

## INTRODUCTION

In a time when uncertainty and even despair threaten our beloved country, comfort and direction come directly from God's Word. The power of the Word of God is affirmed in Psalm 19:7-10:

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."*

By His Word, we are warned, and, by it, we find great reward. God's Word is applicable to all areas of life including, not only the governance of individuals, but also civil government.

Perhaps a brief personal testimony will encourage you along the way. Thirty or so years ago, as I was going about my business of directing a large early childhood church program and training volunteer Sunday School teachers and children's workers, a woman in the group commented to me after a session, "Do you realize you are instructing us in how to use very humanistic methods to teach our Bible lessons?" Her words were shocking.

"No," was my resounding answer. My intentions were pure. How could that be? "Show me what you mean." After years of being trained by and teaching in government schools, it was almost impossible to comprehend. My daily prayer now became, "God...give to me the spirit of wisdom and revelation...let the eyes of my understanding be enlightened that I may know the hope to which you have called me..." (Paraphrased from Ephesians 1:17).

It was a painful inward struggle with its share of tears, but the Lord led me step-by-step. A number of very special people influenced my life during this time; among these was Mrs. Ruth Smith of Pilgrim Institute. I was given a cassette tape of Mrs. Smith teaching and, soon afterwards, she was invited to teach her introductory Rudiments course at our church. Her mentoring and friendship brought many ideas together in clarity, and thus began a relationship that has continued to this day and enriched me beyond expectation.

Seeds of Biblical thinking, planted by study and watered with tears, germinated and began to sprout and grow. I knew God's Word and believed in its power, but now came the joy of learning in a way that led to a deeper relationship with the One who is the source of all knowledge, who is the governor of the universe and the author of liberty. Thus began a new work in my life. The Advanced Training and subsequent courses offered

by Pilgrim Institute equipped me in the establishment and development of three schools whose goals helped to form in the students the character to support liberty and to infuse both students and families with hope. That was more than thirty years ago and my life has never been the same since—including my teaching methods.

Recently, the Pilgrim Institute gave me the opportunity to put to use the experience and learning I had been privileged to receive. Three friends, also trained by the Pilgrim Institute, joined me in weekly sessions for many months to tool questions to go with a few of Pilgrim Institute's outstanding teaching DVD's.

Love for family, love for country, love for God and His Word, along with a gratitude for personal and civil liberty that inspires us to protect it, have drawn us into this project, seeking ways we could personally be involved in restoring the Biblical foundation of our nation. It is our prayer that these same loves will compel you to examine closely the ideas presented in this study, to make them your own, and to share them with others. *Restoring America's Biblical Foundations* provides a means to help you along the way as you seek to affirm truth about the role of the Word of God in governing our lives and our nation. Let us search out the truths that give direction for such a time as this.

– *Dixie B. Thompson*, Editor