

Let's Remember Our Wake-up Call

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Twenty-two years ago, most Americans were going about their usual routine. People were headed to or already at work, some were relaxing at home, others enjoying a stroll around the park, or enjoying a relaxing vacation, some were just waking up from a good night's sleep, and many kids were headed to school. Just another wonderful day in America, the land of the free. And then the unthinkable happened. One of the twin towers in New York City was on fire. At first, nobody knew what was happening. With all news cameras focused on the burning north tower, just a short 17 minutes later, a passenger jet plane was filmed crashing into the south tower. Thirty-four minutes later the Pentagon was hit by another plane. Also, a hijacked plane crashed in Pennsylvania due to heroic passengers who found out what was happening to their plane and overran the hijackers. America was under attack and 3,000 innocent Americans were killed! The last plane never made it to its destination, thus sparing even more innocent lives. President Bush quickly organized a manhunt to kill the perpetrators responsible for such a despicable act. It turned out to be the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda, founded by the mastermind Osama bin Laden. He and others were found and killed. We as a nation had become complacent, thinking we were untouchable and nobody could harm us, for we were the strongest nation in the world. We were so sure of our own power, just two days earlier on Sunday the church buildings in our nation were mostly empty because we didn't need God's help, we were self-reliant. Were we ever wrong!

Almost 61 years before this, on September 7, 1940, London was under siege by the German Luftwaffe. The intense bombing of the city was ordered and directed by the pantheist, Adolf Hitler. Many people lost their lives, families were separated, and homes destroyed during the German raids called The Blitz. On September 11, 1940, a London newspaper published this article:

We have been a pleasure-loving people, dishonoring the Lord's Day, picnicking, and boating. We have preferred motor travel to church-going. Now there is a shortage of motor fuel.

We have ignored the ringing of church bells calling us to worship, and now the same bells ring to warn us of the danger of invasion. We have left the church buildings half empty when they should have been filled with worshippers. Now, many of them lie smoking in ruins.

The food for which we refused to give thanks is now rationed or unobtainable. The money we would not give for the Lord's work is now taken from us in higher taxes and higher prices.

The service we refused to give God is now conscripted for our country's protection. We did not send the Gospel to those embracing Godless ideologies. Now, we send out men to kill those people for believing what they were taught while we were sitting at home enjoying modern comforts and conveniences.

England had realized just how self-centered they had been; choosing to ignore the more important matters while enjoying the "good life." They didn't think they, nor anyone else, needed God anymore. Were they ever wrong!

After 911, America's church buildings began to fill up realizing we had been ignoring the more important matters while enjoying the "good life." Sadly, it was a short-lived revival. Our church buildings are emptier now than pre-911, and many have closed their doors completely. September 11, 2001 should have been our wake-up call; the recognition that we are ever reliant upon God, no matter how good we have it or how strong we think we are. "*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people,*" Proverbs 14:34.

This is also a wake-up call for the church to send the Gospel far and wide into these godless nations that seek our demise. I believe the best way to overcome our enemy is not by guns and bombs after war breaks out, but to make them our ally through the Gospel before conflict ensues.