September 28, 1989

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"If religious books are not widely circulated to the masses in this country...I do not know what will become of us as a people...If truth be not diffused - error will be...if God and His Word are not received, the devil and his works will gain ascendancy - If the evangelical volume doesn't reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will - If the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land - anarchy and misrule - degradation and misery-corruption and darkness will reign without mitigation or end."

-- U.S. Senator Daniel Webster (Mass.), 1823

Dear ^F2^:

A careful reading and rereading of the above quote should bring a modern day reader to a sobering disposition. Since Senator Webster's courageous pronouncement, our nation has surely become much of what he warned against. No nation has had such access to available blessings, ignored them and then avoided inevitable degradation.

Headlines incessantly announce our promiscuity, our wantonness, our violence. Innocents of every kind are victimized daily in the once safe harbor, the home. Promiscuity has left the family in pieces and addictions of every sort abound. We are entertained in the media by the same corruptions that now backlog in our courts. The average American is unmoved, unconcerned and completely unaware of any meaningful connection between the closing of God's Word and the demise of her nation's soul.

Every day of my life, like you, I am immersed in the tragic legacies of families. The fatherless are multiplying, the fathers are perishing and mothers despair in the tide. My heart aches for these situations. My burden grows with each passing day. Where will it all end?

I could go on and on with the pathos of our nation but must direct my thoughts toward a more substantive balm that heals.

There is a way out of our nation's demise which, if heeded, would deliver us from ruin. First, there must be a personal surrender to the truth of God's Word. Immediately, the voice is raised asking, "What is Truth?" This very spirit is as old as man's total history, as God's Word records the temptor's favorite line: "Hath God said...?" If we do not even believe that God has spoken, we are certainly without hope.

Secondly, there must be a personal desire to apply God's Word to our calamities. "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14)

It has been a long time since a U.S. Senator has admitted our need for God's Word. Perhaps a Senator's world is encrusted with wealth and comfort, perhaps he is currently untouched by the nation's woeful cries. But we stand in the trenches. We glory in our identification with the broken. We know the tragedies, the hopeless souls, the tears. Would we address the current national crisis with Senator Webster's conclusion? Would we be among those who say: "Thus saith the Lord!" or among those who say: "Hath God said?"

As long as we live, may our desire be to stand in the face of error and unashamedly hold forth the Words of life.

> "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward." (Jeremiah 7:23,24)

May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,

Jack Crans
Director

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