



Morningside Church Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Hope of America

Date: June 30, 2024

Scripture Text: Psalm 33:12-22

Notes:

This week we celebrate America's independence from Great Britain back in 1776. Happy birthday America! We typically enjoy a day off work, have cook outs and watch fireworks. This is how John Adams described how he thought it should be celebrated: "The Second [Fourth] Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America.— I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." America has enjoyed the blessings of God like few have. Unfortunately, the nation has largely grown apathetic (including the American church), and we see the results in our culture today. Today's sermon looks at 3 key ingredients that need to be part of our celebration.

I. Remember God's Promise (Psalm 33:12)

The psalmist states that the nation whose God is the Lord is blessed! For God to be Lord means humble submission to Him and His will. This nation was founded on biblical principles, confessing that God is the Lord, and has reaped the blessing as a result. Early on, the Bible came with settlers to Jamestown and Plymouth. The colonists brought their Bibles as they traveled to the new land. When the Revolution started, the influence of the Bible was deep and evident. The signers of the Declaration of Independence knew their Bible well. The newly constituted Continental Congress had a committee that reported "the use of the Bible is so universal and its importance so great that... the committee recommends that Congress will order the Committee of Commerce to import 20,000 Bibles."

- What are some blessings America has experienced because of its biblically based founding?
- Why is it important to remember how God has blessed our nation?
- What are ways we can treasure God's blessings and not take them for granted?
- How can remembering God's promise impact our celebration of America's birth?



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II. Recognize Man's Problem (Psalm 33:13-22)

The psalmist recognizes a need for God, but as a nation, are we willing to admit it? To acknowledge our need would be to admit that we on our own, are not enough. The need to depend on God would mean we'd have to submit to Him and His authority. Abraham Lincoln said, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven... But we have forgotten God. We have vainly imagined that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

- How would you compare our culture today to that of the 1700s?
- Why do you think it has changed?
- What do you think is needed to restore America to a biblically based nation?
- What can you do to be part of a revival in America?

III. Respond to God's Prescription (Ezekiel 37:4-10)

The prophet Ezekiel lived in a day when the Israelites had turned their back on God and corrupted His temple with pagan idols and worship. Their land was described as a valley of dry bones. This passage describes the process of the dry bones being restored to their prior state of fullness and life anew being given. As a result, a great army was formed, an army ready to follow their Leader in service to Him. Let's look at the two things needed for this valley of dry bones to be restored.

- Preach the Word (Ez. 37:4-8)
 - This reflects a deep commitment to God's Word. What is fruit of an individual's deep commitment to God's Word?
 - Why is it so important for a church to have God's Word preached?
 - How might preaching the Word impact a church ([Rom 1:16](#), [Heb 4:12](#))?
- Pray (Ez. 37:9-10)
 - How can prayer reflect a dependence on God?
 - How can prayer help us refocus on God?
 - What are ways to be a better pray-er?

[I] beg I may not be understood to infer that our general Convention was Divinely inspired when it formed the new federal Constitution . . . [yet] I can hardly conceive a transaction of such momentous importance to the welfare of millions now existing (and to exist in the posterity of a great nation) should be suffered to pass without being in some degree influenced, guided, and governed by that omnipotent, omnipresent, and beneficent Ruler in Whom all inferior spirits "live and move and have their being" Benjamin Franklin