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## **“IF MY PEOPLE...”**

As I write this, the nation is still in a state of shock and mourning over the horrific murder of 19 school children and 2 of their teachers that took place last Tuesday at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX. As is usual after these terrible events, politicians and pundits postulate their solution to the problem. Some even express their anger when folks mention that they are praying for those who have lost loved ones. For the most part the debate is over gun control...but some have correctly talked about the need for more mental health facilities and treatment. But that's not the entire solution either. The reality is something has changed in our society. Some of you are old enough to remember when students would turn up to high school in a truck with a gun in the rack. In those days there was no thought of settling grievances by shooting a bunch of people...rather, scores were settled out back in the old fashioned way! The problem is much deeper than guns and mental health.

I don't claim to have the political answer to this problem...but I have observed a number of things during my time in the U.S. We live in a society where the slaughter of 63 million unborn babies is applauded by some...and ignored by many, where Pro-Choice supporters scream that “God Loves Abortion!”, where people have difficulty in defining what a woman is, where some people think men can become pregnant, where homosexuality is accepted and applauded by mainline Protestant denominations, where 25% of all children have no fatherly influence in their lives (up 300% from 1960), where 67% of all black children are born into a single parent household, when the nuclear family is being dismantled, where public schools are more interested in indoctrinating children on current social trends rather than providing real education. I could go on...but I know you get the picture.

But there is one more reason for the downward spiral of the American society. We have abandoned our reliance on God. The issues we are facing are not,

at their root, political, societal, social, or psychological...they are spiritual. So, what's the answer?

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 we read these words, *"If my people who are called by my Name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and heal their land."* If ever a verse of Scripture needs to be taken seriously...it's this one! Remember what the Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:17, *"Judgment begins in the house of the Lord"*. Also remember that 2 Chronicles 7:14 begins with the words, *"If MY people..."*. The church in America needs to repent for its own sins before healing can come to the nation. My prayer is that God would forgive us for our sins:

- the sin of compromising our faith by conforming to this world's standards
- the sin of apathy as we watch our nation decline morally and spiritually
- the sin of being fearful, keeping silent and doing nothing
- the moral sins and abuses that have been perpetrated by Christian leaders

May God have mercy on our land.