



August 10, 2018

### **WHAT THE LEFT DOESN'T GET ABOUT AMERICA**

**Pray for the restoration of a godly spiritual attitude in America. Thank God for the gift of this great nation where “hard work can take you far if you are willing to do it.” Share a prayer of thanks for America by leaving a comment below.**

***Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. (Phil 2:14-15)***

“I was once a proud member of the Democratic party. Better yet, I was a proud supporter of both Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Growing up in the 1990s, I gave President Clinton much of the credit for a period in our history that ushered in balanced budgets, relative peace and security at home, technological wonders like the internet and a nation that seemed on the rise, with limitless opportunity for all.

Around 2011, however, I finally reached the point where I could no longer swallow the radicalized rhetoric coming from the left. The reasons were complex, but there was one thing above all else that planted me firmly in the Republican camp: the left’s need to constantly trash or see America in a negative light.

Whether it was Barack Obama declaring we needed to “fundamentally transform” America, or a liberal activist who once said to me, “This country isn’t exceptional – it’s pathetic” – it was clear to me that, for some reason, many on the left see America as wicked, unholy, and in need of some sort of purification. The election of President Trump has only exacerbated this, with many Democrats now seeing a country that is broken in every sense of the word....

A recent example of this is Senator Cory Booker, D-N.J., the former mayor of Newark and a rising star who many see as having a shot at taking on President Trump in 2020, who declared Friday that he cried “tears of rage” over Trump and that “there’s things that are savagely wrong in this country.”

Hold on. The United States has many problems. Yet I have always believed that the soul of America is grounded in two things: our right, bestowed by the founding fathers, to “the pursuit of happiness,” and the generations of diverse, talented and remarkable Americans who have grabbed hold of that right to create better lives for themselves and their families....

As my grandfather told me many times as a boy, “Nothing in this country is guaranteed, but hard work can take you far if you are willing to do it.”

This is what the left never seems to understand about America....

I look to my own family’s story as proof that America delivers on this pledge – and that there is nothing “savagely wrong” with a nation that does so.

My grandfather left Greece after it was ransacked and destroyed by Nazi Germany in World War II. He sought a better life after being forced to spend long stretches of time in an internment camp for the “crime” of having helped downed allied pilots. With what looked like civil war just over the horizon, he decided to do what many millions all over the world had done before him: he sought a better life in a faraway land that offered a fresh start and security....

[My grandfather’s] hard work was rewarded. Not only did he open multiple restaurants and pass on many of his life lessons on how to pursue the American dream to my dad, but I was able to learn from his story too.

While I have had many struggles in life, I always knew in the back of my mind that I had a shot at pursuing any dream I deemed worthy of my time, energy and skill.

Even in adulthood, my grandfather’s journey proves to me that the promise of America lives on—and inspired me to make my own way in the world....

My grandfather’s journey and my own are, to me, proof that America offers one thing that is unique in human history: an open platform to pursue your heart’s desire.

There is no guarantee of success—only that you get a shot. The rest is up to you....

There is nothing “savagely wrong” with this country except for the savage nature of the politics that have divided us.” (Excerpts from Harry J. Kazianis article on [Fox News](#))

## **THE TRUTH THAT COUNTS**

**Ask the Lord to open the hearts of all Americans to the truth of the Word of God, so that they may reap the blessings that He would like to bestow upon obedient hearts that follow after Him. As you pray for the nation, pray Scripture. Share the Scriptures you are praying today for our nation.**

***Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. (1 Cor 13:6)***

Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 3:13, “that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God.” The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:7-8, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” The 10th

Commandment in Exodus 20:17 tells us not to covet. Jesus said in John 10:10, “The thief come not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” These four verses tell us a lot about what is going on in American society today.

As followers of Christ, lovers of God, we are to enjoy the fruits of our labor because they are the gift of God. While life is not always fair, we do reap what we sow. Many work very hard, and reap very little. Others work less, and reap more. Still, spiritually, we may see what we sow beyond this life. It is a foundational principle of life. In today’s society, there are many who want to take what you sow and twist and turn what you reap into something that is no longer the fruit of your labors, but rather the possession of another. They covet what you have; they think it is unfair that you have it. This is where they pit people against one another and try to force their will. If you resist, you are ostracized, called names, tagged with labels.

Somehow, these people have usurped the moral high ground with their own brand of morality. It is as Jesus said that the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. **When we look at how many in society are so angry, so mean-spirited, so aggressive against anyone who disagrees with them, there is an emptiness within. They accuse others of exactly what they are. It is because they judge others from the content of their own hearts. They are missing the key ingredient of living life more abundantly—the Messiah and the Spirit of the Lord.** Some may say they are followers of Christ, but we know them by their fruits. Sadly, they have a center stage platform in this dark and dying world as the news media is part of them.

Ephesians 6 tells us how to respond to this. Verses 10-11 say, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Paul speaks of the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. As an example, he prays that he may open his mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel. You see, these angry people are devoid of the truth, the truth of God, the Messiah and His saving grace. They have given themselves over to lies. **Our response must show Christ, showing truth in love and standing for what is right, which can be tough love. It is the truth and how we sow it that counts.** (Used with permission. By Bill Wilson and [The Daily Jot](#))

## **ADVICE FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**What advice would you give President Trump? Share by leaving a comment below.**

***Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. (James 3:13)***

“Dear Mr. President, “Would you take this advice I hand you like a brother”? It’s a song lyric from the musical “The Pajama Game,” but fitting here.

There is a way you can hang onto your base, keeping them engaged, energized, without the constant Twitter assaults on those who criticize you for attacking them. If you lowered the rhetorical temperature, you might just add numbers to your support going into the midterms and beyond.

As a businessman, you have focused on results. You often brag about your success in dealing with members of the opposition party in New York. Why don't you borrow from that strategy as president? Americans may dislike sore losers, but they hate braggadocios winners even more.

As one who admires your policies but thinks you can do better when it comes to your demeanor, I offer you the following suggestions I hope you will take to heart.

Let's start with your recent tweet criticizing basketball star LeBron James. In a CNN interview with Don Lemon, James blamed you for using sports to "divide the country." Here you scored a two-fer, slamming James, but also calling Lemon "the dumbest man on television."

James had spoken earlier in the interview about a school he recently helped open in his hometown of Akron, Ohio. The school helps at-risk children get a better education and James' philanthropic foundation is working hand in hand with the city's public schools to improve the prospects of disadvantaged students. It's a noble and necessary effort.

Instead of blasting James and Lemon, you should have invited James to the White House, along with some of the children he is helping. You might also have invited parents of those children trapped in failed public schools, and then taken that opportunity to promote your school choice ideas. You campaigned on school choice and asked African Americans why they keep voting for Democrats when that party has done little to help them rise above their circumstances. What did your criticism of James and Lemon accomplish? Was anyone's mind changed? It is possible to win a debate but lose an argument, public perception often being the determining factor in how people vote.

Here's another suggestion. You promote the low unemployment rate and the new jobs that have been created since you pushed for tax cuts and industry de-regulation. As you campaign for congressional candidates, why don't you bring forward people that could not find a job during the previous administration, but now, because of your policies, are gainfully employed and grateful to you? Then you can make the point that if Democrats win back a majority in Congress, they will return the country to the policies that stifled job and economic growth.

By proceeding with this positive agenda you put Democrats (and socialists within and outside of that party) on the defense. Instead of the opposition focusing on your personality, they will be forced to focus on your policies, the success of which they cannot credibly deny (Nancy Pelosi's denunciation that large company bonuses were merely "crumbs that they are giving workers," notwithstanding).

There are other ways you can promote a positive agenda with an upbeat attitude while avoiding demeaning and demonizing your opponents. There is no better way to make them look bad and petty than for you to look good and gracious.

Try it. You will shock and surprise everyone, most importantly your critics.

The song lyric quoted above about advice has the lead character asking "... or is it all going in one ear and out the other?"

I hope that's not the case with this advice, Mr. President. Sincerely." (Excerpt from Cal Thomas article found on [CalThomas.com](http://CalThomas.com) and the Tribune Content Agency)

## **PLAYING TO FAMILIES**

**Pray for the Church to be sensitive to what we watch and what we support by what we watch, as well as for growing discernment about our use of technology. May God speak to each of us about our own media consumption. Share what He is showing you. Leave a comment below.**

***The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! (Mt 6:22-23)***

“After angering some pro-family audiences with recent programming, Netflix this week promised to release more shows that appeal to families and people of faith.

Viewers recently have had several good reasons to criticize the streaming service: Last month, comedian Michelle Wolf held a “salute to abortion” on her daily Netflix variety show; in early June, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings responded to criticism of a drama depicting teen suicide by commenting, “Nobody has to watch it”; and with last month’s release of *Anne with an E*, Season 2, Netflix raised the ire of conservatives, book purists, and smaller Christian media outlets—though not as much as one might expect, considering multiple homosexual storylines.

Netflix rarely discloses viewership numbers, though they track them obsessively. The company can identify, down to the subscriber, who is watching what content, how often, and in how much time. (In 2015, Netflix said it had identified one watcher who streamed an entire season of *House of Cards*—13 episodes—in the first 13 hours after its release, with only three minutes of break time.)

The numbers must be telling Netflix that more family-oriented shows will perform well. On Sunday, Cindy Holland, the company’s vice president of original series, told reporters that families are an important audience for Netflix, and that it was “focused on really building out a robust slate of family-friendly programming.” When pressed about what kind of programming, she gave no specifics.

“We have 109 million members and they’re not all going to like the same things,” Holland told *The Hollywood Reporter* in December. “We have a good opportunity to provide a really broad, diverse, and deep slate of programming. We’re creating 50 series that are very different from each other. Maybe a member will like two or three of them, maybe they’ll like 10 of them. But most folks aren’t going to want to watch all of the same things.”... (Excerpt from Laura Finch's article in [WORLD](#))