# NINE LESSONS AMERICA SHOULD HAVE LEARNED FROM 9/11/01 PSALM 118:5-18 By: PASTOR GARY G. DULL

INTRO: September 11, 2001 was a day that changed the United States of America in many ways. It started as any normal Tuesday morning, but it was not long until things began to happen that redirected the course of days, weeks, months and years. Indeed, what happened that morning has changed the lives of all Americans. In our church ministry, the day started with Men's Prayer Breakfast at 6:30, followed by the pastoral staff meeting at 8:30. Shortly after 9:00, Janet Auker, our church secretary, called to relate that a plane had hit one of the buildings of the WTC in NYC. A few minutes later she called and said that another plane had hit the second WTC. At that time we disbanded the staff meeting and went downstairs to watch the television. Soon we learned about another plane crashing into the Pentagon in DC, and then about the plane that went down in Shanksville. As we were watching the TV and hearing the reports, we soon observed both of the WTC buildings fall to the ground after a period of time. THAT WAS A DAY OF CHAOS FOR AMERICA! At about 10:30 we decided to call for a prayer meeting at the church that evening at 6:00. With the wonderful cooperation of all the local media, the word about the prayer meeting was broadcast and at 6:00 that evening, the church was packed with all sorts of people, community leaders, members of the military, local police and pastors who prayed for America. Later I was invited by Rob Schenck, with Faith and Action in the Nation's Capitol to participate in a prayer meeting at the Pentagon that was held on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. As I traveled to DC I saw many signs which said, "GOD BLESS AMERICA," and flags were flying all over the place. Upon arriving at the Key Bridge Marriot in Arlington, VA, our group was whisked off in a motorcade to the Pentagon, and at first site of that huge hole in that massive building, my heart sunk. I had the opportunity to share the Word of God at that meeting and spoke briefly from Psalm 46. Since September 11, 2001, many things have changed for Americans and the world. Today, I want to speak on NINE LESSONS AMERICA SHOULD HAVE LEARNED FROM 9/11/01. HAVE WE LEARNED ANY LESSONS?

### I. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA HAS ENEMIES WHO HAVE A GREAT HATRED FOR HER.

WHY DO SOME NATIONS AND PEOPLE HATE AMERICA?

- A. Because of our resources.
- B. Because of our strength.
- C. Because of our stability.
- D. Because of our freedom.
- E. Because of our influence in the world.
- F. Because of our rapid and unique development.

# II. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA HAS THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DEFEAT HER, AND THE SOONER THE BETTER.

- A. The majority of those who desire to defeat America are of the Islamic faith.
- B. Some radical Islamic leaders have given the final warning to America in recent statements. Note the words of THE LATE, Osama bin Laden.
  - 1. His FATWA (Declaration of War) August 1, 1996

"OUR YOUTHS KNOW THAT THEIR REWARDS IN FIGHTING YOU, THE USA, IS DOUBLE THAN THEIR REWARDS IN FIGHTING SOME ONE ELSE NOT FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK." (Muslims refer to Christians and Jews as being "people of the book...the Bible). Osama quoted Muhammad as saying, "when you meet in battle those who disbelieve, then smite them necks, saying that there is nothing between us that needs to be explained, there is only killing and neck smiting."

2. His statement twenty six days after 9/11/01 – October 6, 2001.

"GOD ALMIGHTY HIT THE UNITED STATES AT ITS MOST VULNERABLE SPOT. HE DESTROYED ITS GREATEST BUILDINGS. AS FOR THE UNITED STATES: I SWEAR BY ALMIGHTY GOD WHO RAISED THE HEAVENS WITHOUT PILLARS THAT NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR HE WHO LIVES IN THE UNITED STATES WILL ENJOY SECURITY BEFORE WE CAN SEE MUSLIM VICTORY."

3. His speech on September 8, 2007.

"I INVITE YOU TO EMBRACE ISLAM FOR THE GREATEST MISTAKE ONE CAN MAKE IN THIS WORLD AND ONE WHICH IS UNCORRECTABLE IS TO DIE WHILE NOT SURRENDERING TO ALLAH, THE MOST HIGH." (This "invitation" is more than just an effort to recruit converts to Islam. Before killing an unbeliever, a Muslim must first invite him to embrace Islam...thus the warning for destruction has been given.).

NOTE: EVEN THOUGH BIN LADEN IS DEAD, AL QAEDA LIVES ON. Even this weekend, we have heard of threats from Al Qaeda.

# III. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA IS NOT REALLY 100% SECURE.

- A. From the Military Perspective Certain desires to reduce funding.
- B. From the Defensive Perspective -9/11/01 shows that one glitch can bring destruction. Our enemies need only to be right once. We must be right 100% of the time.
- C. From the Financial Perspective America is headed for bankruptcy.
- D From the Spiritual Perspective America is not longer "immoral," she is "a-moral."

### IV. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA REALLY DOES NOT TRUST IN GOD ANYMORE.

- A. America was founded by those who had trust in God. Our national motto indicates such: IN GOD WE TRUST! Our pledge to the flag indicates such: ONE NATION UNDER GOD!
  - B. Many Americans "supposedly" turned to God for a few weeks after 9/11/01.
    - 1. The Congress sung GOD BLESS AMERICA on the front steps of the Capitol Building in DC.
    - 2. Many flocked to church for several weeks.
    - 3. Atheists were quiet for a while.
  - C. However, since 9/11/01 there have been many organized movements to reject God.
    - 1. The military chaplains have been told they cannot pray in Jesus' Name
    - 2. The military cannot teach war tactics from biblical references.
    - 3. The Mayor of NYC has stated that nothing "religious" can be involved in any 9/11 anniversary activities in his city.
    - 4. The secularists wish to remove God from every possible reference.
      - a. From our money "IN GOD WE TRUST."
      - b. From our Pledge "ONE NATION UNDER GOD."
      - c. From our public ceremonies GOD CANNOT BE MENTIONED.
      - d. From our teachings GOD IS REMOVED FROM SOME TEXT BOOKS.
    - 5. Many local churches have moved away from biblical truth.
    - 6. Many "so-called" Christians do not know or obey scripture.

# V. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA IS NOTHING APART FROM GOD.

-Observe 1 Chronicles 29:11,12

### VI. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA WAS ESTABLISHED BY GOD, THROUGH MEN, WHO HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR HIM AND HIS WORD.

- A. The words of Christopher Columbus "IT WAS THE LORD WHO PUT INTO MY MIND (THE IDEA TO GO WEST) AND I COULD FEEL HIS HAND UPON ME."
- B. The words of the Mayflower Compact "IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN...WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH."
- C. The words of the Massachusetts Charter "THE COLONIES...ARE ENJOINED TO WIN AND INVITE THE NATIVES OF THIS COUNTRY TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE ONLY TRUE GOD AND SAVIOR OF MANKIND."
- D. The words of the first Connecticut Constitution "THE SCRIPTURES HOLD FORTH A PERFECT RULE FOR THE DIRECTION OF GOVERNMENT OF ALL MEN IN ALL DUTIES WHICH THEY PERFORM."
- E. The words of the first legislative act of Pennsylvania "IT IS THE PURPOSE OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH LAWS AS SHALL BEST PRESERVE TRUE CHRISTIAN AND CIVIL LIBERTY, IN OPPOSITION TO ALL UNCHRISTIAN PRACTICES."

### VII. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT IF AMERICA REJECTS GOD, GOD WILL REJECT AMERICA.

-Observe Hosea 4:6

# VIII. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA MUST TRUST IN GOD FOR COMPLETE SECURITY AND STRENGTH.

-Observe Psalm 118:5-10

### IX. WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT AMERICA MUST TURN BACK TO GOD IF WE EXPECT HIS BLESSING.

-Observe 2 Chronicles 7:14

#### HOW SHOULD WE NOW RESPOND?

- 1) Make a determination to learn American History.
- 2) Make a determination to understand the philosophy of radical Islam.
- 3) Make a determination to turn to Jesus Christ, if you have never done so.
- 4) Make a determination to repent of personal and national sins that have resulted in America rejecting God.
- 5) Make a determination to stand up and speak out for the principles of the Judeo-Christian heritage that made America a great, free and brave nation.