

God and Country - 05/29/22

TEXT- Hebrews 13:15-17 *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

koinonia (G2842), akin to A (which see), is translated in [Heb 13:16](#) "to communicate," lit., "be not forgetful of good deed and of fellowship"; "fellowship"

INTRO –Today we honor soldiers that were killed in battle, especially the Civil War.

650,000 – 850,000 Civil War deaths

2,388 Americans were killed at Pearl Harbor

1,465 Americans were killed on the first day of the Normandy invasion

58,220 U.S. soldiers died in Vietnam

The cause of the civil war is complicated but it was a divisive war that sometimes divided brothers and families.

We must never forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives.

America's past is not all good. However, the founding of this country has its roots in Christian principles. We are fortunate to live in such a country.

The founders of the United States knew that for people to experience freedom of choice, they needed to be free from a national church. Thus, they established laws that guarantee religious freedom. However, the separation of church and state does not mean that our spiritual values and commitments are to have no impact on the laws that govern our society. A Marxist economist from China was asked if he had learned anything surprising while he had been in the United States. Without hesitation he said, "I had no idea how critical religion is to the functioning of democracy. The reason democracy works is not because the government is designed to oversee what everybody does, but rather democracy works because most of the people most of the time voluntarily choose to obey the law. Americans followed these rules because they had come to believe that they were not simply accountable to society, but they were accountable to God."

This Chinese man added, "As religion loses its influence over the lives of Americans: What will happen to this democracy?"

People of faith are vital to the functioning of democracy. The founders of our nation sought to create a country built on the biblical principles of freedom, justice and mercy. They laid the foundation for a great nation, but it is always a work in progress and its development is dependent on its citizens.

Let's not forget those who gave their lives to protect these freedoms.

I. Our First Allegiance Is To God

Ecclesiastes 12:13 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

A. The Ten Commandments list putting God first as the most important commandment.

Exodus 20:3 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Mat. 22:37-40 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. and the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

B. If government asks us to violate the Bible we must follow God

Acts 5:28-29 *Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

C. A right relationship with God is necessary to preserve our country

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

1. You must be saved

2. You must be following the principles of the Bible

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Psalms 19:7-10 *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

II. We must Obey Those In Authority

A. Authorities have a God-given responsibility

1 Peter 2:13-17 *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*

B. Honor parents

Ephesians 6:1-2 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise*

C. Honor local, state, and national leaders

James 4:7-10 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

D. Honor your boss at work

E. We should respect the law

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. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.*

III. The Bible Way Produces a Wonderful Society

A. Authority is a necessary evil

Teacher allowed students to have no rules in class.

B. It can bring joy

Hebrews 13:17 . . . *they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

C. We will be a blessed nation

Psalms 144:15 *Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.*

CONCL –

Satan is trying to destroy the biblical nature of our republic. We must support righteous people in leadership. Get involved in the process. Build our homes on the Word of God!