

## God and Country – 09/25/22

**TEXT – Psalms 33:12** *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*

**INTRO - There is either a God or there is not a God.**

**The Bible is either true or a great deception.**

**Jesus Christ is either the Son of God or a deceiver.**

If there is a God, as I believe there is, and if he rules the world in his sovereignty, as the Bible says he does, and if he will bring human history to a close according to his plan and appoint to every person his eternal destiny, as Jesus taught that he will, then two of the most important questions for any human being to answer are these:

1. **Why am I here?**
2. **Where am I going?**

**What is the basis for law and morality?**

**If it is man there is a problem because men do not agree on morality.**

**Adam and Eve were created in the image of God.**

**In intellectual and moral likeness.**

**Genesis 1:26-27** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

**Colossians 3:10** *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

**Ephesians 4:24** *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

**According to the Bible man was created by God with intellectual and moral qualities after His image. But through sin man is a fallen creature and his morality has been polluted.**

We must never forget what God **has done** in the past for America. We must have our eyes opened to see what God **is doing** for America in the present. Then we must realize what God **will do to** America in the future.

### I. WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR AMERICA.

#### A. God's Influence in the Birth of America.

We sing, "My County Tis of Thee"

1. First colonies – Jamestown, Va. First community bldg was a church.
2. Pilgrims first act at Plymouth Rock - kneel, praise and dedicate new colony.
3. Roger Williams (*Bapt Minister*) est. Rhode Island.

4. Lord Baltimore held church service in establishing Maryland.

5. Will Penn in writing gov't policies for PA made sure "all treasurers, judges, and all elected officials professed faith in Christ."

\* Twelve of the original 13 colonies incorporated the entire Ten Commandments into their civil and criminal codes.

\* The American Bible Society was started by an act of Congress and John Adams, our second president, served as its first leader.

\* President George Washington said, "It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible. Of all dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are indispensable."

\* In 1782, the U.S. Congress voted in favor of a resolution recommending and approving the Bible for use in the schools.

Patrick Henry, first governor of Virginia and a member of the Continental Congress, stated, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Constitution ends "in the year of our Lord."

Nation's motto: "In God we trust"

Pledge "One nation under God"

#### B. Our country's heritage has a foundation in God

**People came to America for different reasons. The Pilgrims came for religious freedom. Some came for adventure, some for prosperity, some for political freedom and others for various reasons.**

**Puritans** believed that the state was obligated to protect society from heresy, and it was empowered to use corporal punishment, banishment, and execution. New England magistrates did not investigate private views, but they did take action against public dissent from the religious establishment. During the 1788-89 election while still living in Virginia, John Leland threw his support behind James Madison due to Madison's support for religious liberty in what became the First Amendment to the Constitution.

If government can answer for individuals at the day of judgment, let men be controlled by it in religious matters; otherwise, let men be free. - John Leland  
**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

*I have lived, sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? – Benjamin Franklin*

For three hundred years the Bible was taught in the public schools, and the Christian literature and doctrine and faith were presented to the young people and the children who attended our public institutions.

## **II. Our Faith In God Is Our Foundation**

### **A. The basis of our lives is the Word of God**

1. Fully embrace the conviction every word of the Holy Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God.
2. Fall in love with truth more than the pleasures and entertainment of the World.
3. Study the Word of God diligently and read it on a daily basis.
4. Choose to submit your will to God's Word, *before* you read and know what it is going to say.
5. Discipline your thoughts, opinions, and emotions to obey God's Word after you have read it, studied it, and know what it says.
6. Choose to live by the conviction, "I will obey God's Word with humility, love and grace, even if I am rejected by family and friends and considered to be an intolerant hate-monger by the world."

**Our first president, George Washington, took the oath of office and put his hand on what? (the Bible)**

**What was his first official act as President? (kissed the Bible, then held a 2 hr. praise/worship session in Congress)**

**How did they determine to open sessions of Congress? (prayer)**

**Who would lead in those prayers? (chaplains)**

**How would they be paid? (tax dollars)**

**Does all of that sound like they wanted to keep God out of government?**

**Who decided to put "In God We Trust" on our coins? It was adopted by Congress in 1956!**

**\*In 1777, the Continental Congress voted to spend \$300,000 to purchase Bibles for distribution in the nation.**

**\*The GETTYSBURG ADDRESS states "...this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom..."**

**\*94% OF THE WRITINGS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE U.S. CONTAINED QUOTATIONS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.**

**\*THE STATE CONSTITUTIONS OF ALL 50 STATES MENTION GOD.**

**\*The "Liberty Bell" has part of Leviticus 25:10 inscribed on it:**

**"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."**

**\*An image of Moses carrying the tablets of God's Law faces the Speaker of the House of Representatives.**

**\*The entering President takes his courtroom OATH OF OFFICE with his right hand on the Holy Bible, and concludes his vow "So help me God."**

**\* The Supreme Court itself begins each of its sessions with the phrase 'God save the United States and this honorable court,'**

**\*First Vice President and Second President, John Adams wrote in 1798: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."**

**\*Our sixth President, John Quincy Adams said: "No book in the world deserves to be so unceasingly studied, and so profoundly meditated upon as the Bible." -**

**\*At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin said, "God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"**

**\*The Christian writings and pronouncements of our 16th President Abraham Lincoln would fill an entire book. He said this when he assumed leadership over a nation on the brink of civil war:**

**"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven... But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." - 1863**

**\*Theodore Roosevelt, America's 26th President, wrote:**

**"In this actual world, a churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at, or ignored their religious needs, is a community on the rapid down-grade." - 1917**

## **III. America's Problems Stem From Our Silent Pulpits**

### **A. We need to pray for gov't leaders**

**1 Ti 2:1-3 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;**

**There's plenty to pray for! We need a revival of doing good:**

**We need to pray for a revival of the sanctity of life!**

**Pro 21:1** *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

#### **B. We need to Praise our gov't**

**Romans 13:1-7** *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God . . . 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.*

Despite all our problems, the USA is still the greatest nation on earth. We need a revival of good old-fashioned patriotism!

And we should honour our leaders, and all that are in authority...like police officers, like our boss (good or bad...v. 1), we should honour our parents, for God placed them in authority over us, we should honor our spiritual leaders...like a missionary, who gives away his life, even his freedom, for the souls of others.

#### **C. We Need To Participate In Government**

**It is inconceivable that God would ordain gov't such as He has, and then tell His people to stay out of it!**

**It is our Christian duty to get informed, and vote!**

**Shame on the Christian who pledges their allegiance to a political party, instead of principles...**

#### **D. We need To Persuade Government**

**How can we really make a difference?**

**We are a republic...that means that, for the most part, public policy is shaped by public opinion. And there's only 1 way to affect public opinion: and it's not billboards, radio, or TV...it's to get the Word of God into the hearts of people.**

**People change their mind about things after they get saved.**

**Abortion, marriage and separation from the world all change when the Bible is applied.**

**The pulpits of America have failed.**

### **IV. We Must Place Our Dependence Upon God**

**A.** The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence says:

**"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."**

The closing words of their Declaration solemnly states: **"With a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes & our sacred Honor."**

Patrick Henry in the last paragraph in his Will wrote, **"I have now given everything I own to my children. There is one more thing I wish I could give them & that is Christ. Because if they have everything, I gave them & don't have Christ, they have nothing."**

**Pro 14:34** *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

#### **B. Real freedom comes in Christ**

**John 8:32** *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

**John 8:36** *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

**Rom 6:18** *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

Jesus said **"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."**

**We have responsibilities to both God and country**

#### **C. Our duty to God**

**1. You must be saved**

**2. Grow in grace**

**3. Obey those in authority**

**4. Put God first in all you do**