

# Who's Taking Our Liberty?

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There's a lot of tough talk going around about how to save our country from dire days ahead – some of it coming from religious Rambos who feel called to shake their fists and firearms in the face of danger – each bellowing their own retaliatory recipe for rescue and recovery while pontificating in patriotic prose and a vulgar verve things that sound more revengeful and rebellious than redemptive.

But you know, when I hear fellow Christians who have benefited immeasurably and eternally from a Gospel of love, mercy and grace talk loud and proud about “taking America back,” I have to wonder just whose agenda they've bought into and if they've given up on God in all their fear and frustration.

Certainly most of them realize that repentance is needed in this country more than ever and have said as much in their diatribes and dissertations. But, can there be true biblical repentance in this or any country without humility and brokenness before God?

Where then does pride play a role in that, save for our Lord Jesus Christ who was humble and broken Himself on a cross? And does repentance end with one's baptism, church membership and party affiliation?

We can cite the founding fathers and give lip service to the Lord all we want, but are we the same God-fearing people our Constitution and Bill of Rights were written for – or do we look and sound more like the kind of place God should send fire and brimstone raining down upon?

Consider the charge against Sodom and you tell me:

*“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.” – Ezekiel 16:49-50*

For those who are just now waking up to the reality around us, our precious liberty is under siege here in America. But, will that loss of liberty be the end of the road? If Almighty God, the giver of liberty, permits it to be taken away, for whatever reason, how then can we or anyone else take it back?

*“But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.” – Acts 5:39*

Since we know persecution is coming and may not be avoidable, what should Christians do to prepare? Is there a divine purpose behind oppression – that what men intend for evil, God might intend for good – and isn't the cross on which Jesus was crucified for our sin a perfect example of this?

While reading from the book of Acts last week during a morning devotional, I was struck by what King Agrippa said to the Roman procurator Festus concerning the Apostle Paul who lost his liberty in Jerusalem over a disturbance that broke out in the temple there involving Jews from Asia who vehemently objected to his teaching as described in chapter 21. They stirred up the crowd and authorities against Paul resulting in him being taken into custody for a hearing on the matter.

What really got my attention though, came later in chapter 26:

*“Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.” – Acts 26:32*

As a Roman citizen, Paul had the right to appeal to Caesar in his defense and did, which took him out of the angry hands of his Jewish accusers in Jerusalem and sent him on his way to the ruler of the Roman Empire to be heard.

Losing his liberty wasn't some miscalculation or unfortunate twist of fate; it was planned and prepared-for in advance. You see, he was prophetically warned just days earlier that he would be bound hand and foot in Jerusalem and delivered to the Gentiles if he showed up there, to which he responded: *“...for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” – Acts 21:13b*

The point is this: Spreading the Gospel was more important to Paul than retaining or regaining his liberty. Sure, there will always be those among us who cry: *“Give me liberty or give me death.”* Isn't it interesting though that Paul didn't see his loss of liberty as the end of the road, but just another spiritual stop along the way to the kingdom of God?

Finally, as you consider or maybe reconsider, who's to blame for liberty lost here in America and what should be done about it, I hope you'll take a minute to watch a short and startling video I've provided a link to below. It might give you a new perspective on things and help you plan for the future.

[God's Judgment on America?](#)

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