**Lesson 10 - The American Experiment: Stepping Stones**

1. **Introduction – God's design for the state – How close was the American Experiment?** 
   1. Three rules: Won't deify America; won't deify Founders; won't cast stones
   2. Basis for the three branches - Isaiah 33 – Lawgiver, Judge, and King
   3. Early educational system – Instilling principles of Biblical Christianity
      1. Primer and NEA – Biblical doctrine and prayer were essential to education
      2. Founding and original mottos of Harvard, Princeton, and Columbia
2. **Foundations of Religion and Morality – Basis for Freedom and Liberty** 
   1. Dr. Tackett's personal journey – America 101
      1. Murals in Capital rotunda
      2. Revelation 2:5 - Remember, Repent and Return
      3. Washington's Farwell address
   2. Foundations of this country - Religion and Morality
      1. Consistent theme in virtually all of the Founder's writings
      2. They saw a strong connection between virtue and liberty
   3. Purpose of Civil Magistrate - Punish evil and condone good – Romans 13
3. **Foundations of Law** 
   1. Blackstone – Valid human laws must be based upon God's laws
   2. Influence of Darwin radically changed law in America – Case study methodology
      1. Legal Positivism – The state is the authority for determining right and wrong
4. **The Larger Story** 
   1. Original charters and constitutions – Acknowledgment of God's authority and recognition that the state was subject to and accountable to God
   2. Pilgrims intent – "preserving and propagating the truth and liberties of the gospel"
   3. Historical revisionism – Founders depicted as Deists and secularists; stripping God and Christianity from all historical accounts; pursuing a secular basis for law
5. **Conclusion – How has this happened?** 
   1. Men have forgotten God
   2. Cycle of Nations – Hosea 13:6 – Judgment and destruction upon proud nations
   3. Jesus removing the lamp stand – Our hope: Light always overtakes darkness