

True Freedom Comes by Faith in the God of Hope

John 8:30-36; Romans 15:13

by Pastor Dan Dickerson

Introduction

- We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. (constitution.com)
- Wording from the Declaration of Independence revealing the strong foundation of faith in God...the Laws of Nature and of **Nature's God**...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—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their **just powers** from the consent of the governed...appealing to the **Supreme Judge of the World** for the rectitude of our intentions...And for the support of this Declaration, with a **firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

1. A Good **Start** for America

- **Monarchs in History** – “For most of 6,000 years of recorded human history, power has been held in the hands of a few...The default setting for human government was monarchy...the uniqueness of America's democratically-elected Constitutional Republic can be appreciated from its rare occurrence in history...Hebrew Law required the king to obey the same law as the commoner, and kings were consistently rebuked by prophets if they tried to place themselves above the law... Deut. 17:18-20”
- Balance of powers and separation of powers (based on a biblical understanding of human depravity), religious freedom and freedom of speech (based on religious persecution in England), personal rights and responsibilities and many more truths written into the constitution flow from a **Judeo – Christian worldview** that has blessed America and the world with hospitals, education, protection of human rights, court systems based on laws for all.
- George Washington, Farewell Address, 1796 “But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.”
- Daniel Webster, 1802 “Hold on to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years, may not happen again”
- George Washington, 1789, Inaugural Address “The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected in a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.”
- Benjamin Franklin, 1787, Constitutional Congress “I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in the Assembly every morning...”

2. A **Downward** trajectory in America

- A **warning** from God's Word for all nations and people – 2 Peter 2:1-2

- **Negative realities in America taken from “Hope for the Nations” by John S. Dickerson**
 - The rate of cultural change, the overwhelming percentage of Post-Truth Americans (57 percent Post-Truth thinkers and 43 percent Truth-Based thinkers), Post-Truth's domination in every leading edge of the culture, now including K-12 education, universities, film, TV, journalism, influential coastal metropolises and Silicon Valley.
- **A Biblical Warning from God** – Psalm 9: 17 “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”

3. A Future Hope for America, the Nations and Believers around the World

- **The Benchmark** of true hope is **faith that perseveres and obeys God** even in the face of persecution and opposition – John 8:30-36
- **The Benefit** of true hope is faith in the **truth that sets us free from deception, fear of death, hell, sins penalty, power and one day sins presence** – John 8:32, 36; John 14:6; 16:13; 17:17
- **What we can and cannot control**
- **Nine Manifestos We Can Embrace** (taken from Hope for the Nations by John S. Dickerson)

- 1) We will remain rooted to the Christian Scriptures.
- 2) We will train our young.
- 3) We will be known for doing good
- 4) We will dignify all people as image bearers of God
- 5) We will be ambassadors
- 6) We will love our persecutors
- 7) We will remain calm
- 8) We will be invincible
- 9) We will be fearless

Application

- **When things may seem hopeless, the God of all hope is all powerful – Romans 15:13**
- **God does great thing through those who trust and obey – Philippians 4:13**
- **True Freedom comes by faith in the God of Hope!**

Discussion with family or life group

- Are the great benefits of the wisdom and beliefs of our nation's founding fathers being taught today? Why or why not and what can we do
- What downward trends in America most concern you and why?
- We are to examine ourselves - Do I have a persevering faith that trusts and obeys God even in the face of persecution.
- Which of the nine manifestoes is most needed in my life and what am I being led to do about it?
- Close in prayer that our lives, families, churches, nation and world will experience the true freedom which comes by faith in the God of Hope.