

COMMUNITY CONTENDER

I TIMOTHY 2:15

Edition 7

September 2016

CAN GOD BLESS AMERICA?

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Psalm 33:12

Our country and its founders recognized the God of the Bible as foundational to the success and prosperity of this great nation. All one needs to do is go to Washington, DC and read God's name engraved in stone and portrayed in the art and plaques in our nation's Capitol, or pull out a penny and see our nation's motto "In God We Trust," or say the pledge of allegiance where we say "one nation under God," or sing the national anthem ". . .this be our motto: 'In God is our trust'".



In our short existence as a nation, we have seen unparalleled freedom, growth, wealth, and military power. But since the 1950s, we have seen an organized effort to remove God from the public arena: schools, parks, meetings, and court houses. Since this movement has taken place, we can also see other unprecedented growths in our country: shootings in our public schools, teen pregnancies, over 50 million abortions since 1972, 19 trillion dollars in debt (and growing), divorce rates of over 50%, the redefinition of marriage, the fracture of the family, and confusion surrounding human sexuality. In the name of freedom, our nation is becoming enslaved to debt, entertainment, pornography, drunkenness, drugs, and lawlessness. Violence is on the rise. 2,319 people were victims of gun violence as of July 30, 2016, according to the Chicago Tribune. 2,988 people were shot in Chicago in 2015. So statistically, the 2016 pace is set to well exceed this number and this is only one major city in the United States. To remove God from our republic is contrary to the foundation upon which our country was built.

"It is ironic that the Supreme Court has often issued opinions which have stripped religious displays from the public square when these opinions have been read in a building with many religious displays. And it is ironic that public expressions of faith have been limited when all sessions of the court begin with the Courts Marshal announcing: God save the United States and this honorable court.

In a number of cases, the Supreme Court has declared the posting of the Ten Commandments unconstitutional (in public school classrooms and in a local courthouse in Kentucky). But this same Supreme Court has a number of places in its building where there are images of Moses with the Ten Commandments. These can be found at the center of the sculpture over the east portico of the Supreme Court building, inside the actual courtroom, and finally, engraved over the chair of the Chief Justice, and on the bronze doors of the Supreme Court itself."¹

Our Judeo-Christian roots go back to Moses and the Ten Commandments. Can God bless America when, as a nation, we turn our backs on His moral law which exposes our depravity and invites His judgment?

Jeremiah 18:1-10

The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel. At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

God can bless America only if she repents and turns back to Him. True freedom is not in our ability to do whatever we wish to do, but liberty resides in fulfilling our God-given purpose. If we forget God, then as a nation we remove ourselves from His protection and His blessing.

Psalm 9:17 *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

Nations are made up of individual people. The character of a nation is determined by what the people worship. What they worship will give them the fruits which come from the hands of the gods they worship. If we as a nation truly loved God, we would not love violence, worship sex, be trillions of dollars in debt, and be experiencing murder in our streets. The wages of our sin is death. The word 'death' simply defined means separation. Physical death through guns and other violence is murder – "thou shalt commit no murder." Material separation comes through theft whether by legislation or by an intruder coming and taking your goods – "thou shalt not steal." Sin causes the break up, separation/death of marriages – ". . .thou shalt not commit adultery." The loss of respect for parents results in another familial death/separation – ". . .honor thy father and mother." Then there is the loss of a person's reputation through the public trashing of their name – ". . .thou shalt not bear false witness."

The wages of our national sin result in a multitude of deaths. Nations are made up of individuals. Therefore, it is the collective influence of every individual in how they choose to live that determines if we as a people are righteous or wicked. All of us, according to the Bible, are sinners. Left to ourselves, we are destined to die eternally separated from the God who made us. It is not God's will for individuals to be separated from Him. But our sin is what separates us.

Isaiah 59:1-8

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace."

God's will concerning you is not destruction and separation, but life.

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

To repent means to acknowledge and turn from our sin against God and our fellow man. Sin is the breaking of God's law and our choice to live contrary to it. God's remedy for our sin is not found in religion, but in a person. His name is Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross for your sin and for the sins of the whole world. He was buried in the tomb and on the third day He rose again providing for the forgiveness of sin, the gift of eternal life for all who believe, power over the grave, and the defeat of Satan.

National forgiveness begins with personal forgiveness. *Pastor John Schofield*

¹Newt Gingrich, *Rediscovering God in America: Reflections on the Role of Faith in Our Nation's History and Future* p. 87 (Nashville, TN: Integrity House, 2006).

USE OF THE CHURCH ORGAN IN THE 1800'S IN A CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

...The Organ is certainly a great assistance in divine worship. It drowns the voices of the young and those, who without any acquaintance with the rules, will attempt to sing. It helps a good voice and it solemnizes the heart. If this useful instrument must be given up, I should choose to have all singing set aside. Without it, church musick is generally intolerable...

Singing should be the **natural response** of a heart that is filled with the joy of the Lord. While God is worthy of quality in praise and singing, we must examine the motive of the heart behind the singing. Singing is not to impress the earthly hearer, but rather to worship and glorify the Lord. It is imperative that the Believer worship the Lord from a true heart in the power of the Holy Spirit. *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* (John 4:24) True, there should be skillful praise to the Lord, and there should be unity and harmony in corporate worship, but there is no excuse for cutting out of the song service all together on the basis of a poor singing voice. How sad it is that the devil and the world have robbed many believers of their song. Corporate singing on the Lord's Day should be a continuation of the singing that has taken place during the week days privately to the Lord. Spontaneous, continuous praise to the Lord is the norm for a born-again Believer.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA QUOTES

What figure in our Nation's government made the following statements?

1. "The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."

- o Ronald Reagan
- o George Washington
- o John Adams

2. "I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning...."

- o Benjamin Franklin
- o George W. Bush
- o Barack Obama

3. "It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness...."

- o Ulysses S. Grant
- o Bill Clinton
- o Abraham Lincoln

4. "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

- o Thomas Jefferson
- o John F. Kennedy
- o Richard Nixon

MEMORY CORNER:

"Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:

Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Jude 1-3

ORGAN CONTINUED...

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16) The natural outflow of a heart that is filled with the Word of Christ and overwhelmed with the grace of God should be hearty singing to the Lord. If one does not have a song on his lips for the Lord, he must examine the Word of God and the grace of God in the heart.

Psalm 95:1 *O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.*

Psalm 96:1-2 *O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day.*

Psalm 98:1 *O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.*

If the organ ever gives out at CBC, may our voices remain strong and tolerable to the Lord... *Pastor David J. Smith*

FROM THE KITCHEN OF DEBBIE TRULL: SWEET BABY RAY'S CHICKEN (CROCKPOT)

Chicken Breasts (4 to 6) Place in Crock Pot

Mix the following together and pour over the chicken breasts.

1 bottle of BBQ sauce (Baby Rays)

1/4 cup vinegar

1 tsp red pepper flakes

1/4 C Brown Sugar

1 tsp Garlic powder.

Cook 4 to 6 hours on low OR 2 to 3 hours on High

Cool 10 minutes and savor!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

David and Bonnie Smith-1

Eden Smith-1

Joe Straka-1

Heidi Jacobs-4

Bill and Karen Cressman-5

Cheryl Bell-5

Tom McGonigal-5

Marian Shultz-6

Sandy Everitt-6

Jeremiah Narvaez-12

Matthias Bell-12

Dave and Debbie Zazulak-13

Nathan Spangenberg-13

Ginger Jacobs-16

Jesse Narvaez-16

Adam Parise-17

Frank and Kim Smith-18

Havilah Bell-18

Kyleen Stoddard-18

David J. Smith-19

Jered and Tamar Oman-20

Dave and Debra McGahey-21

Matt and Melissa Mergen-21

Noemi Narvaez-22

Bill and Marti Schumaker-25

Abe Parise-26

Ann Herr-29

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

*The first three completed correctly and shown to Pastor David will receive a treat!

Look up each Wisdom reference and fill in the wisdom principle:

Jesus Christ is made to the Believer _____, and righteousness, and sanctification, and _____. **1 Corinthians 1:30**

Wisdom that is from above is first _____, then peaceable, _____, and easy to be _____, full of mercy and good _____, without partiality, and without _____. **James 3:17**

The Believer ought to _____ concerning that which is _____ and _____ concerning that which is _____. **Romans 16:19**

The _____ of this _____ is _____ to God. **1 Corinthians 3:19**

Believers are to walk _____ not as _____ but as _____. **Ephesians 5:15**

To walk not understanding the will of God is to be _____ with our life on this earth. **Ephesians 5:17**

There is only one _____ God and He it is who ought to be worshipped and praised. Mankind is unwise when compared to His awesome all-sapience. **Jude 25**

The depth of the riches both of the _____ and knowledge of God are seen in how He is sovereign of all and the Saviour of all men who will believe. **Romans 11:33**

It is the responsibility for all Believers to walk in _____ toward them that are _____, redeeming the _____. **Colossians 4:5**

One day Believers will be able to join in the eternal chorus...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive _____, and _____, and _____, and strength, and _____, and _____, and blessing. **Revelation 5:12**

In Christ are hid all of the _____ of _____ and knowledge. **Colossians 2:3**

The local church teaches and displays the manifold _____ of God to the _____ and _____ in heavenly places. **Ephesians 3:10**

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

50 East Paletown Rd
Quakertown, PA 18951
(215) 541-1430
www.communitybaptistpa.com

Ladies, Don't forget to sign up for the Ladies
breakfast on September 17th.
Teens, Register now for the Annual Teen
Jamboree with Dwight Smith
September 23-24

WHERE GOD IS GLORIFIED, HIS WORD IS MAGNIFIED, AND HIS PEOPLE EDIFIED