

Christian America 3

On this day July 4th, 1776, an experiment in self-government under the authority and laws of Almighty God came to formal fruition. A virtually unanimous consensus was reached among the founding fathers that this nation would be “one nation under God” and not just any God, but solely the One True God whom all who were Christians loved, embraced and served.

We have spent much of our time so far in this series of messages discovering the intentions, convictions, and actions of our founding fathers. We have clearly seen how committed they were to the causes of Christ and to establishing this nation under His authority and commands. We have seen how their spiritual convictions led to the development of our laws and governmental structure and function.

Some might say, “That was then. Things are different today. This is a different America. We need to change with the times and culture.”

No one would argue that, because of the freedoms offered and guaranteed by our Christian forefathers, that many have come to America over the last four centuries seeking that freedom. And, many of those who have come, embrace beliefs that are different and even contrary to that of our founding fathers and that which our government was built upon. Some are saying that we should reject the standards and principles of government established by our forefathers and spelled out in the Constitution. Some are saying, like our current president, that it would be inappropriate and impossible to base our government on the Bible, Christian values and principles.

Key question: Should we adapt or change our laws to accommodate the constantly changing values of society or to the

cultures and beliefs of those who immigrate or have immigrated to America? Or, should we continue to offer freedom and opportunity to any and all who would come to America legally but maintain our laws and government in conjunction with the intentions of our Christian founding fathers and the Constitution?

As I've stated before, if our laws and government are not based on the Bible and Christian principles then they will be based on some other form of ideology or belief system such as: Islam, socialism, secular progressivism, Marxism, communism or some other ism. Take your pick. No government ever has or ever will be formed and function without being driven by some ideology. I contend that we can and must return to and maintain all the systems of government in faithfulness to the original intentions of our founding fathers and the Constitution.

I would like to briefly share some more current evidence that we are not alone in our desire that we should return to and remain a nation whose laws and governmental functions are intentionally based Christian principles and the bible.

*78% claim to be Christian (today)

*The phrase "one nation under God" did not exist in any official form until June 14, 1954 after President Eisenhower signed into law following a joint resolution of congress including the phrase in the pledge to the American flag.

*President Dwight D. Eisenhower declared that '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' in a declaration later repeated with approval by President Gerald Ford;

*President John F. Kennedy declared that 'The rights of man come

not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God';

*President Ronald Reagan, after noting 'The Congress of the United States, in recognition of the unique contribution of the Bible in shaping the history and character of this Nation and so many of its citizens, has ... requested the President to designate the year 1983 as the 'Year of the Bible',' officially declared 1983 as 'The Year of the Bible';

*Ronald Reagan "We establish no religion in this country, nor will we ever. We command no worship. We mandate no belief. But we poison our society when we remove its theological underpinnings. We court corruption when we leave it bereft of belief.

All are free to believe or not believe; all are free to practice a faith or not. But those who believe must be free to speak of and act on their belief, to apply moral teaching to public questions.

Without God, there is no virtue, because there's no prompting of the conscience. Without God, we're mired in the material, that flat world that tells us only what the senses perceive. Without God, there is a coarsening of the society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under. If I could just make a personal statement of my own -- in these 3 1/2 years I have understood and known better than ever before the words of Lincoln, when he said that he would be the greatest fool on this footstool called Earth if he ever thought that for one moment he could perform the duties of that office without help from One who is stronger than all. University of South Carolina, Columbia, Sept 20, 1983) -

*When 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"

You know, my faith is an integral part of being who I am, and I'm not going to change." --*George W. Bush* [September 2003 in a FOX news interview with Brit Hume]

"...This Thanksgiving, we again give thanks for all of our blessings and for

the freedoms we enjoy every day. Our Founders thanked the Almighty and humbly sought His wisdom and blessing. May we always live by that same trust, and may God continue to watch over and bless the United States of America." --President George W. Bush

October 8, 2002. (U.S. House of Representatives)

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2690) entitled 'An Act to reaffirm the reference to one Nation under God in the Pledge of Allegiance', do pass with the following AMENDMENT: (Section 1 recited 16 accounts of our forefathers dependence upon God as well more recent court rulings regarding the matter of faith in the American culture)

SEC. 2. ONE NATION UNDER GOD.

(a) REAFFIRMATION- Section 4 of title 4, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

`Sec. 4. Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery

`The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: '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.', should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.'

(b) CODIFICATION- In codifying this subsection, the Office of the Law Revision Counsel shall show in the historical and statutory notes that the 107th Congress reaffirmed the exact language that has appeared in the Pledge for decades.

SEC. 3. REAFFIRMING THAT GOD REMAINS IN OUR MOTTO.

(a) REAFFIRMATION- Section 302 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows: `Sec. 302. National motto 'In God we trust' is the national motto.'

(b) CODIFICATION- In codifying this subsection, the Office of the Law Revision Counsel shall make no change in section 302, title 36, United States

Code, but shall show in the historical and statutory notes that the 107th Congress reaffirmed the exact language that has appeared in the Motto for decades. Attest: Clerk.

Something different is going on in America today. It is very unique even compared to my teen years and the Viet Nam era. In the late sixties and early seventies, young American men were burning flags, burning their draft cards, and fleeing the country to avoid the draft. The Viet Nam war was dreaded and those who did serve were ignored and forgotten. There was very little patriotism in the 60s and 70s. Not so today! Despite the extreme criticism from the far left and despite the diversity of opinions among the rest of us regarding our roles in Iraq, Afghanistan and the world, Most Americans are strongly supporting our young men and women who are serving in all the branches of the U.S. military. You have expressed that same support many times right here as we have shown our appreciation for those who currently serve or have served in the past.

What's up with that? Why this resurgence of American patriotism? Is it because we have recently learned some valuable lessons? Is it because we were recently viciously and horribly attacked on our own soil? Is it because we realize our vulnerability? Is it because we see the potential and actual eroding of our freedoms at the hands of the wrong people? Could it be that God is calling America back to her Christian, biblical roots and many are at least sensing that call? Could it be that there are enough God fearing politicians and people like us praying that God might restore America? Could it be that in these last days that God might restore America to her former glory, not only in prosperity and world renown, but in her passion to be a nation that exalts God? I certainly hope so!

Many times Israel turned away from God and He patiently waited, sent the prophets, convicted, disciplined and even raised up enemies in order to woo His people back into a

right relationship with Him. And He did receive them again with open arms and blessings that they certainly didn't deserve. And I would point out that this consistently happened as God worked through a godly, faithful leader.

1 Listen, Shepherd of Israel, who guides Joseph like a flock; You who sit enthroned [on] the cherubim, rise up **2** at the head of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Rally Your power and come to save us. **3** Restore us, God; look [on us] with favor, and we will be saved. **4** LORD God of Hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers? **5** You fed them the bread of tears and gave them a full measure of tears to drink. **6** You set us at strife with our neighbors; our enemies make fun of us. **7** Restore us, God of Hosts; look [on us] with favor, and we will be saved. **P**salms 80:1-7 (HCSB)

11 For I know the plans I have for you" —[this is] the LORD's declaration—"plans for [your] welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. **12** You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. **13** You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. **14** I will be found by you"—the LORD's declaration—"and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and places where I banished you"—the LORD's declaration. "I will restore you to the place I deported you from." **J**er 29:11-14 (HCSB)

Restore America:

Pray

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. **2** Chron 7:14 (KJV)

I know I'm being a little repetitive here, but some things need to be repeated. We need to pray.

God is not calling all the nations to prayer. He's not calling all religions to prayer. He is calling **His people** to prayer. If there is one key element to initiating a change, a moving of God, a restoration of America to her Christian roots, it is through prayer. James 5 says that the passionate prayer of the righteous is powerful. Would you dare to live righteously and pray passionately for this our country?

Don't settle Even if it looks like the enemy is winning, even if our freedoms, especially those related to faith, are eroding away, don't just settle for "that's just the way it is." Be strong and courageous. Fight the good fight. There is a time for silence a reverence but there is also a time to speak up, even shout, even fight for truth and righteousness.

9 Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." **J**osh 1:9 (HCSB)

10 Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength.

11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. **12** For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. **E**ph 6:10-12 (HCSB)

Consider God's Call: Consistently throughout church history, when a great moving of God's spirit has been birthed, much of it has begun and been carried out by young people. They/you are the agents of change, not just in church, but in the nation. Even if a great moving of God's Spirit begins to sweep our land, it will take time. It would be significant if young people are being called into

and placed by God in positions of greatest influence to initiate a national return to God. Young people pursuing God's will for their lives would do well to consider- ministry, education, politics, journalism/news and the military.

1 I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, **Eph 4:1** (HCSB)

Share Christ:

You may not be able to single-handedly change Washington or Hollywood, but God can use you to change your neighbor or your friend. And I'm not talking about arguing them out of their political preferences, I'm talking about persuading them to come to Christ. If one truly comes to Christ, their political leaning will lean the "right" way.