

The Attack on America

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

As Americans looked upon the dreadful scenes of hijacked terrorist airplanes plummeting into the World Trade Center Towers, which are the symbol of the American economy, and crashing into the Pentagon, the nation's symbol of military strength, we watched with utter horror and amazement. Never before has this country witnessed such devastating atrocities of this magnitude. Never before have we seen such death and destruction at the hands of evil men in our own back yard. We are all still in shock and possess righteous anger because of these dastardly acts of terrorism and aggression.

Our hearts are broken over this tragic turn of events and go out to the families of those who lost loved ones and those children who are today without mothers and fathers and family. As I watched the crumbling of these giant towers and the aftermath of people wandering around lower Manhattan, who were in shock, and looked like white ghosts with their faces full of concrete, I became terribly disturbed as all other Americans did. This has been an atrocity of almost unimaginable proportions. And because of this, there are many questions that we should ask ourselves concerning this evil attack of aggression upon America. I would like to address several key questions that revolve around the attack on America in this message today.

Why was there an attack?

1. Because of religious deception.

We must understand today that Satan and his emissaries are alive and are controlling the minds of people today. 2 Cor. 4:3-4 says, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Satan controls the minds of people today. And sometimes this mind control is seen in religious extremism. Acts 3:13-17 records: “The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.”

Here we see how the people in religious ignorance killed Jesus, the true Messiah. They overlooked who He was and killed the very One who was sent to them to bring salvation and blessing. The key is that the people did what they did in ignorance. This would be true of Iranian terrorists today who seem to believe that they can kill innocent people for religious reasons – in the name of Allah and with Allah’s approval since they are told that they have rights to rule the entire world. For instance, the fanatical Iranian believes that Allah is the only true God and that killing a large amount of people will assure them of Paradise and a bride of 70 virgins following death. In essence, they believe that Allah will throw them a giant party, that they will receive a harem and be eternally praised for doing this religious action of death. To the religiously deceived Iranian they are taught that killing other people is doing service to Allah – their God. This is religious deception of the worst sort. The devilish religious deception that is going on in the world today is apparent when religious fanatical groups can run airplanes into buildings and kill innocent people.

In Acts 22:3-4 Paul records, “I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.”

Paul was taught that persecuting the church was a religious action. **Paul was like a fanatical left-wing Arab who thought that stamping out Christianity was doing service to God.** So killing others was a religious exercise. In his zealousness to follow the Law and stamp out others who did not follow the Law, he actually thought that he was doing God a religious service. 1 Timothy 1:13 gives his testimony: “Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”

Religious ignorance is a key factor in these terrorist killings today. These terrorists are supposedly doing what they are doing for religious causes and reasons. But like Paul, these people are religiously deceived. They are doing what they are doing out of total ignorance to God, His Word and character. By the way, the Koran is not God’s Word! Allah is not God and the whole Islamic religion is a stench in the nostrils of the true God.

I was listening to a former Muslim who became a true born again Christian. He told how he was part of one of these radical groups who were bent on hating all other people that were not part of their religious faith. He was talking about how he was once willing to be a hit man and kill people. But then he became a Christian through the Gospel witness of another person. God remarkably saved him so that he can now look back and say, as Paul the apostle said, “I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”

2. Because of Satanic control.

We must remember who the god of this world is today – Satan. We have seen this in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. We must also remember that the devil seeks to damn as many people to hell as he can through terroristic acts of murder. Jesus said in John 8:44, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

Jesus told the religious group of Pharisees that they were following their father – the devil – since they plotted His death in their blind religious zeal (see vs. 37). In other words, their religious zeal which

led to murdering Him was nothing more than Satanic and devilish. And this is the case behind these terrorist attacks. God was not the copilot of these men who took over these airplanes and headed toward the World Trade Center and Washington. The devil was the copilot of these evil and bloodthirsty men. These are merciless killings, which are motivated by the devil or the Evil One. You can be sure that the devil is behind all these terrorist acts. This is because he seeks to murder people and send them to hell through these blinded murderous acts. It's the job of the devil to fill hell up by destroying people.

3. Because the devil hates Christianity.

Even though America is not a Christian nation as a whole there are many Christians in this nation. We are looked upon as a threat to Islamic Fundamentalists and their false religious scheme. **America was founded on the recognition of the one true God of the Bible and Christianity.** Christianity is seen to be the enemy of Satan and those who follow Him. Thus, America becomes a target for these madmen. This is why there was an attack on America. It's because the devil hates Christianity and all those who are representative followers of Jesus Christ.

There are those who are involved in the FBI who still don't really understand what's behind these terrorists today. These religious fanatical people are not attacking America simply because America is a friend of Israel. They are attacking America because they hate Christians and what America stands for – freedom of religious expression, which includes historical Christianity founded upon God. Even the Declaration of Independence recognizes that God is the Author of Liberty. The president, on the Bible, takes his oath. It is not the Koran.

The devil wants all true Christians dead! And if the foundation of a nation, like America, embraces Christianity, then these fanatical Arab groups will want to target such a nation that is a threat to their religious beliefs. The more people the devil can take out, by these religious fundamentalist groups, the better it will be for his own program to damn people to hell. The less Christians – the less evangelism, and the less evangelism means more people going to

hell. My friend, the devil hates Christianity and wants to see people die and go to hell.

Romans 8:35-36 says: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." We are killed "all the day long" speaks of the satanic attitude toward believers or Christians of those who want them dead. In the early days of the church one or more Christians were martyred every day, or faced the possibility of it. Their persecutors valued Christian's lives as nothing more than animals to be butchered. Satan wants every one of us dead. And he is behind all Christian martyrdom. If he would have his own way every Christian would be murdered through terrorist acts. Satan wants Christians out of the picture. It's only by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ that we are kept safe. Even when martyrdom does reach our outward lives it cannot touch our relationship with God since nothing can separate us from the love of God (see Romans 8:37-39).

Was God responsible for this attack?

My friend, let me say today that it was not God who was flying those hijacked airplanes! It was not God who made these men do what they did. It was the devil. So we can be sure that God was not directly responsible for these tragic happenings. Man is responsible! Man must take responsibility for his own sin. **This action was not an act of God but an act of evil men.** It was a devilish act. But many times people want to blame God for allowing these men to do what they did. They make the assumption that God could have stopped these men from doing what they did. Yes, He could have! And God could have stopped you from sinning every time you wanted to sin in your own life. When you were ready to get angry or commit lust He could have stopped you. When you were ready to be unkind and swear (taking His name in vain) God could have stopped you from doing it. But we must remember that God did not create man to be a robot. In fact, it was man who sinned and plunged the world into sin with its terrible effects.

First, we must understand that many people push blame on God for the sins that people do and which they are responsible for doing. But people still say that God could have prevented these tragedies. He could prevent birth defects from happening even when mothers take drugs when they are pregnant. He could have prevented that man from pushing the button that blew up the building and killed hundreds of people. God could stop people from starving all over the world and stop the wars that are in the world today. God could do all of these things. Well my friend, the fact of the matter is this. God could do all of these things. **But God has not chosen to counteract all the effects of sin in the world.** In one sense, man is reaping the effects of sin and God has not chosen to completely override those effects of sin in the world. If He did, then man would never die physically because physical death is the result of sin.

We must understand that the Scriptures teach that God had created a perfect world, which was marred by the entrance of sin. Genesis 3:14-19 describes the Genesis curse and how man will ultimately return to dust because of sin being introduced into the world. And all suffering is either directly (because of our own sin) or indirectly (because of the sins of others) related to the Fall as we see the general effects of the Fall mentioned as female dominance, male chauvinism, cursed ground, sorrow, thorns, thistles, sweat and death (“dust thou shalt return”). Because man chose to sin he is reaping the consequences of that sin in a fallen world in many different ways. Ultimately he would end up in dust because of sin. And I want to say that we are reaping the effects of the Fall and the Genesis curse in America today.

The effects of the Fall are being felt in America in a big way as terrorism is on the rise. The Fall in Genesis is the reason why we have such wickedness and human suffering in the world. It's not God's fault why there is so much evil and human suffering in the world today. **God simply allowed it to happen.** It is man's fault because he is responsible for plunging the world into sin. *The Fall would result in great evil acts and aggression in the world and sin's effects would be felt everywhere and in many ways through war, bloodshed, hunger, robberies, murders, destruction, and from politics to Nazi Germany.* Sin would abound everywhere as a result of the sin of man. The world and family would never be the same. People say

today that America will never be the same again because of terrorism. But the fact of the matter is this. America will never be the same because of sin and the Genesis curse.

This is why we have untold sorrow, famine, drug problems, wars and everything from these terrorist attacks on America to babies being born with birth defects. All of these things are the result of sin entering the human race. My friend, we live in a sin cursed world. And we all suffer the effects of sin. Sometimes we suffer these effects *directly* by the sinful things that we do ourselves. Sometimes we suffer *indirectly* through the sinful or evil acts of aggression and violence that others commit against us. We are in some measure suffering the effects of sin. And this world is all messed up because of sin. The problems in America are not God's problems they are man's problems created by sin. **Mark it down. Within the parameters of God's sovereignty, man has chosen to sin and he has been reaping the fruit or consequences of that sin ever since.**

God was still sovereign and in control because **He let** it happen. That will make the Calvinist happy. But God did **not make** it happen! That will make the Calvinist angry. God was still sovereign even when He allowed man to choose his own pathway of sin and defiance. It still was in the hands of God. Free will is in the hands of God simply because it was created in the program of God. In a similar way, God was still in control when He let these airplanes crash into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. But God did not make it happen!

God has chosen to work His earthly program out in connection with the sinful life that man sometimes chooses. Therefore, God is in control of creating deaf people, people with Down Syndrome and mentally handicapped people (Exodus 4:11). God is in control even when we see terrible terrorist actions occur in our country. God has chosen to work in His own sovereign way in the midst of a sin-cursed and fallen world. He has interwoven His own plan even in the terrorist actions of man. God has chosen to control the earthly disasters that are associated with a sin-cursed world.

Isaiah 45:1-8 says: "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates;

and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things. Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have created it.”

The context is referring to the calamity and disaster that God allowed to come upon Babylon at the hand of the Persian Empire and King Cyrus. Cyrus was used by God to bring judgment upon Israel's enemies who were unbelievers so that His own people could be freed from bondage.

Isaiah 45:13 says: “I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of hosts.” God would bring about His own purposes in the midst of an evil world by working through an unbeliever like King Cyrus and the disaster that he brought upon Babylon. **God sometimes works through disasters.** When the text says that God created “evil” (vs. 7) it is not referring to moral evil. Rather it is referring to the disaster that God allowed to happen to the nation of Babylon by working through another pagan King and nation.

We have no right to question the sovereign workings of God. Daniel 4:35 records, “And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” My friend, America must stop and take a long look at this disaster. It could very well be that God has

permitted these pagan people, who are deceived in religious deception, to attack our nation in order to bring judgment upon us for the atrocity of our sins. I know we don't like to think of this, but we must face this fact today ("I make peace and create evil" – Isa. 45:7). Although God did not make these madmen do these terrible acts He allowed it to happen for a reason and purpose. And even in a time of heartfelt mourning and when sadness fills our hearts over lost loved ones, when we deeply grieve with families and seek to comfort them, America must still face the reality that God is sovereign and sometimes brings tragedy upon nations for their utter rebellion and spiritual departure from Him. God in His own sovereignty may be trying to wake America up to her sin of killing millions of babies and to her sin of recognizing same sex marriages and exploiting and glorifying horrible sins across our land today. America needs to face her sin in such a time as this and stop her sinful atrocities.

Isaiah 46:8-11 says, "Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." My friend, we must, in some measure, see the hand of God behind this whole disastrous scene! God has allowed this evil to happen to America so that we might raise our spiritual level and return to God's moral code and recognize that God is holy and the Bible and His way is a righteous way. **The sovereign workings of God have a way to bring us to our knees and purify us.** America must see the atrocity of her sins and make changes in her lifestyle.

Amos 3:6 asks: "Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?" Ladies and gentlemen, God can and does justly ordain calamity and adversity as a judgment upon sin. God was surely in control of these terrorist events even within the realm of the sinful environment that man had created upon the earth by his own sin. This does not mean that God directly creates sin and tempts man to carry out sinful acts. What it means is that God is in control of all the disastrous

systems that are related to the fruits of sin or the fruits of man's own doings when he fell back in Genesis. In other words, God is in control of even the bad situations of this sinful world. Man's sin is still the culprit for the evil, disasters, and suffering going on in this world. God is simply keeping His own hand on the sinful events in this world that He allowed man to create. Added to this fact we must understand that people are individuals with the power of human choice. Acts 2:23 says: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God (God's sovereignty), ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (man's free will actions of sin).

The point is this. We can't blame God for sin and all of the problems that it brings with it. We can't blame God for the terrorist attack on the United States. Ultimately we must blame man because man chose to sin and reap the consequences of that sin in a fallen world where a sovereign God is working His purposes. Although God allows people to sin, He is not responsible for their sinning. Man should stop blaming God today. God did not sin – man did. And man is reaping the fruits of his own doings. Sin has created an enormous monstrosity of rebellion and wickedness in this world that can only result in terrible actions and consequences, which God has chosen to control by His own hand.

William J. Wolfe has called Abraham Lincoln "one of the greatest theologians of America." He added that Lincoln's theology was profound, "not in the technical meaning of producing a system of doctrine, certainly not as the defender of some one denomination, but in the sense of seeing the hand of God intimately involved in the affairs of nations."

God is in control even when He lets man have his evil way. My friend, in the midst of all the sin and rebellion and terrorism of today among the nations of the world, **I'm happy to report to you today that God is still on the throne!** And it may be that God is trying to get the attention of America once again. There may be an element of God's judgment involved in these terrorist actions upon America. Oh that our land might see it and begin a return to godly values and principles. We have forsaken God and His Word in the hour in which we live. We have no regard for God today in this land on a large scale. Maybe this will bring America to her knees once again.

What are some lessons America needs to learn from this attack?

1. We need to return God.

We don't need a foxhole religion! We need God to move in the hearts of people once again in this nation. Psalm 33:12 says: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Jehovah – not Allah): and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." This is statement and axiom of Scripture, which cannot be undone. The facts are laid out. A nation is blessed if they follow the true God and make God their Lord. **The pathway of blessing lies in cooperating with God.** Happy is the nation that acknowledges Jehovah as its God.

When Allah becomes the official God of this nation I don't want to be around here! America says, "In God we trust." But it's in these times that we really see how much we trust in God. Are we willing to return to God and make Him the leader of this country and nation and be willing to follow His ways for our lives? America needs to learn the lesson that we need God in this land and that we need God to bless our land once again when we return to foundational principles that allowed this county to blessed by God. We need God's truth, God's help and God's blessing. But the real blessing will only come, as we (believers) are willing to follow God and His ways for our lives.

2 Chronicles 7:14 states the principle clearly: "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."

George Washington, the father of this country, knew how to kneel down and pray. Yes, at Valley Forge he knelt down in the snow when it seemed there was no hope for American colonies. The soldiers were without good clothes and without much money and couldn't be paid and there was not enough food, yet they prayed and God blessed.

In the Constitutional Convention, when they met to try and get the colonies together into one kind of federal nation, everybody said, "No, we want our own coins, we'll have our own custom duties at the border." But they couldn't agree. Then Ben Franklin rose up and said,

“We’ve made a mistake. If not a sparrow could fall without the attention of Almighty God, can you believe that a great nation could rise without His help? I move that we go to prayer.” They did go to prayer and differences were soon resolved. And America became a nation instead of thirteen colonies. Ladies and gentlemen, we need to go to prayer these days.

We have seen high officials praying in this time of crises. One must wonder if this whole horrible process will bring many people to their knees and recognize the need for restored godly values in this land and the return of God’s true blessing. America must understand that it too can crumble from within, like the great Roman Empire did of the past. Folks, we are crumbling from within and need to have a wake up call. Maybe this will begin that awakening process once again where even unsaved rulers will recognize that God blesses as we yield to His rule and authority instead of yielding to humanism and openly supporting sins degradation.

2. We need to protect ourselves.

A pacifist says, “I don’t believe in war.” Well, I don’t believe in war either, except when it is necessary. I don’t believe in whipping children, except when it is necessary. I don’t believe in arresting people, except when they commit a crime and become criminals.

Jesus said in Luke 11:21-22, “When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.” These verses reflect the attitude of Jesus toward war. The context is dealing with how Satan was at one time a strong man, fully armed, who held undisputed sway over his court. Those who were possessed by demons were kept in his grip, and there was no one to challenge him. His goods were in peace, which means that no one had the power to dispute his sway. The Lord Jesus was stronger than Satan, came upon him, overcame him, took all his armor from him, and divided his spoils. This was true in connection with the earthly ministry of Jesus and His work upon the cross. Not even His critics denied that evil spirits were being cast out by Jesus. This could only mean that Satan had been conquered and that his victims were being liberated. That is the point of these verses.

In any case, we see the attitude of Jesus toward war in that a strong man will keep his goods at peace unless a stronger man comes along and overcomes him. I want to say this about America today. We need to keep our military built up and ready to go. We need to keep our palace intact. We need strong defense today. There is no more time to talk about politics. The lesson America must learn from all of this is that we need to protect ourselves from this type of action and evil overtaking.

Today we still have the power to do something about terrorism. The question is this. **Do we have the will to do something? All the signs are telling us to do something now while we still can.** With the growth of terrorism on the rise and becoming a networking power all over the world, we must understand that now is the time to do something. There may very well come a time when we cannot do something if this power grows to such immense proportions. And leading figures will agree with this. Terrorism against the United States is growing at an alarming rate. Iranians and the extremists involved in the Muslim faith call the United States "The Great Satan." Israel is called "The Little Satan." **And these extremist groups are not attacking America because we are aiding Israel but because we are a democracy, which goes against the laws of Allah and the totalitarian religion.** These radical Islamic groups want to bring the entire world under Islamic Law and create a strict totalitarian rule over people in the name of Allah and the Koran. America must understand that these Islamic groups view the United States as the key barrier to stop them from taking over the world. They hate democracy and will try to do away with democracy in any way that they can. America must do something about terrorism today or else there may very well come a time when not much can be done. I do not say this as an alarmist. But all the facts are available and are alarming. **I believe the ball is still in our hands.** We must act before these evil men with their mindset of world takeover grows to such immense proportion that not much can be done to stop them. This leads us to the next obvious question.

What should America's Response be to this act of aggression?

Romans 13:1-4

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

Government is not all what it should be but they are still the powers ordained by God. That means a Christian must honor the government and its leaders. In a fallen world governed by sin, there is a need for vengeance to be meted out upon evildoers. And God has ordained sensible government to become an enforcer and the authority figure to bring revenge upon evildoers. This may call for war at times. And it would seem that war is an inevitable outcome of such evil aggression that has been perpetrated against this nation. It would seem that our government must give the nation the right to “execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.” We must keep **our own palace** secure and not back down to the enemy. In a fallen world of sin war is a necessity. God allows it to happen to keep a certain amount of stability and to keep total anarchy from occurring.

a. War is never an ideal situation.

If we lived in a perfect world there would never be a cause worthy of war. But we live in a fallen world in which sin has divided man from God and people from people.

b. War is sometimes necessary.

It is both noble and right for a nation to defend itself against evil oppressors, injustice and other advances of evil in the world. For instance, Nehemiah was willing to fight to defend the building of Jerusalem (Neh. 4). God’s people, national Israel, had to fight in order to follow God’s commands and do His will upon the earth.

This attack has been compared to another Pearl Harbor. With that in mind, I'm reminded of what Chaplain Howel M. Forgy said at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!"

What is the Christian response in this time of attack?

1. There should be a response of love by reaching out.

Galatians 6:10 says: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Doing good to those who we can is what God expects from our lives as believers. There needs to be a reaching out to those in need today. In the present hour of crisis we can donate blood and money for those in desperate need in New York. We can offer assistance and help in many ways. We can send cards and pray fervently for these people. If any person is to show kindness and loving concern to those who are devastated and ravished by evil men, it is to be Christians (Mark 12:30-31). We need to have a heart for those people who have suffered so greatly this past week. And we must be willing to do our part. We should be willing to be part of the answer.

2. There should be united prayer going up for our nation and our President.

First Timothy 2:1-2 says: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." As Christians, our responsibility is to pray for our president who is leading our country. We should pray that he would take sides with God and rely upon God's direction. We need to pray for the general matters that our government would uphold justice, provide freedom, protection for the citizens, economic health and stability, free exercise of religion and unhindered freedom to spread the Gospel. We need to pray for God's will to be done on earth through righteous decisions of government.

3. There should be an expression of American patriotism.

I believe it's biblical for Christians to be patriotic. Joseph rose to a place of great prominence in the Egyptian government and was loyal to Pharaoh showing patriotism. Daniel was loyal to the Babylon and Persian Empires but certainly was not an idolater. Being loyal to a nation by showing patriotism, such as flag waving, saluting the flag, and the pledge of allegiance is not a form of worldly idolatry. This does not take away from our loyalty to God. And in a time like this we need to show our patriotism and stand by our President. We need to honor the people in authority that God has chosen to honor by putting them in places of authority. You can be a good Christian and a good patriotic citizen at the same time.

I want to say in closing today that God loves all people (John 3:16). He loves the Arab people. And not all Arab people are radical extremists. There are many of them who want to live a normal life and who are concerned about their children. But God loves even the extremists. God loves all people, the radicals, who have no regard for human life, as well as those who have a regard for human life. And I want to say that God can save any person and give them a new way of life. Jesus said, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). This is not Allah talking; it is the true and living God – Jesus Christ.

Folks, the Koran says that it was Ishmael that Abraham took to the mount to sacrifice. The Koran teaches that blessing has come to the world through Ishmael. But the Bible, God's only and final Word of authority, teaches that it was Isaac that was brought to the mountain and that through Isaac Jesus Christ would come with the result of bringing salvation's blessing into all the world. The Messiah and Savior came into this world through Jewish ancestry and not Arab ancestry. These are the facts. "Salvation is of the Jews" (Jonah 4:22) – not the Arabs. We are blessed because of Jesus Christ and not Allah.

I heard a man jokingly praising Allah during a baseball game because he did not make an out when he was up to bat. He said, "Praise to Allah!" I had a half of mind to tell him that Allah is not to be praised. There is no Allah! There is only Jehovah or Yahweh, the true God of

the Scripture. And only God must be worshipped and glorified. And if America would get back to God she just might be relieved from some of these terrorist acts. America needs to abandon the notion that there are many gods as the Eastern religions believe, and that other gods like Allah are legitimate god's to worship. America must take her stand upon God – the true God of Scripture. Deuteronomy 4:35 says: "Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God; there is none else beside him."

This is the death of pluralism, which says all other gods are simply the same God. God proclaims uniqueness and will not share His glory with Allah! God is calling out to America to return to Him, the true God, and His moral code today. The question is this: Does America possesses the will to make God her true God once again through repentance and salvation? Only as we do this can we really sing, "God bless America."