

RESTORING AMERICA'S BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

A Study for Individuals or Groups

STUDY GUIDE

Presented by:

PILGRIM INSTITUTE

Featuring:

RUTH J. SMITH

and

JAMES B. ROSE

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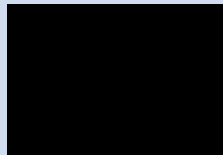
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FOREWORD

James Madison recorded the following occurrence in his *Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787* from Monday, September 17, 1787:

“Whilst the last members were signing [the Constitution] Doctr. FRANKLIN looking towards the Presidents Chair, at the back of which a rising sun happened to be painted, observed to a few members near him, that Painters had found it difficult to distinguish in their art a rising from a setting sun. I have said he, often and often in the course of the Session, and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting: But now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting Sun.”¹

As I considered the cover design of this volume and particularly the image of the rising sun, I asked myself the question: Is it a rising sun, or is it a setting sun? Even as Dr. Franklin had contemplated this thought during the Convention, American Christians must, today, ask ourselves whether we will allow this great nation to be in its sunset. Or, will we be used in the restoring of America’s Biblical foundations, so that the sun may continue to rise and our nation might reach its fullest potential?

The opportunity is ours, American Christian, and I trust you will join me in an effort to be part of the restoration of this land which has known the greatest liberty of any nation – understanding that there can be liberty in a nation only through Christ and Christianity.

– *Ruth J. Smith*

INTRODUCTION

In a time when uncertainty and even despair threaten our beloved country, comfort and direction come directly from God's Word. The power of the Word of God is affirmed in Psalm 19:7-10:

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

By His Word, we are warned, and, by it, we find great reward. God's Word is applicable to all areas of life including, not only the governance of individuals, but also civil government.

Perhaps a brief personal testimony will encourage you along the way. Thirty or so years ago, as I was going about my business of directing a large early childhood church program and training volunteer Sunday School teachers and children's workers, a woman in the group commented to me after a session, "Do you realize you are instructing us in how to use very humanistic methods to teach our Bible lessons?" Her words were shocking.

"No," was my resounding answer. My intentions were pure. How could that be? "Show me what you mean." After years of being trained by and teaching in government schools, it was almost impossible to comprehend. My daily prayer now became, "God...give to me the spirit of wisdom and revelation...let the eyes of my understanding be enlightened that I may know the hope to which you have called me..." (Paraphrased from Ephesians 1:17).

It was a painful inward struggle with its share of tears, but the Lord led me step-by-step. A number of very special people influenced my life during this time; among these was Mrs. Ruth Smith of Pilgrim Institute. I was given a cassette tape of Mrs. Smith teaching and, soon afterwards, she was invited to teach her introductory Rudiments course at our

church. Her mentoring and friendship brought many ideas together in clarity, and thus began a relationship that has continued to this day and enriched me beyond expectation.

Seeds of Biblical thinking, planted by study and watered with tears, germinated and began to sprout and grow. I knew God's Word and believed in its power, but now came the joy of learning in a way that led to a deeper relationship with the One who is the source of all knowledge, who is the governor of the universe and the author of liberty. Thus began a new work in my life. The Advanced Training and subsequent courses offered by Pilgrim Institute equipped me in the establishment and development of three schools whose goals helped to form in the students the character to support liberty and to infuse both students and families with hope. That was more than thirty years ago and my life has never been the same since—including my teaching methods.

Recently, the Pilgrim Institute gave me the opportunity to put to use the experience and learning I had been privileged to receive. Three friends, also trained by the Pilgrim Institute, joined me in weekly sessions for many months to tool questions to go with a few of Pilgrim Institute's outstanding teaching DVD's.

Love for family, love for country, love for God and His Word, along with a gratitude for personal and civil liberty that inspires us to protect it, have drawn us into this project, seeking ways we could personally be involved in restoring the Biblical foundation of our nation. It is our prayer that these same loves will compel you to examine closely the ideas presented in this study, to make them your own, and to share them with others. Restoring America's Biblical Foundations provides a means to help you along the way as you seek to affirm truth about the role of the Word of God in governing our lives and our nation. Let us search out the truths that give direction for such a time as this.

– *Dixie B. Thompson*, Editor

USING THE STUDY GUIDE

This Study Guide is designed to help you derive the most benefit from viewing the DVD series, *Restoring America's Biblical Foundations*. It is a means of helping you to affirm truth about the role of the Word of God in governing your life and our nation. The Study Guide will lead you personally through a search of Biblical ideas that will restore America's foundations of righteousness.

Preparing for the Series

- Pray that God will use this series in your life.
- Set aside a time and place to view each lesson.
- Be sure you have pens/pencils available for note-taking.

Lessons – Each lesson consists of the following sections:

Leading Idea – The Leading Idea states the thought which should remain with you as a result of studying the lesson.

Study Guide Sections – The Study Guide has three main sections:

- I. **Introduction** – This section includes Bible verses, quotes, or ideas to consider before watching the DVD.
- II. **DVD Notes** – Key statements or ideas from the DVD are included, with space for adding notes as the DVD is viewed. This will assist you in clarifying the material and answering the questions at the end of the session.

III. Thinking About It – Three sections for bringing the lesson together have been identified:

- “For Reflection and Reasoning” – Questions are included as a help in guiding your reasoning and to assist in clarifying the ideas presented.
- “Digging Deeper” – Use this section if you desire to complete further individual Biblical research to confirm the ideas presented.
- “Conclusion” – You are encouraged to summarize in a few sentences what you have learned in the lesson.

Thank you for your concern and determination in helping to restore the Biblical foundations of this nation. May the Lord richly bless, encourage, and equip you in this undertaking.

Also AVAILABLE

Restoring America’s Biblical Foundations: Leader’s Guide – Designed to facilitate a group study, including Discussion, Reflection, and Digging Deeper questions and answers.

RESTORING AMERICA'S BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

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INTRODUCTORY SESSION | 1

GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO EVERY SPHERE OF ACTIVITY IN OUR LIVES.

I. Introduction

1. The following Scriptures introduce the idea that the Bible speaks to every sphere of life and living:

Psalm 19:7-11

"⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

2. Begin thinking about the following ideas.

A. | In your view, where does our nation stand in relation to Biblical values? Why?

B. | Who is most responsible for this – the Christian or the non-Christian?

C. | How could you, as an individual, work to effect change in our nation?

3. **"Forgetting or forsaking the Hand of God in history, forgetting that God does rule in the affairs of men, forgetting or forsaking the Word of God as our American political textbook, our economic textbook, our social, cultural, educational textbook; this alone has produced the results we have in our nation today."**² *Verna M. Hall*

II. DVD Notes

The study series you are beginning is a power-packed study designed to direct your thinking concerning the influence of the Word of God upon our nation—in the early days of its founding as well in the current day in which we live.

As a Christian, have you given serious consideration to the connection between this inspired Book, God’s Word, and the nation in which we live?

Is there a connection
between the Word
of God and the nation
in which we live?

What is your view of the power and influence of the Word of God?

“According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

II Peter 1:3

Do you genuinely believe that His Word applies to every sphere of activity in your life?

Does government fall
outside the jurisdiction
of divine authority
and control?

To what extent is God involved in the affairs of nations? Not just the United States of America, but any nation?

“...till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will.”

Daniel 4:25

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In the sessions to follow, we will be presenting a wealth of Biblical thinking to build your understanding of a truly Biblical view of government, a Providential, or divinely planned view of the history of men and nations, and very specifically the Biblical principles that shaped the United States of America to be a nation of spiritual, religious, economic, civil, and political liberty.

.....

“Once the individual becomes informed and aware of the problems of the times, it then becomes critically important to take effective action to correct, to reconstruct, to rebuild constitutional liberty. This cannot be accomplished by merely uncovering a problem. With awareness must come constructive knowledge in order to deal intelligently and effectively with every challenge to individual liberty and to the freedom of these United States of America. Human knowledge and human reason are not able to provide the insight and wisdom needed. Unless one understands the Christian history of this nation and the Christian Principles of our form of government, one is not equipped to deal with today’s challenge to the freedom of mankind.”³ *Rosalie J. Slater*

Why should I be interested in such topics? We are the recipients of a precious godly heritage. We live in liberty today because the generations before us treasured liberty and paid the price to secure it for us.

“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.”

Romans 13:3

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.”

Psalm 33:12

The _____ is the truth for our nation. In fact, it is the only source of _____ for our nation.

Man’s ideas aren’t good enough. We need to open the Word, find God’s truth, apply it and live by it, speak the truth to others, and instill the truth in the hearts of the rising generation.

What about where we are today? In many respects, our nation has turned its back on God's truth. Is there really any hope that this nation could be turned back to God? The Word of God assures us that God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we might ask or think. (Ephesians 3:20)

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If we look at the problems of society, we will be discouraged

But

If we look to God, trust Him, and follow His truth, nothing is impossible.

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:32

.....

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...”

Jeremiah 6:16

.....

The theme verse for the ministry at PILGRIM INSTITUTE:

“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.”

Proverbs 22:28

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Presentations:

- Biblical View of Government
- Providential View of History
- Principles of America's Christian History and Government
- Hope for Our Nation

Meeting the speakers: (Their biographies are included on pages 105-106.)

- James B. Rose
- Ruth J. Smith
- Lynn Meier
- Jeanette Whittaker

Our prayer is that you will become Biblically governed yourself. You, individually, and other American Christians just like yourself are the key to the future of liberty in our nation. Our children's future is in our hands. As Isaiah 58:12 challenges us, let's be the restorers of the path for them to dwell in.

III. Thinking About It

For Reflection and Reasoning »

1. | In your view, where does our nation stand in relation to Biblical values? Why?
2. | Who is most responsible for our nation's falling away from Biblical values – the Christian or the non-Christian?
3. | How could you, as an individual, work to effect change in our nation?

Digging Deeper »

1. | In future sessions, this section is devoted to a series of thought-provoking questions that will inspire you to consider the lesson's ideas more deeply and to search the scriptures to confirm those ideas. The questions should be completed after the session in preparation for the next presentation.

Conclusion »

What conclusion can be drawn from this lesson?