

Morning Worship

July 19, 2015

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|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Worship and Fellowship | | Allan/People |
| Chorus # 222 | "I've Come to Tell" | Tim/People |
| Worship Prayer | | Allan Lane |
| Chorus # 213 | "We Will Glorify" | Tim/People |
| Offering Prayer | | Fred Kerns |
| Tithes and Offerings | | People |
| Offering Music | | Marcia Hart |
| Hymn # 426 | "Victory in Jesus" | Tim/People |
| Chorus # 427 | "For He Alone Is Worthy" | Tim/People |
| Hymn # 486 | "Lord, Here Am I" | Tim/People |
| Solo | | Tim Waters |
| Scripture Reading | | Allan/People |
| Message | | Allan Lane |
| Hymn # 312 | "Softly and Tenderly" | Tim/People |
| Prayer Concerns | | Allan/People |
| Chorus of # 571 | "Let Others See Jesus in You" | Tim/People |

American Greatness by Fire

1 Peter 4:12-17 July 19, 2015

This month America celebrated 239 years of political independence. But with freedom more threatened now than at any time in our history, it is quite possible that religious freedom in America will be vastly different in the days ahead.

Utilizing deductive methodology we will examine two statements, examples that explain and support those statements, and then provide a conclusion.

Statement # 1: America's Freedom and Greatness is Built upon a Christian Foundation .

Example: Advancements in Economics and Personal and Political Freedoms.

It is my understanding that secularists decry this statement. They believe that our greatness as a nation is due to other factors such as Geography, our laws, our being bullies toward the rest of the world, or our democracy. But other nations in history have had some of those same elements and did not reach or attain the same Freedom and Greatness as our nation.

Some might go so far as to say that religion contributed to our greatness. But again, we must look at other religious nations. In fact, look at the most religious nations in the world today, where Sharia Law is practiced, and you will not find greatness or freedom. You will only find oppression and poverty.

America's greatness and supremacy in economics, power and influence is due to its Christian foundation. America embodies the greatest advances in Western thought and culture. Those advances have propelled Western nations vastly beyond the rest of the world that was less influenced by Christianity.

To illustrate this, just imagine the scene that took place on the continents of North and South America, and the Islands of the Caribbean during the 1500's-1600's. Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, German, and British explorers set out to seek the treasure and knowledge of the rest of the world. Everywhere they went, their technology and understanding of the world was hundreds of years ahead of every other culture.

Just 1500 years earlier, at the pinnacle of the Roman Empire, there was parity among nations in technology, medicine and economics. Rome was the world's superpower, but the entire world experienced the same relative level of scientific advancement. Now, 1500 years later there are two worlds. Something happened that created powerful nations out of the rubble of ancient Rome.

Rodney Stark, a philosopher and scholar at Baylor University explains this in his book, "How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and the Success of the West."

Stark argues was the desire to KNOW GOD and the SCRIPTURES that led to Western advances that are the foundation for modern civilization. Examples of this

are found in the great universities like Princeton, Harvard and Yale that were started as theological seminaries.

Tertullian instructed in the second century, "Reason is a thing of God, inasmuch as there is nothing which God the Maker of all has not provided, disposed, ordained by reason—nothing which He has not willed should be handled and understood by reason. Consequently it was assumed that reason held the key to progress in understanding scripture, and that knowledge of God and the secrets of his creation would increase over time." Augustine went on at length about the "wonderful—one might say stupefying—advances human industry has made." All were attributed to the "unspeakable boon" that God has conferred upon his creation, a "rational nature" (Stark).

Summary: Success is Rooted in Reason .

Western advances in economics and personal and political freedoms are rooted in Reason. Reason succeeded as the result of a quest to understand God's World and God's Word.

Statement # 2: America's Freedom and Greatness is Diminishing as We Reject our Faith in God.

Example: Secularists view Christianity as the Opponent of Freedom.

Secularists decry Christianity as the opponent of freedom. But True freedom is based on a proper understanding of things as they really are. According to Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankyl, distorting reality results in the loss of freedom.

America has been losing its freedom for a long time. Theologian and philosopher Francis Schaeffer wrote: "I believe the majority of the silent majority, young and old, will sustain the loss of liberties without raising their voices as long as their own life-styles are not threatened. And since personal peace and affluence are so often the only values that count with the majority, politicians know that to be elected they must promise these things. Politics has largely become not a matter of ideals - increasingly men and women are not stirred by the values of liberty and truth - but of supplying a constituency with a frosting of personal peace and affluence. They know that voices will not be raised as long as people have these things, or at least an illusion of them." (Francis Schaeffer, *How Shall We Then Live*, 1974)

Schaeffer's insight would prove to be highly accurate. He saw America's focus on a distorted reality of personal peace and comfort and rightly predicted that the loss of freedom would soon follow. And that is where we are today.

Contrary to the prevailing philosophy of our day, we as Christians know that true freedom is based on the knowledge of God.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. (Psalm 111:10)

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." (Proverbs 9:10)

Without its Christian foundation, Freedom becomes Chaos, Chaos become anarchy, and anarchy leads to despotism.

Let's look at some examples of this.

Freedom to Chaos is exemplified in the popular acceptance of gay marriage.

According to the latest Gallop polling, 60% of American's approve of gay marriage.

The astounding part of this survey is NOT that approval went from 27% to 60% in 20 years. It is that 1996 was the first time Gallop ever asked this question! It was unthinkable before then, which begs the question, how does the Supreme Court determine that something is a constitutional right when no one seriously considered this prior to the mid 1990's?

Another example is the Court's Legal approval of Same-sex Marriage. In his opposing comments, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote, "The majority's decision is an act of will, not legal judgment. The right it announces has no basis in the Constitution or this Court's precedent. As a result, the Court invalidates the marriage laws of more than half the States and orders the transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia, for the Kalahari Bushmen and the Han Chinese, the Carthaginians and the Aztecs. Just who do we think we are?"

But we do not have to rely on Justice Roberts to clarify this question. God settled this issue since the beginning of creation (Leviticus 18:22, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Jude 7-8).

According to the 2010 census, the number of same sex households amounts to less than 1% of all households. What we really need to know is that same sex marriage is an imitation. Vigorous attempts are made to make same sex marriage the same. Adoption and artificial insemination are all vain attempts to change what God ordained.

The real issue is not sexual freedom or preference, but defiance against God. Take for example Bruce Jenner. Consider the great lengths that he has gone through to achieve his perceived status as a woman - expensive operations, expensive and extended drug therapies, and a whole lot of make-up. But my understanding is that it will never change the biological distinction that made him a man. His blood and DNA do not lie.

People can claim that men can become women, women can become men, and that same-sex couples are just the same as opposite sex couples. They can go to great lengths to compensate for the things that they consider wrong or inadequate with their created order. It's like God gave us a Mozart symphony, with all of its intricate

movements, themes, instruments, harmonies, rhythms and instruments. But in defiance we REJECT the symphony, and play CHOPSTICKS, bragging that we have created music.

The real motive is not sexual freedom or marital freedom. It is the silencing of Christians. Thirty years ago we only began to wonder if they ever would see the loss of our religious freedom. Many Christian legal scholars fear that if you do not approve of this "Constitutional right" you will be fired, fined or prosecuted. Businesses like bake shops, photographers, and wedding chapels have already faced such prosecution. Christian colleges and universities are next. Then Christian schools. Legal scholars anticipate that Government employees will be asked if they accept same-sex marriage. Those that are honest and say that they do not will be fired or refused a job.

Summary: the Judge Thomas Ruling .

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary wrote this: "Assurances to the contrary, the majority in this decision has placed every religious institution in legal jeopardy if that institution intends to uphold its theological convictions limiting marriage to the union of a man and a woman."

Justice Anthony Scalia wrote in his dissenting opinion, "Today's decree says that my Ruler, and the Ruler of 320 million Americans coast-to-coast, is a majority of the nine lawyers on the Supreme Court," ... "This practice of constitutional revision by an unelected committee of nine, always accompanied (as it is today) by extravagant praise of liberty, robs the People of the most important liberty they asserted in the Declaration of Independence and won in the Revolution of 1776: the freedom to govern themselves."

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote, "the majority's inversion of the original meaning of liberty will likely cause collateral damage to other aspects of our constitutional order that protect liberty."

Conclusion

Spiritual revival must happen or freedom will be lost. Revival may come through persecution. We need not fear. "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:12-17, ESV)

The world has been conditioned by satanic philosophies. We must overcome the false stereotype of hatred with reason, love and compassion. We must proclaim hope for those trapped in darkness! We must hold on to Biblical Truth. It will save your soul and your family.

Remember the Kingdom to which you belong. "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ," (Philippians 3:20, ESV).

If there was ever a picture to remind us that we are citizens of heaven, before we are citizens of America, it is the picture of the White house lit up in the rainbow symbol of gay rights on the night of the Supreme Court ruling.

Stay Faithful!

It's Time to Remember, America

(The following is taken from the Introduction to *It's Time to Remember, America*, a book compiled by Michael D. Myers. It will be spread out over the next couple of weeks. Enjoy!)

Americans have gotten so ignorant of their past that they have become "prisoners of the present," according to Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Daniel J. Boorstin. "Obsessed with where we are, we have forgotten where we came from and how we got here." Boorstin concludes that, as a result, we are finding it ever harder to "keep our bearings in the streams of history."

It is time for a stirring across America where all segments of society, young and old, long to know the truth about our roots-our national beginnings. On the surface of the search, using modern sources, one may find ready answers and opinions to these questions. Certainly, current textbooks and histories are filled with politically correct rationales and scenarios explaining the founding of America. This superficial treatment of America's story has produced both apathy and listlessness among the populace. With no anchor to the past, no mooring to the secure bedrock of antiquity, there is little to give genuine meaning to our present existence.

While we cannot go back to an earlier time, we can take advantage of the volumes of writing from that age. Preserved for posterity are the thoughts, aspirations, beliefs and hopes of the great leaders of yesteryear. With painstaking diligence, these statesmen and scholars recorded events and perceptions in journals and notebooks. They made eloquent speeches and wrote copious letters. Thus, we have a veritable feast of rich documentation from which to partake in answering the questions about our genesis.

Few would dispute the fact that the men and women who shaped this nation were a rare breed of individuals who overcame insurmountable odds to establish a system of government like nothing the world had ever known. With multiple forces pulling on the fabric of American order from all sides, it behooves us to pause and reflect on what the great ones of our past believed. Their insight and sagacity, proven over time, offer hope and inspiration to a generation deficient in both.

The second purpose of the book is to verify that America had a unique beginning with a distinctively Christian purpose. As we read and reflect upon the views of our founders and subsequent American leaders, we can readily identify a Biblical worldview. As we read the many speeches, narratives, personal messages and diaries from the people who lived during the first 300 years of our history, we find a common thread of belief. Indeed, this thread is more like a strong cord to which all the intentions, determinations and decisions of the primary players of our history are fastened.

(Continued next week...)

Up-Coming Events.....

July 19 — Luncheon and Business Meeting at Noon

July 20-24 St. Joseph Baptist Association Mission Trip

July 26 — Diversicare (Saxton Woods) Worship at 2:30 pm

July 27 — Sunday School Workers Meeting 6:30 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will not have evening service tonight. Please be in prayer for the Mission Team.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will not be meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Please make plans to attend next week. Prayer and Bible Study matter!

Thank You, Shirley!

Shirley Wilson has announced that she will be stepping down from being the "church cleaner." Please be praying for her replacement.

**Luncheon and
— Business Meeting
Today, Sunday, July 19,
at Noon**

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we share a meal and also conduct the business of the church.

Associational Youth and Adult Mission Trip July 20-24, 2015

Aubry McCamy, Nancy McCamy, Don Beavers, Bro. Allan and 17 others from our association will heading to serve in Omaha, Monday morning. Please be praying.

Grant Schottel would love to get mail! He will be graduating in a couple of weeks so don't miss this opportunity to send him a note of encouragement.

AB Grant Schottel R 401
323 TRS/FLT-Dorm 2A2

1320 True M Ter St
Unit 369544
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6407

IT'S A CELEBRATION!

Bill Haskins is turning 90! Please come and celebrate with us at an open house at the home
of
Elmer and Jo Mayse
3504 Emerald Lane
on July 26, from 2-4 pm. Cards may be sent to: 1607 Safari Drive
Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506

For the Record-

Attendance: July 12, 2015

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|--------------------------|-------|
| Sunday School..... | 47 |
| Visitors..... | 3 |
| Total..... | 50 |
| Contacts Made..... | 6 |
| Morning Worship..... | 63 |
| Children's Worship | N/A |
| Sunday Night | (VBS) |
| Wednesday Night | (VBS) |
| VBS Enrollment..... | 50 |

Financial Record:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Budget..... | \$ 2,040.52 |
| Offering Received... | \$ 2,097.52 |

Offering Received by Mail:

July Counting Team:

Fred Kerns and Jordan Lane

July Van Driver:

George Burgess
Call 232-3747 before 8 am

July Member Birthdays:

02... Mary Sharp
05... Kathryn Beavers
07... Kelsey Lane
10... Tina Hoover
15... Bill Schottel
17... Betty Anslinger
20... Dorothy Post
23... Flora McKahan
24... Allan Lane
26... Jack Conard

26... Annette Schottel
30... Bill Haskins

July Anniversaries

Don and Mary Sharp

July 3, 1970

Gary and Sharon Yarbrough

July 8, 1978

Don and Marcia Hart

July 15, 1973

Larry and Flora McKahan

July 29, 1966

Prayer Requests ...

Allen Jennings—recovery

Gerry Rima Family—Ellen's brother

Clyde Elder—recovery and strength

Nellie Reynolds—pain comfort

Grant Schottel—basic training

Sharon Yarbrough—healing

Leona Reynolds — recovery & strength

June Fritchle—decisions for her future

Maxine and George Ferbert

Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister

Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew

Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health

Bob Barquist—cancer

Jim Winans—recovery at home

Jozy Winans—rehabilitation

Bill and Juanita Haskins—family

Ellen Blanton—Elvera Crow's daughter

Louanne Laurence—Joyce's Mother

Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers

Margaret Dotson Dorothy Post

Kevin Duty Opal Roberts

Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold

Lois Pace Susan Patten

Debbie Sands Sue Higgins

Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson

Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane

Larry and Flora McKahan's grandsons

-T C Thompson (CP issues)

-Keon McKahan

Missionaries Don and Diane Combs

Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church

David and Deborah Grace

Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People

Our Nation and Leaders

Our Military Service people

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
