

“RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION”
Proverbs 14:34

Introduction:

1. The United States of America is 233 years old.
2. God has blessed the USA beyond many nations.
 - a. Its citizens have enjoyed great freedom.
 - b. They have been blessed with great opportunities.
3. Will God continue to bless the USA as He has in the past?

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...” (Psa. 33:12).

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people”
(Prov. 14:34).

“The wicked shall be turned into Hell and all nations that forget God”
(Psa. 9:17).

Discussion:

- I. THE USA WAS FOUNDED UPON A BELIEF IN GOD.
 - A. The first citizens came in order to have religious freedom.
 1. New England was largely settled by the Puritans.
 2. Pennsylvania was settled by the Quakers.
 3. Maryland was founded by the Roman Catholics.
 4. Rhode Island was founded by Roger Williams, a Baptist.
 5. Thousands of others came to practice their faith.
 - B. The founding fathers clearly expressed their belief in God.
 1. Benjamin Franklin stated: “Without God’s concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.”
 2. George Washington said: “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits and humbly implore His protection and favor.”
 3. Thomas Jefferson asked: “Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?”
 4. The Declaration of Independence states: “We hold these truths to be self evident that ‘all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights....’”
 5. The First Amendment to the Constitution states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”
 6. In the case of “The Church of the Holy Trinity vs. the United States” in 1892, the Supreme Court ruled: “Our

laws and institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian!”

II. THERE IS A MOVEMENT AWAY FROM GOD IN THE USA.

- A. The Supreme Court ruled in 1962 that prayer and Bible reading in public schools violated the Constitution.**
 - 1. Public schools were originally founded to teach children to read so they could read the Bible!**
 - 2. Students are forbidden to mention Jesus, but Muslim students have their religious exercises protected.**
 - 3. In 1940, public schools dealt with gum chewing, running in the halls, and making noise; today schools have to contend with drugs, teenage pregnancy, assaults, robbery, rape and shootings.**

- B. Efforts are being made to remove God from public view.**
 - 1. Some want to take “In God we trust” from our money.**
 - 2. Some want to take “one nation under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance.**
 - 3. The Ten Commandments have been removed from schools and courtrooms.**
 - 4. Crosses and nativity scenes are prohibited in public places, but Jewish and Muslim symbols are protected.**

III. THE USA IS RAPIDLY SINKING INTO THE DARKNESS.

- A. We have lost our respect for the sanctity of human life.**
 - 1. The Supreme Court removed the ban on abortion in 1973.**
 - a. Fifty million babies have been killed in their mothers’ womb.**
 - b. Life begins at conception: “Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?” (Job 31:15)?**

 - 2. There is a growing movement to legalize euthanasia.**
 - a. It is already legal in Oregon and Montana.**
 - b. God regards all life as sacred: “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God He made man” (Gen. 9:6).**

- B. We have lost our respect for the sanctity of marriage.**
 - 1. The divorce rate doubled between 1960 and 1995.**
 - 2. Congressman John Duncan, a former Criminal Court judge in Knox County, wrote:**

- a. 98 % of defendants in felony cases are from broken homes.
 - b. 40 % of all births are out of wedlock.
 - c. Drugs and alcohol are secondary only to absentee fathers as the basic cause of crime.
- 3. God's law has not changed (Gen 2:24; Matt. 19:5).
- C. Violent crimes increased 500 % from 1965 to 1995.
- D. Alcohol is the major contributing factor to crime and disease.
 - 1. Americans spent \$ 126,000,000,000 on alcohol in 2001.
 - 2. "Wine is a mocker. Strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise" (Prov. 20:1).
- E. Homosexuality is making an all out assault on Christianity.
 - 1. Thirty states have had to amend their constitutions to define marriage as between a man and a woman.
 - 2. Same sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts and Connecticut; five other states recognize such unions.
 - 3. The US House of Representatives has a 50 member Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus.
 - 4. God condemns homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- F. Gambling is now legal in 48 of the 50 states.
 - 1. More money is spent on gambling than on groceries.
 - 2. Gambling is based on greed (Luke 12:15; Col. 3:5).

IV. WHAT CAN CHRISTIANS DO TO SAVE OUR NATION?

- A. We must overcome our obsession with material things (Mt. 6:33)
- B. We must stand for the right (2 Cor. 5:13).
- C. We must be "salt and light" in our communities (Matt. 5:13-16).
- D. We must zealously teach the Gospel (Mark 16:15).

Conclusion:

- 1. David Miller wrote: "American is in the throes of a life and death struggle over whether the God of the Bible will continue to be acknowledged as the one true God, and Christianity as the one true religion" (Reason and Revelation, June 2006).
- 2. 85 % of Americans claim to be "Christians;" enough to change the direction of the nation.
- 3. The only way to God is through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Gal. 3:26, 27).

