

A Challenge to America's Christians

Written by James Chesney, delivered to House Mountain Baptist Church on 06/28/1998
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Two hundred and twenty-two years ago this this 4th of July, our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence announcing to the world that a new nation had been born.

The United States of America was unlike any nation in the world in that it was founded upon faith in God.

The Declaration of Independence states “**we believe these truths to be self-evident.**” This is a statement of faith.

Furthermore, the Declaration declares and accepts the Biblical truth that the Creator is no respecter of persons, that indeed “**all men are created equal.**”

The Declaration then says that mankind has been given rights by the Creator. All the rights are not listed but the most fundamental rights are the right **to life-liberty and the pursuit of happiness.**

This simple yet profound statement of faith has brought hope to millions of oppressed and downtrodden people the world over.

They know that America's faith in the God given rights of mankind can defeat the strongest armies, break the grip of evil empires and shatter the highest wall that separates freedom from slavery.

No nation has inspired hope, provided opportunity and fulfilled dreams like the United States of America.

The prophetic statement of our puritan forefather John Winthrop has come to pass “**we shall be a city on a hill, a light to the world**” he said.

Still today, the Statue of Liberty holds that light high. The inscribed message there “**give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free**” echoes the call of Jesus Christ who said, “**come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.**”

Is it hard then to understand the words of Patrick Henry that “**this great nation was founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ**”?

Psalm 33:12 says: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.”

The LORD was without doubt the God of our Fathers. George Washington said, “**it is impossible to govern without God and the Bible.**”

Thomas Jefferson said, “**can liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that those liberties are the gift of God**”?

In his Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln said, “**that we here highly resolve that these dead shall have not died in vain that this nation Under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish form the earth.**”

America has prospered as no other nation in history. Within a hundred years from the swearing in of our first President, the United States had become the mightiest industrial power in the world out producing all the other industrial nations combined.

When challenged by the would-be world dictators in World War I and II, the United States of America emerged as a military power so awesome as to silence any threat to our liberty or to the liberty of our friends.

When mocked by the communist leader, Nicholi Lenin, that we would be swept into the “**dust bin of history,**” when ridiculed by the Soviet Communist Party Chairman, Nikita Krushchev, that he would “**bury us,**” America accepted the challenge and today communism is a dying system and the Soviet Union no longer exists.

Why has America been so blessed, why has the United States been prosperous above all nations? Simply my friends, because the United States was built upon faith in God and the Bible.

Today, those of us who understand that God is the source of our strength are greatly troubled. Even among those who reject the God of our fathers, there is an uneasiness that in spite of our present prosperity something is going wrong in our beloved nation, that the foundations of our house are being eaten away by some unidentified vermin.

As people of God we know what that vermin is. As children of the light we see in the dark corners and in the hidden underpinnings the steady eating away, the non-stop devouring of the very mortar and stone that was laid by our Christian founders. That vermin is the ungodly sins that have been allowed to flourish in our country.

In the past when sins were committed they were identified as sins even by the sinner. It was expected that sinners were to repent.

Today sins are called rights, today sins are called alternative lifestyles, today sins are made legal and have the protection of laws, today sins have

become virtues while virtues have become sins. God says in **Isaiah 5:20**:
“**Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.**”

When our forefathers wrote the preamble to the Constitution of the United States they said that it was for them and for their posterity. You and I are their posterity. They paid for our freedom in blood.

Young lives by the thousands have been sacrificed that you and I could sit here today as free people.

The hopes and dreams of countless American boys were given up on battlefields so that you and I could have the freedom to experience ours. This sacrifice of American blood deserves better than what we are allowing in our nation today.

Look at the flag – Old Glory. The symbol of freedom around the world. See the red? Think of the blood that it took to put those stripes in Old Glory. See the stars? Think of the lives it cost to secure them there. See the white? Think of the purity of God’s Word upon which our government was built.

How long will she wave? How long will freedom stand in a nation bombarded by unrepentant sin?

It would be easier if we were bombarded by guns and rockets. We would all rush to the defense of our beloved country and with the help of God we would prevail as before.

But today the enemy is within and God’s people are concerned but unmoved.

Alarmed but taking no stand.

Attacked but putting up no resistance.

Are we worthy to be the posterity of our patriotic God-fearing forefathers?

Are we worth the blood of the youth of past generations that was poured out for us?

It seems that this generation of Christians has forgotten not only the blood shed by our forefathers but even the blood shed by Christ for our sins.

Christian Americans, sin destroys a soul. Sin destroys a nation. Christ died because of sin.

God hates sin.

Christians who have the mind of Christ hate sin.

Homosexuality marches proudly in the streets of America today.

Where is Christian outrage?

Pornography leers from every newsstand, movie theater, and television station.

Where is righteous anger?

The nation is awash in the innocent blood of the unborn.

Where are the tears and sobs of God’s people?

The Bible is banned in public schools of America.

Where are the demands that it be returned?

Christians are mocked in the very nation given to them by their forefathers.

Where are the courageous, where are those with the sword of the Lord, the eternal Word of God in their hand?

Where are those empowered by the Holy Spirit of God to denounce sin? To make no apologies for what is right, to stand for God, to look the devil in the eye and not blink. To be the posterity of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and Lincoln. To guarantee freedom to ourselves and to our posterity?

The courageous has to be us. There is no one else.

Let us heed the call of God before it is too late.

II Chronicles 7:14: “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 I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Unless God’s people come out from among the world and take their stand for righteousness, we will be the generation that witnesses the death of the American dream.

We will give our posterity a return to sin, darkness, oppression, and paganism.

Lift up your heads Christian Americans, pick up your Bible, Go on the offence.

Your forefathers paid a terrible price for your freedom.

Can you do less than they?

Can you love your country less than they?

Can you love your children and grandchildren less than they?

Can you love your Savior less than they?

You have a glorious and honorable legacy of Liberty.

Don’t let it be taken from you, Protect, defend and preserve it intact for your posterity.

That is the gift of your fathers.

That is the gift of God Almighty.