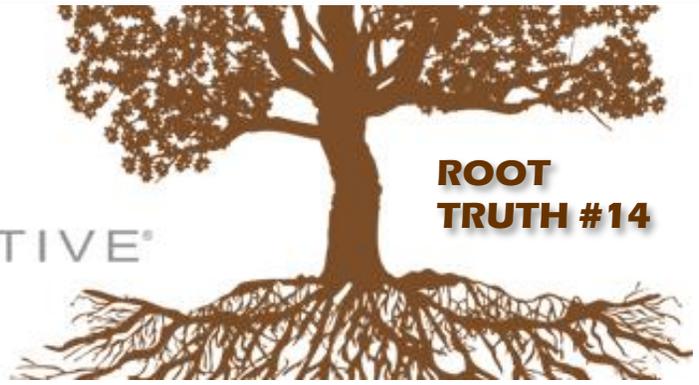




THE
OAK
INITIATIVE®



ROOT
TRUTH #14

The Kingdom Series: “America’s Moment to Decide”

By David White

“Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or evil side” (James Lowell Russell).

James Lowell Russell lived during the years where nearly half of all the deaths in all the wars fought by American soldiers occurred. Dying on American soil, the Civil War claimed at least 620,000 lives, and some say that figure is closer to 750,000. It was by far the bloodiest of wars this nation has ever fought. Although the loss of so many lives was grievously costly, the result of the war was that a nation so divided was preserved, at least until other opportune times would arise where the enemies of liberty would emerge.

Russell, the son of a minister and who succeeded Henry Wadsworth Longfellow as a professor at Harvard, is mostly remembered as a poet, editor, critic, abolitionist, and later in life was an American diplomat. But he may be most remembered as a prophet whose words of challenge and warning should be carefully regarded today.

Once writing how *“a sneer is the weapon of the weak,”* James Lowell Russell also wrote, *“Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or the evil side”.*

From observing the times in which we now live, we must ask if in 2018 America has once again come to that moment where we must decide between truth and falsehood, between the good or the evil side. Making this decision could again be costly, but to not do so could cost generations to come far more.

Both the church and the state (government) have vital roles in the preservation and prosperity of any nation. These are clearly defined in the Scriptures.

In referring to the **“church of the living God”** the Apostle Paul includes, among its many responsibilities, as being **“the pillar and ground of the truth”** (see **I Timothy 3:15**), or as the Amplified version translates, the **“prop and support”** of the truth.

The church having this responsibility originates from the Old Testament where the priests were to, **“teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean” (see Ezekiel 44:23)**. Being politically correct was not even in their vocabulary. They were to be biblically correct and let the chips fall where they may.

If the priests did not fulfill their God-given responsibility, the people would not **“know to refuse the evil and choose the good” (see Isaiah 7:16)**. Soon they would begin calling **“evil good, and good evil”** and would **“put darkness for light, and light for darkness” (see Isaiah 5:20)**. As a result the truth, which is a prop and pillar holding up the foundations, would fail causing that society to crumble and eventually fall.

“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do” (Psalm 11:3)?

“When the enemy comes in like a flood the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him” (see Isaiah 59:19).

Likewise the government must be faithful to fulfill its role as defined in Romans 13. It's here where we read how those appointed and given governmental authority are, **“God's minister to you (the people) for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil”**. Paul further reminds us how those God has raised up, **“are not a terror to good works, but to evil” (Romans 13:4)**. Like the church, being politically correct or popular should not even be included in the equation. Along with being servants of the people, governmental leaders are foremost servants and will be accountable to God.

The Apostle Paul would remind us how righteous government does not wield the sword in vain and must use the sword when the opportunity arises to punish evildoers. If those given the sword lay down their sword, then the evildoers will eventually arise and do far more than merely sneer in the faces of the people. In time, those who escaped justice will deal unjustly and overtake the good of the land.

Isaiah emphasizes this when he writes, **“For when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let grace be shown to the wicked. Yet in the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly” (see Isaiah 26:9-10)**.

Although the Lord will eventually come **“to give every one according to his work” (see Revelation 22:12)**, the church must be bold in defining, from a biblical perspective, that which is good from that which is evil. The church must, without compromise, wield its sword of truth so the people can choose whom they will serve. Knowing the truth sets men and women free. Yet it's in loving and doing the truth where they remain free.

Likewise those appointed and given governmental authority must wield its sword against the injustices and evildoers of a land while the opportunity exists.



As James Lowell Russell would remind us, *“Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or evil side”*.

That moment has again arrived.

David White has been in ministry for over thirty-five years and is currently the Lead Pastor of The Gathering, a MorningStar affiliated church in Moravian Falls, NC. He authored the book, *The Times to Come Have Come—Hope and Help in Troubled Times*, and numerous booklets and articles. Part of MorningStar since the mid-nineties, David’s passion is for the harvest and to see another Great Awakening in America. He and his wife, Shirley, have two grown children, Joshua and Emily, and live near Moravian Falls.

