

This Means War! (Part 3)

- Canada is currently in a conflict over “family values” that has nearly escalated to an all-out cultural war. There is a movement by governments, courts and special interest groups to systematically remove from law the spiritual principles that Canada’s founding fathers stood for, claiming that these principles reflect outdated traditions no longer relevant to public policy. If Canada were indeed a better place as a result of these changes, we could openly cheer our leaders for being so insightful, wise and discerning to make choices that will secure our future. The statistics for the last 40 years, however, draw a tragically different picture:
 - The divorce rate has increased more than 5 times.
 - The number of single parent families has increased by 34%.
 - Violent youth crime has increased by 116%.
 - The teen suicide rate has increased by 600%.
 - The federal debt per capita has skyrocketed more than 2000%.
 - Child abuse cases have seen a staggering rise of over 1700%.
 - We now abort 1 of every 5 children conceived in our country.

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

- Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, Premier of New Brunswick and one of the Fathers of Confederation, rose each morning to start his day with prayer and Bible reading. As 33 leaders gathered in Charlottetown to discuss and draft the terms of the British North America Act, there were many suggestions on what to call this new “United Canada.” That morning, as Tilley read from Psalm 72:8, he became so convinced that Canada should be a nation under God, that when he came down to the conference session, he presented the inspired “Dominion of Canada.” The other men readily agreed. Thus, Canada was literally built on the Bible, with our official motto coming from Psalm 72:8, “He shall have dominion from sea to sea.”
- To those who would explain away Canada’s Christian heritage with the words “cultural progress,” saying that today we are a different society and must protect all viewpoints and rights, the words of G.K. Chesterton are a stinging rebuke: “The danger when men stop believing in God is not that they will believe in nothing but that they will believe in anything.” We are at a critical juncture in Canada’s history. An astonishing 80% of North Americans feel that our countries are in moral crisis and want their politicians to address spiritual concerns. Many are taking up the cry that we need to get back to “Family Values” but nobody is defining what they are. William Bennett said, “It’s now politically correct to believe in family values, but it’s not politically correct to get specific about them.”

- Well, the Bible gets very specific about family values – and so do we! Tomorrow, the citizens of Canada will speak in a general election – **and our country needs your vote!** As a church, we do not endorse candidates or political parties – but we do endorse morality and common sense. Consider the present state of affairs in our nation:
- Possessing child pornography with “artistic merit” or “for the public good” is now a legitimate defense for sex perverts. Adults can legally have sex with your 14-year-old children. Hence Canada is becoming a paradise for pedophiles.
- Abortion remains legal and fully funded by your health care dollars, and there is absolutely no protection for the unborn at any stage of pregnancy.
- Millions of Canadians asked their MPs to “reaffirm that marriage is and should remain the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, and that Parliament take all necessary steps within the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada to preserve this definition.” For the most part, they were ignored; one MP stated publicly: “There is no political consequence for ignoring you people.”
- Bill C-250 adds “sexual orientation” as a protected category to the hate propaganda section of the criminal code. Criminal Code 319 combined with C-250 is an anti-free speech law that could criminalize people who express an opinion opposing homosexual behavior for any reason, including views based on religion, conscience and morality. Judges will be empowered to determine whether certain religious texts are deemed to promote hatred. Weak “protective clauses” for churches and ministers are simply not adequate – this bill needs to be defeated outright.
- What happens “post C-250” when a pastor reads 1 Cor. 6:9-10?
1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NLT) Don't you know that those who do wrong will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, who are idol worshippers, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers, and swindlers—none of these will have a share in the Kingdom of God.
- Now just in case you think the Apostle Paul is inciting hatred against these people, read the next verse ...
[11] There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins have been washed away, and you have been set apart for God. You have been made right with God because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you.

- The church stands against hate or abuse of anybody, no matter what their lifestyle is. Nobody in Canada should have to live in fear. That is what the criminal law is for, and there is no evidence that it is not working! Crimes against homosexuals are prosecuted just as vigorously as crimes against other victims; in fact, actual crimes against homosexuals have declined in recent years. But the law should concern itself only with criminal actions; the real danger of "hate crime" laws is that they criminalize thoughts and beliefs – and lay the groundwork for the persecution of Christians in our country.
- To ignore the issues when so much depends on our elected representatives is irresponsible as a Canadian and as a Christian! You need to know how your MP is voting – and vote accordingly!
- The government we elect tomorrow will be empowered to make decisions which will either try to repair the damage done to Canada's social and moral fabric in recent years, or tear it apart irreparably.
- The MP's we send to Ottawa this time around will undoubtedly define what the words "marriage" and "family" mean in our nation – either listening to God's Word and the collective wisdom of 6000 years of human history, or disregarding both in favor of a vocal, militant special interest group that comprises only 1% of our population.
- The politicians you vote for tomorrow will either honor God or attempt to play God as they pass laws regarding abortion, pornography, genetic research, euthanasia, homosexuality, and a host of other moral issues that Canada must grapple with.
- They're calling this the closest election in 25 years; it's anyone's guess what will happen tomorrow. As a Canadian Christian, it is your responsibility to VOTE and to PRAY. I'm not asking you to pray for the Liberals, the Conservatives, or the NDP. I'm asking you to pray the prayer that Christians have been praying for 2000 years ...

1 Timothy 2:1-4 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; [2] For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. [3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; [4] Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

- As the church, we also need to get back to our founding principles of evangelism and revival. Canada is full of church buildings, but the Church in Canada is vastly underpopulated! That's because we've majored on RELIGION instead of preaching Biblical TRUTH.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

- It's time for the church to STAND UP and SPEAK UP.

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. **When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.**

Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

- Jesus said that Christians need to be the "light of the world" – they need to be INFLUENCERS! But many Christians end up at one of two extremes: either they isolate themselves from the world and lose their influence, or they become influenced by the world and lose their influence. I am equally angered by those who want us to be isolated from the world and those that want us to be influenced by the world!

Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- Light is, in it's simplest form, defined as "something that illuminates." This is especially true when we are talking about "spiritual light."
- First Mention Principle – **LIGHT ALWAYS DIVIDES!**

Genesis 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

- It is this sharp distinction between light and darkness that attracts people to the light in the first place! That's how it happened at the height of the ten plagues in ancient Egypt ...

Exodus 10:21-23 And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

- Christians, people will not be attracted to the message of Jesus Christ because it is TRUE, because there are so many different kinds of truth today. They will be attracted to the gospel because it is REAL, because it WORKS, because there is LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE!

JESUS CHRIST IS LIGHT!

- **John 1:4-5** In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
- **John 3:19** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- **John 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

THE WORD OF GOD IS LIGHT!

- **Psalms 119:105** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
- **Psalms 119:130** The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

SALVATION IS LIGHT!

- **Acts 26:18** To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** 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.
- **2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD LIVE IN THE LIGHT!

- **Isaiah 9:2** The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

- **Psalms 89:15** Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.
- **1 Peter 2:9** But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
- **1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
- **1 John 2:9-10** He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

IN TREACHEROUS TIMES, WE NEED LIGHT MOST OF ALL!

- **Zechariah 14:6-7** And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.
- **Micah 7:8** Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.