

of Christian truth, when you see hundreds of fine young men going to theological seminaries learning to become ministers or church workers and in most of these seminaries being given training that undercuts all belief in the Bible, all belief in Christ, even all belief in a personal God in many of them, when you see that happen and when you see its effect in the decreased morality of our country, and the lower standards in every way, you just wonder why God continues to show favor to this country. But He is showing favor to us because of our Christian heritage, because of the Christian standards that were characteristic of the U.S. that they had in days past.

I read a constitutional history of the U.S. once by a great German constitutional historian. In this he talked about the Civil War. He said, It was the largest war the world had yet seen, and that there were more people killed in it than in any war yet fought known to us. Yet in this war on both sides there was an observance of international law and a keeping away from atrocities, and a consideration of the rights of others such as you could hardly parallel in any war up to that time. He said it was most strange because a civil war is ordinarily the most brutal and ferocious of all wars. But he said, The American Civil War was unique in this respect. And he went on to say that most remarkable, that both in the North and in the South that people took the attitude that if we can be shown from the Bible what we're saying is wrong we will turn away from what we are doing and take the other attitude. In both parts of our country at that time there was an attitude of loyalty to the Word of God and a feeling that this was what was God's truth and we should follow it. Seldom in the world's history has a civil war not been followed by guerrilla warfare and terror and all sorts of things such as we did not have after that war. Though much bitterness remains even to this day yet there was an attitude afterwards that is hardly to be parallel, and it is due to the effect of the Bible upon America.

That effect is being lost now. So one who can make his life count to make the Bible central in human life, to make people turn to Christ, to turn from their sins and be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ is doing more for his country than he could possibly do in any other way. To win people to Christ, to build sound Churches, to help Christians grow in grace, to grow in grace himself in every possible, this is the greatest service that can be rendered to one's country.

Let no one think that he is a draft dodger if he thinks he can serve his country better by getting thoroughly trained so as to help his country in later years instead of carrying a musket now. Let nobody think he is a draft dodger if he is getting trained to stand for God's Word and do what will count more for his country than anything else he could possibly do. But if one pretending to do this simply wastes his time and loafs and fails to get the advantages of the educational opportunities he has, such a one is indeed a draft dodger for whom college is not only utterly wrong and unwise, but wicked in refusing to give his marks to the government so they can see not who deserves a privilege, but who can best help his country by continuing to get training, and who perhaps is lazily wasting his time and using it as an excuse to avoid doing the service to his countrymen that he ought to have, ought to do.

In this story we just looked at about Elisha's death, there was a very interesting thing. Many people find it puzzling. In 13:18 we read: "And he said, Take the arrows, and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel. Smite upon the ground, and he smote thrice and stopped. And the man of God was wroth with him and said, Thou shouldst have smitten 5 or 6 times. Then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hast consumed it. Whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice."