

LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

PROGRAM 6 (#912121)

WEEK 2 (#912326)

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Living For God's Glory

TITLE: Program 6 – The Nation That Forgets God And Fears Man

MONDAY

OPEN

If you were to stop and evaluate the morals of the United States of America, if you were to look at the principles by which we live, or what we uphold where would you put us, so to speak, on the totem pole? Would you give us high points or would you give us low points? Or would you look at this nation and say, "You know what? We failed. There is nothing about us morally that is commendable." O Beloved, what are we going to do?

PART ONE

Christianity, which is the mortar of America's foundation, is on the edge of becoming illegal. Do you know why? Because Christianity is based on moral absolutes and we, as a nation, have lost our moral moorings; we are no longer restrained by a sense of right and wrong. George Barna wrote a book called "Boiling Points." And in that, this is what he said, "The convergence of new thinking that swept America in the late sixties and early seventies has become a staple of pop culture." Now if you'll remember, in

my last messages I was talking about the moral condition of the United States of America. And I was taking you back to the time when I really felt the glory of God was moving off of this nation, even as we read about in Ezekiel when the glory of the Lord was leaving the temple, moving to the Eastern Gate and then leaving the city just before Nebuchadnezzar came in to destroy the city and to destroy the temple in 586 B.C. (See Ezekiel 11:22-23) He came in sooner; he'd laid siege to the city, but in 586 B.C. on Tisha B'Av, the temple was destroyed. But the glory of God had already departed. So I am holding to the fact, with a lot of other people, that you go back to the sixties, you look at the late sixties, you look at the 1970's and you can see a great change in our culture. Barna wrote this: "The results have been a wholesale revision in people's thought patterns and behaviors based on the notion that a person is the center of his or her universe and is therefore responsible for determining what is right and wrong, appropriate and inappropriate, useful and useless, significant and insignificant. In this system without—apart from any grander vision of truth, meaning and value—each person, their body dictates the standards and principles that will rule his or her world regardless of anyone else's standards and principles." That's exactly what was happening in the days of Jeremiah. Oh they were going through the motions of religion. It wasn't that they had stopped worshiping in the temple. It was simply that what they added to the temple were cult prostitutes; male prostitutes, female prostitutes, statues to the sun god, and all sorts of other paraphernalia of worshiping other gods, the sun and the moon and the stars. They said that they believed in God, but by their deeds, their lifestyle, they denied Him. So he goes on to say this, and, and let me just summarize again, that what we see since the sixties and seventies is: Hey, I'm the one that determines what is right and wrong. We're saying there are no absolutes. It's like the days of Judges when every man did what was right in their own eyes. (See Judges 17:6) Chuck Colson has argued that the dominant American world view of young adults can be summed up in

one word, “whatever.” And it’s whatever—whatever happens, whatever this, whatever that. It’s because we have lost the fear of God, the respect of God, the trust of God, the understanding of God as God. I want you to take your Bibles and go to Jeremiah chapter 2 with me. In Jeremiah chapter 2 God is talking about these people and **“They did not say....”** Look at verse 6, **“...Where is the LORD who brought us up [from] the land of Egypt, who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and...pits, through a land of drought and...deep darkness, through a land that no one crossed...where no man dwelt?”** (Jeremiah 2:6) He says: they’re not saying where is the Lord? They could care less. Whatever? Whatever? God is a shelf. God in a sense, is forgotten. They’re not saying “Where is God? Where is God? Where is the God that took us out of Egypt, out of slavery? Where’s the God that led us through the wilderness by His pillar of cloud during the day and His pillar of fire during the night?” They don’t miss Him. They don’t miss Him. And this is what it goes on to say. **“I brought you....”** I’m the one, God says. **“I brought you into the fruitful land....”** I brought you into the land of Canaan, **“...To eat its fruit and its good things. But you came and defiled My land....”** (Jeremiah 2:7) America has been defiled by all the blood of the babies that we have aborted. Their blood, unrequited, unpaid for, legalized, has polluted the land and has brought the judgment of God on this land. Our land is polluted. No longer can you leave your houses unlocked. Do you realize there was a day when children could play in the streets and you didn’t worry about them being captured? There was a day when they played in the streets instead of sitting on the computer for hours on end and not having any real face-to-face reaction. There was a day when mother was home, when daddy was working, and daddy would bring home the bacon and mother was home mothering the children and taking care of them and nurturing them and bringing them up and seeing that they said “Yes Ma’am, no Ma’am, yes Sir, no Sir,” the day when they would come in the house and there was the smell

of cookies coming from the kitchen and there was a mother to listen and there was a mother to see that their homework was done and they weren't sitting in front of a TV all day. There was a day when we didn't have to lock our houses. There was a day when a man's word, his "yes" was yes and his "no" was no. And then He says, **"...You came and [you] defiled My land, and My inheritance you made an abomination." (Jeremiah 2:7)** And I want to tell you this; you just drive through the streets. You look at the billboards. You watch the attire of the people walking down the streets. You watch their behavior and you can see that we have defiled the United States of America. It says **"The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' And those who handle the law did not know Me...." (Jeremiah 2:8)** In other words, if you go back to the Constitution of the United States of America, if you go back to our laws, if you go back to our original Supreme Court and you read the writings of our early fathers, of our founding fathers, they weren't perfect. They weren't all Christians, but there was a fear of God in this land. And those that upheld the law; there was a sense of morality. There was an absolute: a right and a wrong. You were not allowed to defame the name of the Lord and get away with it. It says, **"...And those who handle the law did not know Me....,"** verse 8 of Jeremiah 2, **"...the rulers also transgressed against Me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal...." (Jeremiah 2:8)** They were prophesying by Baal, by a false god. And listen, especially on Christian television and especially on certain networks, I was just with someone from South Africa and they said that since a certain network came to South Africa it has ruined, it has ruined the Christian community in that area because of all the false teaching, because of all the prosperity, because of the distortion of the Scriptures, because here's someone and revival is going on and then he's found fornicating. And it has just lowered the standard and lowered the bar. **"...The prophets prophesied by Baal and [they] walked after things that did not profit." (Jeremiah 2:8)** He says, **"...Therefore I will contend with [them]" declares the LORD,**

‘And with your sons’ sons I will contend.’” (Jeremiah 2:9) Not just with this generation, but with the next generation, and the generation after that.

“For cross to the coastlands of Kittim and see...send to Kedar and observe closely and see if there’s [any thing such]...as this! Has a nation changed gods when they were not gods? But My people...,” My people, My select nation of Israel, My people **“...have changed their glory for that which does not profit.” (Jeremiah 2:10-11)** One of the things we want you to do in this series, and I hope that you have gone to [“preceptsforlife.com”](http://preceptsforlife.com) and you have downloaded the free study guide. If you haven’t, do it right after the program. But one of the things we want you to do is mark **“LORD”**. We want you to put a purple cloud around it and then color it yellow throughout your whole Bible. And what He’s saying here is **“...My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.” (Jeremiah 2:11)** What does that mean? Well I’m going to show you after the break as we compare Scripture with Scripture, as we let Scripture interpret Scripture, because the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture. It’s absolute pure truth and God does not contradict Himself. But what does God say because His people have changed their glory for that which does not profit? He says, **“‘Be appalled, O heavens [be appalled O heavens]...and shudder, be very desolate,’ says the LORD. For My people have committed two evils....” (Jeremiah 2:12-13)** And what are those two things? We’ll look at it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I want you to know that I believe that what we are studying is so important and I think if you’ll just think through this whole series, guard your glory, guard your glory, guard your glory, or guard His glory, guard His glory, guard His glory. You say, “Aren’t they two different things?” Oh, you stick with me and we’ll see: Are they two different things or are they one in the same? I just want the Spirit of God to so teach you that

whatever you're doing or whatever you're tempted to do that you will just hear "Guard His glory, guard His glory, guard His glory," and it'll bring you up short and it will restrain you and keep you and cause you to glorify God in your body, which is His. Okay, Jeremiah chapter 2, verse 11. **"Has a nation changed gods when [there] were not gods? But My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit."** He says, **"Be appalled, O heavens, at this, and shudder, be very desolate," declares the LORD. 'For My people have committed two evils....'"** (Jeremiah 2:11-13) Now when He says "two evils," if He doesn't say number one and number two, you still look at the text and you decide what number one is and what number two is. So He says, **"...My people have committed two evils..."**, now listen. He says, **"...they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters..."**, ding, number one, **"...to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns [which cannot] hold water."** (Jeremiah 2:13) In other words, what have they done? Here's God, the fountain of living waters. Here's God, this unending, never-ending source of water which every human being needs. We're mostly composed of water. So here He is, the fountain of living waters. This is the first thing that they have done wrong. **"...They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters...."** (Jeremiah 2:13) In other words, they have turned their back on Me. They have walked away when I am the fountain of living waters. Two; they have begun to hew out, which means to dig cisterns, which are really broken cisterns. Cisterns are to hold water. But these are broken and they don't even hold water. They're turning from a perpetual, unending, always satisfying source of water; living water and they are going to this place that they are digging out to hold water that is not fresh-flowing and is just being seeped into the ground. Those are the two evils. So what do you do when you're studying the Bible? Well next to **"...They have forsaken Me..."**, I put a number one. Next to **"...to hew [out] cisterns, broken cisterns..."**, (Jeremiah 2:13) I put a number two. All right now, I told you that Scripture interprets

Scripture, that the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture. So what does it mean “[they] **have changed their glory for that which does not profit**”? (**Jeremiah 2:11**) Well when I was reading the Psalms. I read the same thing. They exchanged their glory. And I began to think “their glory,” that’s an unusual statement. What do you mean by this? So what I want you to do next to verse 11 where you have marked “glory” in your Bible. Write Psalm 106, verse 19 to 20 or 21, Psalm 106, verse 19 to 20 or 21, depending on which you want to go for. So let’s go to Psalm 106. Now what you have in this psalm is you have a historical psalm. You have a psalm that is going to tell you about what Israel has done. It’s going to look at Israel’s history and it’s going to show in this psalm how they have related to God, what God has done for them and how they’ve responded. And so it starts with “**Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks...for He is good; for His lovingkindness...,**” and this is something that you must remember, “**...His lovingkindness is everlasting.**” (**Psalms 106:1**) In other words, you can always come to God as long as you come to God God’s way in repentance, and His lovingkindness will be there for you. That’s a good thing to remember, especially when you blow it. So he’s talking about what God did for them and how they blew it and they did not remember and how in verse 13, “**They quickly forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel [they] craved intensely in the wilderness. [They] tempted God in the desert.**” (**Psalm 106:13-14**) It says in verse 16, “**When they became envious of Moses in the camp, and of Aaron, the holy one of the LORD, the earth opened [up] and swallowed up Dathan, and engulfed the company of Abiram.**” (**Psalm 106:16-17**) He’s telling about when the earth literally opened up and took these guys out because they were saying that they were equal with Moses. And then we come to verse 19. We’re counting different events. It says, “**They made a calf in Horeb and they worshiped a molten image. Thus...,**” and this is where it is, “**...they exchanged their glory for [an] image of an ox that eats grass.**” (**Psalm 106:19-20**) What is their

glory? Their glory is God. And they turned from the fountain of living waters, so to speak, to something that they were digging out with their own hands. Here he's saying it this way: They turned from the worship of a true God to an image of a calf, an ox, standing up and eating the grass and the dribble's coming out of that ox's mouth and that green juice is coming down. That's what they did. They took the image of God and they changed it for a calf. Now if you want to go to verse 21, which I think you want to do, **"They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt."**

(Psalm 106:21) When they turned to the calf what they were doing was they were forgetting it was God who did these great things in Egypt, who brought these plagues. It was God who delivered them from the hand of Pharaoh. It was God who drowned the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. They forgot that. And what they did, instead of worshiping God as He was, instead of having a fear of God, a respect of God, a trust of God, they made themselves an idol, a calf, a cow, an ox. They fashioned it with their hands and they turned to that ox and what they did was they exchanged their glory. Their glory was God. Their glory was the God who was the pillar of cloud during the day, the pillar of fire during the night, the One that got between them and the Egyptians, parted the Red Sea, took them over on dry ground and then brought the waters back over, over the Egyptians. They turned from that kind of a God to an image of an ox. That's what's happened in the United States of America. We have turned from the true knowledge of God. Beloved, Precept Ministries International is calling us back to a true knowledge of God by showing you how to discover truth for yourself.