**Blessed Is The Nation Whose God Is The Lord**

Isaiah 33:20-22; Galatians 6:1-10; Luke 10;1-20; Psalm 33 7.7.19

Note: Much of this sermon came from books by David Barton, “WallBuilders.”

 We’ve gone a longways away from our roots as Americans. So, one of my goals this morning is to do a little bit of education. In fact, this message is more of a history lesson than a Bible lesson, and that bothers me because I’d rather preach Bible-based sermons where I take a passage of Scripture and explain what it says, and do my best to apply its message to the needs of our lives today.

 But there is so much about our nation’s early history that most Americans just don’t know. Our school systems and colleges and universities have become so secularized - so distanced from religion - that huge chunks of information about the spiritual roots of our nation are neglected, and unless you hear it from Christians, where will you hear it? There are some things that are worth knowing about the roots of our nation, about what’s right with America.

 The first thing right with America is that our earliest settlers were people who came here primarily looking for religious freedom. Other nations, for the most part, came into existence by conquest for selfish and ambitious motives. But it was primarily in the atmosphere of God, not gold, that America was born.

 But remember that around 150 years passed by from the time of the earliest settlers to the beginning of our nation. And we’re not very proud of some of the things that happened during those years.

 But then something amazing happened! Beginning in 1734, a series of great crusades and revivals began to spread throughout the 13 Colonies. So many people came to Christ that that era is known by historians as “The Great Awakening.” Tens of thousands dedicated their lives to Jesus Christ and were baptized.

ILL. Benjamin Franklin wrote, “It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manners of our inhabitants. From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were growing religious, so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing Psalms sung in different families of every street.”

 Why am I telling you all this? Because this “Great Awakening” was a precursor to the American Revolution. Our Founding Fathers, the signers of the Declaration of Independence, those who wrote our Constitution and the Bill of Rights, those who put their lives on the line, who fought and died that we might be free – all these grew up and came into leadership while this “Great Awakening” was engulfing the land. The generation that experienced the “Great Awakening,” those who had a strong desire to be pleasing to God and to do His will, became the leaders of the American Revolution!

 America was founded by men and women who acknowledged God’s supreme rule over men and nations. They weren’t perfect. They weren’t all devout Christians, but they all acknowledged that God was the supreme ruler over men and nations. This is an important part of our history.

 Here are my sensible propositions, based on solid American history, history that is not being taught in our schools, colleges, and universities today.

I. America Was Protected And Directed By God In Its Founding.

 I believe that America was protected and directed by God in its founding. The British Empire at the time of the Revolutionary War possessed the most powerful fighting forces on the face of the earth. The rag-tag assembly of volunteers, farmers and tradesmen who composed the ranks of the Continental Army were out-manned, out-gunned, and out-financed.

 The colonies had virtually no chance of winning a war against England, short of God’s miraculous intervention. And that intervention seems to have happened. In fact, both American and British observers of that time recorded their conviction that God had actually sided with the colonies against the British Empire.

ILL. For example, on August 27, 1776, just 25 days after the Declaration of Independence was signed by the final delegate, Washington’s army of 8,000 found itself trapped at the water’s edge of the East River, near Brooklyn, NY. 20,000 experienced British soldiers were poised to attack. But for some reason, they delayed their attack, possibly waiting for the British fleet to sail up the river and close the trap. But suddenly, rains came and a strong northeast wind arose, preventing the fleet from sailing.

 When night fell, Washington began to evacuate his army across the mile-wide river in small boats, a few men at a time, trying to save as many as he could. As morning approached, he knew that the boats would become easy targets for the British artillery.

 But just as the sun arose, an unusually dense fog formed and visibility dropped to just 6 yards. The fog remained in place until the very last boat, carrying Washington himself, set off across the river. Then it suddenly lifted, and the British were stunned to see the shore empty of men. Guns were fired at Washington’s boat, but it was out of range. And not a man of the Continental Army was lost!

 Of course, we could just consider that a “lucky break.” After all, there’s no proof that God had anything to do with the sudden rains and wind and unusually dense fog. But many of the American soldiers kept diaries of that event, and almost all of them attributed the "coincidental happenings" to the intervention and protection of God.

ILL. Another amazing "coincidence" took place at the end of the war. By that time, the French had become our allies and an opportunity arose to trap British General Cornwallis in Virginia.

 But to do so meant that Washington had to march an army of 7,000 men all the way from New York to Virginia; a French army had to land somewhere along the coast and find its way to meet Washington; and the French fleet had to keep the English from sending any reinforcements. And all of this had to be done in complete secrecy, without the English suspecting a thing.

 According to one historian, "The junction in Virginia had to be coordinated by two different national commands separated across an ocean without benefit of telephone, telegraph or wireless. That this was carried out without a fault seems accountable only by a series of miracles." In fact, the ending of the war at the Battle of Yorktown, in 1781 is actually referred to by some historians as the "Miraculous Convergence." (Scholar Barbara Tuchman in "The First Salute")

 Once again, it may have been just another “lucky break.” But could it be that God did guide and protect our young nation, not just in New York and Yorktown, but all throughout our quest for independence? Could it be that the fruit of the Great Awakening - a love for righteousness, a sense of destiny, moral courage and unreserved dependence on God - moved the heart and hand of God? I believe so. And so did many of our founders.

II. America’s Government Is Patterned After Biblical Principles.

 Secondly, “America’s government is patterned after Biblical principles.” Do you know where the framers of our government got the pattern for three branches of government? As you know, we have an Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch that makes laws, and a Judicial Branch. Where did they get the idea or pattern for three branches of government?

 Not from any country in Europe; not from the writings of Plato or any of the other philosophers. No, when the framers of our government got together to determine, "How can we best organize our government?" they looked to the Word of God. They were influenced by Isaiah 33:22 which refers to God in those same 3 aspects. "*For the Lord is our Judge* [that’s judicial], *our Lawgiver* [that’s legislative], *and our King* [that’s executive]. *It is He who will save us."*

III. American Law Guarantees Our Religious Freedom To Practice And Proclaim Our Faith.

 And finally, another thing right with America is that: “American law, as written by our founding fathers, guarantees our religious freedom to practice and proclaim our faith.”

ILL. Let me read to you the First Amendment of the American Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

 Now, much has been made in the last few years about the so-called "wall of separation" between church and state. I challenge any true student of history to study the background of where that comes from.

 The so-called "wall of separation" was never intended to insulate our government or our culture from Christian influence. It was originally and always intended to protect the church from governmental influence and interference. Just the opposite of what is being practiced today!

 By the way, did you know that in 1892 the Supreme Court declared this about Christianity in America? "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based on and must include the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible for it to be otherwise. To this extent, our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian."

 That’s what the Supreme Court said a little over a hundred years ago. Yet in recent years the Supreme Court has totally repudiated that stand. But there is hope. Remember, members of the Supreme Court do come and go. And they do change.

 And there are also many people who are determined to find some way to exercise their right to practice and proclaim their faith, regardless of how vocal and strident the opposition may be today.

 For example, in May, 1991, the Supreme Court of the State of California ruled that no longer could high school graduations have a prayer or a blessing. The Riverside County High School graduation service had always included a prayer of blessing upon the graduating class, but the Supreme Court of California said, "You can’t do that this year."

 At the graduation, student after student came to the microphone and gave a little speech, but the final speech was the one that got a standing ovation. As the last student walked to the microphone, on a pre-arranged signal, he sneezed. And as one voice, the entire graduating class stood up and said together, "GOD BLESS YOU!" There was their benediction, there was their blessing.

 Another incident happened in Calvert County, Maryland. One student, 17-year-old Nick Becker, lodged a complaint through the ACLU about an invocation being prayed at his high school graduation service. The ACLU threatened the school board that if they permitted a prayer at that graduation, they would be sued. To avoid that, they came up with the decision to observe a moment of silence instead of prayer.

 So when the time came, 17-year-old Julie Schenk, one of the Senior class leaders, stood at the microphone and requested the crowd of 4,000 people to stand and observe the moment of silence. The crowd stood. And then in the crowd, a single student began to recite the Lord’s Prayer, "Our Father, who art in heaven…"

 By the time he got to the second phrase, nearly everyone in that crowd picked it up and began to pray it with him. And as one mighty voice, like rolling thunder across that auditorium, they prayed the Lord’s Prayer together. And then, they sat down.

 Cal Thomas, the journalist, had this to say about that event: “Those Maryland parents and friends discovered an authority they had forgotten they had. Frustrated by the aimlessness of Washington and its inability to do anything except focus on self-preservation and survival of the politically unfit, this audience at the Calvert County graduation, decided to practice what ‘We the People’ actually means. When those Marylanders were told that they had no right to speak of God publicly, they chose to speak to God publicly. Ladies and Gentlemen, whatever the Supreme Court says, they cannot stop us from practicing and proclaiming our faith wherever and whenever we choose. When somebody says you can’t do it, you just smile at him or her and you practice your faith. You proclaim your faith. I believe with all my heart that America has been blessed above many nations because of the character and faith of its founders. And the Bible still says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Conclusion:

 Folks, I know that America is not perfect, but I do believe that it is the greatest nation on earth. And the reason it is the greatest nation on earth is because our forefathers acknowledged God and their dependence upon Him. And we must not lose sight of the heritage that they have entrusted to us.

LET US PRAY: Almighty God, You are King and Ruler of all, we confess that many in America have turned away from You. We ask You to forgive us our national sins and bring renewal to our nation through revival in the Church. We stand against the evil one and ask You to hinder the influence of the devil in America today. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. Amen.