

A Great Nation

Prov 14:34

(Zeke Flores, Based on outline by Steven Harper)

Intro: *Almost 400 yrs ago, families & individuals began leaving Europe in search of freedom.*

- A. Some European rulers clung to idea of state religion & harassed those who differed.
 - 1. It was NOT persecution for believing in God, rather quite the opposite. Rulers wanted to impose a “state religion” contrary to God’s will.
 - 2. Those who fled wanted to worship God realizing that if a new country were to succeed, it must adhere to the teachings of God.
 - 3. **Franklin, Jefferson, Adams Quotes** (1st set)
- B. Within a century, men began contemplating a world w/o God.
 - 1. Called religion a crutch for weak-minded men, an invention of man meant to impose the will of a few on the masses.
 - 2. Since then, belief in God, and certainly obedience to Him, is no longer encouraged but ridiculed and scorned.
 - 3. Our society is now reaping the harvest of seeds planted many years ago as “freedom to choose” (abortion), sexual freedom have compounded our problems instead of making us more free.
 - 4. Political and social liberals continue to seek ways to exclude religious morals from society, thus adding to our problems.
- C. Can America become a great nation once again?
 - 1. To do so would require a great effort with drastic and difficult choices.
 - 2. It is simple: Follow God
 - a. Simple, yet difficult.
 - b. Until we do, our nation will continue its downward slide of degradation & disintegration.

I. Acknowledge God

- A. Expose Atheism’s False Arguments
 - 1. Since Darwin & Huxley, false ideas regarding man’s origin have been accepted w/o question or challenge.
 - a. Evolution’s theories change daily at the whim of so-called scientists.
 - 2. Sigmund Freud stated that God is the creation of man.
 - a. Said that religion was source of evil in the world.
 - b. Where are atheist-founded hospitals?
 - c. Where are atheist-founded relief organizations?
 - d. Where are atheist-founded educational institutions
- B. Discuss & Display The Evidence
 - 1. Some religious-minded scientists are exposing flaws in evolution, but their numbers are too few.
 - a. Their work is ridiculed and schools will not allow creation evidence to be presented.
 - 2. **Acts 14:16-17, Rom 1:20**
 - a. We need educated Christians who can logically present the evidence for creation.
- C. Give God His Proper Place
 - 1. Creator: **Gen 1:1, John 1:3, Col 1:16**
 - a. The fact of intelligent design necessitates a designer. Proclaim who He is – God!
 - 2. Ruler: **Rom 1:25, 28, 9:20-21**
 - a. It’s logical to conclude that since He created us, we have responsibility (accountability) to Him.

II. Emphasize Spiritual Education

- A. Parents begin, sometimes before their child can walk, to plan for their academic success.
 - 1. What about moral/spiritual success?
- B. Biblical instruction used to be common.
 - 1. **Washington, Webster Quotes** (2nd set)
 - 2. Bible was 1st primer for school children
 - 3. **Deut 6:4-9, 20-25**
 - 4. In our rush to “educate” we have forgotten the most important instruction - **Matt 16:26**
- C. Make God’s Word The Standard
 - 1. Expose the Failure of Pluralism, Relativism
 - a. Atheistic men knew the best opportunity for removing God & religion would be in our schools
 - (1) So, the instruction of “tolerance,” “inclusion.”
 - b. Thus, America followed in footsteps of ancient Israel - **Judges 2:12, 21:25**
 - (1) Israel suffered for it, how can we expect any different?
 - 2. Advocate The Absolutes
 - a. An alarming majority believe there is no such thing as absolute truth.
 - (1) Are they absolutely sure?
 - b. Yet, we can know the truth
 - (1) **John 17:17, 8:31-32**

III. Christians Must Exemplify Godliness

- A. 1st, Know What God Requires
 - 1. **2 Tim 2:15, Hosea 4:6**
- B. Believe It With All Your Heart
 - 1. We must believe at the core of our faith that Jesus is Lord - **1 Pet 3:15**
 - 2. Not just to give an answer, but for our salvation!
 - a. **John 8:24, Rom 10:9-10**
 - 3. The world needs to see people of *conviction!*
- C. Apply It and Practice It Openly
 - 1. Do people glorify God when they see your actions?
 - a. **Matt 5:16**
 - 2. People need to see faith that saves is faith that moves, motivates us.
 - a. **James 1:22, 2:18**
 - 3. It must be evident in changed, charged lives.
 - a. **Acts 26:20**
 - b. If we call ourselves “Christian,” we must prove it in deed.

Conc: Can we become a truly great nation once again?

- A. Or, are we too far gone?
 - 1. Could there actually be a reawakening in our nations conscience?
 - 2. It could happen but NOT w/o a drastic change of heart in the majority of the population.
 - a. If God’s word alone is not enough to move us to be the people we should be, nothing else will.
- B. But, the change must start with YOU!
 - 1. Do YOU acknowledge God daily?
 - 2. Do YOU promote spiritual education?
 - 3. Do YOU exemplify godliness openly?
 - 4. *“When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I*

grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country. But it, too, seemed immovable.

As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it.

And now as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: If I had only changed myself first, then by example I would have changed my family. From their inspiration and encouragement, I would then have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world.” (Stories For Preachers and Teachers)

C. “Blessed is the nation whose God is Yahweh...” Psa 33:12

D. INV

FIRST SET OF QUOTES:

(1) Benjamin Franklin - "God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." Constitutional Convention of 1787

(2) Thomas Jefferson - "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever." Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII, 1781

(3) John Adams - "The general principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity; I will avow that I believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God." Letter written to Abigail on the day the Declaration was approved by Congress

SECOND SET OF QUOTES:

(1) George Washington - "What students would learn in American schools above all is the religion of Jesus Christ." Speech to the Delaware Indian Chiefs May 12, 1779

(2) Daniel Webster - "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." From speech "The Dignity and Importance of History" Feb 23, 1852