

Shaped by the Word of God
2010, Part 2
Slide Notations

Opening Statements of 2010... Moving into the Decade of Moral Upheaval! Times of political, social, economic and religious decline...Because we are systematically, system by system, turning away from God!

Political system... 12/31/09 Mitchell Simpson, a man who had sex-change surgery and now calls himself a woman (named "Amanda"), was appointed as Senior Technical Advisor to the Commerce Department. Simpson announced that "as one of the first transgender presidential appointees to the federal government, I hope that I will soon be one of hundreds." "Lead crusader for 'civil rights' based on gender-confused behavior..."

The day after Simpson began work, *The New York Times* reported that the main website advertising jobs with the federal government now says there will be no "discrimination" based on "gender identity." (The beginning of ENDA policy making...)

Politics off track... Kevin Jennings, Office of Safe Schools Chief, founder of GLSEN: Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network... John Holdren, Science Czar, has argued the Constitution would permit compulsory birth control methods, including involuntary abortions, government-imposed sterilizations and laws limiting the number of children permitted to be born as steps justified under the banner of "sustainable well-being."

Politics off track... Two appointments to Homeland Security... Arif Alikhan, Asst. Secretary for policy development, Deputy Mayor of L.A. Sunni Muslim; dismantled LA Police Dept terror tracking plan to monitor Muslims... Kareem Shora, Homeland Security Advisor, Executive Director of ADC. Rejects anti-terrorist screening, supporter of Rashid Khalidi, PLO spokesman... Almost daily scandals of kickbacks, special deals, sexual failures...

Society... "If you're trying to find the two most explosive words in the English language, those two words are 'Jesus Christ...'" Brit Hume came to faith in Jesus when his son committed suicide... real comfort... Last week he extended that comfort to Tiger Woods after his fall...

Brit, on Tiger: "The extent to which he can recover seems to me depends on his faith, said Hume. He is said to be a Buddhist. I don't think that faith offers the kind of redemption and forgiveness offered by the Christian faith. My message to Tiger is, Tiger turn to the Christian faith and you can make a total recovery and be a great example to the world."

Society off-track... "Tebow's religion is seen as good because it is the religion of the majority. But it's not the religion of everybody. It's exclusionary, and just because you share Tebow's faith, that doesn't mean you're right." Gregg Doyel, CBS Sports

"What I find rather disturbing is that he has to bring that religious faith onto the playing field as a way of testifying to it, as a way of letting people know just how deeply religious he is. The irony of making faith a kind of religious highlight reel is that belief in God isn't a spectator sport nor is a football field a venue for religious politicking." Mark Axelrod, Huffington Post

One of the benefits of our nation under God is that we let people display their beliefs even if they aren't our own! If we're wanting to give that up there are some people groups we need to talk to with the Christians!

Economic Earthquakes... Nanny State growing... Bailouts continuing... Real Estate not recovering...

Social Security plundered... Health care forced on America even though a 70/30 vote for it... “a trough of bribes, deals and loopholes.” National debt spiraling... WP: “China star rising!” 85% congressional districts... Unemployment... 86k jobs lost/Dec (10.1%u) Not including “discouraged workers.” 17.2%u)

Religious Sector... “I looked for the genius and power of America and not until I went to her churches and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand... America is great because she is good and if America ever ceases to be good America will no longer be great!” –De Tocqueville, French Statesman

Religiously off track... “Are you ready to think differently and engage in new thought?” “Do you think Christians are too mean?” “Don’t miss out on the newest shift in religious sensibility!” “New trail of spiritual leadership on a global scale!” *Heresy isn’t new! Golden spotlight is!*

Wheels off the bus... In 2000 Lisa Miller was joined in a civil union with Janet Jenkins. A little girl was born to Miller thru artificial insemination in 2002. In 2003 the couple broke up, Miller moved to Virginia with her daughter, became a Christian, and gave up her former lifestyle. Although Jenkins is not the biological mother and never tried to adopt the now seven-year-old Isabella, Vermont Judge William Cohen ordered Miller to turn the girl over to Jenkins this Friday. The supreme courts of Virginia and Vermont ruled in favor of Jenkins, saying the case was the same as a custody dispute between a heterosexual couple. 12/03/09 (And the courts were right!)

The Lesson here is that when we turn from the Word of God things get messy and confusing!

WE MUST GET BACK TO THE WORD OF GOD...

WE MUST GET EACH PERSON BUILT TOUGH...

Longhorn lessons... Lost star quarterback, Colt McCoy, in first offensive... Took a shot/shoulder went dead... Freshman, Garrett Gilbert, tried his best, not enough... Lacked knowledge, experience, steadiness... *Loss belongs to the Coaches...*

Any time a team loses for the lack of one seasoned player, game lost in planning!

The American Church has the same problem... a star system! Take out the star... team loses the game!

What do we do? We don’t go home!

“But Mary stood... receive a fresh commission and sound off!” **J20.11-18** We suit up, shields up, and swing away! **E6.10ff**

What to wear for... Belt of Truth that protects/holds tight our core! Body armor of God’s righteousness! Boots of peace; comfort/protection! “Shield of Faith;” forged from Word! Helmet of Salvation; beaten@Cross! Sharpened sword that ends arguments!

“But Mary stood... receive a fresh commission and sound off!” **J20.11-18** We suit up, shields up, and swing away! **E6.10ff** We shake out and light up! **Mt 5.13ff** We get an attitude: “Not me!” **Ps91.7**

What do we do? We don’t forget and we don’t conform! R12.1,2

“I beg you to present yourselves as a living sacrifice; holy & acceptable to God, which is reasonable considering what has been done for you... and that you are not conformed to this world...” “Clean religion, pure before God... is to keep yourself unspotted w/world.” **Ja1.27** Unspotted... “Don’t be a partaker of other men’s sins... keep yourself pure.” **1T5.22** “Looking for the new heavens and earth, let us be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot, and blameless. **2P3.13,14** Save others... hating even the garments stained with flesh! **Jude1.23**

This is not an easy thing to do in our fallen times!

Just “schmoozing” can be a life threatening sport! And if it was just the obvious stuff it would be easy to avoid! We easily frame up and contend for...

“All unrighteousness is sin!” 1J5.17

But what do we do with flip side: “whatsoever is not of faith is sin!” R14.23

Shaped by the culture rather than faith? Sin!

Shaped by self rule/guidance? Sin!

Shaped by past experiences? Sin!

The World Condition... Politics tells us things are hopeless! *Faith says: As long as there’s life – hope!* Society threatens us! *Faith says: Don’t even take note of their slander!* Economy frightens us! *Faith says: Do not be afraid, but of sound mind!* Religious world shaking apart! *Faith says: Stand on the Rock!* Moral upheaval! *Faith says: Man w/hope of heaven purifies himself!*