

Death of America (Pt 3) - Sin in the Church; Prayer Removed from School

October 10, 2014

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/676yg79/death-of-america-pt-3>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

[Video montage]

What if the most powerful, the most influential, the most prosperous country on earth was at its precipice of destruction? Would the people be gripped by fear?

Look around you. You see the signs of impending crisis.

People of this nation are preparing for disaster, devastation, and total collapse. Is judgment coming? Are these fears justified? If you don't know the source of fear, how do you know what to expect? How will you prepare for what will be unleashed upon the United States of America?

Explore the history of this nation through the biblical lens of scripture and discover God's message of hope for you in these troubled times.

[Video—"If I were the Devil," by Paul Harvey, 1965]



"If I were the devil ... I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree—Thee. So, I'd set about, however necessary, to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first. I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that

what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors on how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd peddle

narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil, I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings, I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects but neglect to discipline emotions, just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug-sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography, soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches, I would substitute psychology for religion and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls and church money. If I were the devil, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil, I'd take from those who have and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in patriotism and in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.

Paul Harvey, good day."

[Daniel Joseph]

That that broadcast that you just witnessed. I want you to put it in perspective for a minute. That broadcast happened almost 50 years ago; think about that. His comments in that broadcast are chilling. They are chilling, and they are prophetic-like. I say prophetic-like because we're actually experiencing the very things that he mentioned back in the 1960s; we are experiencing them in full bloom today. I think clearly, Mr. Harvey saw what was happening to this country. He saw how this country was literally being picked apart, piece by piece, and he didn't just see it; he understood it. He understood what was happening; he understood the horrific consequences that were sure to follow based upon the behaviors that this nation was showing, consequences that we find unfolding right before our eyes.

The question remains, though, going back to the question, what happened? What has happened to this nation? By and large, our nation for hundreds of years, going back to the early 1600s, has shown it was influenced significantly by the moral principles, the beautiful principles found in the Word of God. Now while it's true, as we looked at last week, it may be true that those are infrastructure, the federal charter, the things like the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, yes, it's true, maybe those things were not products exclusively of the Bible, but make no mistake, the people in this country, history shows, lived as though they had. The morals found in the Word of God really were the measuring line for what was to be accepted in society and what was to be rejected.

We saw some historical proof of this last week when I quoted the French social scientist, Alexis de Tocqueville. Do you remember this? His assessment on what he saw when he came to America in the

early 1800s. This is what he saw:—Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*—[The sects that exist in the United States are innumerable. They all differ in respect to the worship which is due to the Creator; but they all agree in respect to the duties which are due from man to man. Each sect adores the Deity in its own peculiar manner, but all sects preach the same moral law in the name of God... Moreover, all the sects of the United States are comprised within the great unity of Christianity, and Christian morality is everywhere the same.](#)“

Here we get this assessment of the behavior of American society going all the way back to the early 1800s, which we know continued into the 1900s, and it was this unity, this morality. You have to understand this morality kept back the forces of darkness, kept back the forces of darkness from literally sweeping over this entire nation. There was true moral conviction. Those who wanted to engage in sin and corruption had to do so behind closed doors. The darkness that was there had to remain in the dark. Why? As I said last week, general society simply wouldn't have tolerated it; they wouldn't have tolerated that kind of behavior. So, how do we get to the place that we're in today, a place of utter debauchery? This is what we're going to be discussing for the next several weeks.

I want to begin today by going right to what I believe, what I know to be true, the root of the problem, how this nation has come to the place it has, and it's something Mr. Harvey himself commented on; it's something he saw. I don't know if you caught it, but going back to the video, it opens up, [“If I were the devil.”](#) It goes on to say, [“I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree—Thee.”](#) What is he referring to in Thee? What he's referring to is the United States of America.

Then he goes on; listen to what he says; this is amazing. [“So I'd set about, however necessary, to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first ...”](#) This is amazing; it's something that he identified, that he understood. What do you have to do to take down the greatest nation on the earth? I say that with the disclaimer, except for Israel. What do you have to do? Subvert the churches first. How would you do that? He tells us, [I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'](#)

It takes us back to the garden; this is exactly what Satan whispered to Eve; this was the message that he conveyed to her. Do you remember back in the garden? What did Satan do? He came to Eve and said (Genesis 3:1), [“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”](#) Immediately, what does he do? He calls into question what God has commanded. This is the nature of the evil one, and then he sets the hook by telling her, taking the fear out of it, turning her eyes to look at this beautiful tree, that it was pleasant for food, and what does he tell her? —Genesis 3:4—[Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.](#) The message was, Do as you please.

When you think about that, if you want to topple the greatest nation on the earth, you need to start with its moral compass. You need to start with its integrity; you have to begin with the church. You have to first take the moral conscience out of society to capture society, then she'll be exposed. Then she'll be left in a weakened state, a perfect state to be conquered. All that Satan needs to do is what he's already done to Eve, whisper into the church's ear, do as you please, or as the Satanist would say, Do what thou wilt, shall be the whole of the law.

The primary tool that Satan has used to infiltrate the church, listen to me very carefully, to peddle his message, due as you please, is, in fact, the pseudo-grace message. A message that says, The law of God has been done away with; you don't need the law; it's obsolete; it's antiquated. Christ did away with the law, despite what Yeshua says in Matthew 5:17-18—¹⁷ [“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or](#)

the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. This is a prophetic statement. Yeshua knew what was coming, what man would do, and how man would pervert, and He wanted to make sure that you don't even think that that is His purpose in coming, to do away with the law. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Look around you; heaven and earth are still intact. Therefore, not a jot or a tittle will pass from the Torah.

In my head it takes me to Second Thessalonians, where Paul is talking about Satan. He's talking about the son of perdition coming and being revealed. 2 Thessalonians 2:8—And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the LORD will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. What does Paul call Satan? He identifies the son of perdition with a very peculiar name, the lawless one; the lawless one.

Despite what Yeshua says in Matthew 5:17, Satan has still been able to peddle his lie, and because of this, what are the effects upon the church? What are the effects of going out and preaching that the law has been done away with? Preaching a pseudo-grace message, what happens to the church? I'll tell you what happens. It strips the church of its ability to identify sin, and according to the New Testament, the law does that very thing; it helps us identify sin. Paul says in Romans 3:20—Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Go to Romans 7:7, and what does it say? ... For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." Go to James 2:9—... you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. It talks about being convicted by the law as transgressors; that's what James talks about. If you take this knowledge away, strip the church of the conviction of the Holy Spirit, of the Ruach HaKodesh, and you will literally interrupt the process of salvation.

Let me explain, and I'll do so with Paul's words. He says in II Corinthians 7:10—For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted, but the sorrow of the world produces death. Do you see what he said? He just gave us the process of salvation, how it works. It is first Godly sorrow, and then because of that Godly sorrow, what happens? That burn in your heart to Godly sorrow produces repentance. Because of my heart, the conviction that is upon my heart, I listen to the Holy Spirit, I turn away from wickedness, and I turn to God. What does that produce? What does that lead to? Repentance leads to salvation; that's what happens.

What do we have happening in this nation right now? We have pastors who are operating as spiritual anesthesiologists. They're killing, deadening the pain of Godly sorrow so that what doesn't happen is repentance, and what will never happen is salvation. Strip away the church's ability to define or identify sin, and I can promise you one thing: they will wallow in it; they will bathe in sin because it's the nature of our flesh to do so. It's in the nature of the flesh to do that which is contrary to holiness; that's all your flesh knows.

Paul says in Romans 7:18—For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. He talks about that in my flesh, nothing good dwells; this is a fact; your flesh wants control. When you remove the very standard, which keeps you in check and causes conviction, look out because destruction is going to be upon you very, very soon. Unfortunately, when you look at the majority of churches today, you don't find them holding the line. They're not fighting back the forces of wickedness. They're not defending righteousness. They're not making the distinction between that which is clean and that which is unclean, between that which is holy and that which is unholy. Unfortunately, what we find in the church is compromise. What we find in

the church is a toleration of sin, and they're not just tolerating sin; they're accepting it. They're not just accepting it; they're now promoting it. All under the guise, mind you, of a perverse form of the grace message, all under this grace message that is not biblical grace.

The Bible does not fall short of warning us with biblical text of this very thing. Listen to what Isaiah has to say—Isaiah 30:9-10—⁹ ... **this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD**; I need to stop right here because you need to see what just happened. We just identified in the eyes of the LORD who are those who are rebellious and those who are lying children. Now, when you think of “**lying children**,” it immediately brings you to John 8:44, where Yeshua is condemning and rebuking the Pharisees, saying, **You are of your father the devil**, and what does He tell us about the devil? **He is a liar and the father of it**. Yet, in this passage, these people are called “**lying children**,” they are children of the devil. What do they display as children of the devil? We're told as we continue. What do they do? You, **children who will not hear the law of the LORD**. They put their hands on their ears. They refuse to hear it. Children of the devil ¹⁰ **Who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits**. In other words, let us carouse in the pleasures of our flesh. Do not convict us; leave us alone; we want to do what our flesh is telling us to do.

This is the very thing that we find the Apostle Paul warning Timothy about. Things which he foretold, interestingly enough, that would happen to the church. Listen to these words:—2 Timothy 4:3-4—³ **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables**. You need to understand many of the sheep in the churches today have become a product of this very passage. They have itching ears, and they want smooth things spoken to them.

They want their pastors to tell them that they're going to have peace even though they walk according to the dictates of their own hearts. They don't want to hear about conviction. They don't want to hear God's law; they just want to hear that no matter what they do or how they behave, everything is going to be all right. So, they raise up pastors who will indulge their flesh. With all the regret and sorrow in my heart, unfortunately, I can tell you this has happened on a massive scale across this nation, and we're feeling the effects of it today. We're feeling the effects of the pseudo-grace message. A message that says, Do as you please. A message which the apostles warned us about. The apostles warned us about this, not to fall into it. We are not to corrupt biblical grace, true grace.

Listen to what Peter says in 1 Peter 2:15-16—¹⁵ **For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice**, in Greek it's *kakia* (κακία), vice means wickedness, not using liberty as a cloak for wickedness, **but as bondservants of God**. Did you just see what Peter said? Yes, we are free because Yeshua has freed us from the law of sin and death; He paid our price. Don't you dare go out and act in wickedness, act in your flesh, and then cover it with the cloak of We're all under grace; this is beautiful. Don't do it; we've been warned.

Jude, Yehudah (יְהוֹדָה), says in Jude 1:4—**For certain men have crept in; they're sneaky little men, right? Creeping in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only LORD God and our LORD Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ**. This is what happens. They are turning the grace of God into lewdness; they're perverting the biblical form of grace. As Jude goes on and says, and by doing so, by perverting this form of grace, he

says they denied the only LORD God. He's not referring to it in their mouth; they're going around and saying, Well, Jesus is not the Christ. That's not what he's saying. He's saying it in the exact same context that Paul uses in his letter to Titus, that people would profess to know God, but in works, they deny Him. The fruit bears witness to who they really are.

Unfortunately, this is exactly what has happened to the church in this country. Men have crept in unnoticed, and they have turned the grace of God into lewdness. They've turned it into filthiness, and yet they are so quick to confess His name. They're quick to tell you that they are Christian, but their hearts are far from Him, and their actions testify to who they really are, and it's not just the sheep. You can't just pick on the sheep of the congregations alone because we have the shepherds to blame as well. The shepherds are the ones who are supposed to be bringing the moral conviction to the people. The shepherds are supposed to be restraining the people when they're encouraged to sin. When they're encouraged to compromise, it's supposed to be the shepherds that are standing up to protect the sheep. Where are the shepherds? Yet, we have these very same shepherds leading the charge in the campaign of compromise, leading the charge in the campaign to conform to the world and the lust of it.

We have pastors; think about this, and I know you know this to be true. Pastors who are preaching the name-it-and-claim-it doctrine, this prosperity, they are preaching prosperity, give us all your money so that God will bless you and so that you can have all the materialistic desires of your heart. Send your money in.

There are televangelists shamefully manipulating the public. Shamefully manipulating the elderly, telling them to dig deep into their pockets because they know they have it; they know they've been saving their money. We have people waiting on standby to pray for you; all you need to do is send us your money. I'm not kidding; I'm not making this up. I just saw a video of a televangelist some years ago who was on TV, and I was sharing this with Darren this week. He said, Send us your money. If you send us your gift, we have this holy anointing oil right from Jerusalem, from the Holy City, and when we send it to you, then you can anoint your wallet. I'm not making this up. You would think I'm trying to be funny; I am not being funny. This guy literally said, So that you can anoint your wallet for that financial blessing, just send your money in. That's disgusting. Think about that.

If that weren't crazy enough, we have pastors living like rock stars. Has anyone heard about these pastors or Preachers of L.A.? When I was turned onto this, I didn't know anything about it, and I don't have TV, so I went to the internet, and I clicked on the video, and it was the commercial for the show; however, I didn't know that. I'm watching this, Preachers of L.A.; okay, I have to check out what all the buzz is about. I thought it was a parody, a spoof. This isn't real because I'm used to the public mocking Christianity, right? They do it all the time, Saturday Night Live, mocking Christianity; you see this happening. So, to me, I'm watching this thinking this isn't real; this is a parody; it's a spoof. No, they're living like rock stars. It's unbelievable.

If that weren't enough, we have the new feature; the latest trend has happened to the church: homosexuality among the clergy. Literally leading, the shepherds are embracing homosexuality. We have pastors addicted to pornography, yet Sunday after Sunday, they step up to the pulpit and preach the name of Jesus. We have pastors engaged in a list of sexual affairs in their own congregation with congregants, with secretaries, yet Sunday after Sunday, they preach the Gospel of Jesus. Sex scandals are beyond number. I pondered whether I would even show you some examples, but I kid you not, if I was to print one by one on paper, I could literally put it on the ground here, and it would go higher than the ceiling, the peak of the ceiling, and that is not in the Catholic Church; that is in Protestantism. It's

unbelievable. Those are only the ones that are known, that have been convicted; it's unbelievable. There are unbridled passions running amok among the shepherds, who are supposed to be leading the congregations.

I want to share with you a warning that the LORD gives to shepherds. It's found in the Book of Ezekiel, and it's worth sharing. —Ezekiel 34:1-3—¹ And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ² "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD God to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? ³ You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The very purpose of a shepherd is to feed the flock. They need to be fed; they need to be cared for. The *kohanim*, the priests, were the ones that would shepherd; you had Pharisees as well. What did they do? They went out and preached and taught the Word of God. They gave the people understanding. They protected the flock. They encouraged them to walk into righteousness.

We continue this rebuke of the shepherds in Ezekiel 34:4-5—⁴ The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. What happens? ⁵ So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. I want you to think about that for a second. This passage is saying that the shepherds didn't walk away. They were still as though they were doing their job, but it's as though there is no shepherd. When the shepherd stops doing his job, when he stops shepherding the sheep, feeding his own fat face full of whatever he wants, and all the time focuses on himself, but not feeding the flock, not sharing the Gospel, and not encouraging them to walk into righteousness, what happens to the sheep? They scatter, and they are devoured; it's a total collapse of the church.

On the heels of this, let me take you back a few chapters to Ezekiel 22:25-26—²⁵ The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. ²⁶ Her priests, the *kohanim*, are supposed to be doing what? They're supposed to be teaching the people. The people, according to Malachi 2:7, are supposed to ... seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. The little sheep go bleating, bleating, bleating, coming up to him seeking Torah from his mouth because he's the messenger of God. Here, in Ezekiel 22:26, we see her priests, her *kohanim*, have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy. My goodness, this is hitting it on the head with the problem of the church today. There's no more distinguishing between that which is holy and unholy. You can keep Shabbat whatever day you want despite what God commands right within the 10 commandments. We can go on example after example, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. God is profaned when the shepherds collapse and they do not do their job because the sheep fall as well.

Going on to Ezekiel 22:27-30—²⁷ Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. ²⁸ Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the LORD God,' when the LORD had not spoken. They go out impersonating the LORD. ²⁹ The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. A great description of what's going on in this nation right now, and what is said next, is really frightening. It's something that you have to take into consideration when you think about the death of America. ³⁰ So

I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

There should have been a concerted effort on behalf of the shepherds to rein in the sin to make a wall holding back the forces of darkness and crying out to the people, making them understand the difference between holy and unholy, but when the shepherds fall, the sheep are scattered, and thus what is the result? —Ezekiel 22:31—**Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the LORD God.** This is what we can expect to happen in this country on a very, very intense level.

With shepherds not shepherding the sheep and the sheep embracing (1 John 2:16) **the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**, what do you think is going to happen to this country? Where its own churches have fallen when the moral conscience of this society has collapsed. What do you think is really going to happen? I'll tell you what will happen, what we see happening right now, darkness sweeping over the land, literally consuming it. This nation is rotting from the inside out. This nation has forgotten God. They don't want God in their lives. They don't want God in their marriages. They don't want God in their homes. They don't want God in the workplace. They don't want God in the government buildings, and they don't want God in schools.

Take, for example, prayer in schools. There has been a nasty little trend developing over the years in our country to inhibit prayer in our schools, and it's happening more and more. Let me give you some examples of what I'm talking about, and with these examples, you're going to get a glimpse of where our country was and where our country is today. What I'm going to do is show you a variety of court cases, and I could spend two months on the subject, but I'm not going to do that. I'm going to give you enough today to prove my point about the reality of what has happened.



In 1962 there was a very significant case that took place known as *Engle vs. Vitale*, and this was a case that took place in the state of New York. It was about whether or not public school districts should be involved in prayer. The argument brought forth suggested that it was unconstitutional for the school under the First Amendment to sponsor any form of religion whatsoever. Well, I'm going to provide some information in regard to this case because I want you to have perspective on it—what really transpired.

The following I'm going to show is taken from the Chicago-Kent College of Law site, which specifies the facts of the case; listen to the facts of this case. —*Engel v. Vitale*, 82 S. Ct. 1261 (1962)—FACTS OF THE CASE:—**The Board of Regents for the State of New York authorized a short, voluntary prayer for recitation at the start of each school day. This was an attempt to defuse the politically potent issue by taking it out of the hands of local communities.** This is interesting. Here you have the Board of Regents coming in to take this burden off the hands of the local communities. These things were happening, okay, this prayer was happening. **The blindest of invocations**, meaning the dumbed-down, the simplest version of the prayer, that's all this means, **read as follows:** this is the prayer: **"Almighty God, we**

acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and beg Thy blessings upon us, our teachers, and our country."

This is the matter at hand; this is what was being debated in this court case, this prayer, and whether the school could in fact sponsor this prayer, be involved with this prayer, or lead this prayer. Now we get to the question of the case. —QUESTION:—[Does the reading of a nondenominational prayer at the start of the school day violate the "establishment of religion" clause of the First Amendment?](#) This is the question of the case.

For those of you who are not familiar with the First Amendment, I'll briefly show you. —Amendment 1—[Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof](#); then it goes on to list some other things such as freedom of speech and freedom of the press, but the establishment clause is the first part. It's called the establishment clause of the First Amendment, which is the first part—[or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.](#)

This is the question: Does it violate, does prayer in school violate the First Amendment? Specifically, in this particular instance, it was non-denominational prayer. Well, here's the court's decision; it was 6 to 1 for Engel, and what does that mean? Yes. Neither the prayer's non-denominational character nor its voluntary character saves it from unconstitutionality. In other words, understand what was just said: the fact that the prayer was generic and the fact that the prayer was, in fact, voluntary doesn't save it. It doesn't save it; it is still, according to this case, unconstitutional; it's the law of the land. It goes on to explain:— Oyez, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, WEBPAGE: http://www.oyez.org/cases/1960-1969/1961/1961_468—[By providing the prayer, New York officially approved religion.](#) This is what it was saying: if you provide the prayer, then you're approving the religion. [This was the first in a series of cases in which the Court used the establishment clause to eliminate religious activities of all sorts, which had traditionally been a part of public ceremonies. Despite the passage of time, the decision is still unpopular with a majority of Americans.](#)

Do you realize what they just said? This is amazing; this case was so important, Engel versus Vitale, that they utilized this case to go on and degrade and demoralize the rest of this nation because it tells us that there was prayer traditionally offered in public ceremonies. This was traditional; we've been doing this, but now all of a sudden, it's unconstitutional. My point is, you see where we were and where we are today.

I have actually investigated the case. Through audio, I've heard the case argued, and I went into the transcripts. I went through the transcripts very, very closely of this case, and I want to share with you portions of what happened, what transpired in this case, and what was argued because it is so telling. Specifically, I'm going to show you the opening statement made by legal representative William Butler, who was representing Engel, who destroyed prayer in schools. Listen to what this attorney says in his opening statement. —William J. Butler— [Mr. Justice Harlan, this is a recommendation by the Board of Regents of the State of New York to all school districts and it has been adopted by many of the school districts throughout the State of New York. The exact number of school districts that have adopted the saying of this prayer, the prayer that we already talked about, it is unknown from the record except that it is in a substantial amount of school districts within the State.](#) In other words, what this attorney is saying is that this prayer is prevalent throughout the entire state. I'm not quite sure how he knows that, particularly in little, small schools here and there or whatever, but one thing I know is this is prevalent throughout the entire state.

Kids, we're praying, and teachers, we're leading the prayers. He goes on: [Before continuing and getting into the specific facts of the argument, we think it \[the\] issue here fundamentally is the Government's role in the religious education of our youth.](#) Did you catch that? The fundamental issue here is the government's role in the religious education of our youth [through the public school system of our nation.](#) Amazing. [To what extent, the question will be raised, can a state participate in the religious training of our youth?](#) Yes, that is the question, obviously; in this case, it's the heart of the matter. Can a state participate in the religious training of our youth? [To what extent can it insert in its compulsory institutions, prayers or religious observances?](#) The instant prayer or the instant religious activity or exercise arose from a meeting of the Board of Regents of the State of New York on November 30th, 1951.

It goes on: [This authority, which sets the educational standards of all of the public schools of New York State,](#) when he says this authority, he's talking about the New York Board of Regents, [in a statement I issued on that day, and I'd like to quote from it since it is very brief, stated simply as follows.](#) In other words, this is what the Board of Regents has declared.

Then he goes into it and tells the justice, he says, [At folio 84,](#) he's submitting evidence, [said the unanimous decision of the Board of Regents.](#) What did the Board of Regents say as they instituted all this prayer in the schools? [In our opinion, the securing of the peace and safety of our country and our state against such dangers points to the essentiality of teaching our children as set forth in the Declaration of Independence that Almighty God is their Creator and that by Him, they have been endowed with their inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We believe that at the commencement of each school day, the Act of Allegiance to the Flag might well be joined with this act of reverence to God,](#) and then they cite the prayer, [prayer] "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country."

The attorney goes on: [Further at page 29, folio 87, the Regents concluded by saying,](#) listen to this statement: "[We believe that thus the school will fulfill its high function of supplementing the training of the home.](#)" I need to stop here. Do you see what they realized, such wisdom that they had? The school saw their responsibility as merely supplementing that which the parents were teaching their kids at home. Not usurping, not undermining, supplementing what they were teaching at home. How so many people had their heads screwed on straight back then; look at this, [ever intensifying.](#) What's the purpose of this prayer? —[in the child that love for God, for parents, and for home which is the mark of true character, training, and a sure guarantee of a country's welfare.](#)" Think about the power of that statement. They saw what they were doing by leading prayer and encouraging the students to do the same; what would it produce? They knew it would produce love for God, love for their teachers, and love for their parents. I'd call this a very, very good thing, an essential thing according to the Board of Regents—very essential.

Unfortunately, you already know the outcome of this case. They declared state-sponsored prayer unconstitutional, and make no mistake, by doing so, what did they do? Understand, they voted God out of our schools; it's exactly what happened. Now, some of you might say, Oh, Daniel, you're so confused; it's not necessarily true because kids can still pray in schools. We have that thing called See You at the Pole™ every year, that's on school grounds. Kids across this nation get together to pray, right? Before school, they get together to pray; it's called See You at the Pole™, and they can pray before school. Kids can get together and pray after school; they can form Bible study groups after school; they can do all

these things. They can pray during school as long as they don't disrupt or offend. If they have a test and want to pray, they have to do so discreetly.

Apparently people that take that position think we still have prayer in schools, that, oh, everything's just fine, Daniel. You don't know what you're talking about. Let me tell you something: if you believe everything is just fine, I really feel sorry for you because it shows that you have no idea what is going on. Your head is in the sand; you have no idea about the dangerous and precarious situation we are in. Taking away school-sponsored prayer and taking away Bible reading in the schools is something that, make no mistake, has played a critical role in shaping and developing the youth of this country. You take that away and watch moral decay set in.

Proof? Go back to 1962 and look at today. Look at schools; look at the issues that are plaguing the schools versus what was plaguing the schools in the 1950s. I mean, my goodness, this is common sense, people; watch the moral decay that has set in. Having teachers set the examples and encouraging their students through prayer is critical to the welfare of this nation. If you haven't noticed yet, this nation is feeling the effects of the court's decision in *Engel v. Vitale*. There are several social consequences when you make decisions like declaring a voluntary prayer unconstitutional, a prayer that cultivates love for God, love for parents, love for teachers and love for the country.

There is a trend that is happening, and you need to open your eyes. You need to see it; it's a very scary trend. Little by little they are confining Judeo-Christianity, confining believers into a box. First, all the schools across this nation were engaging in prayer and Bible reading. Then what happened? Now we're going to draw a box for you, and you'll have to fit in this box. You can only pray under these specific restrictions. I'm going to tell you something: instead of See You at the Pole™, it's going to be See You Later very soon. That's what's going to happen because do you know what they're going to do? If you think it ends here, and you think we're going to continue down this path where they're going to be able to pray privately, you're wrong. There's going to come a day they're going to say it's unconstitutional for the kids to get together at the pole and pray. That is what is coming; open your eyes to it.

Let me share with you a quote that applies to this situation by Adolf Hitler. —Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*—[“The best way to take control over a people and control them utterly is to take a little of their freedom at a time, to erode rights by a thousand tiny and almost imperceptible reductions. In this way, the people will not see those rights and freedoms being removed until past the point at which these changes cannot be reversed.”](#) It's literally happening right before your eyes. This has been happening for the last 50 to 60 years, a little at a time, taking away the rights.

Let me share with you another court case—*Oyez*, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, *Abington School District v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203 (1963)—[Court finds Bible reading over school intercom unconstitutional](#). Stop. What was happening prior to this case? The school system, they were reading the Bible; this is a fact. Do you see this, where we were and where we are today? It's a scary trend.

Let me share with you the facts of the case. [FACTS OF THE CASE: The Abington case concerns Bible reading in Pennsylvania public schools](#). I intentionally picked these particular cases, not out of the same state but different states, to show you that this is collectively a serious problem across the nation. There's a trend; the Abington case concerns Bible reading in Pennsylvania. This isn't New York, it's Pennsylvania Public Schools. [At the beginning of the school day, students who attended public schools in the state of Pennsylvania were required to read at least ten verses from the Bible. After completing these readings, school authorities required all Abington Township students to recite the Lord's Prayer.](#)

They were reading the Bible, more verses than most Christians read today, and they were opening up with prayer. Honestly, how many Christians are praying every day? It's a sad deal. [Students could be excluded from these exercises by a written note from their parents to the school.](#) Again, what is it? Voluntary; we're not cramming this, we're not shoving this down your throat. God has given mankind free will; He doesn't want forced worship; it won't be accepted. You see, these school districts understood these things—amazing.

Let me share with you another one. —Oyez, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, *Stone v. Graham* 449 U.S. 39 (1980)—[Court finds posting of the Ten Commandments in schools unconstitutional.](#) This is more recent, 1980. [FACTS OF THE CASE: Sydell Stone and a number of other parents challenged Kentucky: this isn't Pennsylvania, this isn't New York, this is Kentucky. Challenged a Kentucky state law that required the posting of a copy of the Ten Commandments in each public school classroom.](#) Do you get what was just said? Every school class, every single school classroom, throughout the entire state of Kentucky had to have a copy of the 10 Commandments. Think about that. [They filed a claim against James Graham, the superintendent of public schools in Kentucky.](#)

What was the conclusion, the outcome of this case? [CONCLUSION: In a 5-to-4 per curiam decision, which simply means a ruling from the appellate level, the Court ruled that the Kentucky law violated the first part of the test established in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, and thus violated the Establishment Clause of the Constitution. The Court found that the requirement that the Ten Commandments be posted "had no secular legislative purpose" and was "plainly religious in nature."](#) No kidding, of course it was religious in nature. [The Court noted that the Commandments did not confine themselves to arguably secular matters \(such as murder, stealing, etc.\), but rather concerned matters such as the worship of God and the observance of the Sabbath Day.](#) How awesome is that, what they recognized?

Let me tell you something: I could give you story after story; I could cite case after case, all of which point to a horrific trend that has been sweeping this nation for the last 50 or 60 years. It's a trend that's moving away from God and embracing wickedness, a very grotesque, very perverse trend. What I've shown you, what we've gone over, is just more evidence indicating what is coming upon this nation. I am building a case as we continue throughout this series.

It's no coincidence that they are taking God out of the schools. Why do I say that? They want the children. Adolf Hitler said, ["He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future."](#) Where do you think we're going? Do you see what's happening? Vladimir Lenin said, ["Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted."](#) They want the children; it's a very scary trend that we're going through.

We're going to end here today, and we'll continue next week.