

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## The Secularization of America

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A recent story that was run by several major news networks, chronicles the decline of “christianity” in America over the past 20 years. The article reviews the findings of a survey which shows an 11 percent drop in Americans who claim to be “christian.” In light of this survey William Donohue, the president of the Catholic League, noted “The three most dreaded words are thou shalt not....Notice they {those not claiming to be christian} are not {claiming to be} atheist, they are saying I don’t want to be told what to do with my life.”

Many bemoan the secularization of America and fear that our country will plummet into an almost anti-religious state likened to Europe’s current condition. Yet, what should the Christian’s approach be to such news?

While it is true that many today are becoming more irreligious because of their materialism and selfishness, the current state of our nation still pales in comparison to the mankind during Noah’s time who’s “every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5).

It is in this wickedness that we find Noah standing as a “preacher of righteousness” (2 Pet. 2:5). Despite all the evil that surrounded him Noah continued to live righteously and profess the truth. We can garner an important lesson from Noah’s example: that even if the whole world turn evil we must still proclaim God’s righteousness!

In spite of this recent news, not only should we renew our dedication to be preachers of righteousness, but we should also remember that there are still people in the world who desire to know the truth. When we look to the example of many of the Christians in the book of Acts we find that several of them were converted out of such vile places like Corinth and Ephesus (1 Cor. 6:9-11). We must not despair, but realize that even though many do not want to be told what to do there are still people in our nation like Cornelius and the Ethiopian eunuch who desire to hear the gospel and are ready to submit to it. It is our job to bring them God’s Word.

We must also have confidence in God’s saving Word. The Word is the only thing that will save and convert people to Him (Rom. 1:16,

2 Tim. 1:9-10). As our nation becomes less religious may we rekindle our zeal to hold up the only thing that will help: the Word of life! We should not rely on gimmicks or marketing tricks, but just bring the Word.

Christ has revealed to us that “few there be that find” the way to life (Matt. 7:13-14). While it may be discouraging that our nation is becoming more secularized, we must not lose sight of God’s promises. We can rest on the foundation that “the Lord knoweth them that are His” (2 Tim. 2:19). Even though our nation may be falling to corruption all around, God will not forget His faithful few and He will deliver the reward He has promised them.

Certainly a decline in the spiritual focus of our country is not a good thing, but we should not despair. Our nation may be leaving it’s desire for God, but may we:

- Renew our focus to be preachers of righteousness
- Remember there are still people who desire truth
- Rely only on God’s Word
- Rest our hope on His promises