

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

A Keynote Message by Dr. Richard Land at Hawaii Apologetics Conference

The term ‘separation of church and state’ goes around quite a bit. Is there any truth to this? What do the original documents actually say? Should we as Christians be bound by this? Is it even legal?

People of good will can disagree about politics but they can agree on any core issue. We may vote a loyalty to our family, or our region of the country, and to a party. However, our loyalty doesn’t belong to any family. It doesn’t belong to any region of the country. It doesn’t belong, least of all, to any political party.

Our loyalty belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to vote our values, and our beliefs, and our convictions. We shouldn’t be endorsing candidates but we should be looking for candidates who endorse us and who endorse our values and our beliefs.

The passage 1 Peter 3: 15 is about apologetics. Apologetics is the translation of the *apologia*, a reasonable explanation of the hope that lies within you.

We do have the evidence on our side. We need to share the evidence with people who have not heard the evidence. And we do want to win the argument but we don’t want to just win the argument. We want to win the person. Our enemy is not those people that we are witnessing to. Our enemy is not the people that disagree with us. Our enemy is the evil one. He is the evil one who has them in his throat and we want to liberate them through Jesus Christ.

It is said in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5:

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

We believe in bringing every thought captive. There’s no area of knowledge, no subject, no area of inquiry that is beyond the purview of the truth that is revealed to us about Jesus Christ in Holy Scripture. That was the ethic under which we were founded as a nation.

Our forefathers came here to be a city on the hill, to light the way for the old world, the new Jerusalem. It has always been a country as Henry Kissinger once said, “Countries... have interest.” America is a cause, not a country. We do have interest as a nation and spheres of influence. But we’re also a cause and that cause is freedom, human dignity, and a belief that all men are created equal. G. K. Chesterton talked about America being founded on a creed.

We need to understand that America is a unique country. It always has been a unique country. It’s an intellectual knowledge for Dr. Richard Land, an American, before having lived in Great Britain according to whom the British national health system as a horror and a nightmare is not something you are going to like—nor the Obamacare.

He claims that 99 out of a hundred of Americans will live a shorter life than they would have had Obamacare not been passed. They will experience more pain and suffering before they die than they would have had Obamacare not passed.

President Obama said, as Dr. Land further shares, “Well, perhaps, I shouldn’t have had my grandmother,” whom he loved, “given a hip transplant” as she was dying with cancer. With shepherds like that, you need no wolves, he commented.

He claims furthermore that you’re going to start to see a lot more wheelchairs and a lot more crutches because they’re not going to pay for the knee and hip replacements. It costs a lot less to just give you pain pills and a wheelchair or pain pill and crutches. He has lived under the model for Obamacare in Great Britain.

When Dr. Richard Land was living in Great Britain, he realized in an experiential way just how unique America is. When the British disagree about everything, they have their ‘Britishness’ to keep them together. There was a skeleton found in a cave somewhere close to Oxford and was discovered to date back from 1000 AD. There were still people living in the village who were related to this guy. A thousand years ago! We don’t have that. We are from virtually every race and every country in the world.

Somebody asked what Hawaii has to do with the future of America.

Well, first of all, we’re so evenly divided as a country right now that in every election every vote counts. We learned this in 2000. In addition, Hawaii is America’s future. It is the most demographically and ethnically diverse state in the country. Hawaii is where America is going. In the 2020 census, the two largest states, California and Texas, will have no majority population. In 2050, no state will have a majority population. All 50 states will have a collection of different minorities but no majority population.

But we’re held together as Americans by an assent to and a commitment to and an allegiance to a certain set of ideals and beliefs that are embodied in our founding document which is the Declaration of Independence.

A liberal argued, “That is not our founding document. Our founding document is the Constitution.” Dr. Richard Land disagreed, “Well, I tell you what. I agree with Abe Lincoln when Abe Lincoln at Gettysburg said, ‘Four scores and seven years ago, our forefathers brought forth in this continent a new nation.’ You just subtract four scores and seven from 1863 and you come up with 1776. That’s the Declaration of Independence not the Constitution. So, sit down and shut up!”

Abe has settled it and our Declaration of Independence says that we believe that all men are created equal and they’re endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these rights are the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We go on to say that we believe that a government gets its authority from the consent of the governed. It is government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

How did Lincoln state that at Gettysburg? We don’t have any tape recordings so we don’t have any way to go back and check one out just exactly how he said that. Now we know because there was a

reporter that was three rows back and he wrote at that time. He wrote down the way that Lincoln said it. He said, ‘government *of* the people, *by* the people, *for* the people,’ that our government gets its authority from the consent of the governed. We are a self-governing nation and the authority resides in the people.

From our very beginning, we have said that we believe that we are endowed by our Creator, by God. When our founding fathers declared their independence from Great Britain, they didn’t declare their independence from God, just from Great Britain. In fact, they said they were trusting their cause to the God of the universe. They were very clear that they understood that they were under the authority of God and they believed they had God’s blessings for what they were doing.

In Deuteronomy 30:15-19, we have the last thing that Moses says to his people. They’re getting ready going into the Promise Land. God calls His people together and He gives them a final warning.

¹⁵See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; ¹⁶in that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. ¹⁷But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; ¹⁸I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

God puts that choice before countries. He puts that choice before each generation. He has put that choice before America. If we choose life and obedience, there’s blessing. If we choose death and disobedience, there’s cursing. And make no mistake about it. If God will judge His chosen nation, the Israelites, He *will* judge the United States of America. In fact, it could be argued that we are in the midst of judgment now. The things that have befallen us as a nation are a direct result of our having chosen disobedience rather than obedience, our having chosen death over life, and our having chosen the path of cursing rather than the path of blessing.

God is not mocked. Whatsoever you sow that shall you also reap. (Galatians 6:7)

In too many ways since the 1960s, America has chosen the wrong path. We have sown to destruction and we are now reaping the whirlwind. There really is only one hope left for us as a nation. That is repentance, confession, revival, awakening, reformation.

We do stand at a crossroad. We are at a place and it is a strategic place.

In Ephesians 5, the Apostle Paul says, “Walk circumspectly, not as fools, redeeming the time because the days are evil.” From *circumspectly*, we get our word circumcision and circumference. The way you would walk if you’re in an unfamiliar place late at night, you would walk looking around to see if there’s any threat. The word *evil* here is the word *ponorosis*, not the word for a state of evil. It is the word for active aggressive evil.

Contrary to what many Americans assume, we do not live in a neutral world. We do not live in a good world. We live in a world that is under the judgment of God and it is wracked by sin and by incessant demonic activity.

The devil is a roaring lion walking about seeking. In a story in the wilderness in the gospels, he is called ‘the temptor.’ In Greek, that’s a participle so it really should be translated ‘the tempting one.’ It is the incessant continual activity of the devil to be tempting us, to be enticing us, lying to us, and telling us that here is the path of happiness but it’s the path of destruction. He is enticing us to self-destructive and malevolent behavior.

Dr. Richard Land talks about his East Texas grandmother who according to him was one of the most positive people he had ever known. When he was about 12 years old, he was watching his grandmother make biscuits. They’re really good biscuits according to him, by the way.

He said, “Granny, I’ve never heard you say anything negative about anybody. I bet you could find something positive to say about the devil.”

She said, “Well, he is a hard worker.”

Unfortunately, the devil is not guilty of sloth. He is a hard worker.

We must also understand this: ‘...redeeming the time...’ The word *time* here is not the word *chronos* for chronology or solar time. It’s the word *kairos* which is the word for time in its propitious moment, when things are just right, when that’s the strategic moment.

We live in such a strategic moment as Americans today when things are bad enough that more and more of us realize we cannot go on the way we are going without a fundamental change in who we are as a nation. But it hasn’t gotten so bad that we are just literally imploding on ourselves and we’re beyond redemption. It is in that season that we must redeem the time and redeem it for good.

Fortunately, God has given us a prescription for how it is to be turned around. It’s found in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

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.

Firstly, notice that it is a conditional promise. God makes both conditional and unconditional promises in Scripture. In Hebrews 13, He says, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” In Greek, that is a quadruple negative. In English, a double negative is incorrect grammar. It’s a no-no. But in Greek, if you stack up the negatives, that’s emphasis. A good East Texas translation of that, it will be “I’m not ever gonna leave you, not never, no how.” Once we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, He comes and takes up abode in our lives and He will never leave us, *ever*.

This is a conditional promise: *If* my people do certain things *then* God will respond in a certain way. If we don’t, He won’t. God doesn’t negotiate. God doesn’t arbitrate. God doesn’t compromise.

The blessing is in the place where God says the blessing is gonna be. If you wanna get the blessing, you gotta be in the posture and the place God says the blessing is!

‘If *my* people...’ Who are ‘my people’? In the Old Testament context, it was those people within the elect nation that truly understood the sacrificial system and they were trusting God was going to pay the sacrifice for their sin. In the same way that we look back to the cross, they looked forward to the cross. Not all of the chosen nation was saved but within it, there were those that were saved. In the New Testament context, it’s those people who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Christianity is a worldview. Christianity is a philosophy. It is a system of truth but it is first and foremost a personal relationship. It is not third person singular. It’s first person singular. There’s all the difference in the world in eternity in knowing the difference between knowing Jesus as *the* Savior and knowing Jesus as *your* Savior.

Dr. Richard Land shares:

“I grew up in a bi-cultural home. On both sides, my family has been in America for about four centuries. My father’s family came to Virginia in 1636. My mother’s family came to Massachusetts in about 1650. So, I have 19 ancestors that I know of who fought for the Union and 17 who fought for the Confederacy. At the Battle of Gettysburg, they were actually shooting at each other. If they’ve been better shots, I might not be here.

So, growing up I got two slightly varying versions of the civil war. I was forced to do my own study and out of that study I came to have particular admiration for two men. Two men who were in their own different ways typify much of what is best about the American character: Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee.

I have been to Lincoln’s birthplace in Kentucky. I’ve been to his home in Illinois. I’ve read multi-volume biographies of his life. I have been to Ford’s Theatre where he was assassinated. I have stood on the spot where the historians tell us he stood to give what is surely the greatest speech ever given by an American President: his second inaugural address in 1865.

I have been to Lee’s home. I have sat in the pew at Christ’s Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia where Robert E. Lee worshipped every Sunday when he was in town, the church he came to, back to that first Sunday after Appomattox.

At the conclusion of the service, as is the custom of the Episcopal Church, the rector invited people to come to the communion rail for the Lord’s Supper for communion. For the very first time a newly freed African American got up and came and knelt at the communion rail. Everybody in the church just stared at him – like a cow looking at a new gate - until General Lee got up from his pew and came and knelt beside the newly freed slave.

When he was asked afterward why he did what he did, he said,

“Sir, the ground at the foot of the cross is level.”

I know a lot *about* Abraham Lincoln. I know a lot *about* Robert E. Lee. But you would think that I had lost my mind or at least have been smoking something illegal and inhaling it, if I were to say to you ‘I *know* Abraham Lincoln,’ ‘I *know* Robert E. Lee.’ They both died more than eight decades before I was born.

I *know* my wife. I *know* my mother and father. I *know* my three children. I have a personal relationship with them.”

Christianity is having a personal relationship with Jesus.

Would to God that an American President can stand before the American people and say, “Our problems are merely economic, and they can be remedied!”

Our problems are problems of the heart. They’re problems of the spirit. They’re problems of the soul. They are God-size problems and only God can solve what ails us. Only God has the resources to solve what ails us as a nation.

Humble ourselves, and pray, and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways.

Oh, now we get down to it! If the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much, the fervent prayer of an unrighteous man availeth little.

We say, “Oh, God, bless America!” God is not going to bless America until we turn from our wicked ways.

We have, as a nation, taken a wrong turn. We took a wrong turn in the 1960s. We began to emphasize rights and privileges at the expense of obligations and responsibilities. The foreword of *The Divided States of America* 2011 edition states that there are growing multitudes of Americans who have come to believe that their country has taken a tragically wrong turn in the late 1960s. These people believe too many Americans followed the Woodstock generation in increasingly emphasizing personal rights and privileges at the expense of obligations and responsibilities.

In other words, those promises you made when you got married: ‘...in sickness and in health, in poverty and in wealth till death us do part.’ We weren’t just making promise to each other; we were making promises to God. Many of those who now believe this was a foolish and destructive direction to go took that wrong turn themselves and now understand the tragic damage it has inflicted upon their personal lives and on the country.

There are those in this country who want to remake America. There’s a real struggle going on between those who want to *remake* America and those who want *restore* America. In 2008 when President Obama was running for President, he didn’t say he wanted to restore America. He said he wanted to remake America. He had a different vision of America, of a different kind of America, of a new America.

America should be restored that is one nation under God - a nation that believes in traditional Judeo-Christian morality. But that won’t happen without a revival with God’s people.

We've been immersed in a tidal wave of a new worldview in America that was fueled by the sexual revolution. It is called radical individual autonomy: I am my own ultimate authority, I am my own god. No one has the right to tell me what's right and what's wrong. I have the right to decide for myself what's right and what's wrong and I have the right to self-fulfillment. It's nobody else's business no matter what I do as long as it's between consulting adults. It doesn't matter. Nobody's business but mine!

That's a powerful temptation. It's what got Adam and Eve. The devil said, 'God's not telling you the truth. He's telling you that if you eat of the fruit of the tree of good and evil, you'll be like Him.' The devil knew what a big temptation that was. That's what got him—he wanted to be God.

We want to be our own god. We've been told by society that it's perfectly fine to be our own god. That means that we have the right to do what we want to do. That means that if we want to break the promise we made when we got married, that's fine. It means if we want to walk away from our obligations and responsibilities to our children, that's fine. And we convince ourselves that it has no consequences when in fact it has catastrophic consequences.

No man is an island. We're all impacted by each other's behavior. And the ones that have suffered the most have been the children, the most innocent among us.

A 40-year experiment in this country have been conducted on whether or not fathers are optional necessities in the rearing of healthy adults and the answer is: they are not. Now with same-sex marriage, we are now arguing that mothers are optional necessities in the rearing of healthy children. That's just plain goofy!

The greatest single advantage that a child can have in America today is to be born into an intact family. That means a mom and a dad who are married to each other and who stay married to each other. Children who grow up in such homes are far more likely to graduate from high school, far more likely to graduate from college, far more likely to get married, far more likely to stay married, far less likely to have a child out of wedlock, far less likely to ever experience poverty—by the way, seven times less likely to ever experience poverty—5% versus 35%. They are far less likely to contract a sexually transmitted disease. They are far less likely to be physically and sexually abused by stepfathers, stepbrothers, and live-in boyfriends.

Inversely, every way you can conceive children who grow up in such homes are better off.

There were a couple of recent studies that were really shocking.

If you do three things, you've got an 8% chance of ever living in poverty: if you finish high school, if you don't have baby out of wedlock, and you get married before you have a child. If you do the reverse of those three things, you've got an 80% chance of living in poverty. Let's see: 8% versus 80%. That's what's called statistically significant.

Boys who lose their fathers in the home before they're 12 are five times as likely to end up in the penitentiary by the time they are 25. *Hallmark* did a promotion where they gave convicts free Mothers' Day cards. It was so successful they decided to do it for Fathers' Day. Nobody asked for a card.

A man who has been in prison ministry for 25 years was asked how many of the men they have ministered to had a good relationship with their fathers. He said, “None!” None in 25 years!

Yet we continue to convince ourselves that we can walk away from our promises, obligations, and responsibilities, and that we have the right to do what we want to do. Catastrophes left in our wait.

Girls who lose their father in the home before their sixth birthday are five times as likely to become sexually active by the time they are 16 with all of the physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences that come from such behavior. Five times as likely!

Yet we have no-fault divorce. Ronald Reagan was right when he said that the single worst thing he ever did in public life was signing the first No-Fault Divorce Law as governor of California.

We hear a lot about wealth disparity in the United States. If you grow up in an intact home and you’re a boy, by the time you’re 25, the average benefit to you financially is \$6,200 a year more in your annual income. If you’re a girl, it’s \$4,700 a year more in annual income. If you grew up in an intact home and you marry someone who grew up in an intact home and you stay married yourself to each other, by the time you’re 40, there’s an average \$42,000 a year difference in your family income than couples who do not fit that description. \$42,000 a year!

A study discovered that 37% of all the wealth disparity in the United States can be explained by single parenthood. Yet we have a situation where we had in 1960 a 5.3% illegitimacy rate; now we have 41%. Between 1950 and 2010, we had a 39% drop in marriage and in the last 10 years, 17%. We have fewer people who are married to each other today percentage wise than any time in American history. Also, we have more children born out of wedlock than any time in American history. It’s been a catastrophe for our children, for adults, and for our nation.

The biggest reason for this is a failure of nerve, a failure of backbone, and a thundering silence from the pulpits of the United States of America. They won’t preach on these issues because they are afraid they are going to offend somebody in the pews.

It’s a lot more frightening what God will do to us if we don’t tell the truth than what people will do to us if we do tell the truth!

What happened to the 1960s? We had a failure of faith in the pulpit. In 1963, there was a survey done by the National Council of Churches. These churches were the mainline denomination - the Methodists, the Episcopalians, the Congregationalists, the Presbyterians, the Northern Baptists, etc. They found that *not even half* of the ministers believed in the virgin birth or the resurrection.

Nine years ago, George Barna did a study of how many of ministers in America had a biblical worldview. *Half* of the ministers did. The highest percentage was Southern Baptists with 71%. That means 29% of Southern Baptist preachers did not have a biblical worldview. The lowest was Methodists at 21%. This may help explain why Methodists have gone from 13 million to 6.5 million. They’ve got the growth pattern of the downward flight path of a rock.

Alexis de Tocqueville came to America in the 1830s. He realized that Americans were a new kind of people. We were different than Europeans. He wanted to know why, so he went all over America trying to figure out why.

He said, “I tried to figure out what made America different. I went to her town hall meetings. I went to her seats of power. I went to her captains of industry. But I didn’t understand what made America great until I went to church and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness.” He said, “America is great because America is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

We had a failure of nerve, a failure of faith, and a failure of backbone in the American pulpit. We have way too many ‘invertebrate’ preachers who won’t preach the truth. They don’t know the truth, or won’t preach the truth. We have paid the consequences. We have been *shepherdless*.

What’s the answer?

‘If *my people* which are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways...’

That means we got to confess our sins and turn from our wicked ways. That means we got to repent. We got to repent of loving ourselves more than the Lord. We got to repent of going our own way. We got to repent of thinking that we are the gods of our own lives. We got to repent of having broken our marriage vows and abandoned our responsibilities, our obligations, and our promises.

We got to turn back to God and ask for His forgiveness.

Fortunately, He said, “If we confess our sins, He’s faithful and just to *forgive* us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” That’s incredible!

We all have heard the phrase, ‘Familiarity breeds contempt.’ Actually, most often it’s just breeds familiarity. We’ve become too familiar with holy things. We ought to take off our shoes when we stand behind the pulpit—we’re on sacred ground.

‘If we *confess* our sins...’ The word *confess* here is a compound word. It means ‘to say the same as.’ That means we agree with God about our sin, that it was our sin that made it necessary for Jesus to die on the cross.

‘If we confess our sins, He’s faithful and just to *forgive us* our sins and to *cleanse us* from all unrighteousness. Every one of us can walk away with a clear conscience scrubbed clean. Why wouldn’t we do that! What sin is worth not doing that!

Second Chronicles says there’s some divine tipping point, some divine critical mass when enough of God’s people get right with God, He’s going to lean from heaven and pour out the ‘heal the land’ kind of blessing on the whole country. God has blessed America. There’s no way you can look at American history and come to any of the conclusion but that God has blessed us. Nobody can be that lucky! It takes a lot of faith to believe that America’s history is just fortuitous circumstance. God has blessed us but the ‘heal the land’ kind of blessing is yet to be seen. We’d like to see that!

Well, it's up to us who are believers. Our salvation is not going to come from Washington DC, or from the state capital, nor from the city council. Government is a caboose; the people are the locomotive. When the people get right with God, the government will come right behind. When we change, the government will change. Sadly, we have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That means that the government we have is exactly the government we want.

We have avoided—so far, perhaps the biggest sin. The one we believe we're given the biggest judgment for: the fact that we have practiced child sacrifice on a massive scale killing 56 million babies since 1973.

God had a plan; God had a purpose for every one of those babies. God never created a nobody. Everybody is a somebody to God. You may have been a surprise to your parents, but you were not a surprise to God. Every one of us is unique. We're knitted and embroidered together in our mother's womb, Psalm 139 says. God said to Jeremiah, 'Before you were in your mother's womb, I knew you and while you were in your mother's womb, I sanctified you and made you a prophet to the nations.'

The unique never-to-be-duplicated combination in each of us is determined at the moment of conception. You are different from your sibling. Aren't you grateful!

Dr. Richard Land shares:

"The biggest surprise I've had as a father is how different my three children are. I've got three children born over a 4-year, 11-month period: girl, boy, girl. I got two girls. You've never seen two white girls who are more different than those two girls. One is a talker and I wonder who she gets it from. I just figured out from school that just opening the car door was an invitation to a stream of conscious rendition of everything that had happened in school that day with *nothing* too unimportant to be described in exhaustive detail. It's easy to carry on a conversation with Jennifer. You just have to be in the room.

My youngest daughter – I picked her up from school.

I said, "Rachel, what did you do in the school play today?" "Stuff."

"Well, what did you eat at lunch?" "Food."

"What did you do at recess?" "Play."

Same mother, same father! They even look alike but they're utterly different. That is the way God knitted them and embroidered them together in their mother's womb!"

Have we aborted the next Billy Graham? Have we aborted the next Abraham Lincoln? Have we aborted the next Martin Luther King Jr.? Have we aborted the little girl God was knitting and embroidering together in her mother's womb to come forth and find the cure for cancer? There's a one-third chance that's exactly what we've done. There's a hundred percent chance that we have lost God's plan and purpose for 56 million babies! It's surprising God hasn't judged us more severely than He has.

Abortion on demand could not continue to be the law of the land without at least the acquiescence of Christians.

Dr Richard Land proves his point through a short story:

“When Bill Clinton was being impeached I was interim pastor of a church in Lebanon, Tennessee. To give you a flavor of Lebanon - the county newspaper is “The Wilson Country Democrat”.

Now, I tried to make it Waterford Crystal clear that a lecher and amoral man as president was a judgment of God on the United States. That Bill Clinton was a judgment of God on America. I hadn’t even gotten down from the top step of the podium before I was accosted by two deacons.

They said, “We wish you’d quit picking on our President.”

I said, “Well, I wish your President would quit having sex with girls less than half his age in the oval office.”

Bill Clinton and I are the same age. Monica Lewinsky is the age of my oldest daughter. That’s disgusting! It’s not just immoral – it’s disgusting!

Their response was amazing to me.

They said, “We don’t care. He’s been good for the economy. He’s been good for the Union.

We have a responsibility to vote our beliefs, our values, and our convictions. And they are more important than our pocketbook.

This subject is preached the least in American churches – the judgment of believers’ works. We are saved; we can’t lose our salvation, but our works are going to be judged at the judgment of believers’ works. We are going to give an account of every word and deed and every vote that we made or didn’t make. It’s called the Bema of Christ. That’s a pretty sobering prospect, isn’t it? We’re going to stand before our Lord.

No other foundation can be laid than that which is laid in Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Some people build upon that foundation gold, silver, and precious stones; others, wood, hay, and stubble. Each man’s work shall be judged by fire. If the wood, hay, and stubble are consumed, you’re still saved yet as by fire. But the gold, silver, and precious stones are refined and you hear, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.”

We’ve got to have a revival. Revival is an interesting word. You’ve got to be alive before you can be revived. All great movements of God in church history have come when God’s people got right with God. If we’re going to have an American future worth having, God’s people are going to have to get right with God. When we get right with God, lost people will notice. We treat them differently. We treat each other differently – and they want to know why. And we get to tell them! Some of them get saved. When we have enough of them get saved, we have an awakening. When the saved people who have been revived and the lost people who have been saved, apply the truth of the Scriptures to the

evils of society, we have a reformation. That's what we must have! We're too far gone for anything else.

We've got to have a reformation. That shakes America for Jesus the way Germany and Europe were shaken by Luther and Calvin, the way Whitefield and Wesley shook Great Britain in the 18th century, and the way Whitefield and Wesley and the Tennents shook Colonial America in the First Great Awakening and laid the foundation for the Revolution.

Revival that ripens into awakening culminates in a reformation. That's what we must have. It'll happen that way—not in reverse. It starts with us, with you, and with me. The future of America is being decided, one person at a time just like you, one family at a time just like yours, one church at a time just like this, one community at a time, one city at a time, one state at a time, all across America.

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.

May God bless America, and may God make America a nation He can bless.

God bless you.

God bless your family.

And God bless the United States of America!

About Dr. Richard Land (A.B., 1969; Th.M., 1972; D.Phil., 1980; Honorary D.D., 2009).

Prior to becoming the president of Southern Evangelical Seminary in 2013, Richard Land served as the President of the *Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission* of the Southern Baptist Convention. Currently, he serves as the Executive Editor of *The Christian Post*.

Dr. Land was appointed to serve on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom by President George W. Bush in 2001 and was subsequently reappointed to three additional terms of service through 2012. In 2007, The Richard Land Center for Cultural Engagement was established by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where Dr. Land is a Visiting Professor. Dr. Land also received the Phillip E. Johnson Award for Liberty and Truth from Biola University in 2010. In 2012 Dr. Land received The Champions of Justice Award, presented by the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (also known as the Hispanic Evangelical Association).

Dr. Richard Land is a well-respected commentator on issues related to religion, politics, history and culture, and has appeared in thousands of media interviews in most major media outlets over the course of his career.