

*How  
Desperate  
Is  
America?  
By  
Evangelist  
W. Paul Redmond Sr.*

As my family and I travel across this country, we have become disturbed about some trends that we see. As we go into churches and try to raise support to enable us to evangelize America, we become even more bothered. As I talk to pastors and express the need to present our ministry, so that we can travel full-time and preach the Gospel to American people and encourage church planters, I am very troubled at the response that I often receive.

But my family should not be the only ones who are disturbed and bothered by what we see. Look around your home and church and see if this country is not in desperate need of the power of the Gospel. Liquor joints and strip clubs are packed out while Bible-preaching churches sit empty. We no longer have week-long meetings (let alone extended meetings where real Bible preaching is done) because we say, “No one will come.” Or, we might say, “We do not want to overburden the people with meetings.” Yet, we will have every other kind of activity (Awana, Masters Clubs, Youth Activities such as hiking, going on long trips, etc.) It is not that we do not want to do something; the real problem is that we do not want preaching. In our Fundamental, Independent Baptist churches, we have forsaken the real reason for our existence. The reason that God has established the church is for the

preaching of the Gospel; it is the one thing that we do the least, but is needed the most.

This lack of God-anointed, Biblical preaching has put the United States in the desperate condition that it is in. Now some still think that the United States is all right. Some preachers and church members see no need for more evangelists and church planters to reach the American people. But is that true? Have the American people been saturated with the Gospel? Do we need more Independent, Bible-believing, Bible-preaching, Baptist churches? If you ponder the following statistics, you can come to no other conclusion but that the United States is a godless country. The only remedy for its godlessness is more evangelistic outreaches. We need more Bible-believing churches. We need more evangelists to be preaching more meetings than ever before. We need more churches holding more meetings and having more evangelistic services than ever before. **WE DO NOT NEED LESS GOSPEL! WE NEED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL MORE!** As we will see, the United States is the third most unevangelized country in the world. As we will see, there are more lost people in the United States than any country other than China and India. O dear friends, we do not have enough church planters here. We are in desperate need of thousands more!

### **Bible Baptist Church Pamphlet**

I came across this information in Dr. Don Jasmin's paper The Fundamentalist Digest. He, in turn, had found this information from a pamphlet published by Bible Baptist Church in Bradenton, FL. Here are the facts that Dr. Jasmin discerned: "a) There are approximately 2,400,000 independent Baptists in the USA who are members in b) 13,700 independent Baptist churches around the country. This means that only c) one [1] out of every one hundred twenty-five [125] people are independent Baptists and that there are clearly d) 22,300 unconverted Americans for every independent Baptist church in our land."

As I began to consider this information, I was amazed at what I realized. Using the above statistics, the average Independent Baptist church has 175 members. To make the computations easier, I rounded that number to 200. To reach half of this nation's population, 150,000,000, we would need to start 750,000 churches. To reach half of the U. S. population in 25 years, we would need to start 30,000 churches each year.

Is reaching half of this country a realistic goal? That is for you to decide. All I want you to realize is that there is much work to be done in this country. We cannot sit back on what our fathers and grandfathers accomplished. We

must get busy doing what Jesus told us to do—we must preach the Gospel—and be serious and consistent and constant in preaching it.

### **Justin Taylor Article**

Several weeks ago, our pastor, Larry Stafford, played an excerpt of a sermon in which Evangelist Tom Farrell said that less than half of the American people go to any kind of church on Sunday. That statement caught my attention, and I began to do a little research. According to p. 593 of the *World Almanac 1989*, the "less than 50% threshold" was reached before 1960. To quote from the *World Almanac 1989*, "Churchgoing was found to have remained constant since 1969, after having declined from a high of 49 percent in 1955 and 1958."

If half of the population were in church on Sunday, America might not be in such bad shape, until we realize what kind of churches they are attending. This total includes Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses, and every other denomination and cult that you could imagine. When you consider where the American people are attending church, you will find that most of them are not attending Bible-believing, Bible-preaching churches. Most of the churches that Americans attend do not even believe and preach the Bible.

But the percentage of Americans attending church is not 50%. According to an article by Justin Taylor, "How Many Americans Really Attend Church Each Sunday?," (can be found on [www.OrthodoxyToday.org](http://www.OrthodoxyToday.org); posted December 23, 2005. I do not know anything about this website other than this article. My use of this article does not mean that I approve or endorse everything on this website or approve everything that this author writes.) most polls say that 40% of Americans attend church on Sunday. But as actual counts are tallied, the real number of Americans attending church is between 18-20% (surveys conducted by C. Kirk Hadaway and P. L. Marler in the *Christian Century*, "Did You Really Go To Church This Week? Behind the Poll Data," 1998, and by Dave Olson, director of church planting for The Evangelical Covenant Church).

What does this mean? At best, the actual number of people in church in America on the average Sunday is 60,000,000. That leaves 240,000,000 unchurched people. That makes, as I stated earlier, the United States of America, the third most unchurched nation in the world, behind only China and India. The United States is not a Christian nation by any means and has not been for close to 100 years. One hundred years ago, the vast majority of Americans attended Bible-believing

churches. Now the vast majority of Americans do not go to any church.

To make matters worse, the vast majority of those 60,000,000 do not attend a Bible-believing church. I mentioned it earlier, but most of those who do go to church, go to churches that teach a false gospel and a false salvation. We must realize that the United States is the third largest mission field in the world.

### Another Perspective on Numbers

According to statistics, there are 2.4 million Independent Baptists. This is the group that I identify with and the one that I believe is closest to the Bible. But there are others in different denominations who are saved. But how many are there? Much of this is speculation, but it will provide something to think about. We can add to the Independent Baptists about 1.6 million. That would bring the total number of Fundamentalists to 4 million, which is what I have read in the past in relation to the number of Fundamentalists. We can add to that the 16 million Southern Baptists. That would bring us to 20 million. Now how many can we add from the Church of God, Methodists, etc.? There is no way to know for sure, but let us just double the 20 million to 40 million. I think that you would be stretching it a lot to say that 40 million Americans are genuine

believers. There are some Independent Baptist who are not really saved, and there are many more in the denominations that I listed above who are not saved either. But if we could say 40 million are saved, that still leaves 260 million Americans unsaved and destined for Hell. However you consider the numbers, America is in **desperate** need of the Gospel.

### What Should We Do?

There is only one thing to do—PREACH THE GOSPEL! We do not need to quit; we do not need to give up; we must press on doing what Jesus has commanded us to do. I do not list these staggering numbers to discourage us; I list them to let us know that there is work to do. It is not time to quit, but it is time to take up the weapons of our warfare and prepare to fight. We do not need to have less preaching—we need more. We do not need to have shorter meetings—we need to have longer meetings and reach out to sinners and give them an opportunity to hear the Gospel proclaimed. How many will be saved? That does not matter. That is in God's hands. Our responsibility is to preach the Gospel. Are we doing that? America is in desperate need of the Gospel. The great host of the American people are lost. Are we going to stand by and just let them go to Hell without preaching the Gospel to them? We do not need less churches. We need more Bible-

preaching churches. We do not have enough church planters. We need more. America has not been reached. We must reach them. We must PREACH THE GOSPEL!

-----  
*Originally Published: October 2010*