One Nation under God...?

Living in this country is a great privilege and a blessing ... God has prospered us so much throughout our history and we now live in the most advanced, powerful, and arguably the wealthiest nation that has ever existed on this planet.

All of that is a result of God's blessings on us ... we sing "America, America ... God shed His grace on thee ... " Not only *has* He shed His grace on us *but He continues to do so today* through the ruler of all things with "**all authority in heaven and on earth**" ... I am talking about Jesus Christ ... the **Son of God** ... and **King of Kings**.

I would submit to you that this country was founded and nurtured in a sense by God ... as a cradle in which true New Testament Christianity could flourish on the earth once again. We see that in the history of the church with the religious freedoms given here early in our history. .. those providential circumstances gave men like Barton Stone, Alexander Campbell, David Lipscomb and J. W. McGarvey the opportunity to let the power of God's word flourish again for the salvation of the lost through their open-hearted studies of the scriptures and the re-establishment on the earth of the gospel truth and of the church that Christ bought with His blood.

All that said, again we are incredibly blessed. But now we find ourselves living in an America that is turning its back on God ... in some ways slowly, and in other so fast it takes the breath away. From issues like same sex marriage and abortion, to something as simple as the slogan "In God we trust" being taken off of our currency, the world is changing around for Christians, and not in a good way.

Go with me now to a couple of passages of scripture that I think are highly relevant for our times:

- **Leviticus 18:22,24-25** ... this refers to God's views on homosexuality and the punishment for it
- **Leviticus 18:21** and then **20:1-5** ... this refers to God's views on child sacrifice

Now God gave us access to these passages of scripture for our learning as we know from **Romans 15:4**. At this point you might say "Well from the first passage the message is obvious to me that God thinks homosexual behavior is an abomination" ... and you would be right about that ... but also the movement that is afoot in America to "normalize" homosexual behavior is as disgusting to the Lord, as the behavior itself. .. remember **Isaiah 5:20** ... ? God condemns in no uncertain terms our ... as a nation ... exchanging what is good for evil and then calling it good. What is evil should never be practiced, and should not be accepted as good in any way. .. and that includes making it "legal" for others to practice as they wish, even if you don't participate in the behavior.

The next passage I read, referred to the acts by the children of Israel in giving some of their children for human sacrifice *by fire* to the Canaanite god Molech, and God's views on that. My meaning here might not be so obvious and you may be thinking "what point are you trying to make here? We don't sacrifice children here in the US to the god

Molech."

But wait a minute, as a nation, yes we do. If you simply substitute the altar of the Canaanite god Molech for the altar of "sexual freedom", then you can see that yes ... we do the same thing as a country that God condemned the Israelites for at various times. In fact since 1973 in this country we have sacrificed more than 40 million children on this altar. .. and that altar is as abominable to God as the one to Molech was more than 3 millennia ago.

These two issues that I have chosen to speak on tonight are just representative of the turning away from God that is taking place under our noses in these modern times. There are many more examples that could be cited.

I want to conclude with one final passage of scripture and a parting thought for you on the events of the near future

- Let's read **Psalm 2**

Jesus Christ has been given all authority over the nations of the earth to rule with a "**rod of iron**". Our God and Father in heaven, through Christ Jesus, has blessed us with being citizens of this particular nation ... the United States of America.

We have also been blessed with the right to vote on the direction this country goes in ... and it is imperative that every Christian of voting age goes to the polls and votes for the agenda that God *will bless.* Many will vote based upon the economy and their pocketbooks or national defense or taxation ... but God calls us to think of higher things than that at times like this.

This privilege of voting has been given to us by God through our citizenship in this country and He expects us to use that blessing for accomplishing His good will. Think of the "**Parable of the Talents**" in **Matthew 25** ... the servant who did not use his talent at all for his master's gain was condemned. So shall we be if we don't exercise the use of our blessings properly ... and that includes voting in such a crucial time as this for the things that God approves of. Remember **Isaiah 5:20** and vote accordingly ... you will be doing a service for the Lord by using the power you have been blessed with to affect the evil direction that this country could go further into.

When you do this ... as "**the salt of the earth**" and frankly of this nation ... you will be combating the evil trends which may cause God to bless us no longer and to "**vomit**" us out of the land. The choice and the vote are yours ... use them well on November 4th.

May God bless us all and may He continue to bless this country. If you are in need of anything at this time if we can assist you in any way please come forward now while we sing.