

Make His Name Known

Judges 2: 7-10

It is becoming painfully evident that America as a whole has forsaken her Christian heritage. There are fewer believers today than there were ten years ago. Churches are in decline and sin is rampant. The youth are going away to college and many of them never return to the church. The Christian voice and influence in society is growing fainter and much weaker with each passing year.

A recent study released by *Barna Group* reveals an alarming trend. The research reveals that the number of churchless Americans has risen sharply since the early 1990s, when only around two out of 10 adults were churchless.

That figure rose to three in 10 in the early 2000s and today now stands at nearly half the adult population (49 per cent).

Those who have never attended church make up 10 per cent of the population but a far higher figure is the de-churched - those who were once active in church but are no longer - who make up exactly a third of American adults.

In total, there are around 156 million adults and children in the US who are churchless, with more than half of those born between 1984 and 2002 being unchurched, compared to just a third of those born before 1946.¹

Our text today deals with a similar situation in Israel many years ago. [Judges 2:10b – and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.](#) The attitude of the nation had changed in a few short years. The majority no longer sought the ways of God or desired to live for Him. [Judges 17:6 – In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.](#)

The spiritual climate of Israel in that day closely resembles the climate of our day. The question for us is: what are we going to do about the great need we face? I want to examine the [insights](#) of our text and present a solution as we consider the challenge to: [Make His Name Known](#).

I. The Commitment of the Faithful (7-8) – Our text reveals the determined commitment of Joshua and others among his generation. Consider:

A. The Leadership (7a, 8) – *And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua.* ^[8] *And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.* We find that Joshua lived to be a hundred and ten years old. His life was lived in service to the Lord. He had stepped in to lead Israel after the death of Moses. Prior to being called of God to lead the people, Joshua had faithfully served alongside Moses. God had prepared Joshua to lead and he had faithfully followed the Lord in leading the people.

- It is evident that Joshua had a positive and lasting impact on those who knew him and followed his leadership. Take a moment to consider [Joshua 24: 20-27](#). Prior to his death, he challenged the people to remain faithful to the Lord. He knew his life was nearing its end, but he remained faithful until his death.
- We are in desperate need of godly leadership in our day. We cannot overlook the importance and impact of leadership. The mantle has fallen in our day and no one appears to be willing to pick it up and serve the Lord. We need to live in such a way that God can use our lives to impact others. We ought to be praying that God would raise up some leaders in our day!

B. The Longevity (7b) – *And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.* Joshua had been faithful to the Lord as well as those who lived under his leadership. Israel served the Lord as long as this generation remained. They were committed to the Lord and influenced others to remain committed as well. These were not seeking an easy path to follow. They were not interested in the lure of the world. They were determined to serve the Lord as long as they lived.

- I think back over my Christian journey, and I realize the impact that faithful servants of the Lord have had on my life. Those who have influenced me the most were the ones who remained committed, even during the hard times. They were not looking to get out, but continually desired to be of service to the Lord.
- We have lost that in our day. Church attendance and serving the Lord has become a matter of convenience. Most are willing to give of their time and effort if it meets their schedule. We need those in our day who will determine to serve the Lord above all else!

II. The Complacency of the Neglectful (10) – *And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.* Here we discover the beginning stages of complacency and the damaging effects it brings. Consider:

A. The Contribution (10a) – *And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers:* Eventually Joshua and his entire generation passed away. Those who had faithfully served the Lord died and no one stepped up to assume the work they were performing. It likely happened over time, with a few things going undone, but the damaging trend had begun. Little by little the people were drifting from the Lord without even noticing. Over time, most of their worship and commitment to the Lord was abandoned because no one saw the need.

- We are making a profound contribution to the coming generation today. We will either prepare and equip them to serve the Lord or we will abandon our efforts and leave them without genuine passion and commitment. The decline in churches doesn't happen overnight. It usually occurs with a little complacency here a bit of neglect there. As those who were faithful in places of service go home to meet the Lord, no one steps up to pick up the mantle. What will Fellowship look like in twenty years if the younger generation follows our lead? Have we instilled enough in them spiritually to continue for the Lord?

B. The Progression (10b) – *and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.* As those who knew the Lord and served Him died off, there rose a generation who did not know the Lord. They had not been exposed to the ways of God or taught His Word and there was no desire to learn of Him. With the passing of one generation, spiritual darkness had enveloped Israel. A nation that once served the Lord, with Him being the very center of their being, now did not know the Lord or worship Him.

- Do you see the real and present danger here? Sadly America is heading in the same direction. We are steadily progressing into a nation that does not know the Lord. The coming generation has not been exposed to the Lord or His teaching. Our churches have become social clubs with a religious twist, but there is no transforming power among them. Our culture and society is ignorant of the Lord and His ways. If we don't soon reach the younger generation, we will have an entire nation that doesn't know the Lord!

C. The Transformation (12) – *And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.* Tragically, in one generation Israel turned from a people who loved the Lord and served Him unto a people who rejected the Lord and served others gods. Nationally they had become a heathen people who served idols. In just a few short years, the Lord was forsaken and no longer remembered among them!

- We are foolish to think this couldn't happen in America. In fact, we have already contributed to the progression toward forsaking the Lord. Our society is being transformed before our eyes. A

nation that once served the Lord and depended upon Him has turned her back on the Lord. Society has embraced every false god imaginable and there is no longer any restraint. We are being transformed into a people who do not know the Lord, nor care about learning of Him!

➤ Clearly we are in desperate times. So, how do we respond; what is the solution?

III. The Challenge for the Needful (Psalm 78:4-7) – Here we find the biblical solution to the alarming problem of our day. Notice:

A. The Urgency (4) – *We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.* The psalmist knew the importance of sharing the Word of God with the children. He senses the urgency to instill biblical truth in them at an early age. We too must sense the urgency and determine to reach our children and their generation with the truth of the Gospel.

B. The Responsibility (5) – *For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:* Each generation was responsible for sharing the Word of God to their children. They were responsible to make Him known among the people. If the testimony of the Lord wasn't shared, they could blame no one but themselves.

- It is easy to seek someone to blame for our problems, but we have no one to blame but ourselves. We are responsible to share the truth of God with those who have not heard. Our children and society have not heard of the Lord because we have failed to proclaim Him. We cannot depend upon the pastor, Sunday school teacher, or society to instruct our children. That is our responsibility. Who will determine to make our Lord known in our day?

C. The Opportunity (6) – *That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:* My grandparent's generation instructed my parent's generation in the ways of God. My parent's generation passed that instruction on to me. I was given the opportunity to hear the Gospel and the chance to respond to it. Now I am responsible to share the good news with my children's generation so they may share with the generation to come. We must ensure that the coming generations have the same opportunity to hear of the great sacrifice of Christ and salvation through Him!

D. The Conformity (7) – [That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments](#): Faithfulness pays dividends if we will commit to it. We are in the midst of a sinful and declining society. The majority has no knowledge of God nor a desire to learn of Him. We can reach them for the Lord if we will share what we have received. The coming generation can share in the hope we have, but we must make Christ known if that is to happen.

Conclusion: I am convinced we are living in a day much like the time revealed in the book of Judges. America has not lost her witness entirely, but if something doesn't change it will be gone. I don't want the coming generation to be identified as a people who do not know the Lord.

Surely we all sense the great need in our day. Are we going to address that need by making our Savior known to a lost and dying world, or are we going to sit silently by as our society continues its downward spiral away from God. If our generation doesn't rise to this challenge and proclaim the Gospel of Christ, we will soon experience a generation that doesn't know the Lord.

Are you concerned about the needs of our day? If so, why not come and seek the Lord for strength and wisdom to serve Him faithfully? Maybe you are among those who do not know the Lord. If so, I want you to know Jesus loves you. He is the answer to your problems. Apart from Him you remain in sin without hope. Jesus died so that you might be forgiven of sin and reconciled to God. If you are unsaved, respond to the call of Christ today!

ⁱ http://www.ministrybestpractices.com/2014/10/the-american-church-is-facing-herculean.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+blogspot%2FLZC+%28Ministry+Best+Practices%29#sthash.xtIGxWQT.dpuf