

HOT TOPICS#2 – A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, DEPENDENCE, AND WAR

³By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; ⁴through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. ⁵A wise man has great power, or a man of knowledge increases strength... Proverbs 24:3-5

I. Face Up to the Fact Our Nation is in Crisis

- **Our** _____ — housing values declining, people not willing to work because of excessive government benefits, rapid inflation, extreme dependence upon government, jobs and investments shipped overseas. The rich get richer and the middle class and working poor lose ground. Free market capitalism has mutated into crony capitalism. America is becoming less business-friendly with businesses struggling with expensive government regulation.
- **National deficit and** _____ —Our government spending is out of control with our total national debt totaling approximately \$28.8 trillion (\$5.7 trillion in 2000, \$10 trillion in 2008, \$17.5 trillion in 2015). Our annual deficit is \$3 trillion dollars currently, in 2011 was \$1.5 trillion. Much of our debt (in T-bills) is owned by China setting the U.S. up for economic blackmail.
- _____ —We have the best legal and economic justice that money can buy. Special interests with money can influence government policy and legal decisions giving them great power.
- _____ —Our national values and spirituality are changing—for the worse! Dishonesty, theft, discourtesy, divorce, children born out of wedlock are epidemic today. We value professional athletes, actors, and other celebrities over public servants such as teachers. We are no longer one nation under God. In God we don't trust.
- **Extreme political and racial division**

What should we do...?

³"You shall have no other gods before me."

Exodus 20:3

II. Declare Our Independence from Government as God

- **Declare independence for government to solve all** _____ **and meet all** _____ — Many problems and needs can't be solved effectively and efficiently, if at all by the government. New programs (with the best of intentions) have unintended consequences and often can't be ended when proven to be ineffective or too expensive (ex. home heating oil help for seniors). Many problems should be left to individuals, charities, or private industry to solve.

⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

- **Declare independence from our** _____ **agendas** —We decry special interests are much of our problem, but need to admit that most of us are a part of a special interest with personal agendas for the government to do to benefit U.S. (ex. Medicare, Medicaid, social programs, tax loopholes, taxes, etc.). We need to support what's best for our country, not just ourselves.

²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

- **Declare independence from the same old "stinkin'** _____ **"** —We need to think outside-the-box for new solutions. This means going beyond our own political ideologies and prejudices. We also need to get away from the stinkin' thinking of untruth, even when believing untruths makes us comfortable, able to ignore current realities.

²²The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.

Proverbs 12:22

- **Declare independence from _____ as usual**—We need to support candidates who are honest, telling us the truth even when it hurts, have integrity, willing to find and work for new and realistic solutions and make tough choices that might make many of us angry. We don't need political posturing, ideological purity, self-centered notions, and pandering to special interests.

¹²*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...*

Psalm 33:12(a)

¹⁴*If my people, who are called by my name, will 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.*

II Chronicles 7:14

III. Declare Dependence on God as Our God

- **Depend on God as the source of our _____**—Rather than looking to government, look to God. Only have the government do only what it is designed to do and is Constitutional. Seek God's kingdom, and He'll take care of our needs (Matthew 6:33).
- **Depend on God as the source of our _____**—Counting on man's so-called wisdom has caused many of our problems economically, socially, and politically (ex. easier divorce). God's wisdom should govern everything we do in all areas of life (James 1:5). Only through God's wisdom can true justice return to America (Amos 5:4, I Timothy 2:2).
- **Depend on God as our only _____**—Too many have other "gods" (political ideology, secular wisdom and values, selfishness, etc.) competing with the one, true God for our loyalty and influence. Only God can be our God (II Chronicles 7:14).

IV. Declare Total War on Our Nation's Critical Problems

- **Declare total war by having a single-minded _____ on our enemies**—There are so many issues that compete for the nation's attention. In total war, there's a focus on winning the war only; defeating our enemies (like WWII), ignoring other issues until later.
- **Declare war through _____ and working _____**—This can't be a time for politics-as-usual and seeing the other side politically as the enemy and refusing to work with them. For true solutions to work, everyone will need to sacrifice and feel some pain. Compromise by all sides will be needed.
- **Declare war on _____ stranglehold on America**—Can we really sing God Bless America, until America blesses God again? As Christians, we need to be totally committed to God's agenda and kingdom for America. The ultimate answer to America's problem is the gospel of Jesus Christ and Biblical values. Let's bring America back to "one nation, under God" again.

Some say our country is on an inevitable slide. I say we make the choice. What choice will you make?

Answers: I. Economy; debt; justice; spirituality. II. Problems; needs; personal; thinkin'; politics. III. Needs; wisdom; God. IV. Focus; self-sacrifice; together; Satan's.