

IN GOD WE TRUST

PSA. 33:12-22

We have heard a lot in recent weeks about the phrase “In God We Trust.” Have you thought about what the phrase means. We are talking about a vigilant nation expecting divine protection. We must get people to truly trust in God. We can demonstrate that conviction in various ways in our lives: (1) by our righteousness; (2) by our prayers; (3) by our hopes for a spiritual awakening.

Everyday that we procrastinate this country moves closer to the brink. America seeks to be a vigilant nation. It strives to be alert, watchful, prepared even for the unexpected. This is a good quality to be reminded of on an Independence Day weekend.

Vigilance has never come easily. Throughout our 200 plus years as a nation we have always had enemies. Some of you remember the surprise attack on our naval base at Pearl Harbor... the cold War years and events like the Cuban Missile Crisis... and certainly what happened on 9/11. The new threat of terrorist attacks has upped the ante in so many ways. No one wants us to let down our guard. But to keep it high is costing us dearly.

An unnamed writer in Psalm 33 also reminds us that military strength alone is not enough to insure our safety as a people. Beginning in verse 12 and continuing through verse 22. These words are addressed to believers.

Why would a vigilant nation need divine protection? Phrases like “divine protection” and “in God We Trust” still have deep meaning to you. In a vigilant nation expecting divine protection, the bottom line conviction of many must still be “in God We Trust.” So vigilance is important, but believing that God is ultimately in charge of the affairs of this world is also.

A conviction is a deep-seated belief. It is a strong persuasion. It is something held at the very core of who you are. The Psalmist had the conviction that there is a God in heaven who is looking down watching over what is going on here on earth. More than that, God is considering what our actions mean. Notice especially verses 18 and 23.

I. How do we put our trust in God? What specifically does it mean, “In God We Trust?”

A. Righteousness.

1. Our God is Holy.

a. When scriptures give us snapshots of his realm, such as in the book of Revelation, the four living creatures that surround the throne do not say, “Omnipotent, Omnipotent, Omnipotent” or “Loving, Loving, Loving.”

b. What is repeated over and over is “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

2. It would be nonsense to think that a nation can escape punishment when it sins with impunity, i.e. when it sins as though there will never be a day of accounting. Israel was not able to get away with it, nor can we.

3. Contemporary America has transgressed in so many ways.

a. Our wicked culture flaunts its disbelief.

b. What about the righteous remnant?

c. Do their convictions manifest themselves not just in words but also in life response?

d. A holy remnant can be a righteous force. Ten righteous souls in Sodom.

e. I am afraid that culture influences the church far more than the church influences the culture

4. Where are each of us as individuals?

a. None of us are perfect, only God is.

b. But Christ does expect his followers to be righteous.

c. What if all Americans mirrored your behavior?

5. What if God picked you out and said, “your righteousness, or lack of it, is typical of where Americans are.”

a. Would that be a + or - for our nation?

- b. Would God be pleased or dis-pleased?
 - c. If displeased, would I be willing to change?
 - 6. If Jesus made himself visible this evening, if we could somehow see him bodily among us, I believe we would instantly know that Jesus and sin do not mix.
 - a. Would it say to you, You don't take holiness as seriously as Jesus does?
 - b. Christians can and should play a key role in our country's future, but we must be righteous people.
 - 7. If you trust in God, then you will also seek to please him by the way you live.
 - 8. God desires for us to be righteous.
 - a. Matt. 5:6, 10, 20
 - b. Titus 2:11,12
 - c. Acts 10:35
 - d. Prov. 14:34
 - II. Another Way to demonstrate our trust in God is thru prayer.
 - A. If we say we trust in God, yet do not use the avenue of prayer, what does that say about us?
 - 1. James 5:16
 - 2. Non-Christians are not going to form the prayer base for our nation.
 - 3. That has got to be God's people. Are we doing this?
 - B. If God picked you out and said this man or this woman is typical of where the average believer in America is in terms of praying for this nation and it's leaders.
 - 1. Would that encourage the rest of us, or would we have reason to be concerned?
 - 2. Pray for our leaders, pray for our soldiers. (I Tim. 2:1ff) Pray for missionaries. (2 Thess.3:1)
 - 3. If you were in their place, would you want people praying for you?
 - 4. Most of all, we need to pray for receptive hearts to God's word.
 - 5. Look at the prayers of Phil. 1:9-11 and Col. 1:9-14—focus entirely on gaining wisdom in light of God's kingdom.
 - 6. Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21—focus on wisdom in the light of Christ's glory.
 - III. Show "In God We Trust" by our hope.
 - A. Three times the Psalmist used the word "hope."
 - 1. For what are you hoping?
 - a. Col. 1:5, 23
 - b. I Thess. 2:19
 - c. Acts 26:6,7
 - d. Rom. 5:2 – In the earnest desire and expectation of obtaining that glory.
 - 2. Perhaps your hope is a revival of our nation and the church.
 - 3. Revival means "Life coming back again."
 - 4. "Vivid" means full of life. . . Vivacious person is one who is lively.
 - 5. When someone grows faint spiritually, they need to be revived.
 - 6. When the church is "wobbly," it needs reviving.
 - 7. The word revival has always belonged to the church.
 - B. Ezekiel 37—dry bones.
 - 1. Ezekiel preached to dead listeners. . . . That was a revival.
 - 2. There were many O.T. prophets who preached that everything was fine during the days of Isaiah and Jeremiah.
 - 3. We seem to live with a sense that our nation's wounds are not that serious.
- Conclusion: "In God We Trust"— do we really? Your day to day righteousness... Your prayers. . . Your hope for revival.