

April 30, 2008 – Compilation National Day of Prayer.

CrossRoads Sanctuary Open from 6:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M. - May 01, 2008

There is a phrase written to Gaius from the beloved John that intrigues the spiritual heart of the Holy Spirit illuminated child of God, "...in a manner worthy of God." (3 John 6) This phrase sets before us the high standard of God in regards to His work and especially in the sending out of His servants. (The New Bible Commentary; The New American Commentary) All surrendered servants of the Lord are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. (A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory) Thus, the ministries His servants are sent to do are to be considered the work of God and we are to be giving God our best. The members of the National Day of Prayer team are the Lord's servants to call the Body of Christ to pray for all the leaders of this great nation. In hope to achieve God's exhortation, here is a full compilation of the work done in and through the Body of Christ at CrossRoads Church:

In This Compilation File Are:

2 National Day of Prayer Guides

2 National Day of Prayer News Release

Three Promotional Adds – (Monday paper – 4,600 Home Weekly)

Add Dates – 20080414 / 20080421/ 20080428

We contact KQNK Radio – They did not contact us back

Three Messages spoken

A Vigilant Nation – CrossRoads Notes Handed Out

Medicine for America – CrossRoads Notes Handed Out

National Prayers – CrossRoads Notes Handed Out

Servants of the Lord working on this project.

Pastor Terry Laughlin

Kathy Randolph

Jamie Applegate

Donna Mock

Charlotte Hartman

Dawn Van Lew

National Day of Prayer Sign-up Thursday, May 1, 2008

6:00 AM – Terry Laughlin
People from the community
7:00 AM – Terry Laughlin
8:00 AM – Charlotte Hartman
9:00 AM – Ann Husted / Donna Mock
10:00 AM – Ann Husted / Donna Mock
11:00 AM – Bonnie Laughlin / Nikki Cook
12:00 PM – Georgia Moser / Dave Ashley
1:00 PM – Mabel Nyland / Lena Laughlin
2:00 PM – Geneva Teir
3:00 PM – Don and Linda Malcolm
4:00 PM – Donna Mock
5:00 PM – Carlyon and Betty Bevins
6:00 PM – Richard Martin
7:00 PM - _____
8:00 PM – Terry Laughlin
9:00 PM – Terry Laughlin

Bring juice: _____

Bring sandwiches: Roy Hashbarger

Other: Charlotte Hartman made coffee



National Day of Prayer Thursday May 01, 2008

CrossRoads Church

www.standatthecrossroads.com

E-mail – crossroads@ruraltel.net

Praise: “Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalm 100:3-5) Thank the Lord for the opportunity to be involved with the ministry of “National Day of Prayer.”

The Local Church: Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called--one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:2-6) Thank the Lord for His blood purchased church and pray that He would turn His churches into spiritual hospitals. A place where He is taking away hearts of stone and putting in spiritual hearts of flesh. By the Holy Spirit of Christ give people a powerful hunger and thirst for the Word of God. A church where people are asking the Lord Jesus to teach them to pray. A church where Christians are producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit because the children of God are feeding upon the written Word of God. That the local church will become a place where people may experience all the Holy Spirit gifts being exercised through sacrificial love.

Government: “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4) Lord we pray for our elected leaders and ask that you take them in your hands and accomplish your perfect will through them. We ask you to enable those in leadership positions who know you as personal Savior and Lord to live in a way that would cause non-Christians to consider the perfect will of God for them. Grant your wisdom to our President and Vice-president. In your Sovereignty, guide the US Senate and US House of Representatives, the US Supreme Court Justices and raise up Judges who will judge in the fear of the Lord. Guide our state and local leaders in ways that will give everyone an opportunity to consider the claims of Jesus Christ.

Family: “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. __Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’--which is the first commandment with a promise--‘that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:22-25; 6:1-4) Pray that husbands will love their wives as Christ loves the Church, wives will be Biblical helpmates to their husbands and that the children will obey their parents in the Lord. Pray that husbands and wives will live for Christ in such a way that it will intrigue their children to look to the Lord. May families find joy in being involved in the things of God.

Education: “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” (Matthew 19:14) Pray that our Public School Systems will not continue to keep our Christian history from our children. Pray that our children will be taught the truth about what our nation’s Founding Fathers stood for and understand their Biblical convictions.

Military: “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.” (Psalm 20:7) Thank the Lord for our military strength, however, be sure to call upon Him to protect our military personnel. Pray that He will give everyone a clear opportunity to accept Christ. Pray that the Lord will protect our armed forces as he did King David and that Lord would use this present military crises as way of drawing family members into a deeper walk with Christ Jesus and cause many to call upon the Lord in their time of concern. May the Lord use this present conflict to bring a revival among the troops, just as He did during the Civil War.

Media: “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” (Matthew 12:36-37) Pray that the Lord would make the media aware of the fact there is going to be a day of accountability and they will be held accountable to every word they have spoken. Pray that the Lord would intercede and enable the media to report the whole truth so Americans will not be mis-led by a liberal non-Biblical agenda.

Close with Praise: The call to pray is from God’s Word and we are given a sure promise, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16b) Our righteousness is accomplished by having Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord.



*National Day
Of Prayer*
Thursday, May 1, 2008

2008 Prayer for Our Nation

Dr. Ravi Zacharias
2008 Honorary Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

Holy Father, in a world where so many are hungry,
You have given us food in abundance;

In a world where so many are hurting,
You offer to bind up our wounds;

In a world where so many are lonely,
You offer friendship to every heart;

In a world longing for peace,
You offer hope.

Yet, we are so stubborn and resistant.
Have mercy upon us, Lord.

Our nation is at a crossroads this year;
we look to you to be our strength and shield.

Please give us the guidance to elect one who will honor you
and to respond to the wisdom from above
so that our hope may be renewed and our blessings be treasured.

In God's holy name.

News Release

“National Day of Prayer”

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Praying for these Themes:

Prayer Guides Available –

The Church – (Ephesians 4:3-6)

Government – (Romans 13:1)

Family – (Deuteronomy 11:18-19)

Education – (Matthew 19:14)

Military – (Psalm 20:7)

Media – (Philippians 4:8)

Church Sanctuary open from:

6:00 A.M - 10:00 P.M.

CrossRoads Church

313 W. Lincoln

Norton, Kansas



*National Day
Of Prayer*
Thursday, May 1, 2008

2008 Prayer for Our Nation

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A Vigilant Nation – April 13, 2008

Foundation of a Nation that Truly Says, “In God We Trust.”

Medicine for America – April 20, 2008

Four Truths for the Healing of America

National Prayers - April 27, 2008

Praying for Our President and America

Visit our *Free* website: Find the button “Messages” then go to heading “Patriotic” and “National Day of Prayer.”

www.standatthecrossroads.com

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 1, 2008

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313 W. Lincoln St

Norton, Ks

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In an 1892 Supreme Court Decision on the case, Church of the “Holy Trinity v. United States” this ruling came down; “Our laws and our institution must necessarily be based upon and embody the teaching of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and institutions are emphatically Christian. This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making affirmation. We find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth. These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial utterance that this is a Christian nation.” (Justice Brewer delivered the opinion of the court on February 29, 1892)

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Title: A Vigilant Nation

Theme: The Foundation of a Nation that Truly Says, "In God We Trust."

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth-- He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you." (Psalm 33:12-22)

United States of America has always had enemies

Vigilance has never come easy. Throughout the past 200 plus years the United States of America has always had enemies. Many today still remember the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and everyday in some way we are reminded of 9/11/2001. A day that reminded us that even the powerful U.S.A. is not beyond the violent attack of a hateful enemy.

I would propose to you that America needs to be vigilant and she must have her full trust in God. There are three Biblical ways for America to protect her national borders. Our war on terrorism has upped the ante and the Lord is calling the church to the lay a foundation that points those who have ears to hear to once again set their hearts on truly saying, "In God we trust!"

Just what three things is the Lord calling Christians to do in these last days? Our keys text lays the foundation for the United States as she endeavors to avoid the dangers that are coming at her through acts of terrorism.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth-- He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you." (Psalm 33:12-22)

Healthy fear of the Lord

There are three foundational truths that the Holy Spirit wants to place within our hearts this Independence Day Weekend. Our great military strength alone is not enough as we face an enemy that is hard to locate and never knowing when, where, and how he may attack. The first foundational truth found in a vigilant nation is a healthy fear of the Lord. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD... the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him.” (Psalm 33:12,18)

Contemporary America has a long list of transgressions against the Lord. Some of those transgressions are the embracing of the homosexual agenda, abortion, abandoning Christ by bowing to the pressures of the ACLU and other worldly organizations. However the remnant, Christians who know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord are a powerful force in a wicked culture that flaunts her disbeliefs. There is a powerful hope in the words that the Lord spoke to Abraham in his plea for Sodom and Gomorrah. The Lord told Abraham, “For the sake of ten [righteous men], I will not destroy it.” A God fearing people can make a powerful difference in God’s dealings with a nation.

The Bible gives us this powerful truth worth clinging to, “the LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. (Psalm 147:11) Psalm 34:7 says, “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear [God] and He delivers them.”

The obvious question is “What is fear of the Lord?”

The fear of the Lord ranges from terror, which may be evidenced by shaking or trembling (Daniel 5:6), to awe or reverence (Malachi 2:5) which induces love or worship rather than terror. This is the very awe that every God fearing man should have before the Lord if he is going to be among that remnant that is going to be used of the Lord to maintain a lasting foundation for America.

In the close of the Book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon writes a truth that must be grasped by all Christians and especially for those who may be involved in the governmental affairs of this country. He writes, “...Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of man.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13) In the Old Testament fear of the Lord is used as designation of true religion. (Proverbs 1:7) This fear conjoined with love and hope in Christ is the heartbeat of true reverence thus becoming the preventive tool against backsliding and is the incentive to living a life of true repentance before God. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

True Christianity produces a fear that induces a love for keeping God's commands and laws. In Deuteronomy 5:29 we read about what is on the heart of God for those who are called by His name, "Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear Me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children." In Deuteronomy 31:12 we read of Moses telling the priest to "Assemble the people – men, women, and children, and the aliens living in the towns, so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord..."

Fear of the Lord involves receiving instructions from God's Word. In 2 Chronicles 26 we read of King Uzziah accepting instructions from a man of God named Zechariah. Uzziah took instructions from Zechariah on how to live in "fear of the Lord." (2 Chronicles 26:5) The Bible says, "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord... He sought God... [and] as long as he sought God the Lord, God gave him success." (2 Chronicles 26:4-5)

Uzziah prospered in civilian and battle pursuits. This includes building and farming projects. (2 Chronicles 26:6-9) Uzziah became a great military leader and inventor and God gave him well-trained armies powerful enough to regain land taken over by hostile nations and hold off enemy attacks. (2 Chronicles 26:11-15) Uzziah had fame that was in accordance of God's Word thus bringing honor to God and His people. The Ammonites paid him tribute. Uzziah's reign as king underscored the connection between a king's and nation's success with their obedience to God's Word reflecting true fear of the Lord. (2 Chronicles 26:5; 2 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-14)

A nation with a firm foundation has Christians who have the heart of the psalmist who wrote, "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." (Psalm 86:11) God is very pleased and will look out for a nation that has people who serve Jesus, cleave to Him, live under the authority of Christ and keep His words. Obedient Christians who fear the Lord see all acts of obedience to the Lord as a delight, not a burden. Psalm 112:1 says, "Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in His commands.

The foundation of this country is clearly spelled out in the words of William Bradford who became governor of the Plymouth Colony as he describes the mission of the Pilgrims. Mr. Bradford said, "They cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying a good foundation... for the advancement of the gospel of Christ in the remote parts of the world..."

It is very evident that the men who God used to lay the foundation of this nation were men who had a fear of the Lord. Listen to these quotations from our founding fathers and other national leaders. Men like George Washington who said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." In his farewell speech of 1796 he said, "Of all habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. ...Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." George Washington was a man of prayer who could grasp the heart of God in praying, "Direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by thy Holy Spirit... Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ."

The third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson said, "God ...gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis... ...I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever." Thomas Jefferson knew the need of a nation to walk in reverence before God and to live with a Biblical understanding of what it means to live in the fear of the Lord.

One of America's Revolutionary leaders, Patrick Henry said, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."

We know this to be true because of the heart that was reflected in men who signed the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence said, "Cursed be all learning that is contrary to the Cross of Christ." Alexander Hamilton, signer of the Constitution said, "I have a tender reliance on the mercy of the Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy."

There have always been attacks on the faith of the men God had used to lay the foundation for this nation and even on Christians the Lord is using now to govern this nation. One such man was Benjamin Franklin who has often and still is accused of being a deist. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787 he clearly said, "I have lived long. Sir, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it [possible] that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of [the Tower of] Babel... My views... are the results of life of inquiry and reflection, and very different from the anti-Christian system imputed to me by those who know nothing of my opinions.

To the corruptions of Christianity, I am, in deed opposed; but not to the genuine precepts of Jesus Himself. I am a Christian in the only sense in which He wished anyone to be; sincerely attached to His doctrines in preference to all others.”

We all must understand that back in the time of laying a foundation for this nation there were men who claimed to be God fearing and were not, just like it was in the time God was building and establishing the nation Israel. However, there was that remnant who truly feared the Lord. The Holy Spirit dwelt with this through the Apostle Paul in Romans 9:6, “...For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.” God does not look upon a man’s outward relation and position, but upon the character and heart. Calling oneself an Israelite does not make a person right with the Lord and neither does calling oneself an American citizen while quoting “In God we Trust.” The Apostle Paul gives this truth in Romans 2:28-29, “A man is not a Jew [or Christian] if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew [or Christian] if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the [Holy] Spirit...” There has always been a remnant and Jesus taught only a few will enter the narrow gate and walk the narrow road that leads to eternal life. (Matthew 7:13)

I do not know how many Christians were involved in the founding of this nation, one thing is for sure, there were men who had a fear of the Lord and God used them to lay a firm foundation for this country. It will only take a remnant to grasp the heart of God and live in the fear of the Lord to assure God’s hand upon our country, petitioning Him to do what is best for the souls of mankind to come to Christ.

Under-girded in prayer

One Nation *Under God* also has her foundation *under-girded in prayer*.

1Timothy 2:1-2 says, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone -- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

The Apostle Paul used the word “urge” (parakaleo) meaning to exhort with urgency. He wrote “first of all” meaning that prayer for those in leadership is of primary importance in the church, a very essential part of public worship.

We are to pray for those in leadership positions, Republicans praying for Democrats and Democrats praying for Republicans. The heart of God is not first for Republicans to be praying for more Republicans and Democrats praying for more Democrats. “Many years ago a famous chaplain was asked, ‘Do you pray for the Senators?’ he replied with, ‘No, I look at the Senators, and then pray for our county!’”

This was really a very good answer for Proverbs 21:1 says, “The King’s heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases.” God’s Word affirms that the decisions of the king are under the Lord’s control. And God moves the king to do as he pleases. As the farmer channels the water where he wants and regulates its flow, so does the Lord with the king. No human ruler then, is supreme. God determines the results of his reign and how long he reigns as the king or in America’s case, governs as president.

Christians are to pray in accordance with Exodus 18:21-22, “But select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times...”

“Judges” (*sapat*) here means to govern. This Hebrew word is much more inclusive than the modern day concept of judging and encompasses all the facets and function of government; executive, legislative and judicial. Judges are to be men who have a fear of the Lord and they have a serious charge

This is why a vigilant nation will have men like George Washington who prayed, “Bless O Lord the whole race of mankind, and let the world be filled with the knowledge of Thee and Thy Son, Jesus Christ.” Men like Abraham Lincoln who served our nation in its bloodiest war who said, “I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go to and my own wisdom... seemed insufficient for the day.” (Taken from a sermon preached by Pastor Gerald Flurry)

When this nation has been attacked, in great danger or in times of making key choices about the direction of her future, the Lord has raised up men of faith in Christ and men of prayer. He also raises up Christians who feel a great burden to be in humble prayer for their leaders.

The Pentecostal Evangel ran the true story of Eliza Gurney who the Holy Spirit gave special sympathy for President Lincoln, a president who has been driven to his knees many times. She had prayed for a spiritual visit with the president and in October of 1862 the Lord brought that visit about.

She was accompanied by three friends, John Whitall, Hannah Mott and James Carey. Not one of them sought anything for themselves and none came to criticize or offer unasked advice. They came only to give spiritual support. They were therefore greeted with unusual warmth from Mr. Lincoln and he spent much time with them.

In the private apartment of President Lincoln there was an awful silence and the President had a look of anxiety on his face brought by the national crises the United States was in. Tears ran down his face and when a prayer was offered President Lincoln bowed his head in reference. After the prayer Mrs. Gurney gave in essence a short Biblical message, which was later written down in Lincoln Papers. After the message she knelt down and prayed a prayer asking that light and wisdom would be shed down from on high, to guide our president.

After further silence Lincoln spoke, "We are indeed going through a great trial – a fiery trial. In every responsible position in which I happen to be placed, being a humble instrument in the hands of our Heavenly Father, as I am, and as we all are, to work out His great purposes. I have desired that all my works and acts may be according to His will, and that it might be so, I have sought His aid..." President Lincoln words reflect the heart of a man who knew that a vigilant nation must have God's aid and that the Lord works through positions of great authority as well as through humble servants fulfilling their call in praying for those who are in governmental authority.

Beseeking the Lord for a true spiritual awakening

Vigilant nations have leaders who know their need of Divine intervention and have faithful servants who obey God's Word to be in prayer for their leaders. Such nations also have men and women of God beseeching the Lord for a true spiritual awakening.

Joel 2:12-13 says, "Even now, declares the Lord, 'return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.'"

The expression "the Lord your God" was well known to Israel and testified to the covenantal relationship between God and the nation. For the people of a nation to "rend" their hearts is to have it circumcised by the Holy Spirit and produce the fruit of repentance by the way they live before God. This only comes as God has revealed to a nation's people in a nation of her sins and He is the only one who can do a supernatural work in the hearts and lives of people.

When people are truly broken by their sins, and yearn to return back to living for the Lord, then a change of life will follow. A form of godliness that denies the power of God breaks the heart of God. True repentance leads to a nation and people enjoying the graciousness and compassion of the Lord and enables a vigilant nation to rest in the abounding love of God.

Vigilant nations have spiritual leaders who know the need of being a nation that calls out to God for a true spiritual awakening. Abraham Lincoln wrote an address to the nation during the Civil War, by which he designated Thursday, April 30, 1863 as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer.

He wrote, "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

The awful calamity of the Civil War which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to bring us to a needful national reformation as a whole people. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity to pray and too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and pray for clemency and forgiveness."

A vigilant nation expresses true "In God we Trust" by living in fear of the Lord by being vigilant in prayer by her leaders and through Christians praying for their leaders and by beseeching God for a spiritual awakening. She must have a remnant in her that is living the Christian life before God.

Let us pray!

(The truths found in the message come from long prayerful study of the NIV Bible, The Complete Word study of the New and Old Testament; The Expositors Bible Commentary; Harper's Bible Dictionary; Easton's Bible Dictionary; The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: Pentecostal Evangel; Barnes Notes; Thru the Bible; Commentary on the Old Testament; A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory; Daily Study Bible Series; Matthew Henry Commentary; Wilmington Bible Hand Book; The Bible Reader's Bible Commentary; The Bible Knowledge Commentary; The New American Commentary; Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains; Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations)



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to Psalm 33:12-22

Title: A Vigilant Nation

Theme: The Foundation of a Nation that Truly Says, "In God We Trust."

Introduction: *Vigilance has never come easy. Throughout the past 200 plus years the United States of America has always had enemies. Many today still remember the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and everyday in some way we are reminded of 9/11/2001. A day that reminded us that even the powerful U.S.A. is not beyond the violent attack of a hateful enemy.*

Proposition: *I would propose to you that America needs to be vigilant and she must have her full trust in God. There are three Biblical ways for America to protect her national borders.*

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what three things is the Lord calling Christians to do in these last days?*

Read Psalm 33:12-22:

Transitional Sentence: *There are three foundational truths that the Holy Spirit wants to place within our hearts. Our great military strength alone is not enough as we face an enemy that is hard to locate and never knowing when, where, and how he may attack. The first foundational truth found in a vigilant nation is a healthy fear of the Lord. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD... the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him." (Psalm 33:12,18) Christians who know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord are a powerful force in a wicked culture that flaunts her disbeliefs. The Lord told Abraham, "For the sake of ten [righteous men], I will not destroy it." A God fearing people can make a powerful difference in God's dealings with a nation. The Bible gives us this powerful truth worth clinging to: (Psalm 147:11; Psalm 34:7)*

The obvious question is "What is fear of the Lord?" The fear of the Lord ranges from terror, which may be evidenced by shaking or trembling (Daniel 5:6), to awe or reverence (Malachi 2:5) which induces love or worship rather than terror. This is the very awe that every God fearing man should have before the Lord if he is going to be among that remnant that is going to be used of the Lord to maintain a lasting foundation for America. (Ecclesiastes 12:13) Fear of the Lord involves receiving instructions from God's Word. In 2 Chronicles 26 we read of King Uzziah accepting instructions from a man of God named Zechariah. Uzziah took instructions from Zechariah on how to live in "fear of the Lord." (2 Chronicles 26:5) The Bible says, "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord... He sought God... [and] as long as he sought God the Lord, God gave him success." (2 Chronicles 26:4-5)

Uzziah prospered in civilian and battle pursuits. This includes building and farming projects. (2 Chronicles 26:6-9) Uzziah became a great military leader and inventor and God gave him well-trained armies powerful enough to regain land taken over by hostile nations and hold off enemy attacks. (2 Chronicles 26:11-15) Uzziah had fame that was in accordance of God's Word thus bringing honor to God and His people. The Ammonites paid him tribute. Uzziah's reign as king underscored the connection between a king's and nation's success with their obedience to God's Word reflecting true fear of the Lord. (2 Chronicles 26:5; 2 Kings 14:21-22; 15:1-14)

A nation with a firm foundation has Christians who have the heart of the psalmist who wrote, "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." (Psalm 86:11) The foundation of this country is clearly spelled out in the words of William Bradford who became governor of the Plymouth Colony as he describes the mission of the Pilgrims. Mr. Bradford said, "They cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying a good foundation... for the advancement of the gospel of Christ in the remote parts of the world..." George Washington said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." In his farewell speech of 1796 he said, "Of all habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. ...Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." George Washington was a man of prayer who could grasp the heart of God in praying, "Direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by thy Holy Spirit... Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ." The third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson said, "God ...gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis... ...I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever." One of America's Revolutionary leaders, Patrick Henry said, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ." John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence said, "Cursed be all learning that is contrary to the Cross of Christ." Alexander Hamilton, signer of the Constitution said, "I have a tender reliance on the mercy of the Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy." Benjamin Franklin has often and still is accused of being a deist. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787 he clearly said, "I have lived long. Sir, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it [possible] that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in

the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of [the Tower of] Babel... My views... are the results of life of inquiry and reflection, and very different from the anti-Christian system imputed to me by those who know nothing of my opinions. To the corruptions of Christianity, I am, in deed opposed; but not to the genuine precepts of Jesus Himself. I am a Christian in the only sense in which He wished anyone to be; sincerely attached to His doctrines in preference to all others."

We all must understand that back in the time of laying a foundation for this nation there were men who claimed to be God fearing and were not, just like it was in the time God was building and establishing the nation Israel. However, there was that remnant who truly feared the Lord. The Holy Spirit dwelt with this through the Apostle Paul in Romans 9:6, "...For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel." God does not look upon a man's outward relation and position, but upon the character and heart. Calling oneself an Israelite does not make a person right with the Lord and neither does calling oneself an American citizen while quoting "In God we Trust." The Apostle Paul gives this truth in Romans 2:28-29, "A man is not a Jew [or Christian] if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew [or Christian] if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the [Holy] Spirit..." There has always been a remnant and Jesus taught only a few will enter the narrow gate and walk the narrow road that leads to eternal life. (Matthew 7:13)

I do not know how many Christians were involved in the founding of this nation, one thing is for sure, there were men who had a fear of the Lord and God used them to lay a firm foundation for this country. It will only take a remnant to grasp the heart of God and live in the fear of the Lord to assure God's hand upon our country, petitioning Him to do what is best for the souls of mankind to come to Christ.

Transitional Sentence: *One Nation Under God also has her foundation undergirded in Prayer.* 1Timothy 2:1-2 says, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone -- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. The Apostle Paul used the word "urge" (*parakaleo*) meaning to exhort with urgency. He wrote "first of all" meaning that prayer for those in leadership is of primary importance in the church, a very essential part of public worship. Christians are to pray in accordance with Exodus 18:21-22. "Judges" (*sapat*) here means to govern. This Hebrew word is much more inclusive than the modern day concept of judging and encompasses all the facets and function of government; executive, legislative and judicial. Judges are to be men who have a fear of the Lord and they have a serious charge.

A vigilant nation will have men like George Washington who prayed, "Bless O Lord the whole race of mankind, and let the world be filled with the knowledge of Thee and Thy Son, Jesus Christ." Men like Abraham Lincoln who served our nation in its bloodiest war who said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go to and my own wisdom... seemed insufficient for the day." (Taken from a sermon preached by Pastor Gerald Flurry) President Lincoln's words reflect the heart of a man who knew that a vigilant nation must have God's aid and that the Lord works through positions of great authority as well as through humble servants fulfilling their call in praying for those who are in governmental authority.

Transitional Sentence: *Vigilant nations have leaders who know their need of Divine intervention and have faithful servants who obey God's Word to be in prayer for their leaders.* Such nations also have men and women of God beseeching the Lord for a true spiritual awakening. (Joel 2:12-13)

The expression "the Lord your God" was well known to Israel and testified to the covenantal relationship between God and the nation. For the people of a nation to "rend" their hearts is to have it circumcised by the Holy Spirit and produce the fruit of repentance by the way they live before God.

Vigilant nations have spiritual leaders who know the need of being a nation that calls out to God for a true spiritual awakening. Abraham Lincoln wrote an address to the nation during the Civil War, by which he designated Thursday, April 30, 1863 as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer. He wrote, "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

The awful calamity of the Civil War which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to bring us to a needful national reformation as a whole people. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity to pray and too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and pray for clemency and forgiveness."

In Closing: A vigilant nation expresses true “In God we Trust” by living in fear of the Lord by being vigilant in prayer by her leaders and through Christians praying for their leaders and by beseeching God for a spiritual awakening. She must have a remnant in her that is living the Christian life before God. (The truths found in the message come from long prayerful study of the NIV Bible, The Complete Word study of the New and Old Testament; The Expositors Bible Commentary; Harper’s Bible Dictionary; Easton’s Bible Dictionary; The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: Pentecostal Evangel; Barnes Notes; Thru the Bible; Commentary on the Old Testament; A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory; Daily Study Bible Series; Matthew Henry Commentary; Willmington Bible Hand Book; The Bible Reader’s Bible Commentary: The Bible Knowledge Commentary; The New American Commentary: Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains; Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations,)



Title: Medicine for America
Theme: Truths for the Healing of America
Series: National Day of Prayer

When the medical world takes on the battle of developing medicine for treating a medical disorder, it must consider some things. What is actually being afflicted? If it is heart disease, they must understand the heart, its function and its make up. What keeps the human body healthy? What causes the human body to become unhealthy? What cures the disease, and how is the person going to be restored to good health?

For the sake of bringing this train of thought into today's theme and as we think about the health of this nation, there are things that must be considered. What is actually being afflicted? What has caused this nation to become so spiritually unhealthy? What is the cure for the spiritual decay of America? What is her restoration process?

“When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD... and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD..., the LORD appeared to him at night and said: ‘I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.’” (2 Chronicles 7:11-15)

I would propose to you that Solomon was a great prototype for all those who desire to govern the people of God. He once said, “O LORD my God... I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong...” (1 Kings 3:7-9)

First step to applying medicine for America

The first step to applying medicine for America is to grasp the application of our key text. Titus 2:14 says, “[Christ] ...gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.” The King James Bible says the Lord will purify unto Himself a “peculiar people.”

“Peculiar people” (*periousios*) are God’s chosen people in whom He has a special interest. The phrase can be translated as “His treasured people.” (The Complete Word Study of the Bible)

The Holy Spirit so powerfully expounds this truth in 1 Peter 2:9-10, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

Christians are a chosen people, called by the Name of the Lord and they have authority in Christ’s name to stand before the throne of grace and petition the Lord to bring a spiritual healing for America, but they must petition the Lord on the basis of confession and with a heart of repentance.

He rules right now over nations

Applying medicine for America begins with Christians understanding their position before God as a chosen people. Christians who the Lord uses to apply medicine to America grasp the fact that He rules right now over nations. Psalms 22:28 says, “for dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules over the nations.” The King James Bible says, “...He is the governor among nations.” Romans 13:1 says, “...for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” (Romans 13:1)

It is God’s will that all of mankind come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:9) Psalms 33:12 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance. The noun “nation” (*haggoyim*) is used to mean nations other than just Israel. The application is that all nations can enjoy the blessings of God only as they allow Him to be Lord. (The Complete Word Study of the Old Testament)

Government is overseen by people. Therefore, Christians must join together in prayer and beseech the God of heaven to raise up statesmen who have enlightenment on how to Biblically govern a nation with the motto, “In God We Trust.”

The Lord raised up faithful servants from among the Jews to govern the people of God and Christians can pray in confidence that the Lord is fully able to raise up men like Abraham Lincoln who wrote on April 30, 1863, “It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures, and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.”

God can restore our Supreme Court system to making decisions like the one made in 1892, "Our laws and our institution must necessarily be based upon and embody the teaching of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and institutions are emphatically Christian. This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making affirmation. We find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth. These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial utterance that this is a Christian nation." (Justice Brewer delivered the opinion of the court on February 29, 1892)

The fact is America has enjoyed the blessedness of having statesmen who fear God from its early foundation up into the late 1950's. The former Chief Justice Earl Warren, addressing the annual prayer breakfast of the International Council of Christian Leadership said, "I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Good Book and the spirit of the Savior have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses. Whether we look to the first Charter of Virginia or to the Charter of New England or to the Charter of Massachusetts Bay or to the Foundational Orders of Connecticut, the same objective is present: A Christian land governed by Christian Principles. I believe the entire Bill of rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it: freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition, the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under the law, and the reservation of powers to the people. I like to believe we are living today in the spirit of the Christian religion." (America's Christian History, the Untold Story, in the introduction)

What is being afflicted upon this nation

Christians can trust in God who is in full control over the government of the world to raise up people with Godly character to once again govern this nation. However, they must understand what is being afflicted upon this nation. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 says, "If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all His commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God." Deuteronomy 28:15 says, "However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all His commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you."

Daniel Webster wrote, "History is God's providence in human affairs."

The Book of Deuteronomy contains promises of blessings or curses. The effectiveness of a nation is determined by God's blessings or curses coming

upon a nation's armed forces, economic systems, families and especially whether or not that nation is called by the name of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 28)

Biblically examining the rule of kings who oversaw the nations of Judah and Israel reveals the truth, God blesses obedience and He chastens for disobedience. Instead of hanging onto this world's view, Christians can come to understand the Lord's view of the reign of kings by reading the two Books of Chronicles. 2 Chronicles 17-20 reveals God's view on the reign of Jehoshaphat. Understanding how God worked in the life of Jehoshaphat helps us understand how the Lord wants to work in America.

Jehoshaphat ruled over Judah in Jerusalem for twenty-five years. (2 Chronicles 20:31). The Bible says, "[Jehoshaphat] did what was right in the eyes of the Lord." (1 Kings 22:34; 2 Chronicles 20:32) Holy Spirit illuminated Christians will be praying for an earthly ruler of whom God will say, "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord." "The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways... [King] David had followed." (2 Chronicles 17:3) "His heart was devoted to the Lord... (2 Chronicles 17:6) "The Lord established the kingdom under his control." (2 Chronicles 17:5)

Christians who apply the medicine of prayer for America's healing will ask the Lord for a leader like Jehoshaphat, "In the third year of his reign he sent... five officials out "to teach in the towns of Judah. With them were..." nine Levites and "the priest Elishama and Jehoram. They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of the Lord; they went around to all the towns of Judah and taught the people." (2 Chronicles 17:7-9) "The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, so that they did not make war with Jehoshaphat... Jehoshaphat became more and more powerful; he built forts and store cities in Judah and had large supplies in the towns of Judah." (2 Chronicles 17:10,12)

The United States of America enjoy the same blessings that God's people did because of the Biblical conviction of her Founding Fathers. The University of Houston, Political Science Department researched the sources our Founding Fathers used most frequently in forming our present system of government. From the pool of nearly 15,000 documents from our founding period, the researchers selected 3,154 documents they considered most significant to our Founding Fathers. After 10 years of investigation, the researchers determined that the Founding Fathers quoted heavily from three intellectuals. They were Montesquieu, Blackstone, and Locke.

However, the most interesting conclusion from the research was that the Founding Fathers were even more dependent upon the Bible than they were these three intellectuals. The Bible was quoted 4 times more than Montesquieu, 16 times more than Blackstone or Locke. Ninety-four percent of the quotes of the Founding Fathers were based on the Word of God. Thirty-four percent of

those quotes were direct from Scripture and the remaining 60% were taken from quotes where they had used the Bible to arrive at their conclusions. The Book quoted most often by the Founding Fathers was Deuteronomy.

The great theme of Deuteronomy is “Love and Obey.” Jesus, based His statement “If you love Me, keep my commandments” from the truths found in Deuteronomy.

The whole teaching of the Book of Deuteronomy is, “obedience is man’s response to God’s love.” (Thru the Bible) “God so loved the world He gave His one and only Son...” (John 3:16) Christ came willingly to die for our sins because He loves us.

God working in His absolute sovereignty molded out the design He wanted to govern this nation through our Founding Fathers, thus showing us today how we as a nation should respond to His sacrificial love.

In applying the medicine of prayer for the healing of America, Christians must ask the Lord to raise up statesman who are not ashamed of the Word of God. So explicit was the Word of God in the lives of men in this nation’s early years, Charles Finney, the Billy Graham of the 1800’s, came to Jesus Christ by reading “Blackstone’s Commentaries on Law.” He unashamedly used Scripture, referring to chapter and verse for every principle of law he cited.

Simple research reveals further examples on how the foundation of the United States of America was birthed from the Word of God. For example, the Three Branches of Government came from Isaiah 33:22. For Tax Exemption for Churches our Founding Fathers looked to Ezra 7:24. And for the inscription on the Liberty Bell, the Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly asked that a portion of Leviticus 25:10 be used.

In applying the medicine of prayer for America, Christians must understand that our Founding Fathers had a reverent fear of God, great knowledge of the Word of God and they, like Jehoshaphat, wanted the people in the land to know the Word of the Lord.

Sadly, like all men, Jehoshaphat’s reign had its moments that brought severe consequences to the spiritual, social and political life of Judah. 2 Chronicles 18:1 says, “Now Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honor, and he allied himself with Ahab by marriage.”

Ahab was that king who had done more to anger the Lord than any other king had done in Israel. His marriage to Jezebel highlighted the consistent link of Biblical narrative between idolatrous practice and immoral behavior. Ahab’s skilful foreign policies are interpreted negatively by Biblical writers because of the severe religious consequences of mixing true worship with false worship. His negative influence had such a drawing effect, Jehoshaphat’s son, who was

married to King Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, was drawn away from the true worship of God. Not only was Jehoshaphat's son affected, but his grandson as well.

The Bible says this about Jehoshaphat's son and grandson, "[They] walked in the ways of the house of Ahab and did evil in the eyes of the Lord, for [they were] related by marriage to Ahab's family." (1 Kings 8:18,27) Christians who will apply the healing anointment of prayer for America fear the disaster that can come upon their children when their country enters into unholy relationships with wicked leaders, men who do not fear God.

Jehoshaphat was weak and he easily slipped into unholy alliances that compromised His relationship with God. When he should have learned his lesson, at the end of his reign he allowed himself again to be allied with the family line of Ahab. Instead of war it was a business deal with the wicked king of Israel, Ahaziah. They had agreed to make a fleet of trading ships, but the Lord wrecked the ships and the deal fell through. (2 Chronicles 20:35-37) Jehoshaphat's alliance in war with King Ahab about cost him his life and put the nation of Judah at great risk, (2 Chronicles 18:30-32)

A Biblical examination of the reign of Jehoshaphat shows us blessings of walking in the will of God as well as the dangers of walking in the flesh and according to the ways of the world. It is a dangerous thing to join into friendships and society that have views that are not God and Christ-centered. Our national leaders have too often been on friendly terms with and adopted the world view of the ACLU and the PAW. Our Biblically-Anemic preaching churches have failed to produce enough men and women who can be statesmen, people of God who are full of the Word as Ezra was. The Bible says, "Ezra, had devoted himself to the study and observance of the law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel." (Ezra 7:10)

Ezra was a priestly scribe who led major reform when he was sent back to Jerusalem after the Exile in Babylon. Ezra held a place of leadership probably because of his priestly lineage. His office while under the authority of the King of Persia is unknown but we do know that he used the Word of God, fasting, and prayer to God's work completed. (Ezra 7:10; 8:21)

I thank the Lord for every Christian statesman we have. However, they find themselves fighting a great battle because the people of God and the people who live in a country that has a motto, "In God we Trust," fail to spend time in God's Word, fasting and prayer before making decisions regarding governmental affairs. Thus, they find themselves being miss-led by politicians who are fighting over party control, rather than being governed by statesmen who have a reverent fear of God. Instead of being influenced by the Word of God in making laws and interpreting law, we see politicians being intimidated by that unconstitutional phrase "Separation of Church and State."

According to our key text today healing for America must start with confession and repentance on these matters.

The two Books of Chronicles reveal to us God's view on men whom He has chosen to govern a nation. 2 Chronicles 17-20 reveals to us the blessing and chastening of God on the reign of King Jehoshaphat.

Healing for America lays in the ability of leadership to produce the fruit of repentance after being rebuked by men of God. In 2 Chronicles 19, we read of Jehoshaphat safe return to Jerusalem after being saved by the intervention of God in a battle he was not supposed to be in. (2 Chronicles 18:31) On his way back he is met by the prophet Jehu and is rebuked, "When Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned safely to his palace in Jerusalem, Jehu the seer... went out to meet him and said to the king, 'Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, the wrath of the LORD is upon you. There is, however, some good in you, ...you... have set your heart on seeking God.'" (2 Chronicles 19:1-3)

Jehoshaphat was a national leader like King David, a man of God willing to produce the fruit of repentance. After the rebuke of Eliezer and the hand of God coming against him, we read of Jehoshaphat rejecting King Ahaziah's fresh proposal of uniting in another business venture.

In applying the medicine of prayer for American's healing, Christians must ask the Lord to enable leaders to produce the fruit of repentance upon the men of God who deliver the Lord's Word and who can see the God's chastening hand. We need our government, schools, and families to have the heart of Jehoshaphat, produce the fruit of repentance and do what is right.

After returning home Jehoshaphat was concerned that his alliance with wicked Ahab through marriage and war may have enticed the people of Judah to engage in unholy worship of God. Thus, he sets out a second reformation for the people of Judah.

2 Chronicles 19:4-10 says. "Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and turned them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers. He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. He told them, 'Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the LORD, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.' In Jerusalem also, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites, priests and heads of Israelite families to administer the law of the LORD and to settle disputes. And they lived in Jerusalem. He gave them these orders: 'You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the LORD. In every case that comes before you from your fellow countrymen who live in the cities--whether bloodshed or other concerns of the law, commands, decrees or ordinances--you are to warn them not to sin against the LORD; otherwise His wrath will come on you and your

brothers. Do this, and you will not sin.”

The Holy Spirit wants you to grasp that the healing of America also comes when government appoints “judges” (*sapat*) who have the conviction that they are judging for the Lord. They will give an accounting of their faithfulness and of their life lived before God. They can live under His wrath or enjoy His blessings, which will be passed down to the people they govern. The government must allow places where the people who live in the land can worship the Lord and learn the Word of God, have opportunity to follow His commands, and live by His ordinances. To inhibit the free exercise of the Christian faith is to sin against God and the people they govern.

Before Christians can apply the medicine of prayer for America they must understand that the governmental process is replete with politicians who think only of party control. America needs statesmen who have the same convictions of our Founding Fathers.

Christians must understand that the only cure for the spiritual decay of their national government is to trust God to raise up statesmen who have the heart of Jehoshaphat, leaders whom God will say, “they do right in the eyes of the Lord.” America needs leaders who respond to the Word of the Lord, whether it be a spoken blessing or rebuke. These leaders must produce the fruit of repentance, make proper changes so we can have judges who fear the Lord and make judgments for the Lord rather than for man. Christians must pray that God would intercede, raise up preachers of the Word of God, allow places where Americans can have the opportunity to hear God’s Word and be given the opportunity to obey the commands of Christ. Christian must pray for the restoration process of American leadership, churches, and family members.

We are blessed to have a president who prays and calls the people of America to pray. The President and the leadership of this church are joining with the National Day of Prayer Task Force. We are asking you to fast and pray as the Holy Spirit of Christ leads you. The door of the sanctuary of CrossRoads Church will be open. They have put together wonderful prayer guides, supported with Scripture so you may pray for governmental leaders, schools, communities, churches and families.

Make time to join us this Thursday, May 03, 2007 to humble yourself, confess your sins and the sins of this nation, and to pray to our loving Father who is in absolute control of the governmental affairs of this county.

Let us pray!

Visit our Free Website www.standatthecrossroads.com



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to 2 Chronicles 7:11-15

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Series: National Day of Prayer

Introduction: *When the medical world takes on the battle of developing medicine for treating a medical disorder, it must consider some things.* What is actually being afflicted? If it is heart disease, they must understand the heart, its function and its make up. What keeps the human body healthy? What causes the human body to become unhealthy? What cures the disease, and how is the person going to be restored to good health?

For the sake of bringing this train of thought into today's theme and as we think about the health of this nation, there are things that must be considered. What is actually being afflicted? What has caused this nation to become so spiritually unhealthy? What is the cure for the spiritual decay of America? What is her restoration process?

Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-15:

Proposition: *I would propose to you that Solomon was a great prototype for all those who desire to govern the people of God. He once said: (1 Kings 3:7-9)*

Transitional Sentence: *The first step to applying medicine for America is to grasp the application of our key text. (Titus 2:14)*

"Peculiar people" (*periousios*) are God's chosen people in whom He has a special interest. The phrase can be translated as "His treasured people." (The Complete Word Study of the Bible) The Holy Spirit so powerfully expounds this truth in (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Christians are a chosen people, called by the Name of the Lord and they have authority in Christ's name to stand before the throne of grace and petition the Lord to bring a spiritual healing for America, but they must petition the Lord on the basis of confession and with a heart of repentance.

Transitional Sentence: *Applying medicine for America begins with Christians understanding their position before God as a chosen people.* Christians who the Lord uses to apply medicine to America grasp the fact that He rules right now over nations. (Psalms 22:28; Romans 13:1)

Psalms 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance. The noun "nation" (*haggoyim*) is used to mean nations

other than just Israel. The application is that all nations can enjoy the blessings of God only as they allow Him to be Lord. (The Complete Word Study of the Old Testament) Government is overseen by people. Therefore, Christians must join together in prayer and beseech the God of heaven to raise up statesmen who have enlightenment on how to Biblically govern a nation with the motto, "In God We Trust."

Abraham Lincoln who wrote on April 30, 1863, "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures, and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." Supreme Court system to making decisions like the one made in 1892, "Our laws and our institution must necessarily be based upon and embody the teaching of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and institutions are emphatically Christian. This is a religious people. This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making affirmation. We find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth. These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial utterance that this is a Christian nation." (Justice Brewer delivered the opinion of the court on February 29, 1892) The fact is America has enjoyed the blessedness of having statesmen who fear God from its early foundation up into the late 1950's. The former Chief Justice Earl Warren, addressing the annual prayer breakfast of the International Council of Christian Leadership said, "I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Good Book and the spirit of the Savior have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses. Whether we look to the first Charter of Virginia or to the Charter of New England or to the Charter of Massachusetts Bay or to the Foundational Orders of Connecticut, the same objective is present: A Christian land governed by Christian Principles. I believe the entire Bill of rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it: freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition, the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under the law, and the reservation of powers to the people. I like to believe we are living today in the spirit of the Christian religion." (America's Christian History, the Untold Story, in the introduction)

Transitional Sentence: *Christians can trust in God who is in full control over the government of the world to raise up people with Godly character to once again govern this nation.* However, they must understand what is being afflicted upon this nation. (Deuteronomy 28:1-2; Deuteronomy 28:15) The effectiveness of a nation is determined by God's blessings or curses coming upon a nation's armed forces, economic systems, families and especially whether or not that nation is called by

the name of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 28)

Daniel Webster wrote, "History is God's providence in human affairs."

Instead of hanging onto this world's view, Christians can come to understand the Lord's view of the reign of kings by reading the two Books of Chronicles. 2 Chronicles 17-20 reveals God's view on the reign of Jehoshaphat. Understanding how God worked in the life of Jehoshaphat helps us understand how the Lord wants to work in America.

Jehoshaphat ruled over Judah in Jerusalem for twenty-five years. (2 Chronicles 20:31). The Bible says: (1 Kings 22:34; 2 Chronicles 20:32) Holy Spirit illuminated Christians will be praying for an earthly ruler of whom God will say, "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord." "The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways... [King] David had followed." (2 Chronicles 17:3) "His heart was devoted to the Lord... (2 Chronicles 17:6) "The Lord established the kingdom under his control." (2 Chronicles 17:5)

Christians who apply the medicine of prayer for America's healing will ask the Lord for a leader like Jehoshaphat, "In the third year of his reign he sent... five officials out "to teach in the towns of Judah. With them were..." nine Levites and "the priest Elishama and Jehoram. They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of the Lord; they went around to all the towns of Judah and taught the people." (2 Chronicles 17:7-9) "The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, so that they did not make war with Jehoshaphat... Jehoshaphat became more and more powerful; he built forts and store cities in Judah and had large supplies in the towns of Judah." (2 Chronicles 17:10,12)

The United States of America enjoy the same blessings that God's people did because of the Biblical conviction of her Founding Fathers. The University of Houston, Political Science Department researched the sources our Founding Fathers used most frequently in forming our present system of government. From the pool of nearly 15,000 documents from our founding period, the researchers selected 3,154 documents they considered most significant to our Founding Fathers. After 10 years of investigation, the researchers determined that the Founding Fathers quoted heavily from three intellectuals. They were Montesquieu, Blackstone, and Locke. However, the most interesting conclusion from the research was that the Founding Fathers were even more dependent upon the Bible than they were these three intellectuals. The Bible was quoted 4 times more than Montesquieu, 16 times more than Blackstone or Locke. Ninety-four percent of the quotes of the Founding Fathers were based on the Word of God. Thirty-four percent of those quotes were direct from Scripture and the remaining 60% were taken from quotes where they had used the Bible to arrive at their conclusions. The Book quoted most often by the Founding Fathers was Deuteronomy.

The great theme of Deuteronomy is “Love and Obey.” Jesus, based His statement “If you love Me, keep my commandments” from the truths found in Deuteronomy. The whole teaching of the Book of Deuteronomy is, “obedience is man’s response to God’s love.” (Thru the Bible) In applying the medicine of prayer for the healing of America, Christians must ask the Lord to raise up statesmen who are not ashamed of the Word of God.

So explicit was the Word of God in the lives of men in this nation’s early years, Charles Finney, the Billy Graham of the 1800’s, came to Jesus Christ by reading “Blackstone’s Commentaries on Law.” He unashamedly used Scripture, referring to chapter and verse for every principle of law he cited. Simple research reveals further examples on how the foundation of the United States of America was birthed from the Word of God. For example, the Three Branches of Government came from Isaiah 33:22. For Tax Exemption for Churches our Founding Fathers looked to Ezra 7:24. And for the inscription on the Liberty Bell, the Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly asked that a portion of Leviticus 25:10 be used.

Jehoshaphat’s reign had its moments that brought severe consequences to the spiritual, social and political life of Judah. 2 Chronicles 18:1 says, “Now Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honor, and he allied himself with Ahab by marriage.” His negative influence had such a drawing effect, Jehoshaphat’s son, who was married to King Ahab’s daughter, Athaliah, was drawn away from the true worship of God. Not only was Jehoshaphat’s son affected, but his grandson as well. The Bible says this about Jehoshaphat’s son and grandson, “[They] walked in the ways of the house of Ahab and did evil in the eyes of the Lord, for [they were] related by marriage to Ahab’s family.” (1 Kings 8:18,27) When he should have learned his lesson, at the end of his reign he allowed himself again to be allied with the family line of Ahab. Instead of war it was a business deal with the wicked king of Israel, Ahaziah. They had agreed to make a fleet of trading ships, but the Lord wrecked the ships and the deal fell through. (2 Chronicles 20:35-37) Jehoshaphat’s alliance in war with King Ahab about cost him his life and put the nation of Judah at great risk, (2 Chronicles 18:30-32)

Christians who will apply the healing anointment of prayer for America fear the disaster that can come upon their children when their country enters into unholy relationships with wicked leaders, men who do not fear God. A Biblical examination of the reign of Jehoshaphat shows us blessings of walking in the will of God as well as the dangers of walking in the flesh and according to the ways of the world. It is a dangerous thing to join into friendships and society that have views that are not God and Christ-centered. Our national leaders have too often been on friendly terms with and adopted the world view of the ACLU and the PAW. Our Biblically-Anemic preaching churches have failed to produce enough men and women who can be statesmen, people of God who are full of the Word as Ezra was. The Bible says, “Ezra, had devoted himself to the study and observance of the law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10) Ezra

was a priestly scribe who led major reform when he was sent back to Jerusalem after the Exile in Babylon. Ezra held a place of leadership probably because of his priestly lineage. His office while under the authority of the King of Persia is unknown but we do know that he used the Word of God, fasting, and prayer to get God's work completed. (Ezra 7:10; 8:21)

Healing for America lays in the ability of leadership to produce the fruit of repentance after being rebuked by men of God. In 2 Chronicles 19, we read of Jehoshaphat safe return to Jerusalem after being saved by the intervention of God in a battle he was not supposed to be in. (2 Chronicles 18:31; 2 Chronicles 19:1-3) In applying the medicine of prayer for American's healing, Christians must ask the Lord to enable leaders to produce the fruit of repentance upon the men of God who deliver the Lord's Word and who can see the God's chastening hand. We need our government, schools, and families to have the heart of Jehoshaphat, produce the fruit of repentance and do what is right.

Jehoshaphat sets out a second reformation for the people of Judah: (2 Chronicles 19:4-10)

The Holy Spirit wants you to grasp that the healing of America also comes when government appoints "judges" (*sapat*) who have the conviction that they are judging for the Lord. They will give an accounting of their faithfulness and of their life lived before God. They can live under His wrath or enjoy His blessings, which will be passed down to the people they govern. The government must allow places where the people who live in the land can worship the Lord and learn the Word of God, have opportunity to follow His commands, and live by His ordinances. To inhibit the free exercise of the Christian faith is to sin against God and the people they govern.

In Closing: Before Christians can apply the medicine of prayer for America they must understand that the governmental process is overran with politicians who think only of party control. America needs statesmen who have the same convictions of our Founding Fathers. Christians must understand that the only cure for the spiritual decay of their national government is to trust God to raise up statesmen who have the heart of Jehoshaphat, leaders whom God will say, "they do right in the eyes of the Lord." America needs leaders who respond to the Word of the Lord, whether it be a spoken blessing or rebuke. These leaders must produce the fruit of repentance, make proper changes so we can have judges who fear the Lord and make judgments for the Lord rather than for man. Christians must pray that God would intercede, raise up preachers of the Word of God, allow places where Americans can have the opportunity to hear God's Word and be given the opportunity to obey the commands of Christ. Christian must pray for the restoration process of American leadership, churches, and family members.

Let us pray!



Title: National Prayers
Theme: Praying for Our President and America
Series: National Day of Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1-4 says, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone -- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” Pray!

Terrible times in the last days

The apostle Paul wrote the young pastor Timothy regarding the last days saying, “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.” (2 Timothy 3:1) If you have a child who is fighting our war on terrorism right now, defending this nation from those who hate America, the truth of this verse grips your heart.

The Apostle Paul is being led of the Holy Spirit to take the Body of Christ to the high level of intercession for those they love and for those in authority. The truths found in this portion of Scripture guide the children of God to a very effective form of public worship, an act of worship that comes from a heart that has learned the joy of both singing the praises of God and grasping the truths of worship in spirit and truth.

The Holy Spirit moved Paul to write “I urge” (*parakaleo*) to indicate the urgency of the need of prayer. This Greek word means to admonish or call someone to do something.

It is like a mother looking out and seeing her two year old out in the middle of a four lane highway. Because her hands are full, holding a baby and packages from the store, she calls out for someone to intervene.

Dr. Ralph Earle points out that Paul is giving Timothy instructions on public worship in today’s text. The Holy Spirit wants you to grasp this truth: our president and our country have great needs. Pastors are to call out for someone who has ears to hear and a heart to obey, to urgently pray.

I would propose to you that the children of God can most certainly desire and call out to the Lord for godly leaders who walk in the fear of the Lord. The last words of King David in 2 Samuel give us this truth, “The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: `When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.” (2 Samuel 23:3-4)

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, gave some great advice that we as Christians need to heed to, "...select capable men from all the people--men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain--and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens... If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied." (Exodus. 18:21,23)

Our founding fathers knew the truths in these Scriptures. Noah Webster wrote, "When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public offices let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose rulers men who rule in the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect this duty and place unprincipled men in office the government will soon be corrupted." (Taken from "Pray the Vote, What to Pray For")

Just what clear instructions does God's Word have for us as we live in these last days?

Four keys words

The first step to becoming a pleasing prayer warrior is to grasp the truths of four keys words regarding to prayer in today's key text.

The first word is "request" (*deesis*) giving us the application of presenting a special need or the intense needs of others by making the supplications with the sense of urgency. In keeping with our theme for today, it was the intense prayers offered up to the Lord for protection of our president when he was being flown around the USA in Air Force One, while our nation was being attacked on 9/11/2001.

The second word is "prayers" (*proseuche*) meaning to become a house of prayer. This is literally a house of prayer with set times to pray and involved in seasons of prayer. Compare this to a house that has everything set in place, everything being done in proper dependable order.

The third word is "intercessions" (*enteuxis*) and as it is used in 1 Timothy 2:1 it means praying according to God's will (*Zodhiates*) and standing in the gap before God on behalf of others seeking His mercy and grace for them. In keeping with our theme today, it's praying that God would bring America to repentance, God would put His protective hand around our president as He did King David, and that the Lord would give him wisdom.

The fourth word is "thanksgiving" (*eucharista*) meaning prayers that express thankfulness to God for hearing our prayers of faith in anticipation that He is going to work out all things for His glory and purposes.

Christianity Today had a quote from Karl Barth that should cause all Christians to grasp the power that is possible in offering prayers girded in these truths, "To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

Pray particularly for those in authority

Praying with these four truths upon our hearts enables us to pray with Biblical faith. Our key text today instructs us to pray particularly for those in authority.

Those in authority are there because God put them there. In Daniel 2:21 we read that God "...changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning." Romans 13:1 says; "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

The Holy Spirit had given Daniel understanding, it is the God of providence, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice. It is the inspiration of the Almighty God that gives men understanding, He enables them to acquire knowledge and use that knowledge in a right and humble manner. Without Him knowledge leads to pride and to a nation's downfall.

This truth is so powerfully displayed as we take time to consider the purpose of the writings of First and Second Kings. These two portions of Scripture record the history of kingdom rulers, some were of noble God fearing character, most misruled and expressed a willful unrepentant heart in their failure to follow God's commandments.

Obedience is met with blessings, and disobedience with punishment and chastening. Throughout the times of the kings and judges when God wanted to bless His people He raised up righteous leaders. On the other hand, when God wanted to bring chastisements, He raised up a wicked leader, sometimes among His people or from another nation to take them into oppression.

The Bible shows clearly that God will deal with His people on the basis of His promise in 1 Samuel 12:18-24. In his farewell speech, Samuel, reminds the people of God that he had set a king over them upon their request. (1 Samuel 12:1-2) As God's spokesman he gives this exhortation from the Lord, "For the sake of His great name the Lord will not reject His people... But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart, consider the great things He has done for you." (1 Samuel 12:22,24) God is the same today as He was in the past and He will be the same for the future when it comes to raising up and deposing leaders. (Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6)

What the Holy Spirit wants you grasp is that the Lord is the one in charge of setting up leaders for a nation. Intercessors for this nation can be humble and pray for a president with the spiritual character of Hezekiah to govern this nation. The Word of God holds this testimony of the great leader, "Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow Him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook...." (2 Kings 18:5-7)

Lord to lead the president

A foundational truth based on the whole of Scripture is seek the Lord in heartfelt petition for a president that is hungry for the commands of the Lord. Christians can ask the Lord to lead their president as well.

Proverbs 21:1 says; "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases." The president's heart is in the hand of the Lord and God is going to turn him just as He turns the course of a little babbling brook that runs down a mountainside and as He controls the rivers of the world.

In his early days of leading God's people, Solomon expressed the heart of the leader that we should want for this nation. The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask for whatever you want Me to give you." Solomon answered the Lord, "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" (1 Kings 3:7-9)

In these days of major conflict we need a national leader who understands his need for God's grace and wisdom just like President George Washington who said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." In later years, President Abraham Lincoln said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go to. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day." (Taken from a sermon preached by Pastor Gerald Flurry)

There is a powerful psalm written by King David that expresses what should be in the heart of someone who desires to walk under God's directing course. (Matthew Henry Commentary; Spurgeon; Thru the Bible Commentary) David's song of praise honors God's omnipresence. He writes, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24)

Proverbs 21 is a powerful truth that must be grasped so Christians may pray in faith that God is fully able to put in affect His perfect will, regardless of who has leadership in America. The hearts of men are in God's hand. The Lord can change men's minds and direct their affairs even in the freedom of their free will for His own purpose.

This truth is powerfully displayed in several passages of Scriptures such as Exodus 10:1-2, "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD.'"

In Isaiah we read of God using Assyria as an instrument of wrath to bring judgment on His people for disobedience. The Bible says, "[Assyria], the rod of My anger, in whose hand is the club of My wrath! I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger Me, to seize loot and snatch plunder and to trample them down like mud in the streets." (Isaiah 10:5-6)

In the last verse of Isaiah 44 (verse 28) into Isaiah 45 we read of God proving His Headship and His incontestable sovereignty in working through a king to get His will done. The Lord uses a King who has not even acknowledged Him to deliver His people from captivity and to restore them back into their own Land. God's Word speaks of this king very clearly, "Cyrus, he is My shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, 'Let it be rebuilt,' and of the temple, 'Let its foundations be laid.'" (Isaiah 44:28)

Cyrus was a king who had not known or acknowledged the Lord, yet God used him in a powerful way. Listen carefully to what God says to Cyrus. "This is what the LORD says to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged Me." (Isaiah 45:1-5) Most translations say, "...have not known Me." (King James, New American Standard and NEV)

Christians have every right to pray in confidence for God to intercede for the president of the United States of America, whether he or she is a Christian or not. God is able and will accomplish what He needs to in order for sinners to see the hand of the Lord, to repent, and to come to Christ.

There is much in the Bible about how God moved upon kings to get the work of

the Lord done. In Ezra chapter 4 we read about the opposition to the rebuilding of the temple of the Lord. The Bible says the enemies of Judah and Benjamin hired counselors to work against those working on the temple. The people around the Israelites frustrated their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius. (Ezra 4:1-4) The Lord worked through King Darius to get the building of the temple going (Ezra 6) and God used King Artaxerxes to keep the building of the temple going. (Ezra 7) It was king Artaxerxes who gave the priest Ezra everything he asked for because the hand of the Lord was upon him. God granted him favor with the king. (Ezra 7:6)

God granted favor for Nehemiah as well as King Artaxerxes. He was so discouraged over the condition of Jerusalem that it affected his appearance before the king. The king told Nehemiah that he knew he was not ill and he could see his “sadness of heart.” (Nehemiah 2:2)

Nehemiah said, “I was very much afraid.” Nehemiah told the king what lay so heavily upon his heart. The king asked, “What do you want?” I love what Nehemiah said, “Then I prayed unto the God of heaven.” Then Nehemiah answered the king. At the end of the story Nehemiah was sent to Jerusalem for 12 years to rebuild the work of God. (Nehemiah 2:1; 5:14)

This country was founded by men who for the most part had a fear for the Lord and looked to the Word of God for the foundation of making many of this nation’s laws. However, much opposition is arising to make it hard to rebuild the foundation for which God raised up this nation. Christians can look to the Lord to grant them favor with national leaders so they can accomplish the work of the Lord. It does not matter how good or bad they are, whether they are a Democrat or Republican, how conservative or liberal they may be, the Lord can do a work among them for His glory and the glory of His son.

Protection of the United States

Christians can call upon a God who literally is in full control of those in leadership position. They may look to Him for the protection of the United States of America as well. Psalm 33:16-18 says “No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love.”

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote, “The strongest battalions melt like snowflakes when God is against them.” America has been blessed with great and powerful military forces, yet Americans must understand that the Lord is not on the side of those who have the biggest war heads and largest armies. His eyes watches out for those who look to Him as Lord and who fully understand that victory only comes from Him.

In the Book of Exodus we read of Israel's first battle after the Lord God had brought them out of Egypt. Exodus records the event of this great warrior who was going out to battle, commissioned by Moses and anointed by God to fight against the Amalekites who threatened the people of God. This warrior's name is "Joshua" meaning "Yahweh is salvation." Listen to this account of God's faithful servants doing battle for their nation. "So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up--one on one side, one on the other--so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword." (Exodus 17:10-13)

Here we see how the Lord lays out the format for battling enemies of a nation with the motto, "The People of God" or "In God we Trust." There are those who are trained to go out and fight and there are those who are commissioned to pray.

In verse 9 we read that Moses told Joshua that he would be holding the staff of God in His hands. This rod of God was a way of appeal to the Lord, our way of appeal today is to enter the throne of Grace in the Name of Jesus Christ. Christians are not only to be a light upon a hill, but intercessors.

Please note how Moses hands became tired and then God raised up assistance. Aaron and Hur were quick to give aide, thus showing us that we should not be embarrassed to ask for assistance nor should Christians be shy in giving assistance in offering up intercession to the Lord in prayer.

The Bible says that after the victory of the Lord, "Moses built an altar and called it 'The Lord is my Banner.'" (Exodus 17:15) Banner reflects the staff as the standard in approaching God and is a testimony of the power of God. (The Expositor Bible Commentary) We are to approach the Lord through the altar of the heart in prayer as the testimony of seeking His power to intercede for His people.

Our nation is fighting an enemy right now and Christians should be as quick and steadfast in prayer as Moses, Aaron and Hur. We do not know what the outcome of this war will be, however, we do serve a God who is ready and able to intercede. There are Christians who intercede in prayer on a regular basis for our president, government and armed forces. National Day of Prayer is our opportunity to gird up those who may become tired in prayer and feel like giving up.

God whose plans will prevail

Christians can pray for their nation when they are at war knowing He can bring victory. They can be steadfast at prayer because they serve a God whose plans will prevail. Psalm 33:10-11 says “The LORD foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations.”

While interceding for our President and all in authority there is no need to give God His marching orders, Christians need only to pray as Christ did, Father, “...may your will be done.” (Matthew 26:42)

Holy Spirit illuminated Christians give praise to God as this psalmist did because they rest in the sovereignty of His providence in the government of the world. The Lord overrules all the counsels of men, and contrary to their intentions makes them serviceable to His counsel in due time.

The Apostle Paul's call is “Urgently pray.” Christians need only to grasp the four truths to praying. They must be willing to pray for those in authority, have faith that God has full control over the president and be diligent in joining with others to pray for our armed forces as they fight the enemy who attacked us, just as the Amalekites did the Israelites.

The National Day of Prayer team is asking you to assist them in prayer as Aaron and Hur assisted Moses while He fulfilled his duty in prayer as Joshua and the armies of Israel fought the battles of the Lord.

Let us pray!!!!



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn Your Bibles to 1 Timothy 2: 1-4

Title: National Prayers

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Series: National Day of Prayer

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone -- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Introduction: *The apostle Paul wrote the young pastor Timothy regarding the last days saying - (2 Timothy 3:1)* The Apostle Paul is being led of the Holy Spirit to take the Body of Christ to the high level of intercession for those they love and for those in authority. The truths found in this portion of Scripture guide the children of God to a very effective form of public worship, an act of worship that comes from a heart that has learned the joy of both singing the praises of God and grasping the truths of worship in spirit and truth. The Holy Spirit moved Paul to write “I urge” (*parakaleo*) to indicate the urgency of the need of prayer. This Greek word means to admonish or call someone to do something.

Dr. Ralph Earle points out that Paul is giving Timothy instructions on public worship in today’s text. The Holy Spirit wants you to grasp this truth: our president and our country have great needs. Pastors are to call out for someone who has ears to hear and a heart to obey, to urgently pray.

Proposition: *I would propose to you that the children of God can most certainly desire and call out to the Lord for godly leaders who walk in the fear of the Lord.* The last words of King David in 2 Samuel give us this truth - (2 Samuel 23:3-4) Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, gave some great advice that we as Christians need to heed to - (Exodus. 18:21,23)

Noah Webster wrote, “When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public offices let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose rulers men who rule in the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect this duty and place unprincipled men in office the government will soon be corrupted.” (Taken from “Pray the Vote, What to Pray For”)

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what clear instruction does God’s Word have for us as we live in these last days?*

Transitional Sentence: *The first step to becoming a pleasing prayer warrior is to grasp the truths of four keys words regarding to prayer in today’s key text.*

The first word is “**request**” (*deesis*) giving us the application of presenting a special need or the intense needs of others by making the supplications with the sense of urgency. The second word is “**prayers**” (*proseuche*) meaning to become a house of prayer. This is literally a house of prayer with set times to pray and involved in seasons of prayer. The third word is “**intercessions**” (*enteuxis*) and as it is used in 1 Timothy 2:1 it means praying according to God’s will (Zodhiates) and standing in the gap before God on behalf of others seeking His mercy and grace for them. The fourth word is “**thanksgiving**” (*eucharista*) meaning prayers that express thankfulness to God for hearing our prayers of faith in anticipation that He is going to work out all things for His glory and purposes.

Christianity Today had a quote from Karl Barth that should cause all Christians to grasp the power that is possible in offering prayers girded in these truths, “To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”

Transitional Sentence: *Praying with these four truths upon our hearts enables us to pray with Biblical faith.* Our key text today instructs us to pray particularly for those in authority. Those in authority are there because God put them there – (Daniel 2:21; Romans 13:1)

This truth is so powerfully displayed as we take time to consider the purpose of the writings of First and Second Kings. These two portions of Scripture record the history of kingdom rulers, some were of noble God fearing character, most misruled and expressed a willful unrepentant heart in their failure to follow God’s commandments. Obedience is met with blessings, and disobedience with punishment and chastening. Throughout the times of the kings and judges when God wanted to bless His people He raised up righteous leaders. On the other hand, when God wanted to bring chastisements, He raised up a wicked leader, sometimes among His people or from another nation to take them into oppression. God is the same today as He was in the past and He will be the same for the future when it comes to raising up and deposing leaders. (Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6)

What the Holy Spirit wants you grasp is that the Lord is the one in charge of setting up leaders for a nation. Intercessors for this nation can be humble and pray for a president with the spiritual character of Hezekiah to govern this nation. (2 Kings 18:5-7)

Transitional Sentence: *A foundational truth based on the whole of Scripture is seek the Lord in heartfelt petition for a president that is hungry for the commands of the Lord.* Christians can ask the Lord to lead their president as well. (Proverbs 21:1) The president’s heart is in the hand of the Lord and God is going to turn him just as He turns the course of a little babbling brook that runs down a mountainside and as He controls the rivers of the world.

In his early days of leading God's people, Solomon expressed the heart of the leader that we should want for this nation. (1 Kings 3:7-9)

In these days of major conflict we need a national leader who understands his need for God's grace and wisdom just like President George Washington who said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." In later years, President Abraham Lincoln said, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go to. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day." (Taken from a sermon preached by Pastor Gerald Flurry)

Proverbs 21 is a powerful truth that must be grasped so Christians may pray in faith that God is fully able to put in affect His perfect will, regardless of who has leadership in America. The hearts of men are in God's hand. The Lord can change men's minds and direct their affairs even in the freedom of their free will for His own purpose.

This truth is powerfully displayed in several passages of Scriptures such as – (Exodus 10:1-2) In Isaiah we read of God using Assyria as an instrument of wrath to bring judgment on His people for disobedience. (Isaiah 10:5-6) In the last verse of Isaiah 44 (verse 28) into Isaiah 45 we read of God proving His Headship and His incontestable sovereignty in working through a king to get His will done. (Isaiah 44:28) Cyrus was a king who had not known or acknowledged the Lord, yet God used him in a powerful way. Listen carefully to what God says to Cyrus. (Isaiah 45:1-5)

Christians have every right to pray in confidence for God to intercede for the president of the United States of America, whether he or she is a Christian or not. God is able and will accomplish what He needs to in order for sinners to see the hand of the Lord, to repent, and to come to Christ.

There is much in the Bible about how God moved upon kings to get the work of the Lord done. In Ezra chapter 4 we read about the opposition to the rebuilding of the temple of the Lord. The Lord worked through King Darius to get the building of the temple going (Ezra 6) and God used King Artaxerxes to keep the building of the temple going. (Ezra 7) It was king Artaxerxes who gave the priest Ezra everything he asked for because the hand of the Lord was upon him. God granted him favor with the king. (Ezra 7:6) God granted favor for Nehemiah as well as King Artaxerxes. (Nehemiah 2:)

This country was founded by men who for the most part had a fear for the Lord and looked to the Word of God for the foundation of making many of this nation's laws. However, much opposition is arising to make it hard to rebuild the foundation for which God raised up this nation. Christians can look to the Lord to grant them favor with national leaders so they can accomplish the work of the Lord. It does not matter how good or bad they are, whether they are a Democrat

or Republican, how conservative or liberal they may be, the Lord can do a work among them for His glory and the glory of His son.

Transitional Sentence: *Christians can call upon a God who literally is in full control of those in leadership position.* They may look to Him for the protection of the United States of America as well. (Psalm 33:16-18)

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote, "The strongest battalions melt like snowflakes when God is against them." America has been blessed with great and powerful military forces, yet Americans must understand that the Lord is not on the side of those who have the biggest war heads and largest armies. His eyes watches out for those who look to Him as Lord and who fully understand that victory only comes from Him.

In the Book of Exodus we read of Israel's first battle after the Lord God had brought them out of Egypt. Exodus records the event of this great warrior who was going out to battle, commissioned by Moses and anointed by God to fight against the Amalekites who threatened the people of God. This warrior's name is "Joshua" meaning "Yahweh is salvation." Listen to this account of God's faithful servants doing battle for their nation. (Exodus 17:10-13) Here we see how the Lord lays out the format for battling enemies of a nation with the motto, "The People of God" or "In God we Trust." There are those who are trained to go out and fight and there are those who are commissioned to pray. Our way of appeal today is to enter the throne of Grace in the Name of Jesus Christ. Christians are not only to be a light upon a hill, but intercessors. We are to approach the Lord through the altar of the heart in prayer as the testimony of seeking His power to intercede for His people.

Our nation is fighting an enemy right now and Christians should be as quick and steadfast in prayer as Moses, Aaron and Hur. We do not know what the outcome of this war will be, however, we do serve a God who is ready and able to intercede. There are Christians who intercede in prayer on a regular basis for our president, government and armed forces. National Day of Prayer is our opportunity to gird up those who may become tired in prayer and feel like giving up.

Transitional Sentence: *Christians can pray for their nation when they are at war knowing He can bring victory.* They can be steadfast at prayer because they serve a God whose plans will prevail. (Psalm 33:10-11)

While interceding for our President and all in authority there is no need to give God His marching orders, Christians need only to pray as Christ did, Father, "...may your will be done." (Matthew 26:42) Holy Spirit illuminated Christians give praise to God as this psalmist did because they rest in the sovereignty of His providence in the government of the world. The Lord overrules all the counsels of men, and contrary to their intentions makes them serviceable to His counsel in due time.

In Closing: *The Apostle Paul's call is "Urgently pray."* Christians need only to grasp the four truths to praying. They must be willing to pray for those in authority, have faith that God has full control over the president and be diligent in joining with others to pray for our armed forces as they fight the enemy who attacked us, just as the Amalekites did the Israelites. The National Day of Prayer team is asking you to assist them in prayer as Aaron and Hur assisted Moses while He fulfilled his duty in prayer as Joshua and the armies of Israel fought the battles of the Lord.