

## The Greatest Need in America

We've been thinking much about the state of our country. Economic woes, fear of enemies, health concerns, natural disasters, spiritual decline, and confused morality call for our attention; and we continually ask what God's will is for this country.

We are perplexed but not surprised that the fastest growing religious group in America is the group that identifies themselves as having "no religion." According to the American Religious Identification Survey taken in 2001, adults who do not subscribe to any religious identification has more than doubled from 14.3 million in 1990 to 29.4 million in 2001; their proportion has grown from just eight percent of the total in 1990 to over fourteen percent in 2001. Only 77 percent of Americans now claim to be Christians.

Many of those who claim to be Christians have convictions far different from the teaching of the New Testament. For instance, the Pew Forum recently released a survey saying that 65 percent of American Christians say that many religions can lead to eternal life, a fact that contradicts Jesus' plain statement in John 14:6 (see also Acts 4:12; Ephesians 4:4-6).

What America needs most is the gospel, the old story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. That divine story will lead them to change their hearts and lives in repentance and to unite with Christ in baptism. The gospel will open their hearts to faith, hope, and love.

—**Phil Sanders**

Author of ***A Faith Built on Sand*** and ***Adrift***  
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