

Date: July 7, 2024
Individual Message: Independence Day, 2024
Title: Priorities for the American Christian
Text: Psalm 33:12-15

Psalm 33:12-15

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. ¹³ From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; ¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

SPAIN AND THE AMERICAS – SEEKERS OF GLORY AND GOLD

- Queen Isabella
- Columbus — 1492
 - West Indies
- Amerigo Vespucci
 - Florida Coast
- De Soto
- Balboa
- Magellan
- Cortez
- Pizarro
- Coronado
- Ponce de Leon

Horrors and Hindrances

- Slavery and Slaughter
- Pillaging and Persecution
- Seminole and likely Iroquois (displaced to the North)
- Met barbarism, cannibalism, human sacrifice

Gospel Advancement

- Friar Marcos of Nice and Stephen the Negro slave
- Bartholomeo de las Casas, Dominican Monk, and Missions
 - Ended Spanish slavery from the pope
 - Preached the brotherhood of man
 - Changed the title of the Americas from “land of war” to “land of peace”

FRANCE AND THE AMERICAS – SEEKERS OF TREASURES AND TERRITORY

- King Henry IV, Cardinal Richelieu, and King Louis 14 — 1500s
 - Cabot
 - Verrazano
 - Cartier
 - Champlain

- Frontenac
- LaSalle

Horrors and Hindrances

- Freezing
- Starving
- Iroquois
- Religious Wars – Spanish Catholics and French Huguenots

Gospel Advancement

- Huguenot failed settlements in Carolinas (1562)
 - Spanish Catholics invaded.
 - Most of the Huguenots were slaughtered as “heretics.”
- Father Josef le Caron (c.1586-1632): The first mission station of the French in Canada
 - Spread mission stations
- Father Nicolas Viel – the first martyr, drowned in the St Lawrence river (1625)
- Jesuit father Isaac Jogues – “The Apostle to the Iroquois” (1607-1646)
 - While being kept alive to torture, preached love.

ENGLAND AND THE AMERICAS – GOD, GOSPEL, GOVERNANCE, GRIT, AND GAIN

- Queen Elizabeth, King James I, and the Protestant Cause
 - The end of feudalism and the advancement of the self-help and reliance
 - Sir Francis Drake
 - Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh
 - Land north of Florida
 - Roanoke, failed colony (1585)
 - Admiral Christopher Newport (1561-1617) and Jamestown colony
 - John Smith

Horrors and Hindrances

- Freezing and starving
- Native Attacks
- Malaria

Gospel Advancement

- Church of England: Religious persecution sent many God-fearing people to the Americas.
- A letter was sent to the colonists and was read:
 - “...lastly and chiefly, the way to prosper and achieve good success is to make yourselves all of one mind for the good of your country and your own, and to serve and fear God.” (Virginia Company of London, to the Captains and Company of Jamestown, ca. 1607)
 - Unity, Energy, Faith.
- First Act of those at Jamestown was to erect a tent between two trees
 - Held a worship service
 - Next, have council leaders meet
 - The third was to establish the Colony
 - Then to search for gold

THE SEQUENCE OF OUR PRIORITIES IS CRITICAL

All others before had sought the gold or the glory or the power of a faraway monarch-led government.

- Not just for governments, but for each person – the priority must be in place.

Ahead of your government
Ahead of your personal glory
Ahead of your personal grind
Ahead of your personal gain

We are called to personal and proclaimed Worship and Service to God

Their first Act was to hold a service to worship God.

Matt. 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

God

Col 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Matt 22:37-40

³⁷ *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’*

³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*

⁴⁰ *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

- Deut. 6, the *Shemah*

Gospel

Rom. 1:16-17

¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*

Mark 16:15-16a

¹⁵ *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...”*

Acts 20:24

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

Governance

Proverbs 8:15

By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just...

1 Tim. 2:1-2

¹ *I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*

Rom. 13:4

For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Grit

Psalm 90:16–17

¹⁶ *May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.* ¹⁷ *May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us yes, establish the work of our hands.*

Colossians 3:23–24

²³ *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,* ²⁴ *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Philippians 2:14–16

¹⁴ *Do everything without grumbling or arguing,* ¹⁵ *so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky* ¹⁶ *as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.*

Gold or Gain

Proverbs 13:11

Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

Proverbs 10:4

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 18:11

A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

God knows the times we live in and the government we are under -

- Not to be our answer but they and we will answer to HIM.

God knows the deeds we are called to do and will do -

- Not for our glory but for HIS.

God knows the needs we each have on each day -

- Not to drive us but to drive us to HIM.

God knows those who will be saved -

- The Gospel is for those who need to hear and for those who are called to share.

God knows the hearts of every man, woman, and child -

- We are to love HIM FIRST and with all that we have.

Make HIM First!