

## Finding the Old Path Part 2

Pastor Bill Keith

### Introduction

- There are things that change with time that are good changes.
- Some of changes are not good at all!
- There was a time when America was considered a Christian nation and the majority of the citizens were God-fearing, church going people!
- That my friends is a by-gone day and the change has not been a good one!
- There are other foundational truths that never change!
- There are some foundational truths that made our nation great and set the course for the freedoms we have experienced in America.
- These well-traveled paths of TRUTH, like the Oregon Trail for our ancestors, lead our nation headed in the right direction and ensured our survival as a free nation.

Text: Jeremiah 6:16-17 16 This is what the LORD says:

“Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.”

### I. Right Living Strengthens a Nation

- A. Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.
- B. Any nation that follows the old path God established for nations to follow can and will become a strong, viable nation!
- C. America used to be that strong nation!
- D. Although there were many in our land who were atheists and deists, the majority of the populace were God-fearing people that called themselves Christian of one denomination or another.
  1. America had laws that reflected the faith of our founding fathers.
  2. The founding fathers spoke frequently and fluently of their faith.
  3. Joseph Story, a former US Supreme Court justice said, “One of the most beautiful boasts of our judicial jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the common law...There never has been a period in which Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations....I verily believe that Christianity is necessary to the support of civil society...”
  4. Story wrote, “[\*Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States\*](#), in 1833. Dominating the field in the 19th century, this work is a cornerstone of early American jurisprudence. It is the second comprehensive [treatise](#) on the provisions of the U.S. Constitution and remains a critical source of historical information about the forming of the American republic and the early struggles to define its law. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Story](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Story)

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5. Our Common Law in America had provisions against sin and vice in our land.
  - a. Sodomy and perversion laws – only changed in the early 1970s.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sodomy\\_laws\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sodomy_laws_in_the_United_States)
  - b. Indecent exposure laws – only recently changing across our nation.
  - c. Obscenity laws
  - d. Blue laws
  - e. All of which are under attack or have been over turned!
6. Philosophers and writers from other nations traveled here to study our land seeking the reason for our greatness
  - a. A French historian and writer, Alexis de Tocqueville, traveled the length and breadth of America in the 1830s seeking the greatness of our nation. He wrote, ***“The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive of one without the other.”***  
<http://www.leaderu.com/orgs/cdf/onug/detocq.html#>
  - b. He also wrote: ***“I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her harbors...; in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”***  
<http://www.leaderu.com/orgs/cdf/onug/detocq.html#>

### II. God’s Hand of Blessing Sure Has Been on America

- A. We became the strongest, richest nation on the planet!
- B. We became free land that everyone on the earth tried to get to.
- C. We rescued nation after nation from certain destruction.
- D. Yet all the while we neglected to stay tied to our anchor.
- E. We didn’t stay on the old path....
- F. The one thing that made us great!

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### III. The Death of the American Culture

- A. America started down the slippery slope of open sinful living in the 1960s.
- B. We started getting desensitized to evil way back then!
- C. You can see the progression and acceptance of open sinful living in the media and art of our times.

1. The term Rock and Roll was sensual in nature and was a veiled reference to sex.
  - a. "The phrase "rocking and rolling" originally described the movement of a ship on the ocean, but was used by the early twentieth century, both to describe the spiritual fervor of black church rituals and as a sexual analogy." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock\\_and\\_roll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_and_roll)
  - b. Elvis and his gyrating hips and pelvic thrusts were considered to suggestive at first.
2. Then rock burst onto the scene and the downhill slid began.
3. Maybe you remember the early ones?
  - a. "Let's spend the night together"
  - b. "Satisfaction"
4. Those early rock songs seem tame compared to a few years later....and to what they are singing and rapping about today!
  - a. I wouldn't dare even read the lyrics of some the hip hop and rap songs of today!
  - b. What seemed so innocent at first; love the one you're with, to the filth and perversion of today!
  - c. Kate Perry's hit, "I kissed a girl" (and liked it!)
5. Tom T Hall had country hit in the 70s that told the story of how that generation thought and how they had already began to trade the philosophy and culture of the past, for the sin and vice of the present....
  - a. "The Cowboy and the Poet" "It's faster horses, younger women, older whiskey, and more money"

C. That is the philosophy of our time isn't it? "Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die!"

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### IV. The Tide Has Turned In The Wrong Direction for America

- A. Someone pulled the drain plug in the past twenty years or so and we are sinking as a culture at an alarming rate!
- B. The plunge into grossness and vile living has accelerated during our time!
- C. The only explanation is found in the pages of God's Word!
- D. Listen to Solomon's thoughts on these things from Proverbs 2: Proverbs 2:10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and moral knowledge will be attractive to you.  
11 Discretion will protect you,  
understanding will guard you,  
12 to deliver you from the way of the wicked,  
from those speaking perversity, 13 who  
leave the upright paths to walk on the dark  
13 ways, 14 who delight in doing evil,  
they rejoice in perverse evil; 15 whose  
paths are morally crooked, and who are  
devious in their ways; 16 to deliver you  
from the adulteress,  
from the sexually loose woman who speaks flattering words;  
17 who leaves the husband from her younger days,  
and forgets her marriage covenant made before God.  
18 **For her house sinks down to death, and her  
paths lead to the place of the departed spirits.**  
19 None who go in to her will return, **nor will they  
reach the paths of life.**
- E. He also wrote in **Proverbs 16:25** ***There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way that leads to death.***
- F. We are sinking fast and there isn't much time to save the old ship!!
- G. Will you be sucked out by the falling tide of vile, sinful living or do you want something better?

### V. Without a National Repentance God's Judgment is Inevitable!

- A. ***Job 22:15 Will you keep to the old path- that evil men have walked – 16 men who were carried off before their time, when the flood was poured out on their foundations? 17 They were saying to God, 'Turn away from us,' and 'What can the Almighty do to us?'***

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**B.** Or will you respond like Solomon encouraged?

***Proverbs 2: <sup>20</sup> So you will walk in the way of good people, and will keep on the paths of the righteous. <sup>21</sup> For the upright will reside in the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, <sup>22</sup> but the wicked will be removed from the land, and the treacherous will be torn away from it.***

**C.** Repentance starts here people, in the House of God among His people!

***Jeremiah 16:6 This is what the LORD says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken."***

**D.** Edmund Burke, the English Statesman said, "□ All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." He also stated, ""When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle."

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Edmund\\_Burke](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Edmund_Burke)

**E.** It starts with you! It starts here and now!