

The American Dream  
"THE CHRISTIAN AND THE STATE"

I Timothy 2:1-2

Markon -  
Lake Drummond July 3, 94 ✓  
" " " " ✓  
July 5, 98 ✓

✓ 1 I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

✓ 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

some one Refers Independence Day as a "Summertime Thanksgiving" opportunity to be grateful to our government!

✓ 3 We can thank Almighty God for His great blessings upon our country. This is a special time on the calendar when our minds are being focused upon the 4th of July. And people begin to think about (Independence Day) Years ago citizens waved their flags and joined in the ceremonies of the day.

I read a graphic illustration given by (Thomas Marshall) who was at one time Vice-President of the United States. In his biography, he spoke about remembering the 4th of July. He said the ceremonies would include something like some afaucous voice of the small boys as he cries.

A red pepper pod in every man's eye  
Who won't celebrate the 4th of July.

Then he said, back on the other side of the street comes the response --

Fee, fi, fo, fum

I smell the blood of an Englishman.

Dead or alive, I'll have some

Fe, fi, fo, fum.

Well, it was the 4th of July and they dedicated it as much to keeping alive the bitterness towards the British Empire, as to the glory of the Birthday of the Republic. Marshall said, I followed with the rest of the crowd to get close, in the heat of the hot summer sun. We listened to a long-winded prayer by a local clergyman. Then the leading lawyer of the town reads the Declaration of Independence. And by that time we are almost ready to declare war anew against Great Britain. Then comes the orator of the day.

*Leon Hill, "I met a woman whom I hadn't seen for a number of years. I asked her how her husband was standing. The heat — I didn't know he died two years ago."*

I see him now, tall, clean shaved, waving a Prince Albert coat, and reaching - or that reached below his knees. And a white bow tie that hitches with a clasp at the back. From time to time, the back of the tie would climb up and rest on his left ear. Indeed it is questionable whether his effort of speaking was equal to his effort of keeping his neck-tie on.

What all he said, Marshall relates, is I do not know. Except he reaches the point when he says, me thinks I hear the tramp tramp of the Pilgrim fathers. As they march from Plymouth Rock to sign the Declaration of Independence. It was the end of the speech - and people cheered him, and they were ready to nominate him for governor of the State of Indiana. He described that as a true principle of American independence.

In those days, they bated the English, and always brought universal condemnation



to the enemies, in their long speeches. And their old-fashioned celebration of July 4th. Their hatred of the British took root in the young - and Marshall said it was not until he was mature and he had studied for himself, that he learned that all the people of Great Britain were not to blame for George the III.

We all need to keep alive the patriotic sentiment for the Star-Spangled Banner. And for this great nation and this great republic of ours. We know that the Bible gives us some guidelines for Christians to follow as he relates himself to the State in which he holds citizenship in.

"Uhu ru" "Libertad" "Freedom Now" - Whether in SWAHILI or SPANISH or English - whether in Africa, or in Latin America, or in our country, the cry goes up all over the world. "I want to be free!" People everywhere demand elimination of colonialism, totalitarianism & other forms of oppression. Our nation has sometimes been at war. What is the Christian response to this oppression situation.

Our nation is experiencing a great social revolution. What is the Christian position in this respect. Foes of Freedom

SIN

1. Our nation is in peril by a constant rising of crime rate. How is a Christian to respond to this threat.

Cuba Evangelist Orson Vila Jail 1995 Ch. some Backg  
"I would never shut a church which preaches Christ had opened"

IGNORANCE

2. Our nation is threatened by the breaking up of home life. The new morality along with losing attitudes towards marriage and the family, and the constant increase in alcoholism threatens the very foundations of our society. What can we as Christians do about this.

FEAR

3. Our nation is engaged on all sides by an aggressive Communism which would destroy our Democratic way of life. What is the Christian response to this threat.



Our nation is threatened by a secular materialism That would eliminate

God and Christian principles. What is the Christian to do in the face of this.

There was a piece in the paper the other day - we are pleased to announce that the cyclone which recently blew down the Baptist church did no real damage to the town! How shall we react. Should we retreat into isolation and solitude. Would it be wise for us to enter into a monastery. And take time to meditate in prayer.

8 Countries Religious Persecution: CHINA - Sudan - PAKISTAN - North Korea - Saudi Arabia - Vietnam - Egypt - Nigeria - AWDANG - more Christians in prison because of Religious Activities than any other nation in world! Tortured for holding prayer meetings, tracks preaching & giving Bibles. Between Feb & June 1996, 4,000 Catholics forced, recant their faith, temples, churches. Police destroyed 15,000 unregistered OR American Bible missionaries reported arrest warrant with Names 3,000 protestant evangelical preachers being circulated by Public Security. There are some who are for speaking in such a manner. There are some who are Bureaucrats

forsaking the church. In a desire to go where the action is. Now the Scripture in the New Testament, helps us as citizens of the State.

Sudan - Christian women & children bought & sold for as little as \$15 slaves. est. 25,000 children

Pakistan - Muslim country, death penalty blasphemy North Korea - 2,000 churches total N countryside - Today all wiped out. Saudi - illegal wear crown or read Bibles or pray, get one Bible

Romans 13:1 - Says that government is an institution of God. In V. 2 - it teaches the resistance, the constituted authority, that is - disobedient to God and will be punished. In V. 3-4 - The government officials are viewed as God's ministers appointed and encouraged to do right. An evil doers are the ones we need to fear. In V. 5 - The Christian should be a law abiding citizen for conscience sake - rather than fear of the consequences. There is also the power of taxation which is legitimate - V. 6. And V. 7.

IRAN - 1994 3 Top Pastors murdered!  
IRAQ Atomic Decree from 35% to 5%  
Turkey " " 32% to 2%

Egypt - Muslim Racketeers pressure thousands to pay protection money - A Christian farmer refused, shot to death, cost pay \$1500.00

Friends of Freedom

In our text today, we are reminded that government officials stand in need of our

prayer Good government can make possible growth even in the church. The Christian

Apathy

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sent

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should pray that the Spirit of God will guide them.

The Christian is to live as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, on earth.  
I Peter 2:11-17 - here is dramatized that good living will help in your testimony.  
In fact, the Christian is to seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness.  
The highest loyalty is to be to God rather than to Caesar. Matt. 6:33.

✓  
Dr. Binkley one time said, that Christians (can do) three or four things - at the point of citizenship. First, we can develop a kind of personal character that will stand the strain of responsible living, in a dynamic society.

2 ✓  
Second, we can participate in the advancement of the Christian Gospel in this generation.

3 ✓  
Third, we can stand on the front line of Christian conscience in the community in which we live. Now I suggest these are excellent suggestions - concerning our responsibility for good citizenship. There are a number of things that we should do. About the Christian and the state.

Knowledge

4 ✓  
We should be intelligent to the point of trying to understand the nature and the process of government.



We should participate in the selection of public officials. And the formation of public policy. (1)

We should work for the extension of justice and freedom - for all citizens - regardless of who they are. (2)

We should serve in places of political leadership, where we are qualified. Christians should undertake this obligation.

We should challenge and criticize any force in society that tends to deny the human rights of individuals that is contrary to the claims of God. (3)

We should align ourselves with the church and other constructive forces.

Faith

God has so blessed America and he has so blessed the people in this good land, because it was founded upon a culture from the days of its early beginning - when the first members of the Continental Congress faced great problems. They called the members of the Congress to fall upon their knees, and pray.

Can you imagine today what would happen if the great legislative body of this country, would fall upon their knees and pray more, and talk less. ?

Eternal Vigilance -7-

In those early days, on the first coins - made in America were the grand old words . . . In God We Trust. Roger Babson, one time was talking, South America was settled by men seeking gold. But North America, by men seeking God.

The great Persian nations have gone. They drank their way to doom. That civilization came crashing to the ground. And perished from off the face of the earth. Egypt flourished under Joseph - 400 years went by, and the people had forgotten Joseph and his God. Egypt went down. Greece, under Alexander, was conquered. And the whole world was conquered. But he could not conquer himself. He died drunk and the civilization of Greece came tumbling down. Rome was proud of its rulers. And of its victories over the entire world. But because of luxury and lust at the center of her life - she too perished.

Obedience to God

America is a land that we all love. And we must not build on these things. If we do, we will be ruined. We need to go back to that picture of Washington at Valley Forge. The little Army was almost starving and freezing to death. Everything that they held dear was at stake. They were fighting against the odds - but in the snow, George Washington was down upon his knees praying. I think that is the spirit that built America. Founded upon God, and if she is to live, she must be still building upon that foundation.

Future of Freedom

Righteousness  
Nation has sin in  
Soul of America - led Prov  
Exalteth  
14:34

I am sure today you all realize that God has richly blessed America. I do not have to stand here and tell you that the beautiful fields of America - the trees, the fruit. The mines, the minerals. Every type of scenery that can be found in this world can be found here in America. You talk about the beautiful coastline of the Mediterranean - we all know about the Atlantic coastline, and the Pacific, and the Gulf shores. When we talk about the beautiful rivers of Europe - we can all go and

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