

“Key Priorities for a Nation!”

2 Chronicles 7:11-18

Intro. – The glorious Temple of the Lord had been completed and was now being dedicated. God made a promise to Solomon and to Israel. Let’s look more closely at that promise. I pray we see that promise is to these United States of America. **“If America will humble herself, pray and seek My face and turn from her wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive her sins, and will heal her land.”**

I love America – the land of the free and the home of the brave. But America is hurting. She needs healing and God alone is the One Who is able to heal her! The remainder of the message will focus on *Key Priorities for a Nation!*” America’s greatness stems from nothing less than a total reliance and trust in God. In the foundational years of this nation, God was unquestionably the Head. History records our priorities as a new nation were foundationally in God! And because of this historical fact – God blessed America!!

Our text calls for repentance. America needs to repent. America needs to seek “the ancient paths” and get back to those key priorities that made her not just a good nation, but a GREAT nation!

Purpose: to reexamine key principles that need to once again become our priorities as a nation

The following six principles are in no specific order, but they are principles that made America great in the past and will once again restore her greatness both now and into the future:

I The Principle of GOD-CENTERED EDUCATION

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead, and you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*
- the very beginning stages of our education “system” was grounded in God’s Book – the Bible
 - the Bible was the primary text book for learning...
 - schools were simply “Bible Schools” and “Colleges”... Early Ivy Leagues Schools = Bible Colle.
- in recent years, the name of God has literally been removed from our public schools:
 - voluntary prayers has been banned, creationism is no longer taught, and the posting of 10 Commandments is forbidden on public buildings. Why? All done in the name of “Separation of Church and State.”
- frankly our public schools are under the influence of humanism rather than God – the results are clear..
 - get on the web sites of DOE (Dept. of Education) and the NEA (National Education Assoc.) – you will find everything imaginable BUT not one mention of God, the Bible, Truth etc.
 - millions of young people are sitting entombed in an education system that not only omits God, but openly attacks and contradicts God as our Creator, Redeemer and Ruler.
- what made America great in the beginning will help restore her greatness!

II The Principle of MODESTY AND COMMON DECENCY

- Ephesians 5:3-5 *“But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”*
- what is true for an individual is certainly true for a nation
 - where has modesty and common decency gone?
 - today, pornography is a 7 to 8 billion dollar industry in America
 - television/movies are peppered with obscenity, vulgarity and profanity (Illus. – Shrek = cute movie but the language is appalling)
- our nation was founded upon common decency and modesty – what made America great in the beginning will help restore her greatness!

III The Principle of THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

- Proverbs 24:11-12 *“Deliver those who are being taken away to death, and those who are staggering to slaughter, O hold them back. If you say, ‘See, we did not know this,’ does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?”*
- these verses speak to the *sanctity of human life*. It covers the whole spectrum of threats to human life – abortion, euthanasia, infanticide etc.
 - Illus. – a war protestor shakes his fist in the policeman’s face and calls him an unthinkable name... A man seethes with hatred/anger toward a man who just sat beside him. Why? Because this man had a little more pigment in his skin... A young woman enters a clinic and has an abortion... What do these have in common? They all show contempt for human life.
- America is certainly showing contempt for human life:
 - when the headline of the day is the saving of whales and the earth; yet, in the same day literally hundreds of babies are aborted in the name of *freedom, choice and law* something is wrong!
 - 1973 (Roe vs Wade) Supreme Court ruled innocent/defenseless babies have no right to live
 - this blatantly and shamelessly violates one of the basic moral principles US was founded!
 - Illus. – candidate for public office who purports *choice and a woman’s rights*... call it a litmus test... they don’t deserve our vote!
- This nation was founded on the principle of the dignity of human life – what made America great in the beginning and it is what will help restore her greatness!

IV The Principle of FREEDOM

- John 8:32 *“An you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*
- Freedom was in the forefront of our founders’ intent. They TRUTH was essential for freedom and that God’s Word, the Bible was TRUTH!
 - yet, secular society is systematically trying to close the door to true freedom
 - Daniel Webster expressed it well, “God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard it!”
- Are we “unashamed of truth?” Do we really love truth and are we always ready to promote, defend and live truth?!
- This nation was founded on the principle of freedom – it’s what made America great in the beginning and will help restore her greatness today!

V The Principle of THE HOME

- Ephesians 5:28-33 *“So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.”*
- The home is one of two divine institutions in this present world
 - just how important is the home?
 - contempt for marriage and the home is blatant (current same sex unions... applications of marriage licenses... television...)
 - better than 2/3 kids coming 1st Care do not have “normal homes”...
- What can we do about this?
 - give marriage/home the exalted position God intended it to have...
 - teach kids, grandkids, the roles men, women and young people given by God
 - learn that *things* don’t bring happiness and contentment
 - start influencing the world and not let the world influence us!
- Wm Ross Wallace said it well, “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world”
- Joshua (inspired by God) said it best 24:15 *“...choose for yourselves today whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

This nation was founded on the principle of the home... It’s what will help restore her greatness today!

VI The Principle of CHRIST'S CHURCH

- Ephesians 5:25 *"Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her."*
- Bible makes clear this is the 2nd of two divine institutions in this world today...
- Lord's Church has a divine *purpose* (win and build...) and a divine *pattern* (how to win and build)
 - through the Church, "disciples" are to be made...
- As the home goes, so goes the Church – as the Church goes, so goes the Home.
 - as the Church and the Home go – so goes the nation!
- Our nation was founded on the principle of religious freedom – freedom to worship and serve the King of kings and Lord of lords – what made America great then and will restore her greatness.

Conclusion: Francis Schaeffer (author and theologian) said that our age is characterized by 2 principles:

1) Personal Peace

- such comes at any price...

2) Affluence

- Illustrated this by referring to Alexander Solzhenitsyn who tells how Russian people would kneel inside their apartments pressing their ears to listen when the KGB would come at midnight to arrest their neighbors. Solzhenitsyn says that if the people would simply had come out of their apartments and driven off the KGB, sheer public opinion would have stopped the effort to subdue a free people. But, their own personal peace was more important to them.

America's priorities are all messed up. We need to repent. We need to get our priorities right

Peter Marshall said it well: "The choice before us is plain. Christ or chaos, conviction or compromise, discipline or disintegration. I am rather tired of hearing about our rights and privileges as American citizens. The time has come, it now is when we ought to hear about the duties and responsibilities of our citizenship..."

God, however says it best: *"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."*