

## **Communities without God Show Why We Need Fathers**

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • June 21, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020

Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – Ephesians 4.17–19

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs about God

### **Prelude:**

#### **I. Fathers, teach your children the ways of God, for**

A. if they do not know the ways of God

B. you will set on a path of corruption and destruction.

1. Yes, some children will forsake the Lord and

2. live what appears to be decent lives, but then

a) they will have to stand before God

b) to give an account of the way that they had lived.

(1) They will wish then that they had known God.

(2) Some you can teach the ways of God, but

(a) later they will decide to forsake.

(b) However, you will have done what you were supposed to do.

#### **II. Fathers, we, along with their mothers, have the responsibility**

A. to teach our children and grandchildren about God:

**4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

**– Ephesians 6.4**

B. Malachi 2 makes a declaration

1. that you have probably observed.

2. In fact, it has come up often

a) when the world discusses the problem of young black men and crime.

b) The problem they say is the lack of a father at home.

3. To confirm how much that can contribute to a child's moral decline:

**15 “But did He not make them one,  
Having a remnant of the Spirit?  
And why one?  
He seeks godly offspring.  
Therefore take heed to your spirit,  
And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.**

**16 For the LORD God of Israel says  
That He hates divorce,  
For it covers one's garment with violence,”  
Says the LORD of hosts.  
“Therefore take heed to your spirit,  
That you do not deal treacherously.”**

**– Malachi 2.15–16**

- a) The men were divorcing their wives and
- b) God hated that they were doing that.
  - (1) Why did He hate it?
  - (2) He made them, the husband and the wife, as one.
    - (a) Why did God make Adam and Even one?
      - i) (And all that marriages that follow.)
    - (b) He sought godly offspring.

C. Therefore,

- 1. if fathers do not bring up their children in the training and admonition of the Lord, and
- 2. if fathers treat the mother of his children treacherously (Mal 2.14), and
- 3. if fathers abandon their children, either
  - a) by leaving them or
  - b) by neglecting to teach and to train them,
    - (1) most of the time their children will go on to live ungodly lives.

**III. Fathers, you wield great influence in the lives of your children.**

- A. That does not mean that they will always do what you want them to do.
- B. They have minds of their own just as you and I do.
  - 1. However, I do wonder where our nation would be
  - 2. if our fathers had raised their children in the training of the Lord.

#### **IV. Let me show you why we must instill the ways of God**

- A. into the lives of our children.
- B. Let me show you what happens when
  - 1. you remove God from a community.
  - 2. It is not pleasant.

#### **V. If we remove God and the Bible from society,**

- A. we can actually have a good idea
- B. of what daily life would be like.
  - 1. All you have to do is
  - 2. read the Bible, look at history, and then look at our society right now.

#### **Persuasion:**

##### **I. What the Bible Says Life Is Like without God**

###### **A. Second Chronicles 15.1–7**

**1 Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. 2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. 3 For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law; 4 but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. 5 And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands. 6 So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity. 7 But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"**

– 2 Chronicles 15.1–7

B. Psalm 14

- 1      The fool has said in his heart,  
          “**There is no God.**”  
          They are corrupt,  
          They have done abominable works,  
          There is none who does good.
- 2      The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men,  
          To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.
- 3      They have all turned aside,  
          They have together become corrupt;  
          There is none who does good,  
          No, not one.

– Psalm 14.1–3

C. Romans 1 shows why things are the way they are today.

**18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled**

**with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**

**– Romans 1.18–32**

D. Ephesians 4.17–19

**17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

**– Ephesians 4.17–19**

## **II. Does Life Show These Passages to Be True?**

A. The Roman World

B. Pitcairn Island

1. [Accompanying article to this sermon]
2. From Christian History:

**“Exposure to the outer world brought the Pitcairn islanders more books (including Seventh-Day Adventist literature), opportunities to visit other countries, and visitors. One of those was a Seventh Day Adventist layman named John L. Tay, who converted everyone on Pitcairn Island to Seventh-Day Adventism in 1887.”**

C. End of the Spear movie

**“Based on actual events from 1956 in which five male missionaries were speared by a group of the Waodani tribe, the movie tells the story from the perspective of Steve Saint (the son of Nate Saint, one of the missionaries**

**killed in the encounter), and Mincayani, one of the tribesmen who took part in the attack. The two eventually formed a lifelong bond that continued until Mincaye's death in April 2020."**

**– Wikipedia**

#### D. Communist Nations

1. North Korea
2. China
3. Vietnam
4. Cuba
5. Laos
  - a) Those five nations are what is left of the communist nations.
  - b) Who wants to go live there?
    - (1) If not, why not?
    - (2) If we do not,
      - (a) let us not contribute to create that here
      - (b) by neglecting to teach our children.
6. I went to the former Soviet Union two years after it collapsed.
  - a) Have I told you my thoughts as I saw Moscow?
  - b) I thought to myself:
    - (1) "This is the capital of a former super power of the world?"
    - (2) Moscow is the place to live.
      - (a) The people are wonderful, just like anywhere else.
      - (b) They hunger for a knowledge of God and the Bible because
        - i) for 72 years those subjects were forbidden.
        - ii) You could tell.
7. Ten places sought to create Utopia, but God was not the center.

- a) Ordos, China
  - b) Magnitogorsk, Russia
  - c) Pruitt-Igoe on the edge of St. Louis, Missouri, USA
  - d) Home, Washington
  - e) Palmanova, Italy
  - f) New Delhi, India
  - g) Milton Keynes, England
  - h) Arcosanti, Arizona, USA
  - i) Skopje, Macedonia
  - j) Jonestown, Guyana
- E. From the University of Southern California:

**Zócalo quoted Richard Flory, a senior research associate at the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, about how faith builds stronger communities in a section called “Answering the ultimate questions.”**

**“Specifically, I think religion contributes to strong communities in three fundamental ways. First, religion provides spiritual, social, psychological and often material support for individuals and families. Since religion deals in ‘ultimate’ matters, it helps people make sense of their lives, as well as their role in their families and in their communities.”**

– <https://crcc.usc.edu/how-religion-strengthens-community/>

### **Exhortation:**

#### **I. Fathers, we must first know the ways of the Lord**

A. before we can expect our children to know His ways.

#### **II. If we know the ways of the Lord, and**

A. if we live the ways of the Lord,

B. our children will be more likely to follow the ways of the Lord.

#### **III. Blessed are you fathers who teach your children about God.**