

## KEEPING AMERICA GREAT

I Timothy 2:1-4

July 1, 2007 Sunday a.m.

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Only In America...

- Only in America are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.
- Only in America do drug stores make the sick walk all the way in the back to get their prescriptions ... while healthy people can buy suntan lotion up front.
- Only in America do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a DIET coke.
- Only in America do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway, and fill our garages with junk.
- Only in America do we buy hotdogs in packages of 10, and buns in packages of 8.
- Only in America do we have Braille on drive up ATM machines.

#### B. We live in a great country, don't we?

1. For example, several years ago, Richard DeVos, co-founder of Amway Corporation, made a comparison of America and what was then the Soviet Union. He told what America would have to do to equal Russia.
  - We would have to rip up 13 of every 14 miles of our paved highways.
  - We'd have to scrap 19 of every 20 cars and trucks and destroy over 2,000 colleges.
  - We'd have to destroy 7 of every 10 single-family houses and cut our living standard by 2/3rds.
2. America is truly a great country, but how can we be sure to keep it that way?
3. The Apostle Paul offers two suggestions for keeping our country great-2 Timothy 2:1-4.

### I. FIRST, WE CAN PRAY FOR AMERICA TO STAY A GREAT COUNTRY.

#### A. America started out as a great nation because it was founded on Christian principles and ideals. For example.

1. The Pilgrims who came to Plymouth Rock on the Mayflower, wrote the Mayflower Compact in 1620. Listen to what they said: "In the name of God. Amen. Having undertaken for the glory of God and for the advancement of the Christian faith, do solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, covenant and combine ourselves together."
2. Twenty-three years later, the New England Confederation was written. Listen to what our founding fathers wrote: "Whereas we all came into these parts with one and the same end and aim, namely to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity and peace."
3. When the first Continental Congress met, and were debating about how the Declaration of Independence should be written, Ben Franklin got up and said – "Gentlemen, if it is true that not one single petal from any flower falls to the ground without escaping God's attention, will the distress of this nation go unheeded? Let us therefore determine to seek His face." After having said that, 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence went to their knees and began to pray and seek God's wisdom. Can you imagine what would happen if that were to happen in our Congress and Supreme Court today and they said: "Almighty God, what do You want for this nation?"
4. Fifty-56 brave men signed our Declaration of Independence. Do you realize the PRICE that they paid for YOUR independence and the freedoms YOU enjoy?
  - 5 were captured and tortured by the British before they died.
  - 12 had their homes ransacked and burned to the ground.
  - 2 lost their sons in the American Revolution.
  - 1 had 2 sons captured in the war.
  - 9 fought and died from wounds of the Revolutionary War.

#### B. Men and women in the past paid a high price to make America a great nation. What can we do to keep it great? The Apostle Paul says first, pray for your country-2 Timothy 2:1-2a.

## **II. SECOND, WE CAN LIVE RESPECTABLE CHRISTIAN LIVES TO KEEP AMERICA GREAT.**

- A. Do you know where the framers of our Constitution came up with the idea of having three branches of government? The Bible-Isaiah 33:22.
  - 1. "Judge"-the judicial branch.
  - 2. "Lawgiver"-the legislative branch.
  - 3. "King"-the executive branch.
- B. Today, however, there are attempts to take God and the Bible out of our country. For example....
  - 1. Some want to take "in God we trust" off or money.
  - 2. Some want to take "under God" out of our flag pledge.
  - 3. Some have been successful in removing the Ten Commandments from schools and other public buildings.
  - 4. When the World War II monument was dedicated in Washington D.C. it had President Franklin D. Roosevelt's announcement of the attack on Pearl Harbor inscribed on it. However, his last four words were left off----"so help us God!"
- C. What can we possibly do today to keep America great?
  - 1. Paul says we can live respectable and godly lives as an example for others-2 Timothy 2:2b-4.
  - 2. He also said it in Titus 2:9-10.

### **CONCLUSION**

- A. We live in a great nation, but great nations come and go, Rome being but one example.
- B. We can help keep America great, though, if we pray for it and live godly examples before others—Psalms 33:12.