died because it was their day. Why did people die on September 12th? They died for the same reason. They died September 13th for the same reason. They died on September 30th for the same reason, because it was their appointed time.

God has decided the length of our lives. God knows how many months we will live. And we are not given another minute longer. God is in charge of when we take our first breath and when we take our last breath. God is in charge from there to there and every other minute along the way.

So my response after tragedies like 9/11, the Chinook accident in Afghanistan last month and on and on and on is if you are still alive after such an encounter, after an incredible car accident and it looks like you should have been dead, but you are alive, you ought to be asking yourself, “Why am I still alive? What more is there for me to do until God calls me home?” That is the only appropriate response.

Obviously, He has appointed the times before and the bounds of their habitation. The biblical fact is America is a nation because God allows America to exist as a nation. And I promise you there will be a day in which America will not exist anymore. We are not given an eternal destiny. This is not the millennial kingdom.

So why does God allow people to exist within the bounds He sets? Why is it that God allowed some people to live? Why is it that God permitted or sustained the molecular structure of the buildings so that people could escape? Why is it that men like the subway driver were given an instinct to gun it instead of slowing down? Why did that happen? So that people could remain alive. Why were they permitted to remain alive?

Look at verse 27 with me.

“That they should seek the Lord.”¹³

That is why. Every single person that made it through the tragedy on 9/11 was given another day to repent and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the only reason they were allowed to live. It wasn't to spend more time with their children. It wasn't to spend more time with their wife. It wasn't to take a better vacation. It wasn't to get a new perspective on life. It was to have a divine encounter with the God of the Bible. That is the only reason. Everything else is secondary.

¹² Job 14:5.

¹³ Acts 17:27.

Someone says: "I got a whole new perspective on life. I need to spend more time with my family." That is fine. That is good. That is dandy, but that is not why God sustained their lives. God sustained their lives so that they could have another day to repent and believe the gospel.

"...if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us."¹⁴

Verse 28.

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being."¹⁵

There is never a time that you are outside of Him. You cannot be outside of Him. There is nothing outside of Him. He sustains the entire universe. There is nothing outside of Him. Saved or unsaved are both in Him having their being; he causes them to cease to exist. They move and live within the bounds that he sets. He determines the bounds, and you cannot get outside of that bound for there is nothing outside of that bound. In him we live, be, move, and have our existence. He is the sovereign God of the universe. All things exist for him and he holds them all up. The moment he ceases to do that is the moment that is that the electrons, protons and neutrons all fall apart.

This is an incredible story of God's providence. Steve Schreiber was a pastor up in Maine and to earn some extra money he would fly for American Airlines as a reserve pilot. This is a great story and I want to encourage you to go on YouTube and find it and watch it this afternoon and then just allow the Lord to minister to you through this great story.

Steve Shreiber saw a pilot slot open on a flight from Boston to Los Angeles on September 11th. About 48 hours out, he saw that the slot was empty, that means that there was not a pilot assigned to that flight yet. He is a reservist pilot that means that he has to ask of flights. Senior pilots can bump him off. So he went to his wife and said, "What do you think about me flying out to Los Angeles, getting back on the 13th, such and such?"

She said "Yes, that sounds good. Why don't we do that?"

So he went to the computer, logged in with his pass code, put his name down, and they penciled him, so to speak, as the assigned pilot? He went and got his uniform, packed everything, and put it inside the car. He had it all ready, and then they went back to having family time, things like that in preparation for their day of normal activities.

What would typically happen is a phone call would come from American Airlines letting him know that he was the designated pilot. The phone didn't ring. Schreiber began to wonder why the phone didn't rung. Normally they call 48 hours out, lock him in as the pilot, and he knows he is going to have that flight.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Acts 17:28.

The phone didn't ring. He didn't think much about it. When he realized that the phone hadn't rung and he went to the computer and he saw that he had been bumped off that flight by a senior pilot who is a full time guy as opposed to a reserve guy and has the right to bump people off if he wants the flight.

Well, he said that happens frequently. It is not uncommon for somebody to get bumped off of a flight. Then his phone rang on September 11th, 2001, 10 o'clock in the morning and he reached and grabbed it and someone said, "Are you ok?"

"Yeah, I am fine. Why shouldn't I be?"

"Turn on the news."

He was to be one of two pilots on the American Airlines flights that would have died as that building collapsed around the airplanes.

Is that chance, folks? Is that luck? Did he get lucky that day?

No, that's absurd.

That is the degree to which we don't understand how much God is sovereignly working in our lives, the degree to which he is orchestrating all things to the predetermined end. He knows how long you are going to live. He knows what He wants you to do, and He is ready for you to do what He wants to do and He is going to orchestrate things to bring it to pass.

We move, live, exist within Him.

But America has completely forgotten that. America has forgotten about the providence of God. The God who is sovereign is not the god of America anymore. America now has a new god. It is the god of political correctness whereby nobody is offended because all gods are equal.

By the way, I want you to understand that we can't have it both ways. Pastor Dwayne, we can't give God all kinds of glory about getting Schreiber off that flight and not give Him equal credit for those guys hijacking those planes.

Now we want to have it both ways, but you can't have it both ways. You can't have it both ways. Either He is the sovereign God orchestrating all of it or He is not. You can't have it both ways. God is either the one who appoints the days of all or He appoints the days of none.

Verse 29.

“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”¹⁶

The ESV translates “device” as “man’s imaginations.” In the KJV, the word “devise” is rendered “thought” three other times, but here it is rendered “man’s devices”.

You see, we all say “We are not a pagan society. In a pagan society you worship things like that.” (A picture of a stone idol)

No, you are right. We worship things like the dollar sign. That is what we worship. We are not concerned if a Mormon gets into office, just as long as he can fix the economy. We are not concerned about that, just as long as he can fix the economy. That is all we are concerned about. The fact of the matter is man creates false gods after his own imagination all the time. Man creates false gods with the attributes and character that best suit his wicked heart.

We are having a call for compassion today at the National Cathedral. I promise you that when this building was built many years ago, it was not built to house Muslim clerics. I promise you it wasn’t.

You say, “This is offensive to me.”

You are in a Baptist church that believes that there is one God and only one God, and everybody else is going to hell. I am just telling you that right now. So don’t be surprised. There is nothing politically correct about this man right here, nothing at all. It makes me absolutely sick that we have got a Buddhist nun, a Hindu priest, the leader of the Islamic National Society, an Episcopalian priest as the representative of Jesus Christ. An Episcopalian priest? Please.

You say, “Do you have something against Episcopalians?”

I have something against anyone who takes away from the Word of God, anyone, it doesn’t matter who they are.

They have compromised on every single issue that there is to compromise on. They are constantly throwing the towel in. When you have got gay bishops you have thrown the towel in, folks. I will just tell you that right now. There is not single Baptist preacher invited to that event. There is not a Methodist invited to that event. There is not a Presbyterian invited to that event. There is not a Pentecostal invited to that event. There is not anyone that resembles anything like evangelical Christianity, no one, folks, no one who believes in the God of the Bible.

Do you know why? Because the political correctness that has infiltrated the White House and then spread out everywhere is there is only one god and we all worship the same god,

¹⁶ Acts 17:29.

just different names, different ideas, different thoughts and it is all one big wheel with God in the middle and there is just various spokes getting there.

Why are you preaching this message?

Because I want to make sure you don't think that way. It is unbelievable.

And did the President speak up? No. Did the President say, "Why isn't the largest denomination in the United States, Baptist, represented?" Did the President say that? The answer is no. He didn't say a thing.

And I will tell you that the fact that there are Bible believing Christians who will go and vote for him all over again makes me sick. What are we thinking, folks? What are we thinking? And I don't care. Skin color makes absolutely no difference to me. It is clear to me that the man does not understand that there is only one God. There is no question to me that he is allowing himself to worship the god of political correctness which says we are not going to offend anyone for fear of offending all.

And that is where Bloomberg is, by the way. It's the same exact idea.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now..."¹⁷ Beginning 2,000 years ago, God "...commandeth all men every where to repent."¹⁸ Not to have compassion, but to repent.

What America needs is a call to repentance.

Turn in your Bibles to 2 Chronicles 7:14. May I remind you of this great Old Testament Scripture? Hopefully you know exactly what verse I am going to. But if you don't, commit this one to memory because this is a great verse.

And I don't think this verse will be quoted today in the National Cathedral. I doubt they will make reference to this verse today. I doubt anybody will read this verse in New York City today.

Mark this verse in your Bible. Underline it in your Bible. Star it. This is a great verse. This is a promise. It will do us well to read this verse a little bit more in America.

If... a conditional expression.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways..."¹⁹

¹⁷ Acts 17:30.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ 2 Chronicles 7:14.

We are not doing anything like that in America today. We are not doing anything like that at all. We are doing nothing like that at ground zero. There is no prayer at ground zero today. There is no humility at ground zero today. There isn't anyone who thought they did anything wicked. They don't think in any way, shape or form that that was God's judgment on America. They don't think that America has done anything worthy of being judged.

See, you don't think there is a need to repent until you acknowledge the fact that you have sinned. And since America refuses to acknowledge the fact that going deeper into debt and putting the burden on generations upon generations, isn't sin. So America is not going to repent of it.

And, by the way, it is sin. It is just as much sin to extend unemployment benefits for another year so that the bum can stay home and do nothing. Great day in the morning! The best thing that we could do for the economy is to stop unemployment and make them go out and work for a living. They sit at home playing Nintendo, Play Station Three and X-box 360 on their 60 inch flat screen televisions collecting unemployment. That ought to make you spitting mad in this room right here. You should not vote for anyone that suggests that it is ok to stay at home and collect unemployment.

Hard working Americans are paying their share. Yes, that is where we are.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”²⁰

America needs some healing, but America is not going to get healing with another jobs bill. America is going to get some healing when churches are full of people who are flat broke worshipping the one true God. But there is no reason for them to get flat broke because they are getting a paycheck every single month from the federal government so that they can spend more time on the lake.

And you remember this when you get to go into that booth and choose the candidate for which you are going to vote.

This ought to make you sick to see where we are 10 years later. America's second president understood the need for repentance. Let me share with you a proclamation he issued on March 23rd the year 1798. Let me share it with you.

“I have, therefore, thought fit to recommend and do hereby recommend that Wednesday, the ninth day of May next to be observed throughout the United States as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer that the citizens of these United States abstain on that day from their customarily worldly occupations, offer their devout address to the Father of mercies, agreeably to those forms or methods which they have severally adopted as the most suitable and becoming that all religious congregations do so.”

²⁰ Ibid.

There hasn't been a drop of anything like this coming out of the White House in the last three or four years. It is ridiculous.

The deepest humility acknowledging before God the manifold sins and transgressions with which we are justly charged. The president says we are justly charged. We are sinners. He is holy. He does have a right to judge sin.

America doesn't believe that God has the right to judge sin anymore. America has decided that they will create their own god who doesn't judge sin.

Chargeable individuals and as a nation beseeching him at the same time of his infinite grace through the Redeemer of the world. Amen, brother. Don't let any knucklehead convince you that John Adams did not believe in the same God we believe in. Don't let anyone tell you that nonsense; that, oh, they were all a bunch of secularists or Deists or determinists or fatalists. He is talking about the Father of mercies, the Redeemer of the world and he is praying that the Holy Spirit would incline us to repent.

It sounds to me a lot like the orthodox triune Godhead, Father, Son and Spirit. See it with your own eyes.

And you will not find this in any text book written by any secularist that your child is attending in some government school. You can be sure of that. So you better make sure that if your child is going to a government school that you see how politically correct his textbooks have been turned into as they have been rewritten and rewritten until the God of the Bible has been completely removed and has been replaced with multiple gods with a lower case g.

So is John Adams praying that we would have a call to compassion? Absolutely not. He is asking that the Holy Spirit of the living God to lead us to sincere repentance and reformation be granted.

Instead, we have a call to compassion; so we have got a Buddhist, a Hindu and a Muslim holding hands in the National Cathedral.

Why don't you just pack it full of idolaters? That is what has happened.

Verse 31. We are wrapping it up.

“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”²¹

There is a promise that there is a judgment day. And to whom much is given much is required.

²¹ Acts 17:31.

So, dear Mr. President, you will stand before King Jesus some day and you will account for how you led this nation. Dear Mr. Mayor, you will stand in front of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and you will account for how you led that city. Dear Pastor Sean, you will stand before the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and you will account for the way you preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in Berean Baptist Church.

I want to be faithful to the Word because he has assured me that there is a day of judgment coming, and he has assured me that the One that is going to judge me is Jesus Christ. The reason I know that to be true is because he raised him from the dead.

So Americans may say with their mouths that they believe in the resurrection of Christ, but their response to 9/11 gives no indication at all that they think there is a judgment that they will have to stand before God at all. They may say with their little surveys that they believe in Jesus, but the reality is there is no indication they believe in Jesus, none. Because those who truly believe in Jesus recognize that they will give an account for the life they live.

So here is the response to Paul's message.

Group number one, when they heard the resurrection of the dead, they mocked. They are scorers, and the reality is that in a crowd this large we have got some scorers. Some of you will leave out of here and have not repented, have not put your faith in Christ. And you will leave a scorer. You will leave as you came in, a mocker.

You will say, "That is his opinion." You will say, "He is a politician." You will say anything to get around repenting and putting your faith in Christ. Others say, "We will hear this matter again."

Do you know what? You are not promised to hear this matter again. You are not promised that you will hear this matter again.

You may say, "I will come back next Sunday."

You don't know that you will come back next Sunday. You don't know that. You don't know what tomorrow holds for you. I promise you with all my heart those people in that building that day thought they had another day and another day to put their faith in Christ. If we would have told those people early in the morning on September 11th, "You are not going to believe what is going to happen today. Two large planes are going to fly into these buildings and these buildings of steel and concrete that have been engineered and designed by men to withstand all these type of things are going to crumble all the way to the ground." You would have laughed that day.

And a few came unto Paul's doctrine and believed the truth.

So I leave you with this question. Do you believe that the God of the Bible sovereignly preserved this iron cross as a reminder of the gospel of Jesus Christ? It came out of the wreckage, brother. That cross survived the wreckage.

Now you can chalk that up all day long as fate. You can chalk it up all day long as coincidence, but I believe with my heart of hearts that God preserved that 9-11 iron cross as a testimony to the gospel of Jesus Christ.