

Time to Rebuild  
January 1, 2017

Communion during praise and worship

I First Sunday of new year

A) Excitement + Challenges

- 1) Election of Donald Trump was just the beginning
- 2) Since then, those in opposition have tried to manipulate the results
- 3) They tried to intimidate the Electors
- 4) They have isolated themselves from Trump and promote their version of a new world
  - a) Other A-listers consider performing for Trump as supporting Hitler
  - b) One college will not allow Sean Spicer, Trump's incoming press secretary, to address students
  - c) But another university upheld their version of free speech by allowing a professor's right to tweet that he hoped the Christmas season would begin with a "white genocide."
  - d) Nancy Pelosi has stated her party will do nothing different and will oppose Trump's agenda
- 5) Biggest indicator that this will be a year of excitement and challenges is Obama's treatment of Israel
  - a) For the first time, the United States was behind a resolution condemning Israel for building settlements
  - b) For the first time, the US refused to veto the resolution
  - c) John Kerry blamed Israel for the failure to achieve peace
  - d) For the first time, Israel truly stood alone as the US abandoned her
  - e) **SLIDE Genesis 12:3 (NIV)** [The LORD said to Abraham,]<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

f) **Isaiah 62:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

g) **Psalms 122:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure.

h) **Luke 19:41 (NIV)** As he [Jesus] approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it

B) **SLIDE** Whole lot of shaking going on

1) **Psalms 99:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

2) **Haggai 2:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

3) We have seen the beginnings of this shaking as this nation struggles to find its footing

4) We will see more shaking as the Lord reveals what is not of Him

## II **SLIDE** Covenant

A) In the beginning...

1) Over the past 8 years we have heard many times that we are not and never have been a Christian nation

2) Why would our president say this? To distance himself and this nation from God

3) This nation would not exist without God's help and without men and women who honored Him

4) During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress called for prayer and fasting eight times

5) President Washington asked the nation to fast and pray

6) President Adams, President Madison, President Buchanan, President Lincoln, Pres. Tyler, Pres. Johnson, Pres. Reagan - all called this nation to pray and fast

7) **SLIDE** Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Warren Burger wrote, "The men who wrote the First Amendment religion clause

did not view paid legislative chaplains and opening prayers as a violation of that amendment... the practice of opening sessions with prayer has continued without interruption ever since that early session of Congress. It can hardly be thought that in the same week the members of the first Congress voted to appoint and pay a chaplain for each House and also voted to approve the draft of the First Amendment... (that) they intended to forbid what they had just declared acceptable.

- 8) Yet, today, Jesus is no longer welcome
- 9) Our leaders have described Him as just another deity Who deserves no special recognition
- 10) His Word no longer brings life; instead, it offends people
- 11) We have exchanged the truth for a lie

B) **SLIDE Isaiah 28:15-17 (NIV)** <sup>15</sup> You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave [sheol or hell] we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place." <sup>16</sup> So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. <sup>17</sup> I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.

- 1) I believe this passage describes this nation
- 2) It speaks of darkness vs. light, of lies vs. truth, of shaky foundations vs. true foundation
- 3) This passage describes the battle we will face this coming year
- 4) If we are on solid ground, this will be exciting but challenging

5) **SLIDE Verse 15**

- a) This nation has boasted that we do not have a covenant God
- b) Our leaders have consistently and forcefully boasted that God is simply another God with no special privileges
- c) Instead, we have entered into a covenant of death

- d) The wages of sin is death, and this nation has embraced idols and elevated sin to new heights
  - i) Like Israel of old, instead of worshipping God, this nation worships the flesh
  - ii) Abortion continues
  - iii) Lena Dunham: sorry she has not had an abortion
  - iv) Sex permeates every facet of life
  - v) Legalization of marijuana continues to grow as does its usage among children
  - vi) At the same time, our leaders profess that we are more stable as a nation than ever before
  - vii) Pres. Obama stated that he could have easily won a third term because we, the people, agree with his vision and policies
  - viii) We have taken refuge in the lie that because of our reaching out to all peoples and all faiths, the scourge will not touch us
  - ix) We are hiding behind lies and deception that we are just fine without God
  - x) As a matter of fact, our leaders actually believe God approves of this
  - xi) We are finding refuge in the lie that God no longer condemns sin but now embraces it as alternative lifestyles
- e) **SLIDE Romans 1:18-27 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking

became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **SLIDE**

<sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup> In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

C) **SLIDE** To counteract the boasts and the lies of the wicked, God...

<sup>16</sup> So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. <sup>17</sup> I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.

- 1) God always has a response
- 2) He will lay the stone; He will make justice - He will - and man cannot stop Him
- 3) To combat the lies and the deception, God placed Jesus as the Cornerstone
- 4) Not A cornerstone, but THE Cornerstone
- 5) **SLIDE** Using that Cornerstone, God built a sure foundation built on the Truth
- 6) That foundation is in direct conflict with the lies that surround us
- 7) That foundation will make God's justice and righteousness the plumb line by which all will be compared

- 8) The coming shaking will sweep away the false refuge and will reveal the hiding places based on lies and deception
- 9) But those who trust in Jesus will never be dismayed
- D) **SLIDE 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.
  - 1) The shaking, the confrontations, that are coming are not meant to condemn us but to save us
  - 2) The shaking will reveal if we have been building on the right foundation with the right heart
- E) **SLIDE** We need to return to the truth
  - 1) This is exciting because God has chosen us to be a part of this
  - 2) It is challenging because God has chosen us to be a part of this
  - 3) We need to reaffirm our faith and belief in Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of all that we are to do
  - 4) We need to return to our first love and find the joy that comes from serving Him
  - 5) We need to return to the solid ground so that all we do and build this year will be built on Jesus and His word
  - 6) We need to evaluate our service
  - 7) In other words, we need to stop acting first and expecting God to support
  - 8) Instead, we are to seek God first and follow Him - as a nation, as a church, and as individuals