



The

Victory Voice

Special Patriotic Edition—July / August 2016



Pastor Elmo Parker

The Key to LIBERTY

BY PASTOR ELMO PARKER

Psa 119:40 Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

Psa 119:41 Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, *even* thy salvation, according to thy word.

Psa 119:42 So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.

Psa 119:43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.

Psa 119:44 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

Psa 119:45 And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.

The Psalmist said, "I will walk at liberty: for (or because) I seek Thy Precepts." You will find liberty, not searching for liberty, but by seeking the will of God.

There is a crowd today that loudly proclaim their "Christian liberty!" Yet, their liberty is not Christ like—it is not Christian. Theirs is a supposed liberty to do that which is forbidden in the Word of God. They seek to be worldly or carnal. They run back into the bondage of sin! The Word of God clearly warns us:

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

The Bible talks about those who turn grace into a license to sin!

Jud 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness....

These turn their "freedom" into an opportunity and license to do that which is contrary to God's expressed will! They violate the Law of God and in so doing place themselves again in the bondage

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of sin and are once again the servants of sin! Rather than walk in the liberty of God's precepts they walk contrary to those precepts!

The Broad Way LOOKS like the path to liberty, but the Lord made it plain that it is the Narrow Way that leads to life instead of death. We look at the way which has little or no restrictions and say, "Now, that is the way of liberty." We think that is the easy way, but it is the hard way. The Bible declares, "the way of the transgressor is hard." The "transgressor" is one who walks contrary to the precepts of God. He is NOT walking in liberty, he is walking in bondage! One who walks the narrow way, the way of godly precepts, will testify to the truth and wisdom found in the word of Jesus, who said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Then there is the consideration of where this unholy "liberty" is headed. For the one who is saved but misguided, it will lead to lose of reward when he stands before the Lord. For one who has rejected the gospel because he saw it as binding and too narrow, there awaits only "destruction."

There is a spiritual liberty promised to the people of God. It is found within the boundaries of the precepts of God. Sometimes I wonder if those who are so quick to call anyone who has standards in line with the Word of God a "legalist," every READ THEIR BIBLE!

The Spirit of God moved in the heart and mind of the Apostle Paul and through inspiration Paul gave instruction to God's people concerning their manner of life in this world. These are the words of instruction God gave us:

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

The grace of God brought salvation! Grace, NOT works! However, note that the same grace also tells us how to live! God tells us to:

1. Deny ungodliness
2. Deny worldly lusts
3. Live soberly
4. Live righteously
5. Live godly

We are FREE to live for the Lord! The Book of James tells us how to know the blessing of God in our deeds. Notice:

Jas 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Jas 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Jas 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jas 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Jas 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Notice that my text speaks of the perfect LAW of Liberty. Some will say, "But, we are not under the law." Then, it's alright to murder? It's alright to commit adultery? It's alright to steal? When our Lord died He FULFILLED the Law. Sacrifices and the priesthood are no longer needed or proper, but right is still right and wrong is still wrong! Both "right" and "wrong" are determined by God's precepts. Obedience to those precepts brings the blessing of God and liberty to walk in the presence of the Lord unafraid and unashamed. The Apostle Peter wrote of those who disregard the will of God as far as human behavior is concerned. He wrote:

2Pe 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much wantonness*, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

2Pe 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

America Needs a Declaration of Dependence



by J. Vernon McGee

Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters; they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. (Isaiah 1:4)

Backslidden, sinful nation, laden with iniquity. That expression sends us down the corridors of the centuries, and we hear the Man of Galilee saying to His people, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Now we know that He meant laden with iniquity. His invitation goes out today to those with burdens, and those bowed down with sin, to bring that burden and load to Him and find rest. In this expression, we can hear God still calling America.

Steps Downward

I want you to notice a philosophy of history that we find in God’s Word. The three steps that precede the downfall of any nation are first of all, religious apostasy; second, there is moral awfulness; and third, political anarchy. These are the three steps downward that all the great nations of the past, lying this moment in rubble and ashes, have taken. Rome, for instance, is the classic example. The historian Gibbon gives five reasons for the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. The first step down is the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society. Second, higher and higher taxes, the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace. Third, the mad craze for pleasure, sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral. Fourth, the building of great armaments when the great enemy is within — the decay of individual responsibility. And fifth, the decay of religion, fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people. These were the downward steps that Rome took, Greece took, and which all the great nations of the past have

taken. If God should call America into court today and specify His charges against us, where would He begin?

Political Anarchy

Would He begin with political anarchy? Certainly He could, for the press tells of the open scandal that exists today in high places. In spite of all the smoke, it is obvious to the average citizen that there is some fire. Today in America we have, as I’m sure you recognize, political anarchy. We are in grave danger as a nation. They are trying to doctor that up, trying to patch up the dike by putting in a little plastic here and a little there, and it’s all political expediency. We think if we get a certain party in and a certain party out, or if we get a certain candidate in, we’ve solved the problems of the nation. I do not discuss politics and I’m not doing it now. But, my friend, just changing parties is not what America needs — any more than you can cure cancer by putting on another suit of clothes. God could put His finger down on political anarchy, which is at work in our beloved nation today, but I do not believe that is where He would begin.

Moral Awfulness

Would He begin with moral awfulness? It is obvious that there is a moral breakdown in America that is unprecedented in our history, or the history of any other nation. In one year, Americans have spent 65 billion dollars on alcoholic beverages. Sixty percent of the young people under age 25 have tried some form of illegal drug. Eight billion dollars a year are spent on pornography. Homosexuals have banded together to form one of the most powerful, intimidating forces in politics. One and a half million babies are aborted every year in this country. Surely God could bring a charge of moral awfulness against our nation, but I do not believe that He would begin there.

Now when the Lord Jesus came to Jerusalem, He could have spoken to them about the political situation. John the Baptist as a prophet rebuked Herod, the king, but did you notice that the Lord Jesus did not attempt to straighten out Herod? Other than referring to him as “that fox,” He had no word for Herod whatsoever. Have you ever noticed that He did not attempt to correct the moral condition of the city of Jerusalem? It was corrupt. Why, they even brought to Him a woman taken in adultery and He forgave her.

Religious Apostasy

But I’ll tell you where our Lord did put His finger

(Continued on page 5)

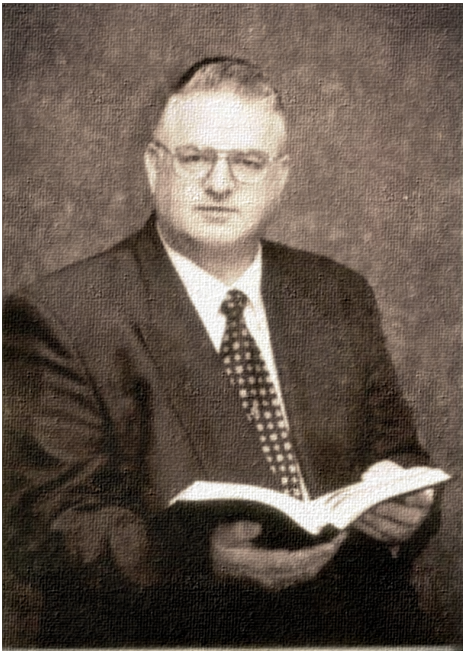
down. It was on religious apostasy. He nearly took the hide off the Pharisees, and they were the fundamentalists of their day. They represented the best in religion. But because their hearts were far from God, they delivered Him to be crucified. Also, in Isaiah's day, God put His finger down on religious apostasy. In a scathing way He denounced His people: To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD; I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts, and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats. (Isaiah 1:11) These people had a God-given religion. They had a God-appointed ritual in a God-constructed temple, but they were wrong in that which represented the very best in their religion. They were bringing sacrifices and going through the ritual according to the letter of the Law, but their hearts were in rebellion against God, and their lives were lived in sin. God says, "I don't want your sacrifices anymore, I don't want you to bring these vain oblations to Me. I don't want these things, for the very simple reason that your heart is far from Me."

Oh, my friend, it's easy to go to church, even be active in the services there, and still have your heart far from God. Where is your heart? Does God have it? Let me paraphrase what God says, "There's no use coming to church, there's no use going through the ritual. It's all a sham and a show — unless your heart is right with Me." What about your heart? Is there spiritual apostasy in this land of ours? Every informed Christian is aware that liberalism and humanism have taken over most of the great denominations of America today. Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, one of the mouthpieces of liberalism, was quoted as saying that liberal Protestantism has been inclined to sacrifice every characteristic Christian insight if it only could thereby prove itself intellectually respectable, but that liberalism finds itself unable to cope with the tragic experiences of our day. The church in America makes no impression on society whatsoever. In Dr. Bernard Bell's book *Crowd Culture*, he states that the 87 million Americans who are associated with some reli-

gious body have no real religious impact on American life. He said, "Most Americans regard the church as a form of a respectable minor art, charming if it happens to appeal to you; its only moral function is to bless whatever the multitude at the moment regards as the American way of life."

Some years back a number of preachers joined in with protest marchers in Chicago. Commenting on that, David Lawrence, a columnist, wrote, "Many clergymen seem to have lost the halo of God's light and to have plunged into the darkness of life itself. What a tragic loss to the community in which this happens." There was a time when the preacher was called the "parson," which meant the "person" of the town. That was true in America at the beginning, but now doctors lead the list: doctors, bankers, scientists, military leaders, educators, corporate heads, psychiatrists, U.S. Supreme Court Justices, local retailers, and then the clergy — and after them, Congressmen. That's where the clergy is today, but they belong at the bottom of the list because the church is no longer declaring forth the Word of God. Someone has said, "The pulpit today has become a sounding board only to declare what people want to hear instead of being a voice in the wilderness speaking for God."

That is the picture of America, and it's not any better in most fundamental churches today, and I think I know them real well. How Did It Happen? Pandora's box of troubles was opened for America back at the turn of the century when professing Christians deserted the midweek service and then, after the first World War, deserted the Sunday night service. And before long there was no difference between the leading deacon's language and that of the local bartender. Dr. Walter F. Tunks of the University of Akron said, "In the last six thousand years, there have been twenty-one civilizations, and every one of them has gone on the rocks precisely at the point where they let God go." It was indeed interesting to find in the staid Wall Street Journal, when the Depression first began, a brief editorial that went something like this: "What America needs more than railway extension, western irrigation, a low tariff, a bigger cotton crop, and a larger wheat crop is a revival of religion. The kind that father and mother used to have. A religion that counted it good business to take time for



Dr. Andrew Tully



A PERSONAL WORD FROM ONE SATISFIED CUSTOMER WHO IS GLAD TO LIVE IN AMERICA

November 24, 1945, in a little hospital in a little town called Gloucester, just a little south of London, a little 5-foot 4-inch mother and 5-foot 6-inch daddy brought into the world their seventh and final child, a big fat bouncing baby boy – and on that day I discovered England!

*Six-and-a-half years later, almost to the day, after crossing the Atlantic Ocean aboard a modern Ocean Liner, my mother, my father, two brothers, one sister, and I all walked down the plank in New York Harbor under the watchful eye of that majestic lady, the Statute of Liberty, and I set foot for the first time on the soil of the land that is free because of the brave! **ON THAT DAY I DISCOVERED AMERICA!***

*When “I discovered America,” although I did not realize it at the time (I was only 6 years old), I discovered a country where I would grow up with the opportunity to get the **BEST EDUCATION** afforded anywhere in the world. That academic excellence that I was offered has long been discarded and we in this country have settled for a second-rate education standard, to say the least! However, when America became my permanent home, the education standard in all academic subjects was the best in the world! Hence, I had the opportunity of a life-time to get the best education that this world had to offer.*

*Not only the advantage of the highest quality educational opportunity, but there were other privileges that came with living in the United States. I grew up with the knowledge that I could call “my home” a country that was **FOUNDED BY GOD-FEARING, BIBLE-BELIEVING MEN AND WOMEN** who were seeking freedom from the oppression of English tyranny. They were seeking to establish a place where men and women could worship God according to the dictates of their hearts, without the religious oppression forced upon them by a state Church (the Church of England). (Anyone who doesn’t think that this country was founded and settled by God-fearing men with God-fearing principles is simply ignorant of American history!)*

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM is one of the greatest blessings that this country offers. I am aware that “Christians” have become the bad guys under our present administration, and that other pagan religions have become the good guys. But we still have the freedom to worship the God of the Bible without fear of being imprisoned or persecuted. Let us enjoy it and thank God for it while we can!

However, the thing for which I thank God for bringing us to America – we arrived here on June 22, 1952 – more than any other reason is: it was here that I met a man who invited me to come to Sunday School with his family. It was in America that I heard the Gospel for the first time. It was in America that a man named Roy Bultena took a Bible, showed me John 3:16, and **LED ME TO JESUS CHRIST**.

If God in His Divine Providence hadn’t worked it out so that my dad felt impressed to come to this country in June of 1952, more likely than not I would be either in Hell today or fast on my way there. Therefore – the reason that I am **MOST THANKFUL** for living in America is: although this was not the place of my physical birth, **IT WAS THE PLACE OF MY SPIRITUAL BIRTH**. It was here, in San Pablo, California, that I made the greatest discovery of all time! I discovered forgiveness of sin! I discovered peace that passes all understanding! I discovered joy unspeakable and full of glory! I discovered the thrill of knowing that Heaven is my home and Christ is my Saviour! All, largely, because my dad kept a promise he had made to his mother some thirty years earlier – that he would one day bring his family to this great land!

Is this country perfect? Not on your life! Is it of a moral and religious mindset? Not on your life! However, I would like to challenge anyone to find another country where there are more freedoms enjoyed than we enjoy here! If there is such a place, I have never heard of it!

Oh! By the way! It is in this wonderful country that I have had the awesome privilege of **PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST AND TEACHING THE BIBLE** for 53 years! For a total of 43 of those 53 years I have had the awesome privilege of traveling to over forty states in this great land for the express purpose of preaching and teaching the Word of God! And guess what! I have not been accosted by any government officials or gestapo-type police and stopped from exercising my God-given privilege of doing so!

I have said all of this to let you know that I am one happy camper and satisfied customer - and I can honestly say that, with all of her imperfections and moral and spiritual evils, the United States of America is **STILL the BEST PLACE ON EARTH** to live! I can testify from personal experience: there is no place on earth anywhere near this place quite like this place! This must be the place!

Now, I realize that this is not a spiritual sermon! There is not an awful lot of theology or biblical doctrine in this brief article! It is merely the outpourings of the heart of one immigrant (legal) who is thankful to God for His Providential working out of all the details that brought one six-year-old across the Atlantic Ocean so that he could hear the Gospel, be saved, and then have the freedom to invest his life in the work of the ministry! Hallelujah for the land that is free because of the brave!



AMERICA: THE VERY BEST ON EARTH!

by D. W. Board Sr., Th.D.

Down through the years I have had folks complain about their jobs. The conversation would go something like this:

"This is a lousy job! They don't pay me enough and I have to work too long of hours!"

"Why don't you go get a better job?"

"Well, I can't."

"Why do you mean, you can't?"

"Well, they won't hire me!"

"You mean this 'lousy job' is the best job you can get?"

"YUP!"

"Well, praise the Lord! You have the very best job you can get!"

Friend, don't you think that a man should be happy if he has the very BEST job that he can get? Shouldn't he be glad in his heart for the blessing of God upon his ability to provide for himself and his family? If he is NOT content he is unthankful and rebellious in his heart. The Apostle Paul said concerning himself, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content." (Philippians 4:11)

Please allow me to take this principle and apply it to our wonderful country. Yes, I said wonderful! Friend, we live in the most wonderful country in the world!!! With all of the faults we could innumerate, the list of GOOD things about these untied states is MUCH LONGER! It was the late and great President Lincoln who said, *"If you look for the bad in people expecting to find it, you surely will."* If you and I look for the bad around us we will not have to look far. All we need do is to look in the mirror! If we are looking for the bad in our mate we will find it! If we are looking for the bad in our church,

we will find it! If we go looking for the bad in America we must not expect that it will take long to find it.

If this is NOT the greatest country on earth then which country IS? If you know the greatest then GO THERE! Don't settle for less! You are free to leave. You are free to stay. You are FREE in this less than perfect land of ours! You need only board a plane or ship and you are on your way to that perfect land you know of!

Could it be that we would have to ask as did the Lord's disciples, "...where shall we go....?" The fact of the matter is THERE IS NO GREATER PLACE TO GO ON THIS EARTH!

Who is reading this article and is starving to death? I mean literally STARVING! Many in this world are starving today and MANY more would be if it were not for the less than perfect United States of America!

Who is reading this, Victory Voice Magazine and is using a dim flash light in a darkened room—fearful of being discovered reading Christian writings—a crime punished by death or dismemberment! If it should be that you disagree with the content of this magazine you may SAY SO and you will not be punished! You are FREE to express your beliefs or your unbelief.

We still, *"...hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."* There is still evil intention on the part of some, but the law of the land is equality among ALL of our people!

You may live anywhere you can afford to live. You may work anywhere you are qualified to work. You may worship whatever god you will, or not worship anything but yourself. You are FREE!

Our government has a conscience toward those who

cannot care for themselves. To its fault it even cares for those who WILL NOT provide for themselves! If one finds himself begging on the street there is not anyone to be blamed but the one whose hand is extended!

I cannot in this brief article list all of the wonderful blessings of living in the United States of America. I simply ask you to stop for a moment and ask God to bless our land! Your first reaction is, "Bro. Board, God cannot and will not bless America as she is today! Why, we kill babies! We allow homosexual marriage, etc. God cannot bless us!"

Beloved, the greatest **blessing** that could fall upon our land is a GOD SENT REVIVAL! Now, don't turn me off yet! I'm afraid that we have confused folks with the true meaning of revival. Only SAVED people can be revived! Only saved people who are walking in sin CAN be revived or NEED to be revived. If God's children were living as "God's children" they would not need revival! If they lived separated, dedicated, godly lives and witnessed as they should, they would NOT NEED REVIVAL! We are not going to clean up our act enough that God can send revival! We will "clean up" AFTER God sends revival! Following are the words of the Psalmist:

Psa 85:4 Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease.

Psa 85:5 Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations?

Psa 85:6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Psa 85:7 Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.

Psa 85:8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

Psa 85:9 Surely his salvation *is* nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

Psa 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

Psa 85:11 Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Psa 85:12 Yea, the LORD shall give *that which is good*; and our land shall yield her increase.

We desperately NEED revival and revival comes from God. Dear God, please send revival to our land. Please send revival to our homes and our churches! Send revival to those in government who know you and salvation to those who don't know your! Dear God, "BLESS AMERICA" with revival.

Our nation is the greatest even with our national and personal sins. How wonderful would it be if only I were all that I could be for Him? How wonderful would it be if our churches were once again the lighthouses they used to be?

"While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer. "

Please join me in asking of our Lord:

God Bless America,

Land that I love.

Stand beside her, and guide her

Thru the night with a light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies,

To the oceans, white with foam

God bless America, My home sweet home.

Remember, we must be thankful for God's very best that He has raised up and entrusted to our keeping!

family worship each morning right in the middle of wheat harvest. A religion that prompted them to quit work a half hour earlier on Wednesday so that the whole family could get ready to go to prayer meeting.” America’s problem is the same today; it is a spiritual problem.

Listen to God as He continues His charge against Judah: Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot bear; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. (Isaiah 1:13) They were guilty of rebellion against Him. They were bringing the sacrifices, but they needed to remember Samuel’s words to Saul, “...To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Samuel 15:22). I am wondering, if the Lord Jesus came to our churches today, would He commend us? Would He compliment us for our faithfulness to Him? Would He tell us how much He appreciates our taking time out to attend the services and how grateful He is for all we are giving to Him? I think not! The One who has “feet like fine bronze,” whose “eyes were like a flame of fire,” and from whose mouth there goes a “sharp two-edged sword” would not commend us.

I think He would tell us that all of our outward form, all of our lovely testimonies and loud profession were making Him sick. Would He not tell us that we needed to repent and come in humility to Him? Surely there is a warning to the churches of America. Our difficulty today is basically spiritual, and until the professing church repents and has revival, there is no hope for America. A Strange Sentence Let us return to the vision of Isaiah. In the courtroom the defendant is now in the box and has been found guilty. All of the charges proffered have been proven; the verdict of the jury is in, and we are ready to hear the sentence of the Judge. It is a strange sentence. In fact, we stand amazed and aghast at this Judge. Listen to Him,

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

He is saying to the people of Judah, “Settle your case out of court. Do not force Me to render sentence — ‘Agree with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way with him...’” (Matthew 5:25). God

says that He has a secret formula, a divine alchemy, a potent prescription, a powerful potion, a heavenly elixir that will take out sin. It is not a secret formula like the atomic bomb, but it is more potent! It’s the blood of Jesus Christ that He shed on the cross for you and me. You will find it in Isaiah 53 as the One more marred, who suffered more, who died differently, who was wounded for our transgressions. And because He paid the penalty, the Judge is able now to extend mercy to us.

Is not God calling America to settle its case out of court? There are those today who say that since we’re the greatest nation in the world, we cannot be brought down, that we today have the most sophisticated weapons. May I say to you, it might be well for us to remember that in the past, during World War II, they said that the Maginot line of defense in France was quite impregnable. It was not. They said that one of the generals would defeat the invaders of Poland when the Nazis went in. He did not. They said that tanks could not possibly cross the Dutch canals or the Greek mountains — but tanks did. They said that Singapore could not be taken. It was. They said the Philippines could be defended. They could not be. They said that airplanes would never sink a battleship, but they did. They said that Germany would run short of oil in 1940, but their oil held out. They said that Germany and Russia would never go to war. They did. They said that Japan would be defeated in six months. She wasn’t. They said the Dutch East Indies would beat off all attacks. They didn’t. And on and on, my beloved. And today if America thinks we can hide back of our sophisticated weaponry and be safe — may I say, it’s a foolish position.

Independence or Dependence

I close with the stories of two men. Aaron Burr was a grandson of the great Jonathan Edwards who came to Princeton to conduct meetings while Aaron Burr was a student. There was a great spiritual movement in the school. One night when Jonathan Edwards preached on the subject, “The Mastery of Jesus,” Aaron Burr was deeply stirred, and he went to the room of one of his professors to talk to him about making a decision for Jesus. The professor urged him not to make any decision be-

(Continued on page 14)

AMERICA'S GREATEST NEED!

by Dr. R. B. Lakin

"...The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory."

Jer. 4:2



The following sermon by Dr. B. R. Lakin entitled "America's Greatest Need" was read into the Congressional Record by the Honorable Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn of South Carolina on October 3, 1968.

In these days of national strife and international confusion, when the seeds of hatred are being cultivated in the hotbeds of radicalism, let us throw back our shoulders, double up our fists, rough with the calluses of honest toil, and stand up for true, fundamental, godly Americanism. The Bible teaches patriotism, and patriotism was the light that burned in the hearts of the faithful in the midnight gloom of the dark ages.

It was the torch that lit the fires of the Reformation. It was the rock upon which Western civilization survives the onslaught of the Red Scourge, it will be Christian patriotism that will fuel the lamps of truth and provide morale for the fight for freedom. America has many privileges, but it also has great responsibilities. Our freedom was obtained at a great price. Our first responsibility is to God, but we are duty bound to our beloved country.

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Rom. 13:1

WE enjoy the benefits of a land founded in faith, baptized in blood and dedicated to the freedom of worship. I would like, by the help of the Spirit, to revive within our hearts some of the great ideals that have made America the "Hub," the very center upon which the world revolves. I would like to stir up our souls with a renewed national zeal and a closer walk with God, without whom no nation can succeed.

1. We Need A Sense Of Gratitude

One day in every year we celebrate Thanksgiving, but one day out of 365 is not enough. Americans should thank God every day that we live in "the land of the four freedoms." Every day we should thank God for the sacrifice of blood, sweat, privation, even death, on the part of the multiplied thousands of our heroic dead. Had it not been for their standing between us and the iron hand of fascism and Nazism, we might not be commemorating their sacrifice. Instead, we might be goose-stepping at the heels of storm troopers and taking our orders from them instead of the Bible being read in our beloved

(Continued on page 12)

homes. Mein Kampf might now be our textbook. Instead of blending our free voices in the singing of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," we might be "Heiling" and saluting the swastika. Let us bow our heads in humility and our hearts in reverence and gratitude to a merciful God who has brought us national deliverance.

A. We should be grateful for the righteous birth of our native land. Other nations were born in the blood of plundering conquest, but not America. Our nation was conceived in the noble hearts of courageous, righteous men. She was born in the throes of holy prayer at Plymouth Rock, cradled by the strong hand of stalwart faith, nourished at the bosom of living, vital, sincere religion, fed on the wholesome food of the highest ideals and developed to her towering stature under the smiling approval of Almighty God. America stands today a fortress of freedom, loved by all free men, respected by the liberty-loving peoples of the earth, feared by the enemies of God and human liberty. With the shadows of communism deepening upon every continent, America holds high the torch of faith, light and hope for the downtrodden peoples of the world.

B. We should be grateful for our natural, industrial and scientific resources with which we have been blessed. Because of our giving God His rightful place at the outset of our national life, God smiled--and gold poured from the rocky crags of the Gold West. God smiled--and wide acres of grain sprang from the soil of the Middle West. God smiled--and the picturesque hills of the East yielded black gold in ample abundance to warm our hearths and turn the wheels of industry.

God smiled--and the automobile, the airplane and a thousand and one industrial miracles took place before our eyes. God smiled--and has seen to it that Old Glory has never dipped her colors to any atheistic, God-hating, man-enslaving country. God smiled--and our scientists brought into being the atomic and nuclear bombs, which are destined to be those paradoxical instruments of destruction to save men from destruction.

Today, we stand in a precarious position in regard to our national life. We as a nation must do nothing to invoke the frown of Almighty God. Our course must be such as to keep Heaven's smile upon our beloved country.

We stand at the crossroads. To the left lie the bogs of extreme liberalism, socialism and the inevitable drift into communism. To the right lie the timeworn swamps of ultra-conservatism, which leads to monopolies of certain groups at the expense of other groups. We must keep in the middle of the road and prayerfully seek the guidance of God or our nation will go the way of all their nations in past history--into oblivion. It is the approval of God that makes a country great, not the genius of statesmen, not merely the form of government, not the energy of its people, but the level of the national morals and the depth of national faith in God.

C. We should be thankful for our homes. Though many of our citizens have brought reproach on the American home by their selfish and loose living, it still remains our greatest heritage. The meaning of the word home is so foreign to some peoples of the world that the equivalent of the word is not even in their language. The American traveler abroad, when he sees the condition existing in some foreign families, comes into a new appreciation of our home life in this country.

2. We need a Greater Consciousness of Our Responsibility

The forces of anti-Americanism and anti-Christianity are at work in our beloved land. Most of their work is sinister and under cover; but like leaven, they seek to eventually leaven the whole lump of our way of life and supplant regimented, centralized totalitarianism for old-fashioned, red-blooded, stalwart Americanism. This leaven of atheism is found in high places as well as low. No nation ever survived a moral collapse. When Rome was in the zenith of her power and glory, sin started to eat like a canker at the heart of her national morals. Her politicians became weak, flabby and spineless. She became morally weak and spiritually depraved. One night while the Roman politicians were engaged in a shameful, drunken orgy in the resort town of Pompeii, the fires of God's judgment were raging not far distant in the bowels of famous old Mt. Vesuvius, the volcanic mountain. As the night wore on, the sin and debauchery became more pronounced in Pompeii. There came a weird, sickly rumbling from the adjacent mountain. For years Vesuvius had been quiet and asleep, but the hour of God's judgment had arrived. As the revelers continued their sinful indulgence, Vesuvius quivered with a mighty quake, and the top of the volcano was blown completely away as a surging river of flaming, molten rock poured down the mountain in a death-dealing torrent. There was no hope of escape. The door of God's mercy was closed for these Roman renegades. As the lava swiftly overwhelmed the city, 25,000 people were buried beneath the flood of molten rock. This was the beginning of Rome's end as a nation. It all began when sin and lust supplanted the love for God and when gratification of the lower appetites took the place of noble character.

Every American, in these days of confusion and moral crisis, has an individual responsibility to God and his country. Not only do we have our own souls to save, but we have a great country to protect from the fate which has overtaken other civilizations just as strong as ours.

3. America Needs a Higher, Nobler and a More Sincere Faith in God

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Prov. 14:34

What we are as a nation we owe to our underlying faith in God: the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock on their knees; Washington at Valley Forge praying for guidance and strength in the crisis of battle; Lincoln calling the country to national repentance in the midst of civil conflict. These are memorable portraits of our basic faith in God as a nation. If we have any success as a nation, we must attribute the glory, the honor and the praise to a benevolent God who has guided, with omnipotent hand, the course and destiny of our fair land. In most of our wars, many of our greatest generals were professed Christians, and their decisions and strategy were mingled with sincere prayer and dependence upon Almighty God. It is significant that our enemies, as far as I know, could not boast of one Christian general in their military personnel. Japan with her warlords and Germany with her atheistic Nazi leaders did not have one military commander who sought the wisdom of God in their military endeavors. Today, as far as I know, none of our enemies are Christians. Could any fair individual say the prayers offered by devoted mothers and by the churches all over America had nothing to do in bringing about victory for our armed forces? Suffice it to say, the enemy forces, which refused to honor God by seeking His wisdom through prayer, went down in bitter defeat and their systems vanished into oblivion as all civilizations have which left God out of their program. Abraham Lincoln struck a keynote when he said, "The important thing is not that we have God on our side, but that we make sure we are on His side."

(Continued on page 14)

Faith in God often becomes the balance of power when two matched forces are joined in combat; or, more often, the victory often goes to inferior forces when God's power and blessing are upon their efforts. As Moses said,

"How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?" Deut. 32:30

I would rather the citizens of our beloved America should know Christ personally than for America to have the greatest military might in the world. I would rather have it said that we are a people who love God and worship Him than for America to have the security of the atomic bomb. I would rather that Americans should be reverent and humble in their attitude toward Jesus, the Son of God, than to have the rest of the world acclaim us as the mightiest of the nations. I want to close in the spirit of that touching little poem.

"I MET THE MASTER."

I had walked life's way with an easy tread,
Had followed where comforts and pleasure led;
And then one day in a quiet place,
I met the Master, face to face.

With station and rank and wealth for a goal;
Much thought for the body, but none for the soul;
I had thought to win in life's mad race,
When I met the Master, face to face.

I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see
Those eyes full of sorrow were turned on me;
And I faltered and fell at His feet that day,
While all my castles melted away--

Melted and vanished, and in their place
I saw nought else but the Master's face;
And I cried aloud, "Oh, make me meet
To follow the steps of the wounded feet."

And now my thoughts are for the souls of men;
I've lost my life, to find it again,
E'er since that day in a quiet place
I met the Master, face to face.

Author Unknown

cause of an emotional appeal, but to wait until after the meetings were over. Aaron Burr postponed making a decision, and he went on to murder a great American and to betray his country. When he was an old man, a young man came to him and said, "Mr. Burr, I want you to meet a Friend of mine." Aaron Burr said, "Who is he?" The young man replied, "He is Jesus Christ, the Savior of my soul." A cold sweat broke out on the forehead of Aaron Burr, and he replied, "Sixty years ago I told God that if He would let me alone, I would let Him alone, and He has kept His word!"

Another American, John Hancock, was the first man to sign the Declaration of Independence because he had listened to John Witherspoon, the only preacher who signed the Declaration of Independence. John Witherspoon had spoken on the words of Jesus, when He said, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved..." (John 10:9). On the way home, John Hancock mused over this. He said to himself, "I have always admired Witherspoon. I thought he was a logical, intelligent man. But tonight he didn't make sense to me. How can Jesus Christ be a door? How can I enter in?" He walked on until he came to his lovely home and then at the door began to fumble for his key — a big key in that day. He found it, put it in the lock and turned it. As he did, he pushed the door open and stepped into the hallway. And there sat his family, and he said, "Oh, I see." They all began to laugh and they said, "Of course, you see. You were in the darkness and you stepped into the light." "Oh," he said, "I see something else. I see that Jesus is the door and that faith is the key. And just as I put the key in the door and came into this house physically, at that moment, I put the key of faith in the door, and Jesus Christ has brought me into the light."

America today needs to come to that door, a door that will be opened wide if only the key of faith is put in there. America needs not a Declaration of Independence — we have that — we need a Declaration of Dependence upon God and upon Christ in this crisis hour in which we live. That is the way out for America, and that is the way out for you and for me.

THIS IS THE LATTER PORTION OF AN ARTICLE BY THE SAME NAME. THE WHOLE ARTICLE COULD NOT BE USED BECAUSE OF RESTRICTED SPACE.

Written by J. Vernon McGee, www.ttb.org

THAT RAGGED OLD FLAG

I walked through a county courthouse square,
On a park bench an old man was sitting there.
I said, "Your old courthouse is kinda run down."
He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town."
I said, "Your flagpole has leaned a little bit,
And that's a Ragged Old Flag you got hanging on it."

He said, "Have a seat", and I sat down.
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"
I said, "I think it is." He said, "I don't like to brag,
But we're kinda proud of that Ragged Old Flag."

"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there
When Washington took it across the Delaware.
And it got powder-burned the night Francis Scott Key
Sat watching it writing _Oh Say Can You See_.
And it got a bad rip in New Orleans
With Packingham and Jackson tuggin' at its seams."

"And it almost fell at the Alamo
Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on though.
She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg,
And the south wind blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag."

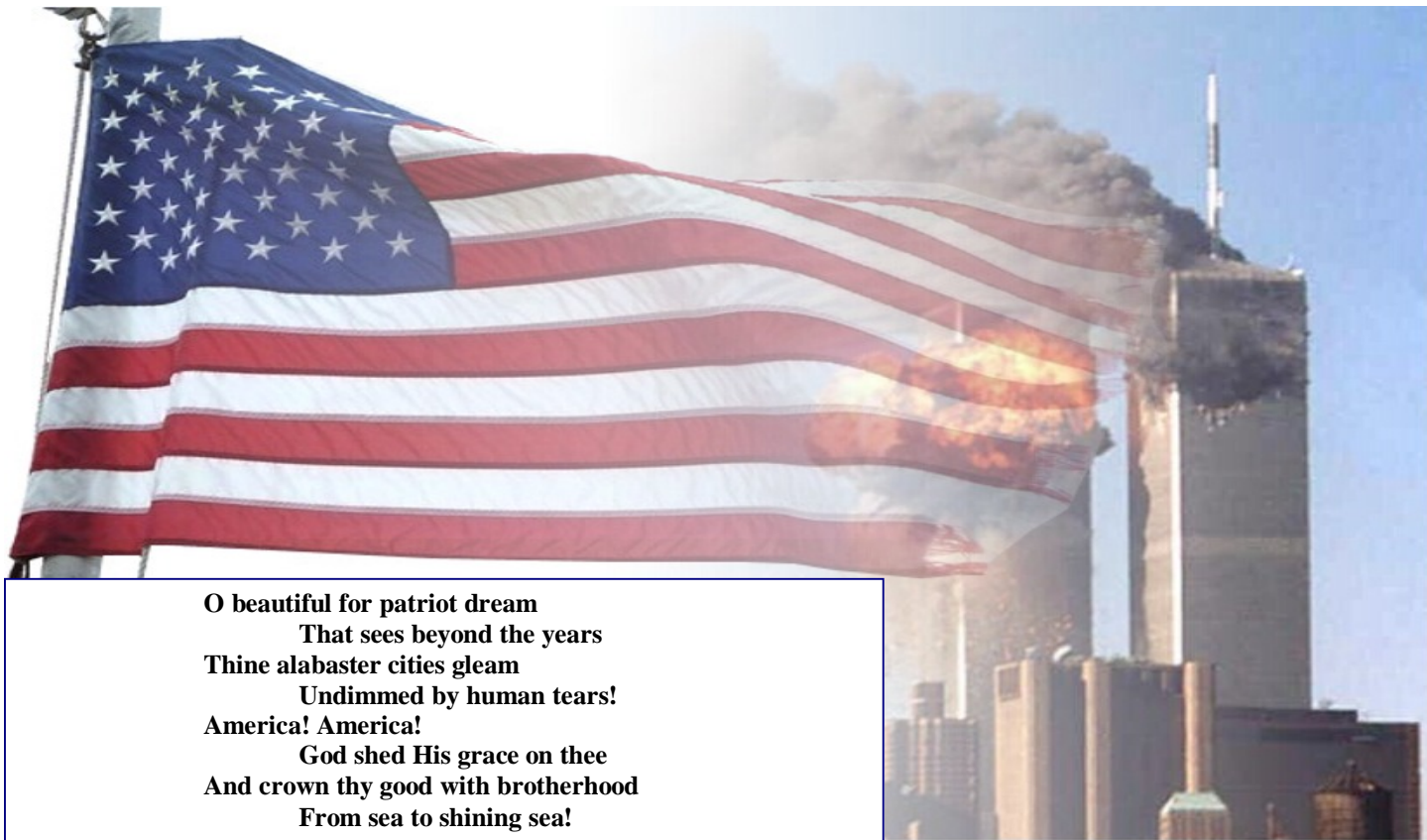
"On Flanders Field in World War I
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.
She turned blood red in World War II
She hung limp and low by the time it was through.
She was in Korea and Vietnam.
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam."



"She waved from our ships upon the briny foam,
And now they've about quit waving her back at home.
In her own good land she's been abused --
She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused."

"And the government for which she stands
Is scandalized throughout the land.
And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin,
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in.
'Cause she's been through the fire before
And I believe she can take a whole lot more."

"So we raise her up every morning,
Take her down every night.
We don't let her touch the ground
And we fold her up right.
On second thought I DO like to brag,
'Cause I'm mighty proud of that Ragged Old Flag."



O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

From the Church that Cares about You!

The Victory Voice
Route 2, Box 2577
Piedmont, MO 63957

TO:

Contents:

The Key to Liberty—Dr. Parker—p. 2

America Needs a Declaration
of Dependence—J. Vernon McGee—p. 4

A Personal Word from One Satisfied Customer Who
is Glad to Live in America—Dr. Tully—p. 6

America: The Very Best on Earth—Dr. Board—p. 8

America's Greatest Need—Dr. R. B. Lakin—p. 11

That Ragged Old Flag! - p. 15