

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

table talk

8/30/26

"When A Christian Nation Forgets God"

A Final Thought

German theologian and pastor Helmut Thielicke observed that "the church (in Nazi Germany) had kicked down the cross and thereby overlooked its greatest danger, namely that in gaining the whole world it might lose its own soul."

Thielicke observed the church was caught up in the trappings of prosperity and influence. In Christianity Today (July 12, 1985) he noted that "success is the greatest narcotic of all."

We have summarized Erwin Lutzer's book as follows:

Seven things that almost always occurs when a nation forgets God.

- 1. When God is separated from government, judgment follows.**
- 2. The economy suffers or even collapses.**
- 3. Things long recognized as evil suddenly become legal and even preferred.**
- 4. The propaganda machine peddles lies.**
- 5. The government, not the parents, become responsible for a child's training.**
- 6. God will raise up heroes and and martyrs.**
- 7. The church is faced with a choice - who is Lord?**

Let me leave you with a final story from Pastor Niemoller:

"In Nazi Germany, railroad tracks ran behind one of our churches. We heard stories of what was happening to the Jews, but we tried to distance ourselves from it. We felt, what could anyone do to stop it? Each Sunday morning, we would hear the train whistle blowing in the distance then the wheels coming over the tracks. We became disturbed when we heard cries coming from the train as it passed by. We realized that it was carrying Jews like cattle in the cars!

Week after week the whistle would blow. We dreaded to hear the sounds of those wheels because we knew that we would hear the cries of the Jews en route to a death camp. Their screams tormented us.

We knew the time the train was coming and when we heard the whistle blow we began singing hymns. By the time the train came past our church, we were singing at the top of our voices. If we heard the screams, we sang more loudly and soon we heard them no more. Years have passed and no one talks about it now, but I still hear the train whistle in my sleep.”

Think about it, Loved Ones. Will we take action, or just sing louder?

I love you,
Pastor Stephen