

AMERICA IS OFFENDED AT GOD

The government is, the churches are and so are its people.
Madness rules in the Heart of man

By Pastor Del Wray

“Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee” Prov. 9:8

It has pleased God to allow me to serve Him at the very end of the Church Age in a nation that is casting off the Grace of God having no fear of **“the wrath to come”** Luke 3:7. Those of us who have been around for fifty, sixty or seventy years or more have witnessed the ever increasing moral deterioration that must eventually bring judgment on our nation. We have a warning to deliver. It is our moral duty, besides our Christian obligation to sound the alarm and warn the wicked to flee the horrible judgment that is coming on this country and the world, pointing them to Jesus Christ, the ark of safety. Yes these are the days of Noah, the laodiceaing end time days. America is a sinking ship no matter which political party governs or how many fifty dollar bills may be printed to support an illusion of prosperity. Flee while you can! The Bible holds the answer! If not madness rules in your Heart!

In the Bible we find a succession of controversy between the Lord Jesus Christ and the religious crowds, and in particular the religious leaders of His day and this controversy followed Him throughout His entire earthly ministry. Take for instance, His feeding of the five thousand, a large crowd had gathered to hear Christ preach to the throng around Him, His words were so unbearably offensive that what He spoke became a stumbling block to the multitude and still today men being who they are find His speech contemptible.

“These things said He in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard this, said, this is a hard saying, who can hear it? When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples murmured at it, He said unto them: “Does this offend you?” John 6:59-61:

Does this offend you? Everything Jesus did or said when He was here on planet earth made people mad or it upset someone. He came into a world of enemies, all were at enmity with Him, only a few became His friends and you know He is still offensive to many today. Nothing has changed, human nature is still the same as it has always been, He is *“the rock of offense”* Romans 9:33. Only a religious pharisaical hypocrite would describe Him as a peace lover or what one calls a pacifist! Blindly we’ve become hypocritical for that’s just what our churches are trying to do, turn Jesus Christ into a pacifist. That He’s not, He was a real man, a man’s man and He cow toed to no one.

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.” Matt. 10:34

“I am come to send fire on earth...” Luke 12:49

Are you offended at those words? If you are you really must be a Pharisee. Some good examples in his life:

For instance, When He was born in Bethlehem, His birth was controversial, and they tried to kill him even then. He wasn’t born into wealth and aristocracy; He was born in Nazareth among common people. It was said of Him, *“Can any good thing come out of Galilee?”* His death on the cross of Calvary was controversial even offensive and so it is today. Galatians 5:11. We who make up the church today refuse to recognize the fact that Christ life was a life of controversy and He offended many of His day. His

second coming too is disputed among many religious peoples of our day as it was back then. He was the God man of much disputation 2000 years ago and He is even more so today. The Desire of Nations! No He's not! He's hated, rejected and despised of men.

Jesus' preaching greatly offended the people of His day and on many occasions when our Lord would speak; the people became so angry that they took up stones to stone Him. How then does the modern-day preacher hope to get along with the world and please the unsaved crowd, when they hated the Lord Jesus Christ with such fury that they nailed Him to a cross? Folks, I must be honest, the world loves their own, and it hates God's people! It always has and it always will. Listen to John 15:19, "*If ye were of the world, the world would love its own, but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*" Believer, who ever told you that a sinner would like God's people? He's a bold face liar! They're not supposed to! Too many churches and pastors are using gimmicks, tricks, treats and entertainment to draw the sinners in and when they do come in they're made twice the sinner they were before they came in. The blind are leading the blind into a ditch. Whatever happened to preaching on repentance, on conviction, on conviction because of sin in one's life, you can't be saved without conviction! How about restitution? Whatever happened to preaching on the hatred in man's heart? Jesus' preaching is contradictory to what we hear from our pulpits today. Our churches have taken that which is holy and made it sinful and that which is sin and made it holy. My Lord opposed and was at odds with the world and said "*the world would hate you.*" God have mercy on us!

We see in this passage that our Lord began preaching to the people and after they heard Him, the people began to murmur, saying "*This is a hard saying, who can hear it?*" This is just too much for us! Our Lord met that slight criticism by asking, "*Does this offend you?*" And then He expounded more heavenly truth, verses 62-65, read it! That crowd of about five thousand men, women and children, walked off and left Him. They turned their backs on Him. And then my Lord turned to the twelve disciples and said, "*Will ye also go away?*" The crowd was offended by His gospel they stumbled at His gospel. Everything they clung to was being attacked by His teaching on this occasion. And my friends, the gospel of God's grace, the gospel that Christ preached is absolute; it is fixed and any deviation from damns the soul. Such a gospel offends people today just as much as it did back then. Yes, it offended people then, and it offends people now. It will either drive people to the Saviour, or it will drive them away from Him. The gospel will either save or it will condemn. But, blessed be God, the preaching of God's grace will always accomplish the purpose for which He intended it! There are three great foundational truths to be learned from what our Lord preached here as the crowd turned away from Him. Turn to your Bible and read it yourself, John 6:37-38.

The Lord Jesus Christ preached the absolute gospel of the grace of God:

John 6:37-38, "*All that the Father giveth to Me shall come to Me and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.*" Dear People, there is power in His words. There is God's will being done. There is Christ coming down here appointed and set apart to accomplish the will of a supreme God, Who must do and will do that which seemeth good in His own sight! Read Matthew 11:25-27

Yes, when our Lord was here, He was the very incarnation of God in flesh, "*...even in His Son Jesus Christ, who is the true God and eternal life*" 1John 5:20. While here, there was one thing for certain: He placed God Almighty on His rightful throne in His preaching. That kind of preaching irritated those people and made them mad, it does so today. Any time a preacher today enthrones God Almighty to His high and holy place, by proclaiming His deity as the only sovereign God which belongs to Him alone in all things, it will certainly offend the pride of old sinful unregenerate men. I do not care whether he is a church member, or not. Religious or not, if he is unregenerate, the supremacy of God will offend him. And when a preacher in this modern day dares to stand for the great teachings found in the Bible; Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:15-16 it will be offensive! And today, when we take the pride of self-importance or self-

centeredness away from sinful man, humble man and give it to his Creator the only wise and holy God, man shows the madness in his heart and becomes an uncontrolled animal.

The madness in the heart of man!

Men today hate the self-governing of God and don't like being told what to do or how to live! It is insulting to them; their old proud hearts are brought down to puny subjects before their Creator, who does as He pleases, when He pleases, and to whom He pleases! But, my friends, God's will is going to be done, whether we like it or not, in all matters, in heaven or in the earth.

The Apostle Paul said that God "*worketh all things after the counsel of His own will*" Ephesians 1:11.

The Apostle James said, "*For ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that*" James 4:15.

And the Apostle John said, "*For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill His will*" Revelation 17:17.

And again, the Apostle Paul said, "*I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will*" I Corinthians 4:19.

My friends, you and I need desperately to be conformed to the will of God in all things but the people in my Lord's time grew angry and were offended because the Lord Jesus demanded that they be conformed to the will of God. They openly rebelled against these demands, exactly as men do today. But, dear ones, "GOD ALMIGHTY NEVER HAS SAVED A MAN ON MAN'S TERMS. GOD ALWAYS SAVES SINNERS ON HIS OWN TERMS!" **Does this offend you?**

Our Bible colleges and seminaries in this country today are turning out young preachers who go out and deny the very things that the Lord Jesus Christ solemnly set His stamp of approval on when He was here. And one of these truths is that the will of God is done, that man must bow to the will of God that God does not take man into His counsel as to what He has decided to do, that God is very God, on His throne in Heaven and man must bow at His footstool! That's my Sovereign God! The doctrine of the divine Sovereignty of God! We're fools God don't need us we need Him! **Does this offend you?**

The subjugation to God was very offensive in our Lord's Day and it is very offensive even now to unbelievers. Here is a second foundational truth:

The first great foundational truth that our Lord preached to that lost crowd was;

Our Lord Jesus Christ preached the total depravity of man and man's inability to save himself.

My Lord said in John 6:44, "*No man can come to Me.*" out of the ordinary language, but that's what He said. "*No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him.*" The Scriptures say a little later in this chapter, "*Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, this is a hard saying, who can hear it?*"

You know, my Lord put man down in the gutter of his total depravity, dead in trespasses and sin, depraved and corrupt and this kind of preaching greatly offended people. Jesus put man in a spiritual grave unable to rise in his own strength. Jesus put man on a cripple's bed unable to walk. The Lord put man on a blind man's stool unable to see. And the people of His day were deeply offended. People today are likewise genuinely offended. I tell you, folks, this is no time to be denying these great truths. Jesus Christ taught them and I do not care if every preacher in the country says, "Well, Brother Wray, they just can't be preached today." Hog wash! You spiritual hypocrite! Christ preached these truths. "Well," you say, "Brother Wray, they offend people." Some demon has your tongue! Super spiritual jerk! I know, but

the Lord preached them, and surely we would not be ashamed of any great truth that the Lord Jesus Christ preached would we? When He was down here in what has been known as the “controversy of the ages” with all the many religious heretical leaders of His time. He dared to preach those things, will you? Read your Bible! Don’t be a cloned jackass! Jesus never talked that way, well don’t you! Just read all of Matthew 23.

And I say to you that instead of this being a time to deny these great truths and avoid them, it’s time we preachers today forsake the modern high-pressure methods of trying to get men into the kingdom of God. And it’s time we get back to the Bible way of Holy Spirit conviction and Holy Spirit repentance. I say it with shame that most preachers today will say, “Oh, yes, Brother Wray, I believe that God has designed His program of salvation for the “**whosoever will**” amen! Amen! His people have been chosen to salvation from before the foundation of the world, and I believe that as we preach the Word of God the Holy Spirit will effectually call out God’s sheep and I believe that no man can come to the Father except the Holy Spirit draws him.” But saying all this, they’ll turn around and use every high-pressure method known to man to pull countless numbers of poor unregenerate sinners down the aisle during an invitation and duck them beneath the baptismal water.

Multitudes of people are being sinned against in our modern-day decision services and in so-called revival meetings. The preacher gives his invitation asking for the sinner to accept Christ having failed to have warned them of the fallen nature, the blackness and darkness of man’s deceitful heart and the eternal torment of Hell that comes from failure to accept Jesus Christ alone. And I say to you, it is high treason against the very throne of God and spiritual suicide against those who have not experienced true Holy Spirit **conviction** and **repentance**, without which no one can be saved.

Let me say it and say it again, that man is dead, dead in trespasses and sin! A sinner can no more save his own self than a demon in Hell could! Once anyone goes to Hell there are no exits! **NO EXITS!** The Holy Spirit must quicken him and awaken him and bring him to see his lost condition. Then God the Holy Spirit reveals the Lord Jesus as the only One that can save him and upon his acceptance the Spirit of Jesus Christ moves in, you won’t have to pull him down the aisle then. He’ll confess openly the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour more than likely running down the aisle.

Preacher, you have never convicted and you have never brought repentance to any one’s life much less save a single soul in your life and you never will! Most probably you would like others to thing you had. Preaching gets the job done though by the one who preaches with the power of God on him, the one who has the presence of Jesus Christ in him and the one who has Christ flowing out through him to the needy soul. The Lord Jesus Christ by way of the indwelling Holy Spirit who is in His office work gets the job done. God in Heaven is the only Author and the only Person responsible for salvation. *“Salvation is of the Lord!”* Jonah 2:9

Oh how men do need to hear the truth about them today! The Lord here told these people the truth about themselves and it greatly offended them but the Lord told them anyway! They withdrew from Him, still the Lord told them! And they still wouldn’t listen to Him! The Lord told them about their awful condition, being hopeless and helplessly, bound by the cords of their own love for self and their own sinful practices. That they couldn’t come to the Lord Jesus except He draw them from His own eternal love. You see Jesus Christ died for the ungodly for His enemies. Surly a man would die for his friends but Jesus Christ did not die for his friends He died for His enemies, for the ungodly. What transcending love! When in the military many of my friends died for me in Vietnam so I could come home and live a life as a Baptist preacher. Not so with the Lord Jesus Christ, He died for His enemies so they could go to Heaven with Him! *“For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more now being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”* Romans 5:10 I can’t stop here either; He died because He knew we would go to Hell if He didn’t come and die for us. He’d rather die than let us go to

Hell. He'd rather die because He knew how horrible Hell was and He did not want us to go there. It should break your heart!

Does this offend you?

The Second great truth that our Lord preached, pointed them to the way of true salvation!

Jesus Christ said unto them, *"I am the way the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the father except by me."* John 14:6

When He preached, He was the only way to Heaven; the people heard it and said,

"We just can't take any such teaching as this!"

Therefore,

"From that time, many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him."

How sad! The Lord didn't pull any punches. Jesus was telling them the truth no matter how hard it was for them to take. Their eternal souls were at stake. Christ Jesus was pointing them to the kind of God He really is and the kind of people they really were. He points them to salvation in Him alone. And then the people left Him in great numbers.

"Will you also go away?"

Believer we must not be offended!

Psalms 119:165 *"Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them."*

Offensives may come but in them is healing! I've always ask myself when someone offends me, "What are you trying to teach me Lord?" Has it ever occurred to you that when someone offends you, they may be doing you a favor? God may be using them to teach you some great truth by their offending? While all the time God is trying to teach you a truth that you may have never learned no other way! Your reaction could be just as sinful. Well it is! He may be trying to teach you that you are just as sinful as the one who did the offending. See we all haft to put up with, in our bodies, that old sinful nature, and that sinful nature is only natural, it is innate in all of us and sin in the heart distinctly shows our true character, that being sinners. We all are, every preacher, all of us are sinful and to deny that is calling God a liar. God may be testing us, watching to see how we react. Sin is an instinct in action.

Third, our Lord Jesus Christ preached the blood as the cleansing agent for sin to that crowd:

Read verse 54, *"Whosoever eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

People that was an offensive truth then and it is still offensive today. The people in the days of our Lord resented what our modern day crowd refers to as a "slaughterhouse religion." These pious people had read in the old testament Scriptures how that the Christ, the Messiah, was to live and reign forever, how His was a kingdom that could never end, so they could not understand this idea of the death on the cross and Christ shedding his blood for the atoning for sin. Blood the cleansing agent!

How offensive the preaching of the cross is today! Preach works and people will applaud you. Preach baptism and you can form your own denomination. Preach church membership and you'll get along fine. Preach a social gospel or just about anything you want and people will approve, but God will be insulted. We'd rather have the applause of man than of God! We've chosen to anger God to please man. Brother, if you preach the cross and Christ dying on that cross, preach it in all of its offense and shame, preach it in its humiliation, preach it in its goriness, its bloodiness and then preach the cross in its victory. I say to you, then God will approve, but people will be offended.

But the Apostle Paul said what we must say,

"I'd rather please God than man,"

This is one time we should be saying,

"We ought to obey God rather than man.!"

The Lord Jesus Christ preached the shedding of blood for the remission of sin. He said the blood has been shed. It was God's blood, holy blood, precious blood, it was divinely sent blood, saving blood and redeeming blood. The blood atonement means the life laid down, it means the offering up of the Lord of glory! And He said this was the only basis on which a Holy God could deal with sinful man. Not upon your goodness, but upon the basis of His life laid down and His life in you, that's how God deals with sinners.

My sinner friend, may God speak to your heart today. Don't join with the church members of our day and preachers all over this country who are angry at the Word of God, the real reason for all the new false translations on the market today. Don't be angry with God and miss out on all the great truths that have been mentioned here. How they do ridicule anyone who dares to preach the whole counsel of God and that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is very God, the God of supreme sovereignty. How they do make fun of anybody who dares to talk about the desperate condition of man's heart and his lost estate under which sinners are bound today. And how they do avoid the awful implications of the death on the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Oh, my sinner friend, don't join this religious crowd the witness of whom is given here in John Chapter Six. When they heard our Lord preach these blessed truths, they took it out on Him! They said,

"We won't listen to Him! We'll walk away from Him! We'll go and get us a preacher who will prophesy unto us smooth things!"

Don't you be offended, sinner friend. No, sir! Don't you do it! It'll cost you your soul! I'll tell you the cost of being offended at the truth as it flows from the lips of Jesus Christ is an eternity in Hell fire. Don't be offended at the declaration of the Gospel of God's saving grace! God's saving grace alone! I say to you, there is no other way for a sinner to be saved. I say to you that man is lost, that man is corrupt; that man is vile and man is beyond help without Jesus Christ. There is nothing man could offer God that would be acceptable outside of HIS SON. And, like Charles Haddon Spurgeon favorite hymn:

*"In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."*

That's your only hope, sinner! You have nothing to offer. But Christ died, yea; rather Christ has arisen again and sitteth on the right hand of God. If you could but believe that He died for you and paid your sin

debt and satisfied the Holiness of God for you, you would come to Him in utter submission. I pray that you will.

That old song:

“What can wash away my sins?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
O precious is that flow
That washes white as snow.
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

That song is still proper, eternally true! And I pray that you won't be offended at the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, humble yourself in the sight of God, and cry out unto Him for mercy.

Read all of Matthew Chapter 23:

*Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.
For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,
And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.
And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.
But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!
Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?
And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.
Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?
Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.
And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.
And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.
Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

When Jesus Christ comes again things will be no different than when He came the first time. Men will be lovers of themselves and haters of all that is godly. We can be certain of that! Will you be offended or will you be ready?

Will you be offended or will you be ready?