

“PREVENTING AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL FROM BECOMING AMERICA THE SORROWFUL”

PROVERBS 14:34

INTRO: Often during PATRIOTIC SERVICES we sing the song “AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL.” I love that song as it speaks of the GREAT QUALITIES of our nation FROM the geographical beauty it has, TO the freedoms we have, TO the hero’s who died for those freedoms, FOR the patriotism many hold and to the blessings God has poured out upon the nation. **GOD HAS SHED HIS GRACE ON AMERICA!** But in recent weeks we have come FACE TO FACE with the reality that **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL IS BECOMING AMERICA THE SORROWFUL.** Now even though that could apply to a number of things, **the mass shootings we have experienced recently are TRULY SORROWFUL. Consider some facts:**

- On Tuesday May 24th, 19 students and 2 teachers were killed at the ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in ULVADE, TEXAS.
- On Tuesday May 31st, the NEW YORK POST reported that 14 mass shootings took place over the MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND in America leaving 8 dead and 59 wounded.
- On Wednesday June 1st, 4 people were killed at the ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL in TULSA, OKLAHOMA.
- On Thursday June 2nd, YAHOO NEWS reported that so far there have been 233 MASS SHOOTINGS in America so far in 2022. The CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE defines a mass shooting as **“MULTIPLE, FIREARM, HOMICIDE INCIDENTS, INVOLVING 4 OR MORE VICTIMS AT ONE OR MORE LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER.”**

In light of all of these things, many are asking **“WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN AMERICA AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO FIX IT?”** Today we will ADDRESS THOSE QUESTIONS AND MUCH MORE IN THE SERMON. **Let me say right up front that the answer to these questions is NOT POLITICAL, SCIENTIFIC, FINANCIAL, EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL. THE RIGHT ANSWER IS SPIRITUAL!**

I. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN AMERICA?

NOTE: What has happened in America is the **RESULT OF GENERATIONS OF NEGLECTING BIBLICAL AND FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES.**

A. The Present Condition of America – **GOD HAS BEEN REMOVED**

1. As Seen in Society

a. Prayer and Bible Reading have been Removed from the Schools

b. Secular Humanism is Prevailing (Defined as **“BELIEF THAT HUMANITY IS CAPABLE OF MORALITY AND SELF-FULFILLMENT WITHOUT GOD.”**)

2. As Seen in Christianity

a. The Church is becoming less important to many

b. The Christian Lifestyle is becoming more worldly

c. The Great Commission is becoming distinct

d. The Lord JEHOVAH is no longer the God of many Professed Christians

B. The Present Concern in America – **SIN IS BECOMING GOOD IN AMERICA**

-As manifested in ABORTION, ADULTERY, GENDER IDENTITY, LAWLESSNESS, LEWD PERSONAL PLEASURES, CORRUPTION, THE FORSAKING OF THE CHURCH, GODLESS LIVING, REJECTION OF ABSOLUTE TRUTH, FAMILY REDEFINITION, NO MORAL STANDARDS.

WHO OR WHAT IS TO BLAME? MANY CHRISTIANS NOT LIVING ACCORDING TO BIBLICAL TRUTH... THE BIBLICAL WORLD-VIEW... WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

II. WHAT IS GOD’S MESSAGE TO AMERICA?

A. According to Psalm 33:12

-If America allows JEHOVAH to be God, she will be **BLESSED.**

- B. According to Genesis 12:1-3 and Matthew 25:31-46
 - If America stands with Israel, she will be **BLESSED**.
- B. According to Proverbs 14:34
 - 1. Present Righteousness in America will **EXALT** America
 - 2. Present Sinfulness in America will **SHAME** America
- C. According to Psalm 9:17
 - If America does not repent it is **DOOMED**
- D. According to Isaiah 60:12
 - If America does not serve God **IT WILL PERISH**

III. WHAT MUST BE DONE IN AMERICA?

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS IS ON THE SHOULDERS OF EVERY BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST

- A. America Must Repent of its Sins and Return to God – Hosea 12:1-9
- B. America Must Restore God’s Standards – Jeremiah 6:16-19
 - 1. Into our Personal Lives
 - Total Commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ**
 - 2. Into our Church Life
 - Total Commitment to New Testament Church Truth**
 - 3. Into our National Life
 - Total Commitment to Biblical Principles**
 - 4. Into our Cultural Life
 - Total Commitment to Godly Living**

LESSONS AND APPLICATION

- 1) AMERICA WAS FOUNDED ON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES NOT AS A SECULAR NATION. **THUS, SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL**
- 2) AMERICA HAS TURNED AWAY FROM THE LORD AND IS THUS BEING CHASTENED. **THUS, SHE IS SORROWFUL**
- 3) AMERICA IS RIPE FOR REVIVAL.... **WHICH WILL ONLY BEGIN WITH YOU AND ME!**
- 4) AMERICA NEEDS THE LORD. **CAN GOD DEPEND UPON YOU TO LEAD AMERICA TO GOD?**