

The Power of God's Presence

February 2014

***Romans 15:4** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

America is in deep trouble. Can the following words regarding Israel apply to us today? I pray this country can learn from the things written in the past!! Will you pray for the redemption of our nation? A reverence for God is a necessity for any successful country. Look at history. Look at God's word.

Deuteronomy 4

***3** You saw with your own eyes what the LORD did at Baal Peor. [where 24,000 died in a plague, Num. 25:9] The LORD your God destroyed from among you everyone who followed the Baal of Peor, **4** but all of you who held fast to the LORD your God are still alive today.*

***7** What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?*

***23** Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. **24** For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

***29** But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. **30** When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him. **31** For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.*

***34** Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt [Could each of these apply to the U. S.??] before your very eyes? **35** You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other.*

***39** Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. **40** Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.*

We must influence our nation, as a whole, and especially those in congress to return to a respect and reference for God's word or we will not survive as a nation! Can we not learn from history? What has been the fate of those countries who left God? Nazi Germany, the Old Soviet Union, Syria today? Our demise will be no less sure and no less drastic.

In several states we have slipped from ignoring God's word to the point of proclaiming aloud, and written in our laws, the acceptance of sin! It is a terrible sin to turn a blind eye to sin, but to publicly proclaim acceptance of homosexuality as normal is a direct slap in the face to our God!

Leviticus 18:22 *"Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, that is detestable."*

Genesis 19 The story of the Lord's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, note verse 5.

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Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator— who is forever praised. Amen. 26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. 28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Yes, in this country we have the right to reject God and His laws. Must we, therefore, recognize those who reject God as "normal," just an alternative life style. Once we leave God's laws there are no rules of behavior that can be maintained other than the "current feelings" of the majority. How soon will it be before some state will make it "normal" to accept polygamy, polyandry, group marriage, even allowing children to marry adults? If you think "that can't happen in America!" That is exactly what I thought about gay marriage 20 years ago! Remember:

All it takes for evil to succeed is for good men/women to do nothing!!

We must find out what our representatives think on these issues and vote accordingly. The year of 2014 is the year of decision for America. Will you get registered and vote? Talk to every Christian you know and encourage them to vote. Our constitution and this great country has survived until now only because it has been a "Christian" nation. If that description changes, so will our destiny!!!

Remember "*the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him!*"

God loves us. God can save this country! God will save this country, **BUT** only if His people are actively working and praying!!!!

Will you encourage me to encourage other to work and pray??

.....Cliff Baird