

Dorothy Fletcher was flying to Orlando in 2003. During the flight, she had a heart attack. Just like in the movies, a flight attendant asked, "Is there a doctor on board?" *15 cardiologists stood up.* They were traveling together, on their way to a medical conference. Needless to say, she survived. I hope no one viewing this ever has a medical emergency like that, but Dorothy was certainly *in the right place at the right time!*

Along the same lines: In 1999, an Indiana man was playing a board game that centered around art and artists. He noticed that a Martin Johnson Heade painting in the game looked just like one he was using to cover a hole in his wall at home. Turns out, *he had the real thing*, and he sold it to a museum for more than \$1 million!

Hold that thought—*an Indiana person with the right stuff, in the right place, at the right time.*

Greetings! I'm Jim Taylor, thanks for joining me and IN Favor Resources in this video blog, the first in a series of four, entitled **HOOSIER PROUD:** or, more specifically, **Four reasons *Why you should never, ever be embarrassed to live in Indiana***

To be honest, I *consistently* see this "inferiority complex," an embarrassment, even a *shame*. Our young people want to move away and go to "someplace more exciting"—anyplace. If or when Indiana is mentioned by the media, or in a Hollywood production—TV or movie, it is almost always in a negative way, sometimes even insulting, and occasionally hateful.

I'm beginning with the most important reason **not to be embarrassed about being a Hoosier:**
Reason #1: is this: **BECAUSE GOD CALLED YOU TO BE HERE, and NOW**

You see, *none of us are living in this state, today, by accident.* It is not a punishment, either. If you are one of the more than 6½ million residents of our state *it is on purpose.* (Perhaps not *your* purpose, or you may have never given a thought as to why you are here.) I'd like you to think about it today. It is not by chance, and it is not an accident.

I believe God's sovereignty includes our free will; that he allows us to make many decisions: eg, you choose kind of car you drive, who you marry, if you'll cheer for the colts, and so on. *But there are at least two decisions that God makes for you.* He has chosen these for you:

This comes from **Acts 17:24** where Paul says, *The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth...* (so he knows what he's doing.) And what did he do?
²⁶ *From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.*

Notice again *these two things that were decided for you by God:*

First, *he set the times set for you.* Ever wish you'd been born into some other era of history? Wanted to see dinosaurs? Witness the crucifixion? Meet Abraham Lincoln? Live on the moon? Well, *God determined the times set for you!* He decided the time frame when you would live. He *set* the year, the month, the day, and *the time* of day when you would be born. So, sorry about the dinosaur thing; *God thought it more important that you be in Indiana, today.*

Next, *God determined the exact places where you would live.* Notice: not generally, but *exactly.* Did you ever wish you lived somewhere else? Born in Colorado? The Fiji islands? Italy? I'll tell you what: it was *God* who *determined the exact places where you would live!* Sorry about the Fiji Islands thing; *God thought it more important that you be in Indiana, today.*

Can you see that it's no accident that you're *here, now*?

It's not by chance; it's not an accident of birth; it's not because your grandparents moved here; it's not even because you came for college or you were transferred here for your job. No, you are here in Indiana at this time because **GOD CALLED YOU HERE, NOW.**

God knew the **exact** moment of your birth before Adam; all of your days are written in his book. He selected your address/zip code before world was even created, before Indiana existed. No one rolled the dice on this one. Oh, no. *This is no accident, and it's not a matter of luck. This is a divine appointment. You are here on assignment.*

You are **exactly WHERE** you are supposed to be, and **WHEN** you are supposed to be there. **You are in Indiana.** *You are RIGHT ON TARGET, and you are RIGHT ON TIME.*

(You might want to pause this, go outside, and shout, "**God says I belong here!**") ☺

If we could travel back in time, a long, long, long time ago, parting the mists of eternity; If we could peer into the counsels of the Godhead, three in one, overhear their conversation; We'd hear them ages ago laying the plans for redemption—man's creation, sin, fall, death; Jesus' birth, sinless life, atoning death, triumphant resurrection, glorious second coming; *And they would eventually get to 2021 ... in the state of Indiana ... and you'd hear them ask,* "When the world is in such terrible shape, when so many things are going wrong, in the darkest times when evil seems to be out of control and there is little hope—and with all the wonderful plans we have for this state, who needs to be THERE and THEN? *Who is so necessary to our purposes that they will not be fulfilled without these people?"* And **they would name you ... and me!** And we would hear God's decree in eternity past: "Let them be born in or brought in so they are present in Indiana to serve me in 2021."

God wanted people he could count on, who were strong, who had the gifts/abilities/experiences needed, who would take a stand, who would persevere, who would be victorious—**and he chose YOU.** I want you to see your current situation from God's viewpoint: He moved heaven and earth to get you here, laid plans in eternity that are just now coming true. **YOU** are the Indiana person with the **RIGHT STUFF**, in the **RIGHT PLACE**, at the **RIGHT TIME!** I'm so glad to meet you! I'm very impressed with you; I can see why God chose you!

This is **the first reason** *Why you should never, ever be embarrassed to live in Indiana.*

Coming up next:

Reason #2: GOD HAS GREAT PLANS FOR OUR STATE We know this because *Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.* And some of the things God has in store for us will blow your mind!

Then **Reason #3: BECAUSE YOU HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN WHAT GOD IS DOING** Those mind blowing plans? They won't happen without *your* unique contribution!

And **Reason #4: BECAUSE NO PLACE IS PERFECT, BUT INDIANA IS BETTER THAN MOST** Many of the things you've heard, or thought about Indiana *are simply not true.* There are reasons to *prefer* our state over many of the places you've wanted to move to.

At the end of this process, I trust that you will be more *informed* by the facts, more *impressed* by your state, more *intrigued* by the possibilities, more *involved* in making it all happen. You will know you are in Indiana, in the center of God's will, fulfilling his plan for all of us. **YOU NEED NEVER, EVER AGAIN BE EMBARRASSED TO LIVE IN INDIANA.** **YOU CAN BE PROUD TO BE A HOOSIER.**

I am so glad, so grateful to be working with all of you to bring Indiana in line with God's favor! Thanks for joining me today; signing off until next time, hope to see you then.



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