

Intro:

Floretta Wilson recently shared with her SS Class;

Our small, local paper printed a prayer in it's Memorial Day issue. I want to give it to you to read and think upon:

"Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage;

We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will.

Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from prideful arrogance, and from every evil way.

Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

- President Thomas Jefferson, March 4, 1801

Proverbs 14:34 (KJV) 34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

I. Problem – SIN

A. Who Does NOT Defines Sin

1. Conscience does not define it
2. Congress does not define it
3. Courts do not define it
4. Crowds

"The freedom of the press is a valuable privilege, but the abuse of it in this country is a frightful evil. The recklessness of the press is a deep stain upon the character of the country; and in addition to the evil of maliciously false statements of good men and giving a wrong direction to public measures, it corrupts the people by rendering them insensible to the value of truth and of reputation" – Noah Webster

B. Who Does Define Sin

1. Word of God

David

Psalms 119:160 (KJV) 160 Thy word is true from the beginning:
and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Jesus

John 17:17 (KJV) 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John

Revelation 22:18-20 (KJV) 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words
of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add
unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take
away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part
out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are
written in this book. 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come
quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Noah Webster (1758-1843)

*"The principles of all genuine liberty, and of wise laws and administrations are to
be drawn from the Bible and sustained by its authority. The man therefore who
weakens or destroys the divine authority of that book may be assessor to all the
public disorders which society is doomed to suffer."*

Proverbs 30:5-6 (KJV) 5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that
put their trust in him. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and
thou be found a liar.

II. Pain – Reproach – means God will bring judgment ANY PEOPLE

God declared Israel chosen people to Abraham BUT Israel has not escaped the Judgment of
God – from Captivity in Egypt / Destroyed by Romans 70AD / Holocaust / even after Jews
retake Jerusalem Six Day War 1967 / Current Mid East war

America Has a STRONG Christian Heritage

New York Times June 25,2020

America Is Facing 5 Epic Crises All at Once

This is not the time to obsess about symbolism. – David Brooks

1. Covid – 19
2. Rapid Education Burdens of Black Americans
3. Middle of Political Realignment
4. Quasi-religion seeking control of American Culture
5. Verge of prolonged Economic depression

Currently over \$27 Trillion Dollars in debt growing at rate \$45,486 per second or by the end of a 30 minute sermon debt will have grown \$ 81,874,800

Or over 163 MILLION an hour

Economic Crisis

Moral Crisis

- Inability to define life
- Inability to define gender
- Inability to define Marriage

William J. Bennet Former Secretary of Education author of Moral Compass

“Despite increased funding and stricter laws, violent crime has increased more than 500 percent. While sex education programs have proliferated, illegitimate births have increased over 400 percent, significantly among teenagers. The divorce rate has quadrupled, and single parent homes have become the majority. Our young people today exhibit a hopelessness, with a more than 200 percent increase in the teenage suicide rate. And America appears helpless before its great problems.”

“For children to take morality seriously they must be in the presence of adults who take morality seriously. And with their own eyes they must see adults take morality seriously.”

Galatians 6:7 (KJV) 7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

III. Power of Prayer

E.M. Bounds said in his book, *"The Weapons of Prayer"*;

Nothing is more important to God than prayer in dealing with mankind. But it is likewise all-important to man to pray. Failure to pray is failure along the whole line of life. It is failure of duty, service, and spiritual progress. God must help man by prayer. He who does not pray, therefore, robs himself of God's help and places God where He cannot help man. Man must pray to God if love for God is to exist. Faith and hope, and patience and all the strong, beautiful, vital forces of piety are withered and dead in a prayerless life. The life of the individual believer, his personal salvation, and personal Christian graces have their being, bloom and fruitage in prayer.

In summary: *"Prayer is an absolute necessity to the proper carrying on of God's work. God has made it so."*

A. Privilege to Pray

1. Because of our Relationship

Matthew 6:7-8 (KJV) But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

2.. Because of His Resources

Psalms 50:10-12 (KJV) 10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. 11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

B. Priority to Pray

James 4:1-2 (KJV) 1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

C. Pointers to Praying for our Country

1. Christians will Get Right with God

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV) 14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2. Pray for our Leaders

1 Timothy 2:1-3 (KJV) 1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

3. Pray that Christian will Prayerfully VOTE based on Biblical Principles not Personal Preferences

1 Samuel 8:19-20 (KJV) 19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

IV. Pays to Pray

1. Always answers sinners prayer to be saved

Romans 10:13 (KJV) 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

2. Always answers prayer of Christian to forgive confessed sin

1 John 1:9 (KJV) 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3. Always answers the prayer to give us wisdom

James 1:5 (KJV) 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

There are four reasons for unanswered prayer.

A. You refuse to confess revealed sin in your life. Note Daniel's confession.

Psalms 66:18 (KJV) 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

B. We will not wait – note Daniel's answer will be answered in the vision (prophecy)

Daniel 9:23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

C. We Do not Ask

James 4:2-3 (KJV) 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Do not expect an answer to a prayer you have not prayed

D. You Ask for the wrong things

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Don't expect to receive what you want when that request is generated out of your own selfish desire and not according to His will.