

A man with glasses and a red polo shirt is speaking at a podium. He is gesturing with his hands. A large white speech bubble with the words 'table talk' in a stylized font is overlaid on the image. The background is dark and out of focus.

table talk

7/12/26

"When A Christian Nation Forgets God"

Lutzer's First Thesis: When God is removed from Government, Judgment Follows.

It wasn't obvious at first. In 1938, Hitler even said "Christianity is an essential element for safeguarding the soul of the German people."

The change was gradual. Germany was historically Christian, and even Hitler himself had been baptized. Yet he understood that Christianity, which had been integral for Germany, must be thoroughly eviscerated and emasculated before the culture of the nation could be changed.

Lutzer points out just how the Nazis not only removed God from government but also how the Church underwent "Nazification." The Nazis decreed the church could believe and teach whatever it wanted as long as nothing contradicted Nazi party lines. I was shocked to see how the same step-by-step process is being attempted in our modern society. I know this sounds extreme and unbelievable! However, I am convinced America and other key western nations, including Canada and the United Kingdom, are following the same path that led to Germany's nightmare under the Nazis.

The change is not necessarily sudden, but it is predictable. Christianity is first MARGINALIZED. Traditional Christian beliefs will be QUESTIONED. Christian life-style will be RIDICULED. The Christian community will be STIGMATIZED. The preaching of the Gospel will be called "HATE SPEECH." Soon after, Christianity that does not conform to societal standards will be CRIMINALIZED.

We should not be surprised that the first evidences of judgment are centered around the church. Peter explained that God's judgment, though it has many layers, will be evident first in the House of God (1 Peter 4:17). Jeremiah was imprisoned for

declaring this principle to the leaders of Jerusalem who were facing Babylonian invasion. They tried to shut him away, but Jeremiah was right!

In a conversation I had with a friend several years ago he said: “So, you’re saying if the nation and church doesn’t change, we might experience judgment one day. You say our President is leading us down a path of evil that will lead us into judgment. Well, I disagree. I think he’s doing a good job.”

My response shocked him. I put my hand on his shoulder and said “No, I’m not saying that. I’m saying his election and his leadership IS THE JUDGMENT OF GOD, but we are too blind to see it. It has already begun.”

Lutzer went further:

- German citizens accepted the “Two Sphere” teaching that Christ was head of the church, but Kaiser (Caesar) was head of the government.
- Article 24 of the Nazi Party platform provided “liberty for all religious denominations in the State so far as they are not a danger...to the moral feelings of the German race.”
- Two pastors stood face to face against Hitler when they were called to a meeting of clergymen in January 1934. More than 2,000 pastors had signed a statement condemning the Nazification of the German church. Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Niemöller challenged Hitler face to face. Hitler’s angry response: “You confine yourself to the church. I’ll take care of the German people.”
- Within hours persecution against Niemöller began, and he ended up in a concentration camp. Eventually Bonhoeffer died on the gallows for his attempted overthrow of Hitler. The other 2,000 pastors decided to try compromise and toleration. They abandoned Bonhoeffer and Niemöller. And they learned compromise didn’t work.

There is so much more in chapter one of Lutzer’s book, but I leave you with three quotes:

1. **“We dare not give to Caesar that which is God’s.” - Lutzer**
2. **“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though some strange thing was happening to you. But rejoice in that you are called to participate in the sufferings of Christ.” - Peter**
3. **“We will never be a victorious church until we see suffering as a divine gift.” - Bonhoeffer**

In our next Table Talk, we’ll discuss Lutzer’s second point. When a nation forgets God, the economy suffers greatly and may collapse.

I love you,
Pastor Stephen