

"A Nation in Trouble"



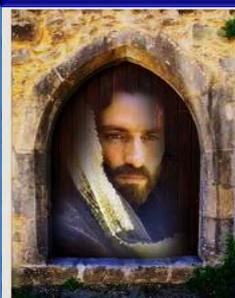
There was No Nation Ever Like America. Patriotic songs such as America the Beautiful, My Country Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty, and God Bless America, so well epitomized her greatness, beauty, prosperity, blessings, and the richness of her land.

America was a nation greatly blessed by God, a Christian nation that stood out like 'A City Set On A Hill' Matthew 5:14, with all her glory and majesty shining brightly in every direction! Psalm 33:12 states 'Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people Whom He hath chosen for His Own inheritance'. This verse once rang very true for America- the Beautiful! In all of recorded history, there was never a nation like America, so blessed and so greatly endowed by God. America was settled by a people seeking religious and political freedom from the oppressive religious and monarchical feudal systems of old Europe. Later people from other lands came to America for the economic opportunities she afforded. People found God in America, and the freedom to worship Him. Before the 1776 revolutionary war, in defiance to King George III of England, the slogan 'No king but Jesus' was coined. Jesus was then the 'Lord of America'; Do we see this now? Without a belief in God and the Bible, 'nothing is intrinsically and absolutely wrong'. It is then up to the government only to decide 'right or wrong'. But the church has a vital roll!

"You Are The Salt Of The Earth..." (Matthew 5:13)

A young salesman was disappointed about losing a big sale; and, as he talked with his sales manager, he lamented, "I guess it just proves you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." The manager replied, "Son, take my advice: Your job is not to make him drink. Your job is to make him thirsty." As a church we are called to bring the thirst of the Living Water to the homes of our community. Our nation can live in our Father's House of blessings when we live in obedience to His Law. The salt we sprinkle within our community is the love and righteousness of His Commandments. The church of today has a tendency to brag about the size of our salt shakers (our church buildings) or the amount of salt we can put into our shakers (our worship attendance), rather than truly salting down our communities with the good news and good works of Jesus Christ. We must impact our community with the life of Christ. As disciples we are called to season our communities. Our mission is to demonstrate the Love of our Heavenly Father in all the works we do. We can change a nation one family at a time through the Love of the Father for all. Salvation is freely given to all who call upon His NAME!

THE DOOR TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE



"I Am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:9-10

"What Did Jesus Mean When He Said 'I Am The Door?'"

"He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders,

but which became the very cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no among men, by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11,12). Jesus described Himself in several different ways. He is the Good Shepherd, the Cornerstone, the Bread of Life and the Water of Life. Salvation has become a very simple matter. There are not four or five paths to heaven and we need not be concerned with the complication of picking the best one for us. There is only one way. All the others lead in the wrong direction; "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13,14). It is with great animosity that the Council looked upon Peter and John when they taught "and there is salvation in no one else." That same anger is directed at those who would teach the same message today by a world that supposes there are many ways to heaven and many names through which to be saved. It will take a great deal of courage to remain loyal to the Risen Lord and insist that He is still the only way.

"A Need For A Human Response"

Some say that salvation is totally by grace. Of course, salvation is utterly impossible without God's grace, but to say that it's "solely by grace" removes the need for human response. It would mean that we do not have to enter the door. It would be more correct to say that the door is given "Solely By Grace," but we must have the faith to enter it; "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

We Become Children of God



Romans 8:14-17: "...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our

spirit that we are God's children.

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory." Those who are saved are children "of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26) because God has "predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will." (Ephesians 1:5).

A Father Cares For His Child



Fathers take care of their children. When we are a child of God, we can rest knowing God will take care of us. Psalms 103: 13 "The Lord is like a Father to his children, tender, and full of compassion to those who fear Him. For He understands how weak we are, He

knows we are only dust. But the love of the Lord stays forever with those who fear Him. "When the Bible speaks of God's children fearing Him ---it does not mean to be afraid and scared---it means a deep respect and understanding of God's power to be God. God is not a magic Santa Claus that gives you anything you ask for. Your earthly father would not give you everything you asked for. If you had a good earthly father, you know that he would take care of you. He would give you what you needed. He would give some things just to see you happy and have fun.

A Father Disciplines His Child



Hebrews 12:6 "For the LORD disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as His child." Sometimes you did the wrong thing and your father punished you. Proverbs 3:12 "For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights." Sometimes

you had to work and learn how to do things you did not like doing so that you would grow to learn responsibility. You learned to share so that you did not become self-centered. Even at a tender age children are able to discern that discipline is rooted in love. That is why children who grow up in homes without discipline often feel unloved and are more likely to disobey authority as they grow older. Indeed discipline, though it may seem unpleasant when received, will produce a "harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11) "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Fathers have been given the privilege of being stewards of their children's lives for a very short time, but the teaching and training they provide is eternal. Our heavenly Father is much like a good earthly father.

A Father Trains His child



Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." This proverb has brought encouragement, hope, anxiety and guilt to countless parents who have faced the uncertainty and confusion of child-rearing. It has provided

encouragement to those responsible parents who, after working to balance family, relationships and careers, find reassurance that all of their labors ultimately will not be in vain. This verse has also provided rays of hope to those who, having reared their child in the best way they knew, have had their hearts broken as their child rebels and goes astray. Fathers rearing their children in a godly manner give those children a wonderful window on what it would mean for them to choose God's way of life—when the time comes for them to make a choice. When they reach maturity they will then have a better understanding of the consequences or rewards that will come from their choices. Children in a home managed by a Godly father will have the opportunity to see God's way of life in action year after year.

A Father Teaches Forgiveness



Clearly Scripture teaches that training children to know and obey God is the basis for pleasing Him and living victoriously in His grace. Knowing God and His truths begins with the child's understanding of sin and his need for a Savior. Even very young children understand

that they are not perfect and can grasp at an early age the need for forgiveness. A loving father models a loving God Who not only forgives, but provides the perfect sacrifice for sin in Jesus Christ. Teaching a child forgiveness by example first and foremost, is directing them to the Savior Who Forgives.

The Authority Of A Father And His Teaching Of Obedience



Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you." Obedience is defined as "dutiful or submissive compliance to the commands of one in authority." Using this definition, we see the elements of

biblical obedience. "Dutiful" means it is our obligation to obey God. If a child does not honor or respect the authority of his father whom he can see, feel and hear then the child will grow up rebellious with not respect for authority.