

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

June 2010

I have been reading one of the books in the American Classic Series, *“The Real George Washington.”* I am reminded and encouraged of these facts, *“The story of his life is the story of the founding of America. He was the dominant personality in three of the most critical events of that founding: the Revolutionary War, the Constitutional Convention, and the first national administration. Had he not served as America’s leader during those three events, all three would likely have failed and America as we know it today would not exist.”*

God led us here for religious liberty and He will always raise someone up to fulfill His purposes. Our nation is in trouble; we have lost our first love. Deep down we have known this for quite some time. We have not expressed our concerns for fear of being labeled, *“politically incorrect.”* Even those who call themselves atheists are saying something very unusual is going on in America.

Sadly, we see a parallel to this in our churches. Deep in our hearts we discern things are very wrong, and fear has kept us from expressing our concerns. The “progressive mindset” has permeated our society; it is eroding the principles of our government, rewriting our history, and even infiltrating the thinking of our pastors and leaders nationwide. It is more than just a different taste in music and normal generational differences. The problem seems to be a spirit of rebellion, leading to a strong desire to fundamentally change the simple proclamation of God’s Word, and to change the way we worship.

James 4:4-6, *“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*

For many years we have heard the analogy, *“The Frog in the Kettle.”* If you put a frog in boiling water he will vigorously try to get out. But, if you put him in cool water and gradually bring the water to a boil he will slowly die, unaware. This story has been told from pulpits across this nation for more than 50 years. I’m afraid that while we were explaining it, we were already in this process as a nation. Today, it seems this is where we are in our churches. Do you see the parallel? Both nation and church are troubled.



What's the answer? Many will say, "*Start a prayer group and let's pray for our nation,*" but this turns into more busyness, coffee, and doughnuts. Our problem is mostly "*Self*" on the throne of our hearts. "The Bible teaches there are three enemies of the Christian: the world, flesh, and the devil." There is only one answer and it is found through individual repentance, which can lead to church wide, and national repentance. There is no need to tell anyone this is what you are going to do, simply begin.

Have this mindset "*Though None Go With Me,* I will abide in Him Who is my Life."

The Bible teaches of "*The Judgment Seat of Christ*" in **Romans 14:10**, "*But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*"

My friend, this is not a judgment for salvation, but for receiving, or losing rewards by what we did with our short life here on earth. This is not a time to look around to see what the religious crowds are doing. Remember, you will stand alone before God in this judgment. Begin today to be your best, do your best, and look your best, for the glory of God.

John Bernard said of George Washington, "*He spoke like a man who had felt as much as he had reflected, and reflected more than he had spoken. He is a man fashioned by the hand of heaven.*"

You may wonder if something is wrong with how you feel about the nation and your church that you love with all of your heart. You are grieved, my friend. Pray and obey the immediate promptings of the Holy Spirit, simply share your faith, and help others grow spiritually.

This is what is on my heart as I write this newsletter, Memorial Day 2010.

Abiding,

Chris Hodges
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Colossians 3:1-3