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COME BACK AMERICA

July 5, 2009

Introduction:

Today we remember the founding of America. Since 1776 for two hundred and thirty three years, America has functioned under the grace and blessing of Almighty God because our founding fathers acknowledged and sought His blessing on this country. We are going to visit two scriptures this morning as we seek for what God might say to us today in these next few moments. **Psalm 33:12 - What joy for the nation whose God is the LORD, whose people he has chosen for his own.**

I. There is joy for the nation who make God their Lord.

The original language says, "Blessed is the nation who makes God their Lord." The word 'blessed' means to have happiness. Happiness does not come from things, it is not a quality that comes from an external source, it comes from within. Happiness comes from personally knowing and experiencing the characteristics of a God who loves us and takes care of us. The 'nation' here refers to the massing of people. So when the masses of people align themselves with God, seeking Him and allowing Him to direct them, to live according to the principles

of His word, then that nation has made Him their Lord and God. The title, 'Lord' here refers to Jehovah or the eternally existent one who is healer, provider, redeemer, defender, and king. America started out by making Jehovah our God. The early settlers came to America to have freedom to worship God not by what the state dictated, but by what the Bible dictated.

I want to read to you from pages 32-33 of a book entitled, "The Rebirth of America", published by the Arthur S. DeMoss foundation. "The very purpose of the Pilgrims in 1620 was to establish a government based on the Bible. This was confirmed by the individual colonies

such as the Rhode Island Charter of 1683 which begins: **We submit our persons, lives, and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and to all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given us in His Holy Word.**” These “absolute laws”, became the basis of our Declaration of Independence which includes in its first paragraph an appeal to the laws of nature and of nature’s God. Our national constitution established a republic upon the absolute laws of the Bible, not a democracy based on the changing whims of people.

The concluding words of our National Anthem summarize the fact that the United States of America was born out of a commitment to God and His principles:

**“Blessed with victory and peace, may this heavn’n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just;
And this be our motto: “In God is our trust!”
And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O’re the land of the free, and the home of the brave.”**

Noah Webster said this: “The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. **All the miseries and evils which men suffer from, i.e. vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.**” If we want to be free of miseries and evils which men suffer from, Noah Webster believed correctly that we must embrace rather than despise or neglect the precepts contained in the Bible.

I’m sorry if as an American citizen you want to worship some other god, or enjoy the blessings

of Almighty God, then we only have to seek Him and follow the Bible. If we want joy and happiness in our land, we need to choose to make God our Lord. True joy comes from yielding to God and knowing God. He made us to have fellowship with Him and if we don’t have fellowship with him, we are not going to experience the joy that we were created to enjoy.

As you continue to read the verses that follow our text in Psalm 33, you clearly see these awesome truths emerge from this scripture. God is looking down from heaven on all of His creation. He is looking for people who will love Him, who are devoted to Him, who will follow Him in righteousness, who stand for truth, who share in love, who extend themselves to the poor and needy, who are guided by the principles of justice and mercy. God has fashioned the hearts of everyone alike. We are all made the same when it comes to our inner man. We all have the capacity to know and love God, however we can only love and serve one God.

II. Godliness will lift up a nation, sin will disgrace it.

Proverbs 14:34 - Godliness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. Sin is offensive to God. God’s word is clear as to what sin is. Let’s not try to hide sin and sugar coat it. Sometimes we like to say it was my addiction, it was bad judgment, it was a lapse of moral memory. Sin is ugly, it is destructive, it leads to death and we need to call it what it is and not wink at it or excuse it. The word sin here is described as an offense. Whatever would offend God is sin. God is a loving God, but He is also just and must punish sin. Scripture points out that if we say we don’t have any sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

A nation can sin, just like individuals can sin. A nation can sin by calling good evil and evil good. A nation can put other gods before the One true God. A nation can legalize things that will encourage decay and depravity and it does so to its own detriment. The shedding of innocent blood through abortion is something that God detests. Legalization of homosexuality is also detestable to God. The pollution of the human mind and heart through pornography helps erode the sanctity of marriage and is sinful in God's eyes. The disrespect that society places on the value of marriage and the family is also something that displeases Almighty God.

The word 'Godliness' means to be moral and just with virtue. We cannot hope as a nation to stand in a position of exaltation, as an example, expecting God's blessing without having the qualities of righteousness and justice that would bring God's blessing and favor.

This verse talks about both sides of the issue. On one side it talks about doing things God's way, being righteous and how that lifts up a nation, but it also talks about the sin issue and the disgracefulness it is to any people. The reason why America has been the world leader it has and enjoyed the blessings that it has enjoyed is because it was founded on God's word and the principles of righteousness, liberty and pursuit of God.

If we want God's blessing, if we want to stand tall in the world, if we want God to defend, protect, and heal us, if we want God to keep our enemies at bay, then we must return to the Biblical foundation on which America was established.

III. What can we do as followers of Christ to help our nation be Godly?

A. We can pray.

The most powerful tool we have when it comes to anything that concerns us, is the tool of prayer. When we pray, we have an audience with Almighty God. If anyone has the power and ability to change things, it is God. He works through His people and He responds to prayer that is offered in His name and in line with His will.

B. We can become active in the process of government.

- We can vote our Biblical conscience.
- We can run for office so decisions that are made from that office are directly impacted in a Biblical way.
- We can contact our representatives, congress persons, senators, mayors, governor by phone calls, letters and e-mails, to let them know where we stand on issues and encourage them to vote according to biblical principles.
- We can join peaceful demonstrations exercising our right to free speech.
- We can financially support organizations and efforts to help bring education and knowledge to the public as well as our elected officials concerning our biblical perspective.

C. We can be a witness.

Witnessing should become natural to us. Speak up in conversations for that which is right, just, and Biblically correct. Do not be silent. Speak up. There may come a time before Christ comes back that we will not enjoy the legal liberty to speak according to Biblical principles. Currently there are some things that we all know are not politically correct to say in public. Do we remain silent or do we do everything in our

power to bring the influence we have as a devoted follower of Christ to bear on the society in which God has placed us?

Conclusion:

If we fail to act in these ways, we will add to the erosion of the foundation of our great nation. If we act, at least we can say we did what we could to help influence our country to return to its Biblical foundation.

I am going to ask you this week to let your influence be heard in at least one way that we just talked about. Be prayerful, be active, be diligent, be vigilant, be on guard, be faithful, be consistent and God will give us strength to stand for Him.