

ARBC

Sunday, May 29, 2011

Father, as we enter this place every week, may our hearts be drawn to you to remember that day and time that we came to know you as Lord and savior. Let that stir our hearts. We are in this place and talk about what you did for this country and the sacrifices that people have given to live in a free country, we thank you for your sacrifice that you made for us, our spiritual freedom, that means so much more. We remember you, and bless you as we look into your word, as we look at our country and our church. We pray in your name, Amen.

Thank you Timothy for being here. What a joy to be here. A few more people have come in. If you are visiting, this weekend we welcome you. I read this morning, from the news a few days ago, coming from South Florida I am aware that in public forms everything is...Where you try to cover everyone. A pastor can say Jesus Christ at a memorial cemetery. The government can't prohibit that to happen. The judge said "that censorship violated the first amendment...The government does not have the right to change people's prayers." What a great victory! I have been in the situations where they do a generic prayers to a "god".

Memorial Day was originally called Declaration Day. We are not here to eulogize people that have given their lives for this country. But it is important to see where we come from and where we are going. I thought a great place to start was to go back to the founding fathers... It says this.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. That among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.

That was a long time ago. It is the greatest document we have outside the Bible itself. Why is it important?

Because it promises the greatest good.

Because it has impacted the greatest number of people.

Because it provided the greatest quality of living.

Because it produced the greatest nation;

And that nation provided the greatest freedom in history. It is important for us to remember.

Our forefathers wrote down...

A. They believed in a Creator.

They wrote the word "Creator" with a capital letter which showed respect for God.

B. They believed that God created them in His own image.

C. They believed in supernatural acts, i.e. that a supernatural Being began this universe and is responsible for giving people the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

D. They believed in moral absolutes or absolute truths which our Fathers call "inalienable rights," and self-evident truths. (Government cannot give these rights, so Government cannot take them away. These rights came from God.

B. THREE BIBLE REFERENCES

Psalm 33:72 "Blessed is the nation, whose God is the Lord"
Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, that is where we began. We have made God to be the Lord of this nation.

Proverbs 14:34 says "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people". The Bible promises great blessings when we follow after God and we have had abundant blessings in this country.

Psalm 9:17 says "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God". We look around to nations, our nation and how it moved from the Lord God, to other things. New age movement, God will turn his back on them.

America was set up as a Christian nation. They wanted to start a Christian nation. In the very beginning they included God. They did not found our nation on Christian laws but on God's laws.

1. It was Christians who first came to America for Christian purposes.
2. It was Christians who wrote the Declaration of Independence and included their belief of God in its Preamble.
3. It is Christians who wrote our Constitution on a Christian view of law. They did not found our nation on Christian laws, but on God's laws, which are absolute truth and absolute morality.
4. Christianity has been the largest religious body in America.

Our Fathers founded this nation.

For the glory of God.

Based on rights given to them by God.

Seeking the blessing of God.

Did not America pray and fast in times of war and nations emergency?

Did not America claimed to be one nation under God as its slogan?
Did not America put "in God we trust" on the coins?
Did not America Inaugurate its presidents with a hand on the Bible and ask them to pledge "So help me God?"
Has not America portrayed itself as a Christian nation which depends on God for help?
Has not America held out its missionary hand to every other nation of the world?

You think about it, look at our national budget and what is given to other countries. Our country has reached out over and over. We can look at some of America's demises.

E. America's Legal Demise

Prohibited the reading of scripture in public school
Prohibited prayer in public school
Prohibited a Christian manger scene during Christmas in public places
We can all remember during Christmas how manger scenes were banned.
Remember the judge that was ordered to take down the 10 commandments.
Prohibited the teaching of creation in public schools along with evolution.
1973 Roe vs Wade, abortion.
Then the "don't ask, don't tell".

I believe America has gone through social demise too.

America is turning away from Christian values of family, sexual purity, correct speech, and church attendance. Turning to and embracing the filthy speech movement, state approved gambling, and allowing the distribution of X-rated movies and books.

Turning away from Christian holidays. We sit in staff meetings and look at the calendar and don't even know what some of them are.

New Age rituals, we are turning away from God as creator, and embracing atheistic evolutionism.

Many are re-writing history books to exclude God as a reference and influence to our countries beginning.

Remember in the 1996 Presidential election, 68% of the electorate said character in the President was NOT an issue. The problem is not the lack of character in the American President; the problem is 68% of Americans voted against character and morality.

What must we do?

The Christians must seize the initiative. We don't need to point fingers at non-Christians; it is up to the faithful to take the offensive. The hope of America is in our

lap as believers.

I believe God has given us a recipe for revival.

II Chronicles 7:14 says "If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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"

God's Recipe for Revival has 4 conditions.

Humble - I have spoken a lot about that. We don't need to be doormats, but we need to humble ourselves before God and each other.

We are to humbly come before the Lord God and ask for help.

As we do that, we go to the Lord in prayer, we pray humbly, and as we pray we seek God.

Repent - we have become callused and used to everything we hear and see that we don't realize what is going on all around us. As we humbly seek for God to bless our nation. I have talked to people about how sad it would be, that if we meet weekly and are so involved in the music or the video or the excitement of what is going on, and the Holy Spirit of God doesn't show up and we don't even recognize it. How sad that would be. We need to come in humbly searching seeking praying and repenting for God to move among his people.

The Holy Spirit should have freedom to move in our lives. Week after week, I get calls from families that say "my husband has failed, through pornography, my children have been involved in internet porn". God will not move, until He makes us all what we need to be.

We have to be accountable. I will speak more on that later; Lane is my accountability partner. I have done a study on what is going on here in the church. 68% of pastors will not be accountable for where they go on their computer. If that's the norm, we have problems. Lane has a website that sends an e-mail to him on every website you go to. We need to be accountable to each other. You need an accountability partner.

Those are the 4 conditions. If we do that, the results will be this.

God will hear us and forgive us and he will heal our land. Things I want you to do, is to take away with these thoughts.

First, we must recognize the inalienable rights of absolute truth. We must have right living right thinking, right solutions and right principles; all are found in God's eternal

truth and God's absolute morality.

Second, we must recognize and return to America's obligation to the Creator, the One we originally recognized in the Declaration of Independence. We must recognize God's providential care of this nation and His blessing on our people.

Third, we must recognize that every American has rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness BECAUSE they were created in the image of his/her Creator. Therefore, every American has vast potential because of liberty but vast obligations to insure the liberties of everyone else. We have obligations to our government that protects liberties, to our way of life that provides liberty and to our heritage to guarantee future liberty.

Fourth, we must repent for our sin and rebellion.

We don't like to be told no, or to wait, sometimes the answer is ... Not yet. I heard a song that says... What if our problems or difficulties in life are actually blessings.

We must forsake the pursuit of selfish pleasures just for the sake of pleasure. We must forsake the selfish indulgence in sexual pursuits, just for the pursuit of sex. We need conviction to be ashamed of our sin and we need guilt that makes us afraid of God's punishment of our sin.

If you know him as Lord and savior he is working that out for your good.

Romans 8:28... Doesn't say all things will turn out good, but when we are in His will those difficulties may be blessings in disguise.

Fifth, we must confess our national sin. We must recognize that our national sin will bring God's judgment on the nation. So we must confess it and beg God to turn His judgment from this nation.

In the sixth place, we must fast and pray for revival. Fasting is not just making it hard on yourself at meal time. The Hebrew word for fast describes what happens to us when we go through an emergency. I am not talking about getting all riled up for revival and then go back to the way it was, but only when we repent and turn back to God will things change. In the middle of a hurricane, we don't think about eating, we work to survive. When our car breaks down in a snow storm, we don't look through our pockets for something to eat. We look for a shovel, or warm clothes; we concentrate on survival. America is in danger. We must fast . . . go without food . . . we must pray . . . begging God to forgive us and send revival.

America is in danger and we as a church or individuals must fast, pray, beg for God to give us and send us a revival.

Now, seventh; We must not give up hope, as bad as things have gotten here, it is still the best place to worship Christ. It is still the best place to live, I believe that. As bad as people have turned away from the Bible, I believe America can still have revival and that comes through the Christian who is walking with the Lord, daily.

Church, we talk about Memorial Day and those who have given and paid the ultimate cost. We talk about our political freedom we have. But there is coming a day, that if we don't change the way we are going, God's judgement and rath will fall on this nation.

I can't think of a better memorial than when the Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth and He paid the full price for your and my spiritual freedom. Wherever you are, the US, Russia, if you are a born again believer, you have a great memorial for Jesus. As Timothy sang, I will not forget the day the Lord Jesus Christ changed my life. What a day it would be to turn back to God, and to love each other, be accountable to each other and make our families what they can be. As our families continue to grow, our church will grow as well. We need to do that. I call you to pray for you, your family, your church, and your country.

Maybe today is the day for you to be saved, or to be a member here at ARBC. Now is the hour, we will sing now that great hymn "Just as I am". You can't fix yourself and then come; you come just as you are.

Father, we thank you for this morning, for your great sacrifice that you made for us. To give us eternal spiritual life with you. Thank you for that, thank you for your hand on this country and though we have turned away from you many times, I pray that we will be the remnant of folks that will stand up and follow you and do right. Bring revival, help us to humble ourselves, seek you and repent to you.

I want you all to stand and on the first word if God has struck you, then stand out and come forward.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Tim: Amen, thank you church for being here today. Are you all awake out there? Thank you for being here I hope you have a great day today and tomorrow. Enjoy your time with your family.

I don't think we announced it. Next Sunday is June 5th and it is our 25th anniversary for our deaf Ministry. I have a personal deep love for this Ministry. Next Sunday we will have a deaf preacher and someone will voice that. We want to recognize and thank God for how he has blessed them. Let them shine a bit. I am looking forward to that.

Thank you.... but I don't think she is here today.... Mable Jackson? If you see her, it is her birthday, very momentous one.

Brother Whitehead please close us in prayer.

Our Father God, we thank you for worship, (Cannot hear him/her) Thank you for the members we have and we pray you will watch over us and guide us and direct us, and we will give you all the praise. Amen.