



July 1, 2007

## Abandoned?

I had a dream; for the last several years I have been on vacation on the first Sunday of July. I was looking forward to doing a nice patriotic sermon. I saw a very moving video clip back in January and I thought, "now there's the kicker that's what I would build the sermon around." At that time I actually bought the video and I even wrote myself instructions on my calendar for this last week so that when I got to it I would remember it. But last Sunday my dream became a little bit more of a nightmare. You see, last Sunday's Truth Project dealt with government and there were several parts that were rather troubling. When we came to the end of the lesson, one individual asked, "What do we do about it?" I gave an answer the best answer I could give. Then this last week I spent a fair amount of time studying it. I found out two things; number one my answer was pretty good and number two as a nation we are in trouble because we are like Samson, Israel, the Pharisees and the nations throughout history. How? Well, consider Samson.

Delilah pouted, whined and nagged Samson until Samson gave in and told her about his Nazarite vow and then she had his head shaved. When the Philistines came to get him he got up to fight and they gave him a lickin'. You see unfortunately, "He did not know that the Lord had left him." His strength was not in his hair his strength was from God and from commitment to God and His commitment to him. When Samson turned from God and valued Delilah more than God when Samson turned from his oath to God, God turned from him and gave him over to his own desires. God abandoned him, abandoned him to what Samson chose to go to.

What about the nation of Israel? Well again the people turned from their covenant with God. That covenant I will be your God you will be my people. They turned to false Gods. We see in Hosea 4:17 that God turned from Israel, left her, abandoned her to her own

desires. The Pharisees they turned from serving God and began to serve themselves by taking advantage of others and elevating themselves. Christ's words in our gospel this morning "leave them." They are blind and the nations of the world, Acts 14:16 tells us, "in the past He, God, let all nations go their own way."

The Bible speaks of judgment and we usually think of the final judgment, eternal punishment, hell. But there is a judgment that is temporal. It is when God, "gave them over." Over and over in scripture we see God saying, "I gave them over" or "he gave them over" or "God gave them over." God throws in the towel and says fine you do what you want you want o do just don't expect me to go along with it. The scary part? Samson didn't know he didn't know that God had said ok you go your own way I'm not with you on this. Neither did the nation of Israel, neither did the Pharisees; neither did all the nations throughout the history of the world. They all thought they were fine so how do you know if you've been abandoned or are about to be abandoned by God? Well, if we go to scripture we can see the symptoms.

Romans Chapter 1 there are four symptoms that I see. The first is found in Romans 1:21-22, "for although they knew God they neither glorified him as God, nor gave thanks to him but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts darkened although they claimed to be wise they became fools." To sum it up they deny God and they claim to be wise. People will trust in themselves and pat themselves on the back and say, "My, aren't we doing a fine job", because they want to deny God and they don't was a supreme power over them.

The second thing, this comes because of the denial of God, that's found in Romans 1:24 it begins with the word therefore. So it ties it right back to deny God therefore God gave them over. He's not going to run the show now, "He gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to the sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another." The second thing is we have a sexual revolution and with the sexual revolution you will find pornography all over the place, websites too numerous to count that are devoted to sex, illicit sex, adultery. I heard it this week, lust, and the definition of lust was, in the heart is filled with sexual desires and the body demonstrates it. I also heard a very troubling copy of a high school in Boulder Colorado and assembly they had. Every student was required to go and there were four "experts" there. What were their words to these children? Have sex, with each other, have sex with other men with

other women express yourself this is how you will come to know yourself. O ahead and try the drugs, go ahead and drink you're going to do it anyway. Experiment with it and find what you are happy with. As these men were saying this and women were saying this the kids were cheering and laughing and giggling. One girl asked them, "If you like a guy should have sex with him if he doesn't love you?" The answer from esteemed panel, "yes, yes, yes, yes". We've seen a sexual revolution we're in it. But that sexual revolution leads to the third one, which is just an extension.

Romans 1:26-27, "because of this God gave them over to shameful lusts even their women exchange natural relations for unnatural ones in the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received themselves the due penalty for their perversion." I know this doesn't set well but the third thing is a homosexual revolution. A revolution that the Bible says is wrong and it even says there is a due penalty and we can see that the venereal disease, the aids the things that go on as a result of it. God says these are there they show you this is wrong but yet the people choose it and God gives them over to it. In fact, when you take one, two and three and put them together it leads to number four.

Romans 1:28, "furthermore since they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God He gave them over to a "depraved mind To do what ought not to be done they have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity they are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, and God haters, arrogant, boastful they invent ways of doing evil. They disobey their parents, they are senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless although they know God's righteous decrees of those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

MTV did a survey this past year of their viewers their opinions of the seven deadly sins. How did their viewers summarize their view of the seven deadly sins? The majority said the seven deadly sins were, "virtuous". How can this be? Romans 1:8 tells us very clearly, "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the Godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth." Satan is waging a war on the truth that started in the beginning God said, "eat of the fruit and you'll die", Satan said, "you shall not surely die".

In America today, Satan is working through society, which denies the supremacy, authenticity, total sufficiency and clarity of God's word. In fact, people mock God's word and they mock God. What did our founding fathers think? Here is what our founding fathers and our great presidents have said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim tribute to patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness these firm props of the duties of men and citizens. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles"-George Washington. "God who gave us life, who gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just that His justice cannot sleep forever."-Thomas Jefferson "For my soul trembling on the wing of eternity where this hand freezing to death, where my voice choking with the last struggle I would still with the last gasp of that voice implore you to remember the truth God has given America to be free."-Patrick Henry. "It is religion a morality alone which can establish the principles upon freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is virtue and if this cannot be inspired into our people in a greater measure than they haven't now they may change their ruler and forms of government but they will not obtain a lasting liberty."-John Adams. "The longer I live the more convincing truths I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured sir, in the sacred writings that accept the Lord build a house they labor in vain that built it."-Benjamin Franklin. "And where as it is the duty of nations as well of men to own their dependence upon the over ruling power of God to confess their sins, and transgressions in humble sorrow yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy scriptures as proven by all history that those nations only are blessed who's God is the Lord." Abraham Lincoln. "Let us look forward to the time when we can take the flag of our country and nail it below the cross and there let it wave as it waved in the old times and let us gather around it and scribe for our motto liberty and union one and inseparable now and forever and exclaim Christ first our

country next.”-Andrew Johnson. “Without God there is no virtue because there’s no prompting of the conscience. Without God we’re mired in the material that flat world that tells us only what the senses perceive without God there is a coarsening of society and without God democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we are one nation under god then we will be a nation gone under.”-Ronald Reagan.

Upon hearing these quotes you may ask, “Why has God withheld judgment?” Maybe He hasn’t. Maybe we are like Samson, like the Pharisees, like Israel, like the nations of history. Maybe He has given us over. So what do we do? The answer know, embrace and stand on God’s word and pray for guidance for the leaders of our country that they would turn back to God’s word. Pray for strength to truly stand on God’s word when it is assailed and as a country and as a people pray for forgiveness.

In our Savior’s name, Amen.