

# Our Responsibility in a Crooked Generation

*“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”*

– Philippians 2:12-16

*“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming...now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self[d] with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”* – Colossians 3:1-6, 8-11

*“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation...For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.”*

– First Peter 2:12

*“Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”*

– First Peter 3:15-16

## From **“Hope for America’s Last Generation”** (2007), Chapter 26 **“What Should We Do”** -

With all this information we have about our responsibility at this time in history, what would be some reasonable goals or next steps?

1. We should **continue to proclaim the truth**, but we must remember that no matter how compelling we make our message, some people simply won’t want to hear it. It’s their choice. God gave them free will and wants them to use it. He allows everyone to choose, and so should we.
2. We need to **become more biblically literate concerning our past and future so we can understand where we are today** and what we should be doing. This is one of the most important roles of the local church and its pastors and teachers. If we don’t communicate past revelation and future prophecy, we will stay busy doing a variety of worthless and unproductive things.
3. **Staying alert** was a theme in Jesus’ teachings. Scripture warns us how easy it is to become distracted from the spiritual dimension of life.
4. **We will be rewarded for our service**. Faithfully serving God for unseen future rewards is an act of faith. Teaching about rewards will provide a source of encouragement among believers.

5. False teachings and philosophies will continue to mislead people. We can't stop this from happening, but we can **identify false teachings and speak out against them**. We can always turn on a light in a dark room.
6. Do not forget that we are in the midst of a spiritual awakening. The **darkness in our country became so dark that many people decided they liked the light better**. Americans have had enough crime, immorality, and corruption. They are finally seeking some kind of standard that will produce better things in their lives.
7. **Our nation is faced with problems that we can't solve by ourselves**. God designed it that way. This is why the fourth generation must turn to him and let him lead us out of the disaster we face. Then we will see:
  - a. good leadership in churches, government, business, and education
  - b. favorable weather patterns
  - c. production of natural resources
  - d. good international relationships
  - e. reversal of self-destructive cultural behaviors including alcoholism, drug abuse, pornography, etc
  - f. compassion for people in our society
8. **Church leadership needs to love people again**, not merely love using people. They can best do this by **empowering them with the truth of God's word**. Our culture will only change when individual people change.
9. We are in the fourth generation and are experiencing the beginning of the fourth cycle of judgment. **These judgments are designed by God to bring people to a point of decision**. Do you love God and his ways, or do you hate God and reject his standards? This is a decision we must all make.
10. The standards God has set for our nation here on earth are not the same standards he has set for the kingdom of God. Jesus told Nicodemus, "No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again" (John 3:3). Being born again is a requirement for entrance into God's kingdom not our earthly kingdom. Salvation is not a prerequisite to the success of a nation today. **For a nation to prosper on earth requires only these few things** identified in Micah 6:8 and Isaiah 56:1:
  - a. "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8
  - b. "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed." – Isaiah 56:1
11. We must remember the lesson of the "sin of Jeroboam." By the second, third, and fourth generations, **people find it hard to identify the sin of the first generation. The sin of our great-grandfathers was secular humanism**. They ushered in an idolatrous philosophy based on the assumption that there is no God and that man is the ultimate end of everything. This sin has not only infested our culture in the areas of government and education, but it has polluted the thinking of our churches as well. We must correct our own "sin of Jeroboam" which begins with identifying the fallacy of secular humanism.
12. **Families must be restored**. The hearts of the fathers must turn to their children and children to their fathers. This is the foundation of not just the Christian culture, but all culture. A society can't endure without fathers and families. Malachi 4:6 says, "He (Elijah) will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I (the Lord) will come and strike the land with a curse." **The institutions that God set in place must be strengthened and maintained**. Those institutions are:

- a. **individual volition with responsibility,**
- b. **marriage,**
- c. **family,**
- d. **government**
- e. **nationalism.**

Together these provide structure for the natural world. On the other hand, the two institutions God has used and is using to provide for man's spiritual wellbeing are: the nation of Israel (the past) and the church (the present).

13. The fourth generation always receives warnings through prophets and natural signs. **If a society doesn't respond to these warnings, God pours out his wrath and judgment. There is no escaping his discipline.**
14. The **church's mission is to represent the spiritual kingdom of God to mankind at this point in history.** This mission **advances only when the seed of scripture is sown.** The word of God in the heart of man combined with the Spirit of God in a believer is the most powerful force on earth today.
15. **The true church is not a "holier than thou" separatist organization.** From the very beginning, Jesus told his disciples that the church is made of common people who've come from pagan societies to build a spiritual body where the gates of Hades had previously stood. In the Old Covenant, if the holy was touched by the unholy, the holy thing became unclean. In this age of the New Covenant, the holy has been sent into the world of the unholy.
16. The church was derailed 1600 years ago when "clergy" were deemed "specially anointed people," holier than the average person. For centuries, believers have brought money to churches, providing a payroll for clergy and missionaries. **Our churches will only see revival when lay people realize they have the same anointing as clergy and missionaries.**
17. The end of the 1700s and the beginning of the 1800s was a time in American history that closely resembles today—drunkenness, crime, profanity, extreme skepticism, and universities that openly mock Christianity. The Chief Justice said the church "was too far gone ever to be redeemed." Voltaire said, "Christianity will be forgotten in thirty years." But the thirty years following his statement saw the greatest spiritual awakening America has ever experienced. The results of that awakening are still part of our culture today. Revival can happen again.
18. **Revival must take place at two levels.**
  - a. **The natural level:** our culture must become just, humble, and moral. Institutions must be restored.
  - b. **The spiritual level:** the church must learn the word of God and let the Holy Spirit empower them. Believers should encourage the natural virtues God requires of both Christians and non-Christians alike.

The United States is fighting for its survival in this fourth generation. We have the hope of a coming kingdom as we pray, "Come Lord Jesus!"

But we also have the responsibility to serve our earthly kingdom now so that we might hear the Lord say to us: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

May God find reason to bless the United States of America!



Believers have the hope of the coming Kingdom but also the responsibility to serve our nation today.

