

## **A Burden for our Nation**

Psalm 33:12 (Others)

Last week we celebrated 240 years of this great nation. Many of us likely spent time with family and watched a firework display to commemorate the birth of our nation. Although we were aware that life isn't perfect in America, it felt good to be an American.

While I am still thankful to be an American citizen, I have to be honest – I really don't feel like celebrating today. What has happened to us? How did we get to where we are today? Our society resembles a war zone. Hatred and bitterness are openly expressed and encouraged. Innocent people are gunned down in cold blood with no remorse. Those within government rarely speak truth anymore. Character and integrity are absent. Neighborhoods that once enjoyed peace and tranquility, now resemble pressure cookers, ready to explode.

The message today will be somewhat different than what you have come to expect from me. Rather than looking at one particular passage, I want to discuss several verses. My heart is heavy today and I feel a deep sense of brokenness. I want to preach on the thought: [A Burden for our Nation](#).

**I. The Standard for a Nation** ([Ps.33:12](#)) – [Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance](#). Here we find the standard for the hope, security, and well-being of a nation. Consider:

**A. The Blessing** ([12a](#)) – [Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD](#). This was written to the nation of Israel. They surely had experienced God's blessing throughout their history. They faced great opposition and adversity on many occasions and yet God was faithful. They, of all people and nations, knew the blessing of God.

- You will have to agree that God has blessed America as well. One needs to look no further than our humble beginning to see the hand and blessing of God. We were a people seeking a new beginning, immigrants from the most powerful nation on earth. Within our own ability, freedom and sovereignty were impossible, and yet God made a way.
- His great hand of blessing has continued on America. Even now, as wicked as we have become, we remain the most blessed people in the world. We cannot deny God's faithfulness and goodness to America.

**B. The Basis (12a)** – *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.* The blessing of God was contingent upon their recognition and faithfulness to Him. As long as He was worshiped and honored as the true and living God by Israel, His blessing rested upon them. He had chosen them as His people. They had the assurance of God’s blessing as long as they continued to walk in His ways, living in obedience to the Lord.

- Many liberals and progressives would disagree, but I am convinced this is the reason America has been blessed as she has. America was founded upon biblical principles. Until recently, I think it could honestly be said that America was a Christian nation. We were, by in large, a people who sought the Lord and served Him. No other nation had been as passionate and dedicated to the Gospel of Christ as America. We were sending missionaries with the good news around the world. American culture was dictated by an overwhelming dedication to the Lord. The vast majority of Americans regularly attended Christian worship services. The church and the Bible were respected and defended by public officials and those in positions of influence. God blessed America because we were a people who served and honored Him!

- (12b) - *and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.* This verse was written to the Jews and the latter part of the verse deals specifically with them and their future. However, I am thankful that believers also have the promise of an eternal inheritance in Christ our Lord. Regardless of what happens to the nation in which we now live, the saved by grace are citizens of a heavenly country. We will spend the endless age in the presence of our Lord!

**II. The Sinfulness of a Nation (Jer.7:23-24, 26)** – *But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. [24] But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. [26] Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.* God promised blessing and provision to Israel as long as they obeyed His voice and walked in His ways. There were times of rebellion and times of renewal throughout their history. Eventually Israel turned their backs on the Lord and they were conquered by their enemies. God was faithful, sending His only begotten Son as the Savior, and yet they rejected Him. A nation blessed like no other, turned her back on God and was forced to deal with the consequences of her sin.

- I see a great parallel to what I read in the Bible about Israel’s rejection of the Lord and what we are experiencing in America. We too are walking in our own desires, and are heading away from God. Sin will bring consequences. God promised blessing to those who sought Him and a curse upon those who rebelled against Him. We are no better than Israel of old.

▪ As I pondered where we are in America today, I was reminded of a great truth – the heart of the problem is a problem of the heart. Many may deny it, and refuse to admit it, but we have a heart problem in America. Sin stands as the greatest hindrance we face. Consider where we are today:

- **There is no value for human life in America** – There have been well over 50 Million abortions since Roe V. Wade in 1973. Human life is no longer viewed as sacred, a gift from our Creator. Such a mindset has led to a rise in murder and violence. Consider the tragedies of Charleston, Orlando, and recently, Dallas. America no longer values human life.
- **Lack of Character and Integrity** – Our nation is influenced and managed by those who are consumed with greed, deceit, and avoiding the truth. Honesty and character are no longer traits demanded of those in leadership.
- **Sexual Perversion** – We have experienced a total breakdown in the home in recent years. The biblical basis for marriage, family, and the home have been cast aside as politicians and liberal judges seek to undo thousands of years of accepted practice and biblical guidance. There is no restraint anymore. Sex dominates every aspect of social life. Pornography is rampant, being made easily available to children through the internet.
- **Rebellion against God, the Word, and the Church** – Society as a whole now rejects any reference to God or the Bible within the public arena. The church was once honored and respected, and now she is ostracized and viewed as a threat to progressive thought. We are rapidly becoming a godless society.
- **Racial Tension** – Racial tensions are at the highest levels in decades. I was born in 1971, and raised in the 70's and 80's. Just a few years removed from the Civil Rights movement, race relations were better then than they are today. Christ didn't die for a white church or a black church; He died for all people. Yes black lives matter, but so do all lives! We must learn to see people as our Lord does – souls for whom He died, standing in need of salvation!

**III. The Solution for a Nation** (2 Chron.7:14) – *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.* Again this is a passage written to Israel, but we are God's people in Christ. The principles remain the same. If America is to see profitable change, it must come through the church. We cannot expect the lost and rebellious to seek the Lord and get us back to a spiritual basis for life. Consider:

#### **A. The Requirements** (14a)

- **Humility** – We must be willing to humble ourselves before the Lord and admit our need. We easily spot sin in others, but we must recognize our need as well. [Ezra 9:6 – And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.](#)
- **Prayer** – It is time for us to get earnest in prayer for the needs of our day. We don't have the power or ability to bring the change we need, but God does. We must get on our faces before Him in prayer. Jesus saw the need for continued prayer! Paul taught us to pray without ceasing!
- **Seeking God** – The struggles we face are not for the uncommitted or faint of heart. We cannot expect change to come suddenly. We didn't get in this mess over-night, and a spiritual awakening may take time. We must be committed to prayer and obedience as long as it takes! [Jer.29:13 – And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.](#)
- **Repentance** – While the problems are many in America, we too must be willing to admit our sin and failures. The church has become complacent and apathetic. We too must deal with the sin in our lives, through repentance, desiring restoration.

**B. The Response** (14b) – [then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.](#) Those who meet God's requirements are promised a response from Him. He will:

- **Hear** – God has promised to hear the prayers and pleas of those who seek Him with a sincere and pure heart. We are guaranteed an audience with the Sovereign.
- **Forgive** – God promises to forgive the sin of His people, when they come before Him with a repentant heart. He is faithful and just to forgive, if we will confess our sin before Him!
- **Heal** – God promises what we so desperately need – healing for our land. Things are desperate in America. We are a divided and broken nation. We need the healing touch of God to restore us unto Him and bring much needed change.

**Conclusion:** I am deeply burdened for our nation. We are in desperate need of spiritual renewal within the church and restoration in our land. Are you burdened for the needs of today? Are you willing to meet God's requirements – coming in humble prayer and repentance, with a commitment to seek God's face? He will respond, but we must meet His terms.

If you are unsaved, the Lord stands ready to cleanse you of sin and save you today. Come with a repentant heart of faith, and be saved today!