

Remnant Life Church
July 6, 2014

“Can America Be Saved?”
2 Chronicles 7:11-16

- Just 112 miles to the east of us an event took place 238 years ago that reshaped the world then and would forever reset the future – the signing of the Declaration of Independence creating a new nation – the United States of America
- Who were these men aside from what we read in the history books? This same question is often asked of the 12 disciples.
- Of the 56 final signatures that are affixed to the document only 34 signed on July 4, 1776
 - Many added their names at an August 2 meeting of the group
 - Others added until late fall of that year
 - Thomas McKean, of Delaware, did not sign until 1781; the first public draft did not contain his name even though he argued, persuaded and voted for independence he left immediately after the vote was ratified to command the Fourth Battalion of the Pennsylvania Associators a militia group created by Benjamin Franklin in 1747
- These 56 men were as diverse as the areas they came from -
 - All 13 colonies were represented with Pennsylvania the largest delegation sending 9 men
 - Of the 56, nine were born outside the United States including England, Scotland, Ireland and even the Wales
 - Among them there were 24 who had some measure of legal training acting as either lawyers or judges; 10 merchants or businessmen; 9 gentlemen farmers; 6 politicians; 4 doctors and even two ministers.
 - The oldest was Benjamin Franklin (70); and two of the men were only 26
- A great majority of them lived the remainder of their lives in great duress and struggle
 - Several were captured in the ensuing war; tortured and then killed for their stance
 - Many lost all their possessions and had their homes burned and their land taken
 - Two of the men died less than 10 months after the signing of the declaration
- Many of the names are forever etched in the fabric of this nation’s history
 - Benjamin Franklin; John Hancock; Samuel Adams; Caesar Rodney and Samuel Chase
 - Other names are forgotten if they were known at all: William Whipple; Carter Braxton; William Peca and Charles Carroll – the last survivor of the signers who lived another 56 years

- And perhaps the most recognized names, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, 2 of the 5 men tasked with drafting the content, died on the same day just hours apart from each other in 1826 - one in Charlottesville, Va the other in Quincy, Mass; on July the 4th – the 50th anniversary of the country they helped to birth.
- But our country today is a far cry from the one that these men envisioned, fought and died for
 - In a 43 year period between 1964 and 2007 violent crime rose 350%
 - In 2099 alone, Philadelphia – the birthplace of our nation; name means “City of Brotherly Love” – recorded nearly 10,000 reported violent crimes
 - In 2008 this country held 5% of the world’s population but over one quarter of all the world’s incarcerated
- Why has this happened? We only have to examine what has changed with regard to our nation’s views regarding God.
- The Barna Group does surveys of the nation’s views on God, spirituality, and religion
 - In 2009 over half of those surveyed felt that Christianity was no longer the primary or default religion of America (“A Christian Nation”)
 - In another study nearly 45% stated that they do not regularly attend church or have any religious affiliation at all
- Yet people are still seeking answers – but where?
 - A survey was conducted asking what was sacred literature or holy books?
 - The Bible was far and away the most frequently booked mentioned
 - So was the Koran, the Book of Mormon, Civil Disobedience by Henry David Thoreau; Dianetics by L. Ron Hubbard and even Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler
 - What are the answers for a nation that was founded at least on some measured principles of acknowledging God’s guidance but finds itself today as godless as it ever was?

During the 1800’s, Alexis de Toqueville, a famous French political philosopher, visited our nation seeking to uncover the secret of our greatness. He traveled from town to town, asking questions, examining every facet of our society, & then wrote his conclusions in his famous work, “Democracy in America.”

The following statement has been quoted by several modern United States Presidents and certainly the message is even more than relevant for today. Toqueville says...

"I sought for America’s greatness. I found it not in her fields & forests. I found it not in her mines & factories. I found it not in her Congress & great tribunals. It was only when I entered her churches & heard her pulpits thundering against sin & preaching righteousness that I discovered her greatness. America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

- What hope do we have to be great again?

- This morning that hope is not only for our nation but for our homes, our families, our churches, and our lives

2 Chronicles 7:14 - 4 Conditions followed by 3 Blessings

The Conditions:

1. **Humble ourselves**

- Humiliation is something that everyone works very hard to avoid
- But God's humiliation is different than man's
 - Man's is done to tear down another in order to build yourself up
 - God's is done to restore and build up in perfect love
- God WILL bring humility into our lives (**Prov.3:34; Js 4:6**)
 - We can either humble ourselves and fall on the Rock that is Jesus (**Pslm 95:1**)
 - Or we can maintain our pride and the rock will fall on us
 - This nation is rife and riddled with pride

2. **Pray**

- Nor merely and activity but a condition of the heart
- True prayer can only be empowered when proceeded by humility

3. **Seek His face**

- What does God want is more important than what I want
- Seeking His will for my life demonstrate my humility

4. **Turn from our wicked ways**

- There must be action attached to our intent
- Speaking words will never create a lasting change
- The men of the 2nd Continental Congress had to act on their resolution of independence
- So today we, the church, must set the precedent and example for the change needed in our society not just with our words but with our actions

The Blessings:

1. **God will hear us**

- There is no greater despair than being alone and loneliness
- That despair is to the very depths of our souls when we cut ourselves off from God
 - His love is eternal and ever-present
 - But our pride can and will separate us by our own choosing
 - To our detriment and death

2. **He will forgive our sins**

- Only God's forgiveness spares us from eternal separation from God (**Rom. 6:23**)
- Death then is not only physical but spiritual and forever

3. Heal our land

- a. Our land is this nation, our homes, our church, our families and our hearts
- b. What is the condition of your land this morning?

- The blessings can only come when we meet the conditions

This nation was founded on principles that actually got stronger in the first 150 years of our nation but then the erosion began

- Erosion of our morals
- Erosion of our faith
- Erosion of our fear and dependence on God

It is not too late, but the time is growing short

Make this weekend a time of your Declaration of Dependence on God

What will you do to make a difference to save your land?