Dr. Guliuzza- Sunday's Coming.mp3

[00:00:08] If you have your Bibles I'd like you to turn to the book of Ephesians and I'm going to read a couple passages out of that real quickly. These are pretty familiar passages but we'll see. Paul writes in Ephesians 2 verse 1 “and you were dead—you were dead in your trespasses and sins which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the Prince of the power of the air and the spirits now working in the sons of disobedience. Among two we also formerly lived in the less of the flesh”—I gotta get close to Mr. Sue right now—“and indulge in the flesh.” (Crowd laughs.) These folks in New York City don't understand that—“these children, who by desires of the flesh and by the mind, you were by nature the children of wrath but God being rich in mercy because of his great love which he loved us even when we were dead in our trespasses made us alive together with Christ by grace you've been saved. Raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ. And so the ages to come he might show us the surpassing riches of His grace and kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you've been saved through faith and not of yourself.

[00:01:22] It is a gift of God, it's not a result of works and or any man may boast for we are as workmanship created in Christ for good works beforehand as God prepared that we would walk in them.” Let's pray together. Father, I'm so thankful for the opportunity to hear these words of encouragement in song just a few minutes ago that we be still understand that you are God. Oh praise Him, Oh praise Him, Hallelujah. And that's what we do today. Father, I pray that you will take the words of mine—you will take them away—make them yours, breathe on them so that we're hearing exactly what you want us to hear this morning and we thank you in advance for whatever you want to do in this place. In Jesus name, Amen. I do want to thank our guests today for coming this is kind of odd for me I'm used to the lapel mike.

[00:02:12] So if I toss this around like a basketball or something like that I apologize in advance. I want to thank you for our guest. Who is the director? Could you please just stand again real quickly.

[00:02:22] Thank you. I coach a number of our teams here I work with our pre-law students.

[00:02:33] I'm constantly trying to take the gifts that God's given young people and produce excellence with them and so it was such a great opportunity to hear you do that with these students today. So we wish you all the best as you minister tonight in—is it Purcellville or Leesburg? In Purcellville this evening so thank you for that. Okay, so I'm going to do kind of a reprisal this morning. I'm going to pick up where my brother left off in his discussion on the reproductive system. (Crowd protests.)

[00:03:04] Unlike him I'm going to put it a little less clinically and only my own unique way because I figured that there's some people, like Mr. Su, who need to hear something’s. (Crowd laughs.) This is this is a reprisal but it's from a message that I did several years ago here. And back then I thought it was important for students to hear it, now I'm not so sure that I don't need to hear it too.

[00:03:28] Okay, so you know that I've pastored some churches and one of the things that I miss is not getting to preach on Easter because when I'm in churches pastors always hog the Easter message. And so I want to tell an Easter-related story. There was a professor and a preacher named Anthony Campolo, a lot of you've heard of this guy, and so I kind of resonate with what he has to say being an academic myself. He was describing a good Friday service in inner—in his inner-city Philadelphia church. And this is a service where all the preachers on the staff get a chance to share that day and he was next to the last before the senior pastor. And he preached, and he thought he was good. And he said he was so good that he wished he had taken notes on himself, right. And then he sat down next to the senior pastor and he said, "Pastor how are you gonna top that." And the pastor said, "boy". And he said, "I hate when he calls me boy." He hit him on the knee he said "I'm going to do you in" and said he got up in front of the crowd and did him in saying one phrase over and over, this a familiar story, he just got up and said, "it's Friday but Sunday's comin'." This big pastor took command of the podium and he just stood there and he goes.

[00:04:40] "It's Friday, Friday, and my Jesus is on the cross. Just as you described, did Matthew 27, but that's Friday. Sunday's a comin'. It's Friday and the temple took the tur--curtain, I can't say it, the curtain was torn in two. The centurion was on the ground but that's Friday. Remember Sunday is a comin'.” Mr. Sue, it's Friday.

[00:05:08] Good Friday.

[00:05:11] And Mary is crying, and Martha is weepin', and the disciples are hidin’ but remember that's Friday.

[00:05:18] Sunday is a comin'." And he went on like this he said for 90 minutes. Okay, just saying this over and then he got to the point at the end where he just looked at everybody and went "Friday" and the crowd shouted.

[00:05:30] "Sunday’s a comin'." "Friday" and they would say, "Sunday's a comin'."

[00:05:36] Thank you for indulging me on that little post-Easter—(Crowd laughs.) As we get closer to the Fourth of July.

[00:05:44] But you know this is an election year and you're going to hear over and over channel x, channel y, channels CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, Fox, "What's wrong with America?" People gonna tell you over and over again that it's Friday in America and perhaps they're right. I mean, about 20 to 25 percent of Americans now self identify as atheists saying that they have no belief in God. We have a 19 trillion dollar deficit.

[00:06:12] When I talked about this last time it was about 15 trillion dollars and it's going up with a bullet. Still, over a million babies are aborted every year. We've redefined marriage in the United States. States are wrestling whether to legalize suicide or whether to legalize marijuana. And it's clearly not your grandfather's America. It's clearly not even your father's America and some people would tell you it's Friday.

[00:06:37] I think this gets more acute every quadrennial election year, a presidential election year, but I think people lapse into the perpetual lament about what's wrong with our country. They'll tell you our institutions aren't good anymore, that our military is not quite as strong, education really stinks in America, Congress is corrupt and the president's worse, and I just wish the Supreme Court will learn something about constitutional law. Movies are no good. Television is even worse. Rivers don't run as fast as they used to. And even our food isn't very good and I say that just before you go to lunch. They'll tell you that the United States is no longer a great nation, that we need to take our place with the other state nations in the world, that we're soon going to be passed by national supremacy by China and Brazil, right. Now, I don't mind when I hear the perpetual lament from the NPR crowd, from those people who come over from Britain so they could do commentary on national television, because we like the accent quite frankly, and they'll tell you what's wrong with the United States. I don't even mind when I hear it from crusty old men who are conservatives and they're longing for a better day, can we remember we had our own apartheid in the United States,

[00:07:46] but more more of my folks, people who trust the Lord for the country, singing God Bless America the loudest and then really don't believe that he does, enter into the perpetual lament. And I want to say, "I guess" when people are saying "this is the most important election cycle. If we don't get this right then I pray for America because I think we're doomed to end." I want to tell these would be prophetic political prognosticators that I think they're wrong and I think they're wrong for a couple three reasons. First, I don't doubt that for most people it seems like Friday in America, I just don't fear Fridays because Fridays in America come with great regularity.

[00:08:31] In fact every time I look at a calendar there's always a Friday. When a group of colonists decided that we hold these truths self-evident and to kick the global hegemon out of their country, that was a Friday. When we had a second scrap with England just a few years later, because nobody really knows when the war of 1812 was, the British burned the capital and the government was out fleeing, that was Friday. When we had this war where a group of states decided that they wanted to leave the union because they wanted to protect their right to own people, that was a Friday. We had an economic calamity several years later where probably in real economic terms, I'm saying this from Mr. Kelly, about 33 percent of our country was unemployed, that's a Friday. When there was this crazy little man, let me see if I can find you, had like a funky little mustache like this and he was bent on taking over the world, that was a Friday in America. In my lifetime we've had several Fridays. When I was a kid, the Cold War was in full force. I remember on the military base that we had when we were a kid that we had nuclear fallout practices twice a year. You get off the school bus, you came in, you couldn't play baseball, you couldn't do anything because we were practicing how to survive nuclear fallout. I had friends in school, Miss Roe, you'll like this, who in their class they had to practice what would happen if there was a nuclear exchange and they'd get down, they get under their desk, they get sent into the desk, they'd put their head between their legs, and you know probably step nine and 10 pucker up and kiss their dairy hairs goodbye because they weren't going to survive this nuclear blast.

[00:10:11] We used to watch films where they would have the Soviet flag and they'd say "Hungary" and it was like the theme to Law and Order "dun dun" on and they would blast it over their—“Poland” "dun dun" Czechoslovakia "dun dun." Somebody thought it was a good idea to make a film where they showed what happened in the—in the Bay of Pigs and they had these guys, like Mr. Lonon here, who were captured and the Cubans were like shooting them and blowing their brains out. Now that's something to do just before lunch. I mean, watching that take place made Nadeem Kinties turning me down for the eighth-grade dance seem at least a little bit superfluous. (Crowd laughs.) But The Cold War stuff, I mean, I'm like—I’m looking for old crusty Dr. Hicks or somebody who would be—I mean Dr. Kucks—Dr. Hicks too, who can resonate with me because we solve problems in those good old days with assassinations.

[00:11:03] I was in first grade when the principal came over the loudspeaker and told us that the president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, had been assassinated. That's why there's a lot of us who walk around like this to this day.

[00:11:14] I mean, assassinations just seem to be the course. Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1965. Malcolm X was assassinated three years later. M--Martin Luther King was assassinated a couple months after that the book ended. Robert Kennedy was assassinated. Lest you think assassinations were just a vast right-wing conspiracy. Governor George Wallace, a conservative, and Ronald Reagan were shot too. We look on the news and see what's going on because of the racial unrest in Ferguson Missouri and other places, by the way, that's tragic, but when Dr. Haynes and I were kids cities were on fire all the time, weren't they? You know, so Newark New Jersey and Detroit in Atlanta and Memphis and large parts of Los Angeles were on fire. We had corrupt presidents we had wars that we might shouldn't have ever fought in the time when we were going through our Fridays and in your period you've had Fridays too. There have been wars that we probably shouldn't have fought there been been—one president gave away a large number of nuclear secrets to the Chinese. Might be something that you're going to face 10, 20 years down the road. We had one president because of his own sexual peccadilloes, the chief law enforcement officer of the United States who obstructed the stuffing’s out of justice in order to maintain his time in office when he was impeached. These Fridays happen all the time in America. And I guess I'm just not convinced that this is the threshold Friday; that we're at the ultimate Friday. That we're at Black Friday, that we're at Friday the 13th. I'm kind of little concerned about this deficit thing, but I don't know why this Friday is uniquely bad. I know it's "a turning point in America", Fridays come, I just don't fear Fridays.

[00:13:03] Second point is even if it is Friday in America, unless the Lord is calling the whole thing off soon or unless he's deciding to take his hand—uniquely take his hand off America, even if it is Friday, I think the preacher's right. Sunday's a comin'. Why do I think that? Because it always has come in America. Look at all those things I talked about. We were able to kick—keep kick the hegemon the global superpower out of the United States and keep it out. We were able to hold the union together during the time of the civil war. We got past the depression. We were able to fight a two-front war and put that crazy man in his grave. We finally had a president who stopped saying we're gonna pussyfoot around with the Soviet Union and talk about spheres of influence and finally say it's an evil empire and we put to bed the cold war. In each of those occasions Sunday came. There was—I’m in an academic profession

[00:14:06] you probably didn't know that, especially the ones in the API class and saying "what has he been doing all semester?" We like to think clever we look--

[00:14:16] we like to think that some of the statements people make are clever. There is a filmmaker from PBS named Ken Burns. And he's done some excellent work. A film series on baseball, on the civil war, a not so good one on World War II. He just did a great one, I thought, on Jackie Robinson that just appeared last week, and he came out to Ogden Utah and he spoke to a group of teachers and he said this. He said, "When history is complete America will be known for three contributions to the world the Constitution, jazz, and baseball."

[00:14:50] And I had a lot of my academic friends said "Oh isn't that a marvelous thing. Isn't that somebody wonderful and perhaps don't you think it's true?" And I went "huh?" I mean, I love the Constitution, I teach it in every class, every semester, every year. I like jazz to the extent that I understand it. I don't know that I want--like the guy in that movie Whiplash, you know, keep smacking me in the head making sure that I can keep tempo, although I have thought about doing that in moot court practice.

[00:15:18] Mr. Engle come on down.

[00:15:21] I love baseball but you've got to be kidding me. The United States of America put a man on the moon. The United States of America, for better or worse, exploded an atomic bomb changing history. We lost 620,000 people in order to end slavery in the United States fought through a hundred year period of our own apartheid followed by a 50 year period of civil rights so that a man who might not have been able to stand next to another man in the restroom could complete an eight-year term as president of the United States. We're feeding a large part of the world. Most of the best medicines come out of the United States. Most of the technologies transportation all come out of the United States because every time there was a Friday somebody stepped up to the plate and Sunday was a comin'. I just don't know why that can't happen now.

[00:16:19] Finally, and this is maybe a little bit personal. I think it certainly may be Friday in America. I just don't fear Fridays, because Sunday always seems to come in America. But but but part of the reason I think we're gonna be fine is because I believe in you. I believe in you. I believe in you guys haven't even met you all, there's a student said you're taking an AP class of mine. I believe in those students I believe in the people here. Few years ago, you know at lunch I oftentimes sit with the HSLDA guys because they think they know a lot about law and sports and I get to chuckle. I'm kidding. (Crowd laughs.)

[00:16:55] Now let's go back to the reproductive system--. (Crowd laughs.)

[00:16:59] And I'm sitting there and this was about the time for the 2012 election. And I'm listening to them do the perpetual lament. "America is not what it once be, we will never get past it, President Obama gets re-elected, it's all over. Blah blah blah blah." And I'm sitting there listening to them and I'm kind of doing this and rolling my eyes and smirking and all this. And Dr. Ferris looked at me and he said: "you don't believe this?" And I said, "No I don't believe it." And he's like "why not?" I'm trying to imitate him. "Why not?" I said, "Stand up, brother." And we looked over on the other side and I said: "because of them." And I was pointing to you. Look let me apologize to you because somebody you're going to be voting for the very first time in a few weeks, few months, in November and we've really given you some awful choices, right. And I'm--I'm being serious here. I mean, we've got a guy who's isolated a lot of serious problems but the guy just doesn't know anything about what solutions would be practical to solve those problems. In fact, his solutions would be disastrous. We have a woman who desperately wants to be president. I mean, has wanted to be president in 2012, wanted to be president 2008, wanted to be president before that, but her family's name is synonymous with corruption. Just that. I mean, her husband was the most talented political actor I've ever seen, am I close to right, and had opportunities I think had insights from God about race relations in the United States about how to better bring faith base things into the political arena. Squandered it all away. I have really no reason to believe that her presidency would be different. And then the third candidate who seems to be leading and had a major victory last night may be the most dangerous candidate that I've ever seen in my lifetime for president. So I apologize to you Mr. Sue and Ms. Rowe and their brother, Mr. McDonald and others. And by the way, Mr. Osborne who might be the only person you heard this message a few years ago, Gramps. Oh my, might he graduate someday. (Crowd laughs.) I didn't mean it. You can sit back down.

[00:19:18] But—but please understand that America is an idea, a set of ideas. I mean, it is that we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal. It is we the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union. It is we conquer and our cause it is just we conquer and this be our motto In God is our trust *then* that star-spangled banner will wave for the land of the free and the home of the brave. And I genuinely believe that no matter what happens in this election America will survive a Sanders presidency, America will survive a Clinton presidency, America will survive a Trump presidency. \*Gulp\* Invite me back 4 years from now and I can do the same message, I believe, to 8 years from now, 12 years from now because I think as these Fridays come, and as you step to the plate, Sunday will be a comin'. So please, when you're looking at this array of candidates, don't give up on your dream for America because those ideas are still true. I'm also asking you not to let people talk you out of stepping up to the plate as American citizens.

[00:20:31] The reason we run for office or we write op-ed pieces or we become delegates or we end up putting things on people's doors or we have a crazy guy who built a college in the middle of a cow pasture and the like is not because as Christians we're trying to take over America, they're just steps that we can take as American citizens and they were paid for by the blood of heroes who fought in all these wars in order to give us this opportunity to combat

[00:21:01] the Fridays that take place in our lives. And then the last thing, because I do think it's important to say something about the Scripture passage that I read, please remember when you're exercising your citizenship that you have a hea--heavenly citizenship that should inform it.

[00:21:19] You read the passage, you were dogs, you were of the world, you were strangers from the covenant, you were aliens from the promise, you were by nature the children of wrath. That was the before picture. God, through His grace, through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, changed you. Now, you are able to sit together with him in heavenly places. Now, you are part takers of the divine nature. And I think that's why God tells *us*, I don't know if he's telling the guy at Elmo's bar down there, but he's certainly telling us to pray for those of authority. Pray for it--to talk about our country, to stand on our country, to pray for those things so that God may reach out and heal our land. Because that informs our earthly citizenship the heavenly citizenship we have from above. Look, I'll go ahead and close this off in a minute but but I want you to understand that as you listen to this--the people come talk to you in this election--you're gonna hear the perpetual lament. It could be your parents, it could be your grandparents. It could be people around here. It could be Dr. Ferris, crusty Dr. Cook's, old cynical Dr. Haynes. Gosh, it might even be me. Now take me seriously. But as you hear people engaging in the perpetual lament, I want you to be polite to them, I want you to give them the respect they deserve, but inside what I want is that grit that the Lord seems to have put in Americans to rise up and say "Just don't screw it up so that we can get our turn at bat and watch what we do." If you don't mind me mixing up metaphors when you get your turn it bat.

[00:23:05] I want you to be like the soldier or the sailor or that guy who flies planes and stand up there and say "I promise you nothing is going to happen on my watch."

[00:23:18] And you know what's going to happen, things will happen on your watch and you won't be able to understand them because these are the Fridays that come and eventually are buttressed by the Sundays in your life and you're going to give it your best effort. Like the people of this generation like the Sanders, like the Clinton, like the Trumps, like the Cruz, is like the Kasichs like those who are fighting to make America great, keep America being great, are doing now. And someday you're going to become old, and you're going to want to engage in that diatribe about America and discuss about how America used to be a greater place and how certainly it is Friday in America. But I'm asking you when your children and your grandchildren are looking at you like you're looking at me now to remember when you're starting to shout it's Friday.

[00:24:10] What happens? (Crowd "Sunday's a comin".)

[00:24:13] Absolutely right. Thank you so much.