

THE DUTY OF NATIONS
PROVERBS 14:34

"RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION, BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY NATION"

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INTRO: As we celebrate AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE we would do well to take a good look at what we have in this Nation. America has experienced the BLESSING OF GOD far more than any other nation upon the face of the earth up to this point in time, including Israel. **AMERICA WAS FOUNDED ON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUTH BY MEN WHO RECOGNIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOSE PRINCIPLES IN GOVERNMENT AND PERSONAL LIFE.** But in the last several generations America has been on a trend away from those principles of righteousness and truth. AMERICA IS IN THE PROCESS OF FORGETTING GOD! Note some illustrations:

- 1) The Removal of Prayer and Bible Reading from the Public Schools in 1963 with the "Abington School District v. Edward Schempp" Supreme Court case;
- 2) The Legalization of Abortion in 1973 with the "Roe v. Wade" Supreme Court case.
- 3) The Removal of the Ten Commandments in 1980 with the "Stone v. Graham" Supreme Court case.
- 4) The Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in 2015 with the "Obergefell v. Hodges" Supreme Court case.

THE BIBLE GIVES WARNINGS TO NATIONS THAT FOREGET GOD

- 1) Psalm 9:17 - *"The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God."*
- 2) Psalm 79:6 - *"Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name."*

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Taking all of the above into consideration, WE ARE AT A TIME IN AMERICA WHEN WE NEED TO FOCUS ON RETURNING TO THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH OUR NATION WAS BUILT. Considering some of the statements of our FOUNDING FATHERS will be a great help. The FOUNDING FATHER OF AMERICA, GEORGE WASHINGTON ONCE SAID: (October 17, 1798)

"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 to implore His protection and favor."

FOR TODAY'S MESSAGE LET'S FOCUS ON THOSE WORDS AND APPLY THEM DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

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I. AMERICA MUST ACKNOWLEDGE GOD

- A. Acknowledge that God Exists - Genesis 1:1
- B. Acknowledge that God is the Supreme Ruler - 2 Chronicles 20:6
- C. Acknowledge that God sets the time and place of all nations - Acts 17:26
- D. Acknowledge that God will Judge nations - Joel 3:1,2

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION: CHRISTIANS MUST LEAD IN THIS ENDEAVOR!

II. AMERICA MUST OBEY GOD'S WILL

(The application of God's admonition to Israel in Deuteronomy 10:12,13)

WHAT ALL DOES THIS INVOLVE?

- A. That Christians live in Obedience to God - 1 Peter 4:17
(This is the starting line)
- B. That Governmental Leaders on every Level seek the Wisdom of God.
- C. That Laws be made Upon Biblical Principles that Honor God.

ILLUSTRATION:

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III. AMERICA MUST BE GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S AID

- A. America must Recognize that God has blessed her above all Other Nations on the face of the Earth.
- B. America must Recognize that God's blessing on America has been extended beyond Human Ability.
 1. America is Blessed with a Godly Heritage
 - a. Many of the signers of the Declaration Independence and the U.S. Constitution were Christians.

- b. Our Nation was founded upon Biblical Principles and Christ-Centered Concepts of Justice, Fairness, and Equal Opportunity.
- 2. America is Blessed with many Natural Resources
 - a. Consider what we have at our feet: Ore, Minerals, Oil, Forests, Lakes, Pastures, Farm Land, etc.
 - b. God has provided what America needs to care for ourselves and other nations around the world.
- 3. America is Blessed with Unique Innovation Ability
 - a. God has given us the concept of Free Enterprise.
 - b. God has directed us to excel in development that has impacted the whole world.
- 4. America is a Free Country
 - a. We have Political Freedom through the election process.
 - b. We have Religious Freedom unknown to most of the world.

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION: **CHRISTIANS MUST LEAD IN THIS ENDEAVOR!**

IV. AMERICA MUST IMPLORE GOD'S PROTECTION AND FAVOR

- A. Areas of Protection
 - 1. From Secular Thought
 - 2. From the Rejection of Absolute Truth
 - 3. From our Domestic and Foreign Enemies (ISIS)
 - 4. From Spiritual Decay
- B. Areas of Favor
 - 1. For Strong Pastors
 - 2. For Strong Churches
 - 3. For Godly Leaders
 - 4. For Strong Families

ILLUSTRATION:

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WORDS OF PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS: (March 23, 1798)

"The safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend upon the protection and blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgement of this truth is...an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him." Compare Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and Keep his Commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

WORDS OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN: (April 24, 1863)

"It is the duty of nations as well...and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord (Psalm 33:12)...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 God that made us."

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

- 1) Pray for America.
- 2) Support all biblical principles and endeavors.
- 3) Reject all unbiblical principles and endeavors.
- 4) Repent of all sin, personally and nationally, that has and will lead America away from God.