

All-American Revival

I believe we are in need of an All-American Revival! Are there things in our cultural landscape which are wrong, misguided and diametrically opposed to God's Word? Yes, Yes, Yes. The evil of abortion, the murder of innocence within the womb is a national sin which needs to end in our country. 4 out of every 10 pregnancies end in abortion with over 1.21 million a year. The celebration of homosexuality as something to be proud of and a banner to wave in the face of God is a not only a sin to admit but a lifestyle to abhor. The present day attitude of tolerance is rarely met with the Romans 1:32, scripture verse, "Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them." Such tolerance is biblically a sin. What we are doing to our soil, water, and air in the name of progress and advancement is a sin against nature, a nature which belongs to God. How we misuse our money and power to keep the poor, poor and the rich, richer, while the middle class is rocked to sleep by their mediocrity and passivity is a sin which needs to be identified and repented of. Are there more sins than these which threaten the blessing of God upon our land? Yes, Yes, Yes! Before there will ever be an All-American Revival there must come repentance. Before there will come true repentance, there must be biblical preaching from America's pulpits which declares unapologetically the truth of God's Word.

Therefore, it is clear that both pastors and parishioners across this land, need to repent of what they have been teaching or not teaching, what they have listened or tolerated from the pulpit. We are in need of repentance, there is no doubt. Repentance that brings revival can come from 2 different directions:

1. A Brokenness over our sin

2 Chronicles 7:14

14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

1. A Sense of Need must be embraced...

2. An Understanding must be established... there is a conditional promise available.

from God, to His people, as a guaranteed promise for certain behavior.

what needs to be done and who needs to do it...

3. A Particular People must engage...

Who are called by my name...this is not for Hindu's, Buddhists, Moslem's or those of any cult or secularists or atheists...followers of Jesus only.

This is not a promise for anyone else other than God's people...

Too many are pontificating from ivory towers about candidates...

More than enough are aligning themselves with different parties...

The number is way too vast as to how many will actually refrain from voting, much less praying about this country's future.

God's people must engage in humility.... but what does that look like?

God's people must engage in prayer.....but what does that look like?

God's people must engage in seeking God's face...but what does that mean and look like?

God's people must repent...but what does that look like? Turn from what wicked ways?

How long? As long as it takes...

4. A Response must be expected....

that God will hear, that He will forgive, and He will heal our land. God's hearing our earnest prayer is most important, His forgiveness is more important than healing because it has present and future consequences, but His healing will make all the difference today.

Sometimes repentance comes from a realization of...

2. A Blessing Undeserved

Romans 2:4 "Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?"

However, sometimes repentance comes when one sees the grace, long suffering hand of God in blessing upon our lives. I have witness multiple times over the years the experiences of men and women, young people who recalled the intervention of God in a particular circumstance. Had it not been for His hand of protection they would have surely died. Such a personal realization often brings one to their knees in thanksgiving. A new beginning and a new way of walking is the result.

Today, I want to talk about the blessings of God upon both a country and individual people, with the prayer that a fresh realization of God's blessings upon us, individually and collectively, will produce a heart of thanksgiving and repentance...leading us to an All-American Revival.

So, let's examine the kindness of God upon us! This week I found a passage that gives me hope for our country and our land, as well as for us individually.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

These are the blessings of obedience...God's people are being told by Moses.

1. Influence is attained. v1

America still has great influence in every arena of global concern.

America provides an amazingly good life for the ordinary guy

America has found a solution to the problem of religious and ethnic conflict that continues to divide and terrorize much of the world.

America has the kindest, gentlest foreign policy of any great power in world history

2. Enjoyment, regardless of where you live is experienced. v2-3

I've lived in 4 states and enjoy everywhere I have ever lived.

3. Your legacy enjoys growth. v4

4. Food is being provided. v5

China, India, US, and Brazil each produce more food than the entire European Union. China has the largest labor force, with 315million, while India, is 2nd in food production but many of its citizens are too impoverished to purchase the food they produce. The US food production has more than doubled in post WWII period (1948-2015)

5. There is security on all your paths. v6

6. Those who oppose you will be thwarted. v7

7. You will be able to expand as far as you desire. v8

The land of opportunity, where even an immigrant can find their way to the table for a slice of the American pie. The entrepreneur has a place in this country.

8. You will be known as a people of God with His protection v9-10

9. You continue to reap the benefits of your heritage. v11

Prior to the war, only those bibles approved by the King could be printed. One of the 1st acts of the new Congress was to authorize the printing of an American Bible which was 1st printed on September 12, 1782. The bible includes these words in the forward “Whereupon, resolved, that the United States Congress assembled, recommended this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States”

Thomas Jefferson, upon leaving the office of president, said, “Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot not sleep forever.”

Ben Franklin and the Constitutional Convention stated, “We need God to be our friend not our enemy. We need Him to be our ally not our adversary. We need to make sure we keep God’s concurring aid. If a sparrow cannot fall without God’s notice, how can our nation rise without His aid?” He further called for regular daily prayer to keep Him close to us.

- The founding fathers were students of the Bible and brought their faith and expertise into the legislature
 - The idea for separation of powers from Jeremiah 17:32.
 - They found mention of the three branches of government in Isaiah 33:22.
 - They found the idea of tax exemption for churches in Ezra 7:24.

10. The Lord is utilizing His creation to underwrite your productivity. v12 **Why is the soil in America so productive?**

**11. You are a leader and not just a follower, v13
US has consistently been a leading innovator
and creative force on the planet.**

**12. Your commitment continues to pay
dividends from blessing of God v13-14**

The key to a continuation of these blessings hinges on 'carefully following the commands of God."
v1,2,9,13,14

So, the big question today is: Are you following God's commands as best as you know how? Or are you instead justifying personal disobedience.

Responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit towards repentance is essential, if indeed, we are to experience an All American Revival.

Westside 7-3-16