

Yesterday, July 4, 2026, the United States commemorated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. 250 Years Later: One Nation Under God's Mercy

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance. Psalm 33:12 NIV

This year, our nation pauses to commemorate 250 years of American independence

That is no small thing: **two hundred and fifty years of freedom, sacrifice, wars fought**, lives given, families built, churches planted, missionaries sent, blessings upon blessings received

We can be thankful for the country God has allowed us to live in

What is America's greatest need is not merely a **patriotic memory** or **cultural pride**

America's greatest need is humble dependence on the **Gods mercy, His righteousness, and dependence on the lordship of God**

As Christians, we must be careful, because we do not worship America; we worship Jesus

We do not confuse the kingdom of God with the nations of men. We do not preach the flag as our gospel. We preach Christ crucified, risen, reigning, and returning

This morning we will not study about political parties

Today is about asking a deeper question: After 250 years, what does God want from His people in this nation?

us- As Americans, we remember what our flag represents with gratitude: 50 white stars representing the current U.S. states and 13 alternating red and white stripes representing the original 13 colonies that declared independence, **freedom, sacrifice, service, and the privilege of living in a nation where we can gather together openly to worship our great God**

We remember that all nations exist under God's sovereignty

From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands Acts 17:26 NIV

God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us Acts 17:27 NIV

Paul tells us something very important: **Nations are not accidents**

God determines **times and boundaries**, God **raises up** and **brings down**, God rules **over history**

America did not survive 250 years merely because of documents, military strength, economic power, natural resources, or human genius

Those things do matter greatly, but they are not ultimate factors in becoming or remaining a great nation. **The ultimate reality is this: God has chosen to be merciful to us**

The White House, Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Constitution are not ultimate

Are all vitally important? But God alone sits above the nations, which means God is sovereign

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; He weighs the islands as though they were fine dust Isaiah 40:15 NIV

America **is powerful**, but America is **not eternal**; America is **influential**, but America is **not invincible**; America is **blessed beyond measure**, but America is **not beyond judgment**

So, as Americans, we give thanks. Our passport may say United States of America, but our highest citizenship is in heaven

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ Philippians 3:20 NIV

With an eternal mindset, we can love our country rightly because **we love Christ supremely**

When Christ is first, patriotism can be very healthy. However, when a country becomes first, patriotism becomes idolatry, and **idolatry always asks for what only God deserves**

† - **The flag reminds us of earthly freedom, but the cross reminds us of eternal freedom**

At the cross, Jesus gave His life so sinners could be forgiven, redeemed, and brought into the eternal Kingdom of God

The Bible reminds us that righteousness exalts a nation, and sin condemns any people

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. Proverbs 14:34 NIV

We give thanks to God for our nation and blessings without ignoring our need for repentance

One of the clearest verses for any national anniversary for any country

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. 2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV

2 Chronicles 7:14 was originally spoken to Israel in a covenant context

But the **biblical principle still applies**

God calls His people in any nation to humility, prayer, repentance, and dependence on Him

Because of the Cross of Christ, righteousness lifts a nation, while Sin disgraces a nation

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. Proverbs 14:34 NIV

Notice what the verse does not say. It does not say that military strength, wealth, technology, political victory, or national pride exalts a nation

It says **righteousness exalts a nation**. This means the health of a nation is never measured only by its economy, borders, elections, schools, laws, or military

The health of a nation is measured by its moral and spiritual condition **before a Holy God**

And if we are honest, America has so much to thank God for, and much to repent of

We thank God for liberty; we repent of using liberty as an excuse for sin

We thank God for prosperity; we repent of greed and materialism

We thank God for religious freedom; we repent of spiritual laziness, calloused hearts, and lethargy while having the Word of God everywhere

We thank God for the Church; we repent of Churches that become comfortable, cold, compromised, or entertainment-driven

We thank God for free speech; we repent of using our tongues to slander, divide, mock, and destroy

We thank God for the unborn, the elderly, the weak, and the vulnerable; we repent where human life has been treated as disposable

These types of prayers are not anti-American; they are biblical!

So if we love our nation, we should not merely wave flags; we should bend our knees and pray

The Church's first contribution to America is not political noise; it is spiritual clarity

The Church (that's us, not the building) are called to **be salt and light**

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot Matthew 5:13 NIV

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden Matthew 5:14 NIV

Salt preserves and light exposes, salt slows corruption, light pushes out the darkness

Here is the warning: salt that loses its saltiness becomes useless

The greatest threat to America is not merely what happens in Washington

The greatest threat to our country is what happens **when the church grows cold, loses its witness**

When the church becomes worldly, prayerless, fearful, bitter, silent, or compromised, the nation loses the very people called to shine the light in the darkness

We pray for our nation and its leaders

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people 1 Timothy 2:1 NIV

for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness 1 Timothy 2:2 NIV

Paul wrote this under the Roman Empire. He was not writing from a comfortable Christian nation. He was not saying, “**Pray only when you like the ruler.**” He was not saying, “**Pray only when your party wins.**” He was not saying, “**Pray only when government is godly.**”

He said Pray “**for kings and all who are in authority**”

Notice the purpose: **that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness 1 Timothy 2:2 NIV**

The goal of Christianity is not to make us comfortable and lazy; the goal is to live godly lives and advance the gospel

So, **before you post** about America, pray for America; **before you complain** about leaders, pray for leaders; **before you panic** over the culture, pray for revival

 The Kingdom – the eternal perspective

Before you say, “What is this world coming to?” remember: Jesus already told us where history is going in **Revelation 11:15**

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! Revelation 11:15 NKJV

That is where history is going

So on America's 250th anniversary, we should ask: **What are we doing** with the **freedom God has given us?**

Are we using our freedom to **worship**, to raise **godly families**, to **share the gospel**, to serve our **neighbors**, to **defend truth**, to **protect the weak**, to **make disciples**

Or are we using freedom to **entertain ourselves to death?**

As a free Church, we are called to be a faithful Church. We have Bibles, the Church, worship services, Biblical teaching, and we have loads of opportunities

The question is not whether we have freedom, the question is whether we are using it for the glory of God

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required Luke 12:48 NKJV

We remember that America's hope is not America itself; our Hope is in God

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7 NKJV

Grace, after 250 years, America does not need a sleepy church

America needs a gospel-centered, praying, holy, courageous, and compassionate church

America needs Christians who will stop shouting at the darkness and shine the light

America needs believers who will live like Jesus is Lord throughout the year because **He is the King of Kings!** Revelation 19:16 NKJV And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.