

TELEVANGELIST SUMMARIES
March 1984

JERRY FALWELL

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JERRY FALWELL SPECIAL: THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE
UNION 3-14-84

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contains the title of the document, the author's name, the date, and the place of publication. It also contains the name of the publisher and the price of the book. The title page is the first page of the document and is usually the most important page. It is the page that the reader sees first and it is the page that the reader remembers most. The title page is the page that the reader sees first and it is the page that the reader remembers most. The title page is the page that the reader sees first and it is the page that the reader remembers most.

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People For The American Way

TELEVANGELIST BROADCAST SUMMARIES

Old Time Gospel Hour

March 4, 1984

"The Moral and Spiritual State of the Union"

Biography on
Falwell

This one hour Old Time Gospel Hour special, shown in prime time and beamed via satellite to millions of homes, opened with a biography on Falwell narrated by Cal Thomas. Falwell's rise from a country preacher to moral leader was chronicled in a five minute segment. It attempted to portray Falwell as a national leader with a respectable and mainstream following. Included were film clips of Falwell at Yale and Harvard, as well as national political leaders - Vice President Bush, Kennedy, Helms, Kemp - speaking at Liberty Baptist College. Thomas mentioned the airing of two other OTGH prime time specials (school prayer and nuclear freeze), saying that Falwell produced them "because he felt that Americans were not getting all the information they needed from the American media."

America needs
spiritual
revival

Falwell opened his address by saying that theologian Harvey Cox now refutes his earlier theory that religion is declining in America. In his latest book, Religion in the Secular City, Cox asserts that America is currently undergoing a religious revival. Falwell agrees with Cox; he believes that the U.S. is on the threshold of a spiritual awakening. Falwell said, "The best is yet to come, if we stay on course and follow God's condition." Falwell quoted Edmund Burke's admonition that "all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

Falwell claims that America has been plagued with "do-nothingness" for the past fifty years and has lost the battle by default. After World War I, a period of peace and prosperity occurred with children reaping the rewards of this unparalleled affluence. Falwell contends that his new generation was victimized by a social disease called "materialism" which knew nothing about Judeo - Christian values. Parents created the revolution of the 1960's and 1970's - "the Dark Ages" as Falwell describes that period -- and their children led the rebellion. They rebelled against moral and traditional values and created lifestyles filled with drugs, rock

VOLUME 4, Issue 3
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music, crime and violence. Patriotism was forbidden and moral permissiveness was rampant. Falwell said the chant of the period was, "If it feels good, do it."

Secularization of society rampant

This moral decadence led to academic deterioration; with two Supreme Court decisions (Engel v. Vitale and Roe v. Wade) exacerbating the fastly deteriorating trend. Universities were spawning grounds for socialism and Marxism. Falwell specifically pointed to the ACLU as meddlers who want to purge America of its religious heritage. Two trends pervaded: a secularization of American life and a low view of the value of human life. (i.e. abortion). "Secularization leads to communism." It is contrary to the beliefs of our Founding Fathers who established a government of laws, a nation under God. Abortion leads to infanticide and euthanasia. Falwell quoted part of President Reagan's NRB speech on abortion and said:

"I thank God that there is a man in the White House who has a high view of human life."

Falwell told how he and Cal Thomas were driving around Washington late on evening, admiring the monuments. Falwell said he hoped that his grandchildren might one day see a monument to a president who liberated the unborn. "I want to challenge Ronald Reagan to be that president," he stated.

Is there any hope? Falwell believes there is -- through a spiritual awakening. "We need legislative and judicial reform," Falwell noted. Falwell mentioned the importance of good citizenship and cited his activities with the Moral Majority, particularly voter registration, as a goal toward that end.

America has had two spiritual awakenings, the first in the mid-18th century was marked by the growth of 150 new churches and over 40,000 converts to Christianity. The second Great Awakening occurred prior to the Civil War and give birth to the abolitionist movement.

Third Great Awakening

Falwell preaches that America needs a third Great Awakening - and with a little help, it can happen. "God's doing His work," Falwell proclaimed; citing a resurgence of religious activity. He quoted a Gallup Poll which showed that 34% admit to being reborn, and 41% of American teenagers read the Bible. "Young people today are repudiating the social experiments thrust upon them by the social engineers," Falwell added. He finds

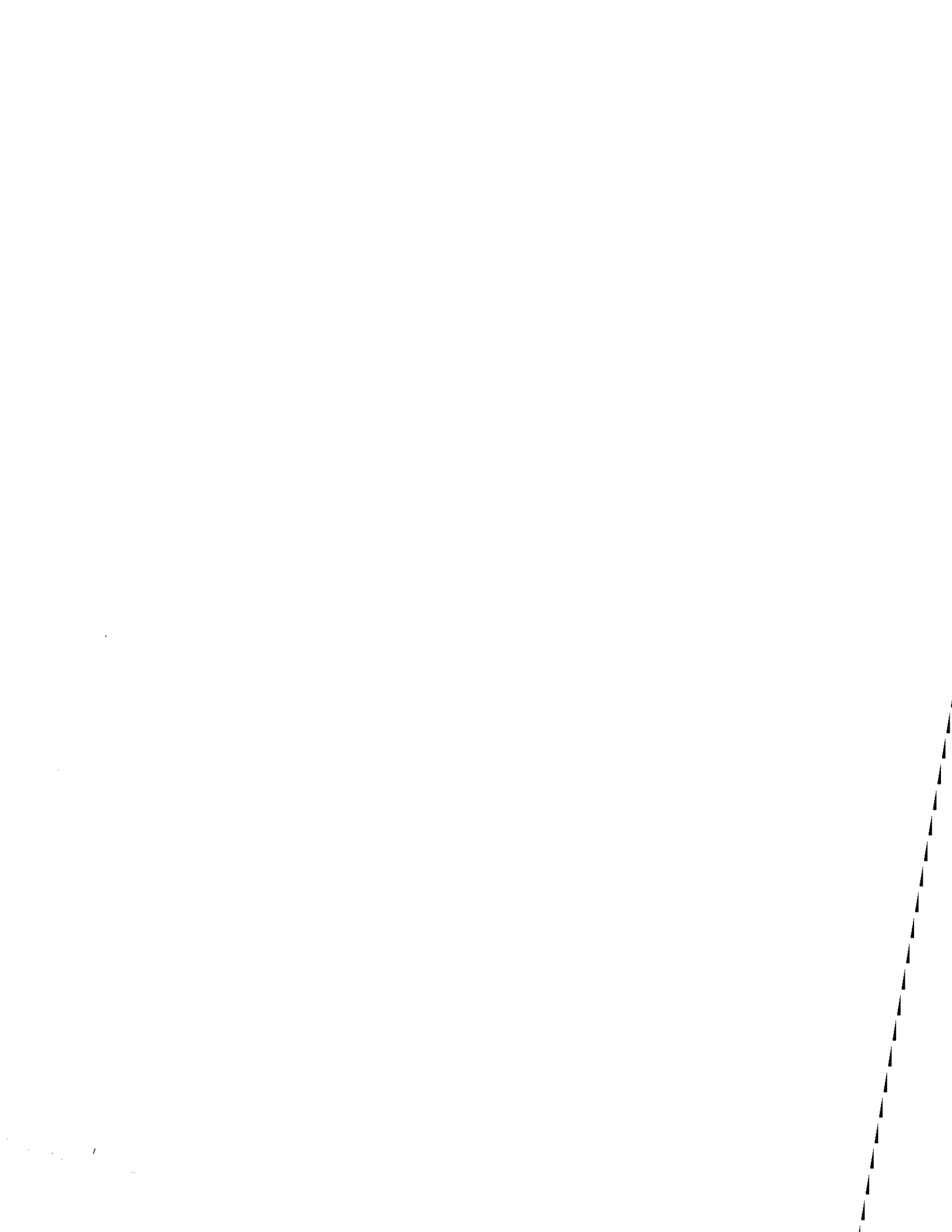
the influence of fundamentalist ministers having a profound effect today. God can visit America again, but needs divine intervention, to promote spiritual power and ask for God's blessing. Falwell proclaimed March 25 as a national day of fasting and repentance. It is only through fasting and prayer that Americans can redirect themselves and set the stage for the Third Great Awakening.

The program ended with a taped message from President Reagan calling for support of the School Prayer Amendment.

Reagan's
school
prayer
message

"My fellow Americans. I'd like to speak to you about restoring a good and worthy tradition long cherished by our people which was unfairly taken from us by a Supreme Court decision in 1962. I'm talking about the right of our school children to begin their days just as members of Congress do -- with prayer. By a majority of up to 80%, Americans agree that the God who has blessed our land should never have been expelled from our schools. And we stand on solid constitutional grounds. The First Amendment was not written to protect the people from religious freedom. That amendment states: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' When the Founding Fathers were meeting at the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin told them, 'The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see that God governs in the affairs of men. Without His concurring aid, we shall succeed no better in this political building, than the builders at Babel.' He then moved that the Convention begin its daily deliberations with the assistance of Almighty God.

George Washington believed that religion, morality, and brotherhood were pillars of society. He said we couldn't have morality without religion. And the act that gave birth to our public school system called for education to see that our children "learned about religion and morality." That our courts have gone so far as to ban not only prayer at the beginning of the school day, but even students getting together on their own time to pray or study the Bible. [sic] The time has come for Congress to restore this fundamental religious freedom to the American people. The Senate has scheduled a vote in early March on a constitutional amendment to permit prayer in public schools. If 2/3 of the Senate approve them we must convince the leadership of the



House to permit a vote on this issue. I am confident that if Congress passes it this year, then the state legislatures will do likewise and restore voluntary public prayer in our schools. Our amendment would ensure that no child would be forced to recite a prayer. It explicitly states this. Nor could any government official compose the words of any prayer to be said in the public schools. By reasserting their liberty of religion, we will be helping our children learn the diversity of religious beliefs and practices of the American people.

"If ever there was a time for you, the people, to make your voices heard, to make the mighty power of public opinion the decisive force in the halls of Congress, that time is now. With your support, we will return to the original intent of the First Amendment. Thank you and God bless you."

OLD TIME GOSPEL HOUR 3-11-84

FALWELL

"We are also glad to have with us a congressman from South Korea, Congressman Hong...Then we have with us today the pastor of the largest Baptist church in the Third World and of course. That means the largest Baptist church in his homeland, Brazil, Dr. Nilson Fanini."

"We have no better friend in the world than South Korea."

"This congressman is a Christian. He also happens to conduct, own and operate a Christian school there with 6500 students in the high school."

National Religious Broadcasters Convention

"President Reagan brought a tremendous message. It would be proper for delivery in any pulpit in America. I have a copy of it. We will no doubt use it so that all people in America can hear all of it."

"And on the front page of the Washington Post...next morning, large picture of President Reagan standing full length, and the caption said 'President Reagan singing "God Bless America" with Christian broadcasters.' And then a very fair and objective story of what happened there."

Supreme Court/Abortion and School Prayer

"Today there are those who are determined never to allow our little children to pray again in public schools; who want to take out every manger scene and Star of David from public life. Who want to make this like the Soviet Union, like Red China, a secular, godless state. The fact is, one day, Jesus is going to come and strike down all Supreme Court decisions in one fell swoop. He's going to say to the nine, 'You were wrong.'...The

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same court that ruled that black people were not human and that unborn babies are not human were wrong both times. And because it's legal doesn't make it right."

Christ coming

"There's coming a day when our King, the Lord Jesus -the "High Court" - is going to come in on a white horse. I'd sure like to have that horse after He uses it...The ACLU will file suit immediately. But they won't get a good ruling!"

OLD TIME GOSPEL HOUR 3-18-84

FALWELL

Moral and Social issues

"I am criticized often for addressing the moral and social issues. In the last four to five years, I've been literally maligned by the national media, liberal politicians and the secular humanists and the atheists of our land and the militant homosexuals and so many others, because of my stand on moral and social issues. I believe what Solomon said, 'Living by God's principles promotes a nation to greatness. Violating those principles brings a nation to shame.'"

America Needs Revival

"This country must turn around. It's revival or ruin."

OLD TIME GOSPEL HOUR 3-25-84

FALWELL

America

"I have a desire to see America turned around."

Religion and Politics

A filmed segment showed Reverend Falwell speaking on numerous college campuses, including Yale, Dartmouth, and Harvard.

STUDENT

"Reverend Falwell, you said that the idea that religion and politics don't mix was invented by the devil to keep Christians from running their own country."

FALWELL

"I didn't say it. James Robison said it, but he probably was right. Go ahead."

STUDENT

"In light of quotations like that how are we expected to believe that the moral majority would respect the right of non-Christians to secular equality in the United States."

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FALWELL

"I want to repeat, I didn't say that."

STUDENT

"You were quoted in the New York Times in an advertisement by..."

FALWELL

"That's all the more reason you shouldn't believe it. I would like to say that I do believe that philosophy that Christians or religious Americans, Jews, whatever should not be involved in the political arena is a very bad philosophy. One does not forfeit his citizenship because he joins a church or a synagogue. One does not forfeit his citizenship because he becomes a minister. I think he rather enhanced his responsibilities to government to be a good citizen. And for many years I was on the opposite side of that. In the sixties I preached a sermon, put it in print and tried to buy it back since then, why we shouldn't be out there...If religious Americans absent from the political arena as private citizens, not speaking for the church, then as Edmund Burke said 'all that's necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.'"

END OF CLIP

FALWELL

"Young people today are victims of a secular philosophy...'If it feels good do it...'

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the

author to the editor of the journal.

The author states that the purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of the new teaching method on the students' learning outcomes. The study was conducted in a classroom setting over a period of six weeks. The results of the study showed that the new teaching method had a positive effect on the students' learning outcomes. The author concludes that the new teaching method is a promising approach to teaching and learning.

The author also mentions that the study was limited in scope and that further research is needed to confirm the findings. The author expresses his hope that the study will be helpful to other educators and researchers in the field.

The author thanks the editor and the reviewers for their comments and suggestions. He also thanks the students and the teacher who participated in the study. The author concludes the letter with a polite closing and his contact information.

Sincerely,
[Signature]

The author is a graduate student at the University of [Name]. He can be reached at [Phone Number] or [Email Address].

TO: Staff
FROM: Marcie
DATE: 7 March, 1984
RE: Falwell's special, "The Moral and Spiritual State of the Union"
aired on March 4, 1984

Falwell's address was directed at Americans who are on the verge of a third great awakening. Falwell has used this theme in the last few Old Time Gospel Hour sermons. For our purposes, the only important part of the program was a taped message from President Reagan. Here is the entire quotation:

JF: "God can save America. It's not too late. Right now, with a fitting close to this program we go the White House and the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

RR: "My fellow Americans. I'd like to speak to you about restoring a good and worthy tradition long cherished by our people which was unfairly taken from us by a Supreme Court decision in 1962. I'm talking about the right of our school children to begin their days just as members of Congress do-- with prayer. By a majority of up to 80%, Americans agree that the God who has blessed our land should never have been expelled from our schools. And we stand on solid constitutional grounds. The First Amendment was not written to protect the people from religious freedom. That amendment states: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' When the Founding Fathers were meeting at the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin told them, 'The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see that God governs in the affairs of men. Without His concurring aid, we shall succeed no better in this political building, than the builders at Babel.' He then moved that the Convention begin its daily deliberations with the assistance of Almighty God.

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(over)

forbid our children from voluntary vocal prayer in their schools. By reasserting their liberty of religion , we will be helping our children learn the diversity of religious beliefs and practices of the American people.

If ever there was a time for you, the people, to make your voices heard, to make the mighty power of public opinion the decisive force in the halls of Congress, that time is now. With your support, we will return to the original intent of the First Amendment. Thank you and God bless you. "

* A complete and fuller summary of this program will be forthcoming. I just wanted this RR piece to be public!