

God Blessed the USA

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“7 Beliefs that Will Alter Your Future” – Week 3
“God is the Author of Every Promotion of My Life”

Introduction:

- A. Video illustration: “*Why is the US Successful?*”¹
- B. America is sick.
 - 1. She is diseased with pride and self-righteousness.
 - 2. American’s believe that this nation is great b/c of our determination, our work ethic, our systems of govt.
 - 3. But the foundation of this nation goes much deeper than “us”.

Abraham Lincoln said we have become “*intoxicated with unbroken success...too self-sufficient ... too proud to pray to (the) God that made us.*”²

- C. America is a great nation because of one thing, and one thing alone: ***The Power and Presence of Almighty God in the Nation.***
 - 1. Of the 280 million citizens in the US, many of them are worshiping Jesus Christ today in unity.
 - 2. Even unbelievers in America acknowledge God:
 - Sunday is not a work day in America.
 - Most of the 10 Commandments are law in America.

¹ Sermon Illustrators, Vol. 2, No. 2 (www.worshipfilms.com)

² Abraham Lincoln’s Proclamation of a National Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, April 30, 1863.

- Even unsaved Americans know that it is wrong to commit adultery, to steal, to lie and cheat.
- The Beattitudes that Jesus taught in the NT would be considered good clean living by all Americans.

3. All of this is a result of our heritage of faith.

D. Regardless to what many secularists say and even teach today, our heritage in America is a Godly one.

1. Sadly, many history teachers in America today would portray our founding fathers as atheists or deists.
2. However a closer look at the historical record proves them wrong:

Alexander Hamilton:

“I have carefully examined the evidences of the Christian religion and if I was sitting as a juror on its authenticity I would unhesitatingly give my verdict in its favor. I can prove its truth as clearly as any proposition ever submitted to the mind of man.”³

3. Hamilton doesn't sound like a religious skeptic, does he?

E. But for some reason many of our public institutions seem to be turning their backs on the God who has promoted us.

One of the problems with America today is that activist judges have gone from interpreting the law to re-writing the law from the bench. All over our nation, courts like the 9th “Circus” Court of Appeals in California, tell us it is unconstitutional to acknowledge God in a public place, to pray in school, to display the 10 Commandments on Government property (forgetting the fact that the 10 Commandments hangs on the wall of the US Supreme Court). All of this they do under the guise of upholding the constitution. I wish they would support the

³ www.sermonspice.com

constitution. Every judge in America is sworn to uphold it. But I'm tired of hearing what judges "think" the constitution means, what talking heads on CNN "think" the constitution stands for, what newspaper columnists or even religious leaders "interpretation" of the constitution is. What did the framers of the constitution think of the constitution?

James Madison

*"The future and success of America is not in this constitution but in the laws of God on which this constitution is founded."*⁴

1. James Madison didn't just believe in God, He believed that God's law was the author of the constitution.
2. He said our success is totally reliant on Him.

F. What about other Fathers of America who are often quoted and portrayed as being anti-religion.

1. The ACLU – *"Anti-Christian Loser's Union"* often misuses the words of Thomas Jefferson.

"Separation of Church and State" exists in no legal document of this country. Not in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson wrote these words in a letter on January 1, 1802. Know where he was 2 days later? On January 3, 1802, Jefferson could be seen worshiping in a Baptist church where Congressman and minister John Leland was preaching. I think we have misinterpreted his intentions.⁵

In fact, Jefferson was there when the first President of the US was inaugurated, not outdoors, not in the halls of Congress or in a govt. venue, but at a worship service in St. Paul's Episcopal church where the President, V.P., entire House of Representatives, entire Senate

⁴ Sermon Illustrators, Vol. 1, No. 1 (www.worshipfilms.com)

⁵ D. James Kennedy, *Reclaiming the Lost Legacy*, 98.

were all present to watch George Washington take his oath of office not only placing his hand on the Bible, but also kissing the Bible. ⁶

2. Any rational-minded thinker has to come to the conclusion that this nation was founded by Christians.
- G. Clearly God is the foundation upon which this great nation was formed.
1. He alone is the author of the many promotions this great nation has received over the years.
 2. Today we continue our series with, “God is the Author of Every Promotion in My Life.”

1 Chron 29:12 NIV

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

I. God’s Word is the Foundation of Every Promotion.

- A. You must know that God delights in His children.
1. He is not some celestial task-master who broods over His children in wrath and retribution.
 2. He wants to promote His children in every area of life:
 - a. Work, Home, Finances, Spiritually, Community
- B. I don’t know where to mistaken philosophy came from which makes God the “Bad Guy.”
1. If you want to know how God sees you, just look at how you feel about your children.
 - a. Little Johnny can’t do a thing wrong.
 - b. It had to be that other kid!

⁶ *Ibid.*, 43.

2. You feel that way b/c you are created in His image – you're like Him.
3. **BOTTOM LINE:** GOD WANTS TO PROMOTE YOU!

Matt 5:14 NIV

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

C. The foundation for this promotion is God's Word.

Ps 119:11 NKJV

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

1. With this fact in place in David's life, God began to promote him.

Ps 78:70-71 NIV

70 He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; 71 from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people ... inheritance.

2. **Any time you place prominence on the Word (living what you read) of God in your life, you can expect promotion from God!**

D. This is one of the main reasons why America is a great nation today.

1. In spite of how many place the Bible on equal ground with the Koran, Book of Mormon, other "holy" books...
2. America's founders gave the Word supremacy.

Andrew Jackson

"The Bible is the rock upon which this republic stands."

3. Doesn't sound like religious tolerance to me!!!

II.Faith in Christ Alone brings Promotion.

- A. You may be thinking, “I’m not good enough to be promoted by Christ. I’m too far from Him...too many mistakes.”
1. I’ll bet you are no worse off than Peter.
 2. Smelly old fisherman who often lost his temper and made promises he couldn’t keep.
 3. Denied Christ 3x’s just before His death.
- B. Peter got one thing abundantly correct, and it opened the door for awesome promotion in his life.

Matt 16:13-16 NIV

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

1. “Who is this Jesus?” was the question of the day.
2. Like today people were saying, “He’s a good teacher, faith healer, prophet...”
3. Peter stepped up boldly and said, “You are THE CHRIST – messiah, hope of the world.”
4. IMMEDIATELY he was promoted:

Matt 16:17-19 NIV

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- C. You can see similar promotion in your life if you will decide to make Him THE CHRIST.
1. Not a teacher, good voice, partner in your life...
 2. Your only hope, LORD of your life.
- D. Many have said that America is great b/c of it's religious freedoms.
1. They say Christianity exists in America b/c of religious freedom.
 2. The converse is true: *"Religious freedom exists in America b/c of Christianity."*
- E. CHRISTIANS founded this nation and made room for whoever wants to come.
1. Every nationality, race, creed, color, ideology is welcome.
 2. This is true b/c Christians founded this nation.
 3. I know that this information stands in opposition to what many history books say today, but let's see how it stacks up with the words of the founders:

Patrick Henry

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians. Not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded the right to prosperity and freedom of worship."

- F. What is he saying?
1. Jesus Christ is not "a god," He is THE GOD!
 2. "A voice," THE VOICE! The hope of humanity.

G. It is this attitude that has brought about the incredible promotion the United States of America has enjoyed.

III. When We Walk Away from God, We Invite Catastrophe.

A. As I said earlier, America has a pride problem.

1. We believe that we have afforded ourselves all of these blessings.
2. I think Daniel Webster envisioned the possibility of this day coming.

Daniel Webster

“If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible our country will go on prospering and prospering, but if we neglect its instruction and authority no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all of our glory in profound obscurity.”

B. Many pastors across America believe that the events of September 11, 2001 are a direct result of our nation turning away from God.

1. Not punishment from God, but God simply exiting the scene more and more as we ask Him to.
2. I wonder what Daniel Webster would say about 9/11.

C. One thing is true. If you ask God to leave you alone, He will.

1. He’s a gentleman & He will leave you to your own care
2. I don’t want to live without Him.

D. I’ve seen what happens when people walk away from God.

1. It cost Esau his inheritance.
2. It cost Samson his eyes/life.
3. It cost Moses the Promised Land.
4. It cost David the life of his son.
5. It cost Judas his soul.

E. What has it cost you?

1. One thing is true...

IV. In God We Find Our Second Chance.

A. There is a second chance for a backslidden nation like America!

2 Chron 7:14 NIV

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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

1. There is forgiveness and healing for us.
2. I believe that God has reserved a revival for the people of America.

B. See, I'm not the only person who believes America began as a Christian nation:

Woodrow Wilson

"America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify the devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scriptures. And if they would see America free and pure they will make their own spirits pure by this baptism of the Holy Spirit."

C. America started out as a 2nd chance nation.

1. People with no voice in England.
2. People with questionable past in England.
3. Heck, Georgia was founded by all prisoners!

D. But b/c of their dependence on Him, God gave this great nation of people a second chance.

1. The result is 229 years of prosperity, riches, freedom the likes of which this world has never known.
 2. With all of its faults and shortcomings, this is still the greatest nation ever conceived by God!
- E. If the history of America teaches me any lesson it is this:
1. If you want promotion in your life (blessing, grace)...
 2. You must be born again!

Conclusion:

- A. Maybe you've come in here today needing a 2nd chance.
1. Mistakes of the past haunt you.
 2. You wonder what God thinks of you.
- B. He loves you eternally.
1. In fact, you are coming to Him today b/c He's already come to you.
 2. You are merely responding to His voice.

John 15:16-17 NIV

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

- C. What do you need from the Father today?
1. Forgiveness, peace, healing, 2nd chance...
 2. He's here for you.