

America - A Great Blessing from God (Part 2)

Psalm 33:12-22

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Text: **Psalm 33:12-22**

B. With all her faults, America is still the greatest place on Earth to live!

AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE OF HER FREEDOMS

A. Great in many ways.

1. Great in her beauty
2. Great in her resources
3. Great in her benevolence to others
4. Great in her people
5. Great for her freedoms . . . Individual . . . Political . . . Religious
6. Great in her God

B. In spite of her greatness

1. Real trend today in America for anti-Americanism, anti-patriotism . . . It appears that the UN is doing much to strip us of our sovereignty.
2. Writers revise history to undermine the character and integrity of our founding fathers, saying they weren't who we know they were.
 - a. They say they weren't motivated by principle but by property, were motivated by greed and desire for wealth.
 - b. But that's not true . . . The men who signed the Declaration of Independence had far more to lose than to gain!
 1. Most were very wealthy already.
 - a. 24 were lawyers and such.
 - b. 9 were landowners or rich farmers.
 - c. 11 were merchants
 - d. Others were physicians, ministers, politicians, etc.
 2. All but 2 who signed had families.
 3. They were educated men of standing in their communities . . . they knew security and prosperity, but felt there was something more important than security: freedom!
 4. They knew that the penalty for treason was death by hanging, yet they signed!
 - a. John Hancock—[signed twice as large as all others] “Now his Majesty can read my name without his spectacles!”
 - b. Stephen Hopkins—[old when he signed] His hand shook as he signed . . . looked up and said, “Gentlemen, my hand trembles, but my heart does not!”

5. Delegates from NY were particularly wealthy. British ships were nearing just a few miles off the coast when they signed.
 1. Most of NY had already evacuated.
 2. They and others were pursued, some were captured and tortured, and of course, many died!
- C. Young people, you need to know when you look at this Flag that the red stripes are bars of blood, a price paid for you to be free!
 1. You spend many years in public education and never receive the whole truth and religious foundation of the founding of America.
 2. And when young people today burn that flag in ignorant demonstrations, it's not freedom of speech, it's high treason against the land of the free and the home of the brave, and should be prosecuted as such!
- D. America is great for her freedoms!

AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE OF HER GOD

- A. Just as the revisionists want to rewrite history in order to undermine the character and integrity of our founding fathers, they also want to undermine our Godly heritage.
 1. They try to tell us this nation wasn't really founded upon God.
 2. Why can't some Americans accept their roots?
 3. Even a South American president years ago said, "**people came to my continent looking for gold, but those who came to America were looking for God!**"
- B. In the year, 1620, the 1st pilgrims arrived.
 1. A little band of people crossed the Atlantic in a sailboat 26 X 113 feet. They landed on the Atlantic coast in the bitter cold of winter.
 - a. As they stepped off the boat they signed a compact {Mayflower}, the 2nd paragraph of which begins: "**for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith.**"
 - b. That first winter was rough . . . Food was scarce . . . At times the daily ration of food was 5 grains of corn per person, per day!
 1. 44 people died in the first 5 months and 58 survived.
 2. In the fall of 1621 they reaped their first harvest: 21 acres of corn.
 3. Their immediate response was to thank God . . . they marched thru the corn fields singing, "the earth is the Lord's and fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein!"
 - c. Dec. 13th, those 58 surviving pilgrims gathered with 80 friendly Indians and celebrated 3 days of thanksgiving which the encyclopedia records as 3 days of preaching, praying, singing, and eating.
 - d. Check your children's textbooks, most of which now say the pilgrims and Indians met to thank each other! [NO!! . . . They met to thank God!]

- C. In 1863—Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national thanksgiving day. In his proclamation, he made an important and accurate theological point.
 " We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. **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.
- D. The Puritans: they gave their reasons for coming to America as well. In the opening sequence of the NE Confederation it says: "Whereas we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end and aim, to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the gospel in liberty and peace."
- E. Benjamin Franklin, when once challenged about having a political session opened with prayer said, "I've 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 Men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that except the Lord build the House they labor in vain who build it."
- F. Some Christians have been intimidated . . . and they've heard the ACLU talk so much about the separation of church and state—that they've actually started to believe in it.
1. **In case you don't know, that phrase never appears in the Constitution!**
 - a. However . . . it is found in Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto!)
 - b. It was coined in the U.S. from a letter the principle framer of the Constitution and Third President Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Danbury Baptist Association assuring them that he would keep the Government out of the Church (NOT the Church out of the Government).
 - c. He was saying, never again will there be a government sponsored church like you had back in England, where everyone is forced to attend and support! Listening, that is an expression of religious freedom.
 - d. Check it out for yourself, the first amendment actually says:
 "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ."
 - In 1776, 11 of the 13 colonies required that one had to be a Christian to be eligible to run for political office.

- 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 famous "Liberty Bell" has part of **Leviticus 25:10** inscribed on it: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."
- Part of the Scripture **Proverbs 14:34** is inscribed above the L. A. city hall door: "RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION: BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE."
- An image of Moses carrying the tablets of God’s Law faces the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- The entering President takes his 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."
- President Thomas Jefferson: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." - 1781
- 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."
- The Christian writings and pronouncements of our 16th President Abraham Lincoln would fill an entire book.
- 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
- Woodrow Wilson, our 28th President and Governor of New Jersey, said this: "America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of the Holy Scripture." - 1911
- Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President, said this about our founding fathers: "They were intent upon establishing a Christian commonwealth in accordance with the principle of self- government. They were an inspired

body of men. It has been said that God sifted the nations that He might send choice grain into the wilderness . . . Who can fail to see it in the hand of destiny? Who can doubt that it has been guided by a Divine Providence." - 1923

- Franklin Roosevelt prayed this prayer on a national radio hookup on D-Day, June 6, 1944, as our troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France: "Almighty God . . . with Thy blessing we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogance. Lead us to the saving of our country. Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen."
- Harry Truman, our 33rd President, not known to be a committed believer, understood the spiritual heritage of this nation: "If men and nations would but live by the precepts of the ancient prophets and the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, problems which now seem so difficult would soon disappear"
- Gerald Ford, our 38th President, quoted a 1955 speech by Dwight D. Eisenhower on December 5, 1974: "Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first - the most basic - expression of Americanism. Thus the founding fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help, it will continue to be."
- President Ronald Reagan: "If we ever forget that we are 'One nation, under God', then we will be one nation gone under."
- George W. Bush was asked to name the philosopher that had the greatest influence on his life, this was his answer: "Christ, because he changed my heart"

2. It's time for modern-day Americans to wake up, stand up, and realize that God is our history, and without Him we will be history!

F. The greatness of America is her freedoms . . . the God of America is the one and only true and living God, Jehovah, the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! He is willing to the God of all nations.

AMERICA SHOULD CONFRONT HER GUILT

- A. The guilt of America lies in the indifference and complacency of God's people. Edmund Burke - "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."
- B. Upon reading the book of Judges, one clearly sees that our God would rather forgive and restore, than judge!
1. Over and over, Israel would turn their back on their Godly heritage. But, they would repent, and God would forgive them and restore them . . . but it was always conditional! (**If**)

2. **2 Chronicles 7:14** - "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

C. The solution is not in the white house . . . The solution is not in the state house . . . court house . . . The solution is in the in God's house, and your house and my house!

D. Someone penned these four lines:

So long as there are homes where fires burn; and there is bread;
So long as there are home where lamps are lit; and prayers are said;
Although people falter through the dark; and nations grope;
With God himself behind these homes we still have hope.

FIVE THINGS EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST DO FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT IF THEY'RE GOING TO OBEY THE WORD OF GOD

(most painful first):

A. WE MUST PARTICIPATE IN PAYING FOR GOVERNMENT

1. Why pay taxes . . . Because Jesus said to in **Matthew 22:17-21** - " Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"
But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?
Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius.
And He said to them, ' Whose image and inscription is this?'
They said to Him, 'Caesar's.' And He said to them, 'Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'"
2. Yet some Christians, even preachers, say, our government is a pagan government, therefore, we do not owe them taxes, they are not of God!
 - a. Question: What government was in charge when Jesus said this? The Roman Empire, and not exactly a Godly government at that!
 - b. When Jesus was here on earth, He paid His taxes, and so should we!
 - c. People argue . . . "But, they're unfair" I agree! . . . "And, it's wasted and used unwisely" I agree! . . . We need tax reform" I agree!
 - d. **Romans 13:6-7**- "For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."
3. We have to pay for government . . . Therefore, we must elect people who will be good stewards of the people's moneys.

B. WE MUST PRAY FOR GOVERNMENT

1. The apostle Paul wrote in **1 Timothy 2:1** - " I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."
2. Pray for revival . . . Pray for leader . . . Pray for the war on terror . . . Pray for elections . . . Pray for God to use our leaders and defeat our enemies!
3. **Proverbs 21:1** - "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."

C. PRAISE/HONOR OUR GOVERNMENT

1. Despite all our problems, failures, difficulties, imperfections, and shortcomings the United States of American is still the greatest nation on earth.
 - a. We need a revival of good old-fashioned patriotism!
 - b. We need a revival of restoring God to the throne of our nation where He rightly belongs.
2. **Romans 13:7** - " . . . honor to whom honor."

D. PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT

1. It is inconceivable that God would ordain government such as He has, and then tell His people to stay out of it!
2. The freedom God has given us also includes our right to participate.
 - a. It is our Christian duty to get informed, and vote!
 - b. Shame on the Christian who pledges their allegiance to that flag, and then doesn't take action to help guide the country it represents.
 - c. And, shame on the Christian who pledges their allegiance to a political party over principles.
 1. I am not saying that Christians should not be part of political parties.
 2. Biblical principles upon which this nation was founded are more important that any political party or platform that excludes them!

E. PERSUADE OUR GOVERNMENT

1. How can I really make a difference?
We are a republic . . . that means that, for the most part, public policy is shaped by public opinion.
2. The best way to shape public opinion is to get God into the hearts of the people. and let right become might.
3. **The right to disagree is not the right to disobey!**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Enjoy the freedoms which have come at a high price to others . . .
- B. We are here because God allows us to be here . . . We are free because God allows us to be free. The people of the first century were not as free as we are.
- C. We have the right to disagree and many disagree with what is right.
- D. Failure to do right is wrong . . . The failure to obey that which is right is wrong.
- E. Hear God's Word
 1. **Psalm 33:12** - "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord . . . " May I also add . . . Blessed is the individual whose God is the Lord!
 2. **John 8:32** - "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
 3. **John 8:36** - ". . . If the Son of Man makes you free, you shall be free indeed."
- F. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**