



WEEKLY SERMON

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Message: Patriotic Message

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Text: Psalm 33:12, Proverbs 14:34, Jeremiah 2:7-13

A procedure takes place as soon as a baby is born. A trained attendant carefully checks specific vital signs to confirm that the baby is alive and well. A similar procedure should be followed when someone is born again. When I confessed to God that I was a sinner and called upon the Lord Jesus Christ to be my personal Savior at the age of 5, I did not "feel" any different. However over a period of time I began to experience the following Biblical evidence of being born again and having a new nature in Christ Jesus.

First: A new awareness of sin. When we are born again, we receive the Holy Spirit. He enables our conscience to discern words, thoughts, and actions that displease the Lord. **"Hereby know we that we dwell in him (Jesus), and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit"** (I John 4:13)

Second: A new desire to stop doing evil things. Many have said that after being born again they stopped drinking, taking drugs, cursing, being immoral, and committing a host of other sins. This desire to stop sinning comes because **"whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin (habitually or characteristically)."** (I John 3:9) This is made possible because **"whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."** (I John 5:4)

Third: A new love for God's Word. **"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."** (I Peter 2:2) This evidence was of particular significance to me because I was a very poor reader. However, after being born again, I had a great desire to read the Bible and to apply its truths to my life. **"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments."** (I John 23).

Fourth: A new love for fellow believers. At salvation, there is an immediate bond of fellowship with other Christians, because we are now members together of the body of Christ. **"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren"** (I John 3:14)

Fifth: A strong desire to witness to others. I had a new love for people and concern for their relationship with God. **"Love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."** (I John 4:7)

Being born again is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit and is accompanied by visible evidence in the person's life. Are these "vital signs" present in your life? What about in the lives of your children? If this evidence is lacking in the life of someone who claims to be a believer, let's make sure he truly understands what it means to be born again.

Again consider the following quotes on prayer:

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work."

"Fasting shows the importance of prayer.

Alms show the unselfishness of prayer.

Tears show the sincerity of prayer.

Confession shows the worthiness of prayer.

“My prayer ought to be, “God be glorified! God, would You please use me to show others how incredibly wonderful, gracious, powerful, merciful, good and compassionate you are.”

In **HIS** Amazing Grace,
Pastor David Miklas

"Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord!"

INTRODUCTION: The 83rd Congress set aside a private prayer room for congressmen in the capitol of the United States. In that room is a picture of George Washington. Behind him you'll find the etched words from Psalm 16:1, "**Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.**" You know as well as I do that liberals of our generation would like to believe that this nation was not founded upon Godly principles.

They teach our boys and girls in the public education systems that we are not a Christian nation, and they try to tell them that we did not have a Christian foundation.

They attempt to smear and discredit every Christian hero and patriot with wicked accusations, and try to rewrite America's history into what they wish it said, instead of teaching the truth about our heritage.

However, it should be evident from everything we can gather that this nation from its very inception was intended to be a Christian nation by the providence of God Almighty. I believe America has reached the pinnacle of greatness unlike any nation in human history because:

Our Founding Fathers established America's laws and precepts on the principles recorded in the laws of God, including the Ten Commandments.

Our Founding Fathers were not all Christians, but they were guided by biblical principles.

Our Founding Fathers firmly believed America had a special destiny in the world. They were confident God would bless their endeavors because they did not forget to acknowledge Him in all their doings.

America must not forget her motto that was established in the early days of her history, "**In God We Trust.**" The Bible says:

Proverbs 14:34, "**Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.**"

Psalms 33:12, "**Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...**"

Psalms 144:15, "**... happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.**"

In summary, these verses are teaching us "**RIGHTEOUSNESS exalts a nation, and that the nation whose God is the Lord is a blessed nation.**" God honored America because America honored Him and upheld His **STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**. This nation was forged by men who recognized their dependence upon Almighty God. In fact, many of the founding fathers had more respect as lost sinners for the living God and His Word than many so-called believers in the church today. They knew that neither they, nor their nation could make it without the assistance of God.

Our founding fathers were men of **CONVICTION** who stood for what they believed no matter what the cost.

Our founding fathers were men of **CHARACTER**, who lived by the right not by the expedient.

Our founding fathers were men of **CREATIVE WISDOM**. They did not form a democracy based on the changing whims of each passing generation. Rather, they formed a republic based on the unchanging, eternal absolutes of God and His Word.

Our founding fathers were men of **COMMITMENT** to God, to His authority, and to the foundational principles of His Word. They did not hesitate to legislate morality. For the first 160 years of our history, most laws were based on the laws of God.

In Deuteronomy 11:26-28 we read what God said of Israel which can also be applied to us today, "**Behold I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; (27) A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: (28) And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.**" What a spiritual heritage we have in this nation.

The only book Christopher Columbus ever wrote is titled "**The Book of Prophecy.**" A copy of the original is in a British Museum. Here is a translated quote from that book, where Christopher Columbus said, "**It was the Lord who put in my mind to sail from Spain to the Indies, I could feel His hand upon me. All who heard my project rejected it with laughter and ridicule against me. There is no question that my inspiration to sail came from the Holy Ghost of God, because He comforted me with a ray of illumination from the Holy Scripture, encouraging me to sail on till I found the country.**"

A part of the Mayflower compact of 1620 reads, "**In the name of God, Amen, Having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith., do... solemnly and mutually in the presence of God covenant and combine ourselves together...**"

The charter of every one of our original colonies stresses our spiritual roots. For example:

The charter of Rhode Island states, "**We submit our persons, lives, and estates, unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and to all those perfect absolute laws He has given us in His Holy Word.**"

The charter of Delaware reads, "**For the furtherance and propagation of the holy Gospel.**"

In the charter of Massachusetts we read, "**To the knowledge and obedience of our only true God and Saviour of mankind.**"

In the charter of Connecticut we read these words, "**To preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

SAMUEL ADAMS in 1772 said, "**The rights of the Colonists as Christians... may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institution of the Giver and Head of the Christian Church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament.**"

ALEXANDER HAMILTON in 1787, soon after the Constitutional Convention said, "**For my own part, I sincerely esteem it a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests.**"

DANIEL WEBSTER in 1820 said, "**Finally, let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements of their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, or literary.**"

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, on July 4, 1821 said, "**From the day of the Declaration...they (the American people) were bound by the laws of God, which they all, and by the laws of the Gospel, which they nearly all, acknowledged as the rules of conduct.**"

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BREWER, delivering the opinion of the Court in 1892, stated: "**These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.**"

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE as adopted by the Congress, June 14, 1954 reads, "**I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**"

Our beloved NATIONAL ANTHEM uses these words in the 4th stanza, "**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!"**

"AMERICA," our national hymn, recognizes God as the God of America when we sing, "**Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright, With freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!**"

In fact, upon investigation, you will discover that many of the statements indelibly etched on many of our national monuments in Washington D.C. bear unmistakable testimony to the fact that America is one nation under God, founded for the furtherance of the gospel and the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next time you travel to Washington D.C. remember to look for these:

Inside the Capitol building you will see in the rotunda a picture of the Pilgrims about to embark from Holland on the sister ship of the Mayflower, the Speedwell. The great chaplain Brewster, who later joined the Mayflower, has the Bible opened on his lap, and there very clearly are the words, **"The New Testament according to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." On the sail is the motto of the Pilgrims, "In God We Trust, God With Us."**

Engraved on the metal cap on the top of the Washington Monument are these words: **"Praise be to God."**

Lining the walls of the Washington Monument are many phrases, including these: **"In God We Trust; May heaven to this union continue its beneficence; God in our Native Land, Search the Scriptures; Holiness to the Lord; Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it; Suffer the children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of God."**

Every president and governor has been inaugurated with the Bible present and prayer being offered. Every session of the House, the Senate, and the Supreme Court begins with prayer.

In the Supreme Court courtroom is a great winged angel of God defending the forces of justice on one side, and on the other side holding back the forces of evil. Above the head of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments, with the great American eagle protecting them.

In the Senate across from the eyes of the President of the Senate, who is the Vice President of the United States, are the words, **"In God We Trust."** Above the American flag that is behind the Speaker of the House of Representatives you will find in large words inscribed in the marble, **"In God We Trust."**

Even our money carries the words, **"In God We Trust."** The idea for having a motto originated with a minister, who suggested it to Simon P. Chase, the Secretary of Treasury under Abraham Lincoln. In a letter to Chase he wrote, **"No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God shall be declared on our national coins."** So the motto came **"In God We Trust."**

On the walls of the various rooms of the Library of Congress you will find statements such as these:

"What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?"

"That this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom; that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

"The Heavens declared the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork."

"Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting get understanding."

It has, without question, been established that our forefathers paid a great price so their posterity could live in freedom. Dare we be willing to pay any less a price for the same ends, today? Scripture declares in Luke 12:48, **"Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."** God is the author of our liberty, and we will remain free only as long as we remember this and seek to live by God's laws. By looking at the statements and the documents made by the generation who laid the foundation of our government, it is evident that they were deeply religious men. They made it clear they were guided in their thinking, their decisions, and their writings by scripture.

America must not forget from where she came. Let us not forget the warning God gave to the Israelites, which is the same warning that applies to Americans today, found in Deuteronomy 8 verse 10-11, 18-20,

"When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shall bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. (11) Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping His commandments, and the judgments, and his statutes. (18) But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his

covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day. (19) And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. (20) As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God."

David said in Psalm 33:12, "**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...**" However, in Psalm 9:17 we read, "**The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.**" Today, many years after the founding of this great land:

I firmly believe that believers, not the politicians in Washington or politicians in the state capitols, have the answers to the nation's dilemmas.

I firmly believe judgment must, as Peter said in I Peter 4:17, "**begin at the house of God.**" Therefore our churches will be held accountable for the destruction of this nation rather than all the Republicans and Democrats put together.

Today the United States is under the wrath of God, not because of its political leaders, but because of a sleeping, disobedient church within her bowels. Someone well said,

"It is my opinion that God has allowed America to have the political leadership she desires. It is her reward for turning her back upon God and becoming a humanistic nation. I do not believe it is possible for us to see genuine, far reaching political improvement until first of all there is a genuine, spiritual awakening, men fearing God and submitting once again to His eternal Word."

In the book of Jeremiah, the prophet is writing concerning the nation of Israel. In the early part of the book, he reminds her of her past heritage, of the inheritance that has been handed down from one generation unto the next. He reminds her:

There was a time when the people served God as a Nation.

There was a time when the prophets preached the Word of God.

There was a time when her enemies did not naturally love her, but time and time again when it looked like the enemy was much mightier and much stronger, God would come to the defense of this little nation Israel and give her victory after victory.

There was a time when their women, their elders and their statements were honored and there was joy in the land.

But then something very tragic happens, and Jeremiah talks about it in chapter 2:7-8, "**And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination. (8) The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit."**

Then in verses 11-13 he sounds these words of judgment, "**Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. (12) Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. (13) For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."**

In his book of Lamentations where he weeps over the destruction of Jerusalem, in a summary of Chapters 2 and 4, Jeremiah says, **The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem. Who would have believed that anything like this could have ever happened to this nation, as great as you once were? Now, instead of your enemy respecting you, they laugh at you. They hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, "is this the city of perfection?"**

And in summary of Lamentation 5, Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, says, **You have taken the very inheritance God gave you and have given it to the Egyptians and to the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread. There is no more joy in the hearts of the people; no more music in the air,**

no more music, the joy of our heart is ceased.

Then this prophet summed it all up in one sad, sad, commentary in Lamentations 5:16, **"The crown is fallen from our head; woe unto us that we have sinned!"**

If there has ever been a nation since that one, in which we can find so many similarities and such strong parallels, it would be our own beloved land, America. There is not a more blessed nation on the face of the earth than the United States of America. However, just like Israel of old, our **"...crown is fallen from our head; woe unto us that we have sinned!"**

There was a time it was said of Great Britain:

**"She was the number one world empire."
"The sun never set upon the British empire."
"She was the nation that ruled the waves."**

May I remind you, before Britain there was France, before France there was Spain, and Rome and Greece and Egypt and Babylon. But in time, all were destroyed. Some on the battle fields, but most rotted to death in peace.

This would seem ominous, when we remember that the average span of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. That ought to be a warning to us. Observe this documented pattern of nations:

**From bondage to spiritual faith;
From spiritual faith to great courage;
From courage to liberty;
From liberty to abundance;
From abundance to self-indulgence;
From self-indulgence to complacency;
From complacency to apathy;
From apathy to dependence;
From dependence to bondage.**

America is well over 200 years old! The just-mentioned cycle of decline and decay is not just inevitable, it is forbearing. Unless Jesus returns, how much longer does America have? Yes, I am an alarmist like Jeremiah was with Israel. I see our nation being weakened and destroyed from within, and our enemies around the world are sitting by, looking and laughing. Today:

**We have EDUCATION without CHARACTER.
We have PLEASURE without CONSCIENCE.
We have WEALTH without WORK.
We have a MILITARY MIGHT without COURAGE.
We have BUSINESS without MORALITY.
We have POLITICS without CONVICTION of principles.
We have RELIGION without POWER.**

The eighth chapter of I Samuel is the story of a nation that wanted to declare its independence of God. They cried, **"Give us a king over us..."** Israel shouted at the aged Samuel, **"We want to be like all the other nations that have a king to judge them and to go before them in battle."**

Heartbroken, the godly old Samuel, the senior statesman of that day, told the Lord about the demands of the people. No doubt he was rather surprised at the Lord's reply: **"Go ahead, Samuel. Listen to the people. Give them the king they want. Remember, though, Samuel, they are not rejecting you. They are rejecting Me, their God, that I should not reign over them."**

No doubt you recall the rest of the story. Israel was given the most handsome, personable

man to be their king. His name was Saul. However, both Israel and Saul paid a bitter price for their independence. Utter disillusionment came upon the people when their own king Saul committed suicide. I predict that unless America goes back to her humble reliance on God Almighty, our civilization is doomed to be nothing but a moldy crust of bread on the scrap heap of history.

During this Memorial Day celebration, we must ever be mindful of that verse found in II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who 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." This verse is telling us that it is up to God's people. Are we willing to confess our personal, church and national sins, and humble ourselves and pray, and seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways? Someone wrote:

Still beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain;
Still purple mountain majesties Above the fruitful plain.
But, Lord, our hearts no longer see Your scepter o'er our land,
We followed men who promised ease, And built on sinking sand.

Yet, Lord, in mercy still you wait To hear our contrite call,
For you can only bless our land As we give you our all;
Then help us to confess our sin And leave our wicked ways,
To humbly seek your face in prayer And serve you all our days.

This country's sin is ours, O God, Your judgment duly earned;
For we have worshipped gods of gold and your commandments spurned.
But now, O Lord, we seek your face and in your mercy trust,
Forgive our sins and heal our land, Remember, we are dust.

Our leaders, Father, need your light, In mercy stretch your hand
To guide us through the trackless night and save our periled land.
America, America, May God your faith restore
Till Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are praised from shore to shore.

Oh, cleanse and sanctify this land, Your name keep ever here,
As we acknowledge you, our Lord, In reverential fear.
America, America, Seek God on bended knee,
Till Jesus Christ is lifted up From sea to shining sea.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." America is guilty of many sins, but the guilt of America is our personal guilt. If America gets right with God, it will be when we as individuals get right with God. The key is not government, but God. The key is not who's in the White House or the State House, but who is on the throne of your hearts?

If we want to help this great country, then every one of us should get thoroughly right with God. Every sin should be confessed, and each of us should set out to live the best possible Christian life. The Bible says in Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." But the nation can only be righteous when its citizens are righteous. The Bible says in Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." God is Lord of the nation as He is Lord of the individual life. Let us determine in our hearts to be and do what God intended. Let us leave a heritage for new generations to follow that was left to us by Godly people.

The greatest thing anyone can do to help this country is to be a practicing Christian. If you have not already trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, why not trust Him now? Then set out to live the Christian life.

If God has spoken to your heart after reading this sermon, "**Blessed is the Nation whose God is the**

Lord!" Then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."**

Romans 10:13, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **"I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation."**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, would you let me know? Please send an e-mail to, [**pastormiklas@aol.com**](mailto:pastormiklas@aol.com) and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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