

If God has issued the call to the Swiss people to return to God the Creator in order to help it come out of the slavery of idolatry and abomination should not the American people follow the same approach?

This is the message of the French Swiss Pastor Pierre Amey on the occasion of the Swiss Thanksgiving Day 2016:

God's word concerning the state of the nation

I greet everyone. I am happy to be here. I am one of the speakers at the conference „Evaluating the present“ taking place this weekend (September 16-18, 2016) in the Moriah Center in Yverdon. For 24 years I was pastor of the Reformed Church of Neuchâtel, for the St. Blaise congregation.

During the Middle Ages, in Switzerland days of prayer and repentance were decreed. The reasons were wars or threats from conflicts, illnesses and epidemics, natural disasters and gloomy future prospects. In the year 1832 at the proposal of the Canton of Aargau the Day of Thanksgiving, Repentance and Prayer was instituted by the Federal Diet for the whole Swiss confederation. I quote an excerpt from a message published many years later in the Swiss Journal 'Gazette de Lausanne', on September 16, 1896, regarding this celebration. „This is a celebration of the union of all citizens to the honor of the sole Lord, to whom the Swiss people submit, the God who for centuries has blessed the fatherland and made it free. It is urgently necessary that he continue to bless and protect it.“ This article was signed by the canton's government.

Due to a communications mistake, just 48 hours before I was to speak for 40 minutes at this conference, I was told to preach at the state church instead and I would be given only 15 minutes for the sermon. You can imagine my surprise and some dismay! I cried to the Lord. During Friday night he woke me up at 2:00 A.M. and said, literally, „Take a piece of paper and write.“ Thus I wrote and in any case I am certain of the beginning. The Lord said to me, „This week you heard the speech of Jen-Claude Juncker, president of the European Council, regarding the condition of Europe. Remember, also, that you heard Barack Obama, who speaks once a year on the state of the union. So on this day of thanksgiving, repentance and prayer I want you to read to the Swiss people „God's word concerning the state of Switzerland“. You will read the whole text of Romans 1:18-32 and then comment on it according to the instructions I will give you during your very brief preparation time.

Rom. 1,18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Rom. 1,19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Rom. 1,20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Rom. 1,21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom. 1,22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools

Rom. 1,23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Rom. 1,24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Rom. 1,25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Rom. 1,26 ¶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

Rom. 1,27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Rom. 1,28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

Rom. 1,29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

Rom. 1,30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

Rom. 1,31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

Rom. 1,32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Paul's letter to the Romans was written in the year 56 A.D. Now, 2,000 years later, we not only practice and accept these things but have even gone a step further than Rome. We have legalized certain aberrations and sins. Dear friends, do we realize that we have made laws in order to live and acclaim the opposite of what God's word says?! 800 years before Jesus, the prophet Isaiah said, „Woe to those who call evil good and good evil“ (Is. 5:20). Now we have turned this sad warning into a law. History not only repeats itself, it becomes even worse. From one month to the next we have to ask ourselves what will now happen. At the conclusion of the book of Judges, we read that in those days everyone did as he saw fit! Today everyone does what he sees fit in order to satisfy his passions, his desires and his sins.

This has gone so far that our officials can't cope any more. Twenty years ago Thierry Béguin, a politician from the canton of Neuchâtel told me, Switzerland will soon be ungovernable!“ Now we have arrived there! Everyone does what he deems fit and, if possible, within the area which does not yet lead to court. The aberrations of which Paul speaks are a tragic reality. One can no longer stop. There are no brakes. Where is the problem? Where are the roots of the grave offenses and sins of our society? The moral condition of our nation seems to be in free fall. How can we turn it around?

It was revealed to me that we must not take aim at the sins of a godless people. We must concern ourselves with the causes of these grave offenses. Thus we must return to the Romans text which was just read.

The first cause is idolatry. We are idol worshippers. We raise to the status of gods whatever satisfies our lusts, our passions, our addictions, our desires and our self-worship. We bow to these idols and serve them. But we must return to the beginning of our text, this „word of the eternal Lord to the nation“. There it is clearly written that we have rejected God, the creator. I insist on the word „creator“. This does not mean every kind of idols or gods in the sense that everyone has his religion and his truth. No, if we speak of the creator in the sense of this word of God, the root of the problem is brought to the light. About 580 years before Christ, the prophet Jeremiah said, „They say to wood, ‚You are my father‘ and to stone, ‚You gave me birth...“ (Jer. 2:27).

Today we are told from earliest childhood that matter is eternal and came alive. The first cell divided and multiplied. Then it happened - by chance - that from the first cell, *through* genetic mutations, through selection chosen in its natural environment, plants, animals and all human came into existence. However, this process required millions of years! I have been studying these things for forty years and have many questions. Why, instead of the revival we so long for must we watch our nation morally falling apart? And the worst comes true. In Acts 17 Paul said to the Athenians, ... ‘in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ Now people say, „We are descended from the animals.“ Even worse, „We are animals, we may have a large brain but nevertheless - animals!“ And it is only logical that we draw the necessary conclusions on the downward slope of the moral plain. „Since we’re animals, why shouldn’t we live like them?“ I read amazing things. Since we have a common forebear, why shouldn’t we share the same values? And finally, why don’t we share the same sexuality? Nowadays there are scientists, psychologists, psychiatrists and many others who justify having sex with animals. Why abstain from it? Since we’re also animals, what’s wrong with it?

The exaggerated sex life of the Bonobo apes has become the focal point of our evolutionistic society. All social conflicts should be solved through sexuality in all its forms. We are sliding quickly into everything I have just read from God’s word.

What then should we do? Recently we read the question of the scribe, who asked, „Lord, what is the greatest commandment ?“ Jesus answered, „Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your strength and with all your understanding.“ But how can we love someone we have rejected? How can we love God who has apparently lied to us from the beginning of Genesis? Our people say to him, „It’s not true that you’re the creator. You’re not the one who created e v e r y - t h i n g: now we can prove this.“ Because we rejected the creator, our civilization and our country are now in this evil moral condition.

In the midst of the ten commandments written in Exodus 20, God slipped in a word about the Sabbath, which we are celebrating today. „Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither your nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the

sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy“ (*Ex. 20:7-11) From the moment we reject the Creator and say, „Perhaps you created the spark. It is possible that you are the god of the philosophers but you are not the one who created everything, we know that now! You aren't the one who created the different species. You aren't the one who created everything written in Genesis and in many other biblical texts.“ Since God lied to us, why should we keep the commandments, which are contrary to our animal lives? Thus everything is thrown overboard.

In Romans it says that our thinking became futile (v. 21). Returning to our creator God means returning to his word. This means that we give his word the opportunity to be true, from Genesis 1 on. We must hear the great scientists of biology or astrophysics who teach in the greatest universities of the world and for scientific reasons say why they believe that everything must have been created very quickly. To put it more simply, they teach that all beings need everything simultaneously in order to live. They have myriads of scientific proofs which support Genesis. Are we ready to listen to them?

Last year several top scientists gave lectures in Nyon. As an engineer and theologian, I also lectured. On the basis of God's word and on the basis of countless scientific confirmations, we must return to the conviction that our God created everything according to his word, as written in the Bible. God knows how marriage and family, how a country and its officials should function. God is the creator of not only the world at large and all that is in it, but also everything as well which has to do with our daily lives. If we would only decide to put our confidence in him again!

I conclude with the reference to Exodus chapter 20. The extraordinary thing about this is the fact that it concerns not only commandments. It is more than commands. That word is incorrectly translated. It is actually words of the covenant which a God gave us out of love so that we could lead happy and joyful lives, we and our families and our descendants. This would be a world in which people really loved one another. Just imagine that! I now turn to our civil authorities. Imagine your city and your villages in which each person would love his neighbor as himself. Dear friends, that would be a dream and God's word in Exodus 20 leads us there.

But in order that this happiness can return to our families and our country, we must return to faith in God, the creator and liberator. Exodus 20 begins with the words, „And God spoke all these words: ‚I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.‘“ Just as the Israelites were in Babylon, today we are in exile and have become slaves of our idols and our sins. The kingdom of evil is growing worse every day. We know the liberator Moses, who led the people out of slavery to pharaoh and into freedom. But we can also know the Lord Jesus, who died on the cross in order to liberate us. In one moment we can return to the Lord who will forgive us and lead us on the path of liberation. God wants our people to again become a nation which honors its constitution: „In the name of the God the Almighty“.

Be blessed. Amen.