

GOD RULES OVER NATIONS & KEEPING THE LEGACY ALIVE

ser4056 One Nation Under God, Pt 2

July 11, 2021 (Anniversary Sunday) E & L

i. (HOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. The month of July launched a new sermon series, “One Nation Under God.”

1. Last Sunday, Mildred Keys took us on a fascinating 100-year journey as a black woman traveling through the challenges of racism, foster care, and education in the 1900’s. ([show photo](#))



As I have said before, every sermon should have a *Hook, Book, Look, and Took*. Many things stood out to me in Mildred’s brilliant presentation, but two stood out most, and they were what I took home with me.

a. **“God is good, but you’ve got to work with Him.”**

NOTE: From “multiply and fill the earth,” to “diligent hands make wealth” to “if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord,” God is good, but you’ve got to work with Him.

Let's get up close and personal: "*Where is God asking you to work with Him?*" Should I make suggestions, or would you rather take a few moments and ask Him? I like the latter. Let's take 20 seconds. **(20 seconds of instrumental music)**

b. "Every privilege entails an equal obligation."

B. Today our topic is, "God Rules Over Nations."

However, I feel strongly led by the Holy Spirit to address, on this our 39th Anniversary, "*Keeping the Legacy Alive.*"

C. However, to fulfill my obligation to address, One Nation Under God, let's look at *Daniel 4:17 & 24.*

'This decision *is* by the decree of the watchers,
And the sentence by the word of the holy ones,
In order that the living may know
That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men,
Gives it to whomever He will,
And sets over it the lowest of men.'

²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, ... the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

NOTE: We may not always understand God's choices, for His ways are not ours; we may not always agree with His choices, but His ways are higher than ours. But this you can do, TRUST HIM for

Today, we see through a foggy glass, but then we shall see clearly; today, we know in part, but then we shall know even

as we are known. (**1 Cor 13:12**)

As Christians, do we like what we're seeing in America today? I can't speak for you, but I don't. And if we think America has problems, look at the rest of the world—it's ugly. Yet, we have what most countries don't have: the liberty to fight for and preserve our freedoms, both civil and religious. Furthermore, as Mildred said at the close of her speech last Sunday, as Americans, we still have the privilege of becoming anything we want to be.

Although that is a proverbial sentence, in most cases, it is true.

D. People of faith, keep praying for our country, keep fighting for our country, keep speaking up and out for our country—because “*it ain't over till the fat lady sings.*”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVildEpIRSQ>
00:00 – 1:06

In actuality, it ain't over till God says it's over. (**Matthew 24:36**) Until He does, let's keep on keeping on.

II. KEEPING THE LEGACY ALIVE

A. Let's talk about the Church (capital “C”) at large in the world today, beginning with America.

In 1937 church membership in America was 73% and remained at 70% for the next 60 years. *Today, church

membership is at 49%, declining 60% in the last three years. [*repeat](#)

THE DEFINITION OF REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE is being in church three out of eight weeks.

B. In a world where the Church is “dying,” what constitutes a “living” church?

Let us not forget that Jesus died to redeem a lost world, and everyone who is blood-bought, blood-washed, and spirit born is a part of the Church—free, slave, Greek, Jew, male or female (**Galatians 3:28**). It reminds me of this post I saw and reposted on July 5th. ([show post](#))



C. (BOOK) What was our Lord’s command to His disciples?

Make disciples. How do we make disciples?

1. Make His house a house of prayer (**Isa 56:7 & Mark 11:17**)
2. Win the lost—at home and abroad (**Pro 11:30 & Luke 19:10**)
3. Meet needs—at home and abroad (**Leviticus 19:10 & James 1:27**)

4. In so doing, we reproduce ourselves (**Isaiah 49:6 & Matt 28:19**)

5. All that we do should be done with an attitude of gratitude, praise, and grace (#5 is God's number for grace). As we learned in the Worship Seminar with Wayne Hilliard, "praise precedes victory." (**2 Chronicles 20:18-19 & Ephesians 5:18-20**)

D. (LOOK) Whether a church congregation is 15 or 1,500, 250 or 25,000 a living church:

1. Prays
2. Wins the lost
3. Meets needs
4. Reproduces itself by making disciples.

A church can have 25,000 people, but if it is not praying, winning the lost, meeting needs, and reproducing, it's a dying church.

E. I am thrilled to report that as of last Sunday, July 4, 2021, GCCC has seen 36,343 people pray to receive Christ.

I have to be completely candid with you—2020 was a very painful year. The Pandemic struck just before the Easter Season and spiked again during the Christmas season. During the 2020 year, we saw very few visitors and the lowest number of First Times Decisions since 1991.

To God be the glory, this year has been a different story; as of last Sunday, we have seen **402** people give their lives to Christ. That is **126 more** than last year and there are five more months left in the year. **Let's give the LORD a round of applause.**

III. **(TOOK)** WHAT MUST WE DO REGARDLESS OF CHURCH TRENDS?

A. God has always had a remnant where truth was taught regardless of what was or wasn't popular.

ILLUSTRATION: By 500 AD, the Bible had been translated into over 500 languages. However, just one century later, the Catholic Church of Rome restricted the Bible to only one language – Latin. Those in possession of non-Latin scriptures were to be executed! Since few people other than the priests could read Latin, it gave the Church ultimate power to usher in what was known as the “Dark Ages”—for the next 1,000 years.

However, on the Scottish Island of Iona, in 563 AD, a man named Columba started a Bible College, and for the next 700 years, this was the source of evangelical Bible teaching. The students of this college were called “Culdees.” In the *late 1300s*, the secret society of Culdees chose *John Wycliffe* to lead the world out of the “Dark Ages.” Wycliffe, often referred to as the “Morning Star of the Reformation,” put the *Word of God* back into the hands of the masses in their native

language. The message of salvation in *Christ alone*, by *Scripture alone*, through *faith alone* was now freedom bound.

B. God has always had a remnant.

Were its leaders perfect? Far from it! Although charismatic, the reformer Martin Luther had a reputation of being selfish, conceited, and overly concerned with his appearance. At times he was overzealous, becoming angry, domineering, aggressive, vindictive and even violent. (Not someone whose bad side you want to be on.)

Now, I didn't use that illustration to discredit a man highly esteemed by all who acknowledge his contribution to breaking the stronghold of salvation imparted by the Church rather than grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. I used that illustration to say,

*"In spite of ourselves, if we will persevere with the mission to Share Christ, Connect people and Serve others, with a spirit of gratitude and praise, **large or small**, we will remain a LIVING organism, accomplishing the purposes of God and the commission of Christ."*

C. We, therefore, must never cease to proclaim what God has called GCCC to be:

1. Interdenominational in attitude
2. Biblical in belief
3. Evangelistic in heart and mission

I Can Pray...

- Boiler Room**
Pray for the service in the Conference Room before or during the Worship Service.
- Aaron-Hur**
Say a short prayer for PB, daily.
- 200 Sacred Place**
Get away for 5 minutes on a Saturday to pray for the weekend services at GCCC.
- Tuesday Prayer & Fast**
Fast one meal on Tuesday and pray for the weekly finances of the Church.
- Prayer Hotline**
Emergency prayer chain; get as many people as possible to pray for/during an emergency.
- Military Prayer**
Pray for those GCCC members and their families who are in the military.
- Mental Health Prayer Ministry**
Join those who have family members that are mentally and/or emotionally challenged.

D. So, what do you say GCCCers?

Let's keep:

1. **Praying**—be a part of one of our nine prayer ministries.

(show “I Can Pray ...” card, p7)

2. **Winning souls**—*Keep alive Win One in 2021, the Word for You Today and Proclamation Invitation Card.*

(show WFYT & PIC)



3. **Meeting needs**—Contribute to *Project Love, the Buddy Program, and other*

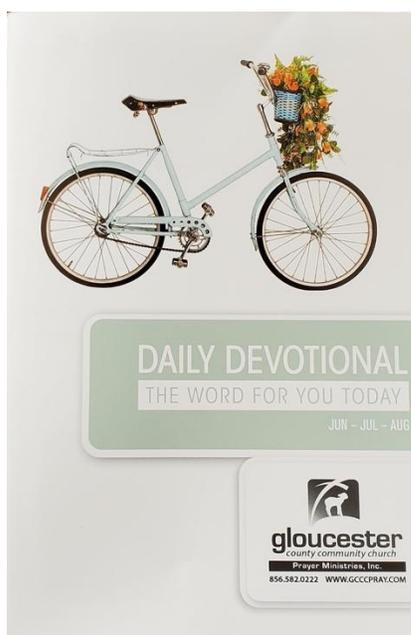
self-sacrificing endeavors.

4. **Sending forth missionaries and duplicating ourselves at home**

I was born with **value & purpose**. My life has **promise & potential** as it unfolds in accordance to God's eternal plan.



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and abroad. There are so many opportunities: *Sunday School, Youth Group, Mission Trips, Helping Hands, The Rising, Forever Young,*

*Friends Needing Friends,
Circle of Friends,
WIAM Radio,
Creative Arts & all of its Supporting
Ministries, and the list goes on.*

And the church said, “Amen!” (Let it be so!)

IV. TODAY, WE’VE TALKED ABOUT THE GCCC FAMILY, BUT THERE’S A FAMILY MUCH GREATER WITH A MUCH LONGER HISTORY—THE FAMILY OF GOD.

Are you apart? Here’s how to join!

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.

(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)

(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I’m sorry for the things I’ve done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

ser4056, *God Rules Over Nations & Keeping the Legacy Alive* (Anniversary Sunday) 1506 words (approximately 12.5 minutes) + music clip (1:06+20 sec=1:26). Total time: 14 minutes.