

Blessed To Be a Blessing – July 3, 2011

My Country

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

Hebrews 11:13-16

Our hearts swell with pride when the Fourth of July rolls around each year and we get to celebrate with our fellow citizens the greatness of the country in which we live. Firecrackers pop. Bands play. Citizens feast sumptuously on the fare of the day and grand old memories of all that has been accomplished in this land swirl about as youngsters are introduced to what it means to be an American. In times of prosperity and times of poverty the celebration continues.

Now we are not at all critical of humble patriotism, that is the recognition that these things we enjoy are blessing from God which ultimately produces a sincere desire on the part of our Christian citizenry to respond by giving thanks to Him, as is certainly proper. But a word of caution is always in order...no we don't mean just to be careful with fireworks, nor are we spending our energy in advising our fellow citizens to avoid drunkenness and gluttony. The more specific warning from Scripture that might well be applied is to remember that “pride goes before the fall.”

Too many people believe that America's greatness, her wealth and power, are creations of our own making and if such wealth diminishes and such power wanes it is but a simple rallying of the American spirit and a rekindling of the resourcefulness of her people that will once again restore America to her rightful place on the top of the world heap. Sometimes

Even Christians embrace that way of thinking. Or in some cases Christians, in a frenzied zeal for God and country, can even act as though God loves Americans more than all the other people on the globe. Such pride is an insult to the sacrifice of the Savior, for the Bible says that Christ died for all.

Let us rather exhibit the type of patriotism that truly cherishes the wonderful life we have in this country recognizing all the while that it is God alone who deserves the glory for it is from Him that all blessings flow. Let us weigh the greatness of this country with the scale of God's holy Word and let us ever implore our God that by His mighty our officials be guided and blessed, our people be protected and prospered, and that justice be done and His will accomplished among us. For after all, we are but aliens here upon the earth. Our true country is that place Christ has prepared for us. Our true country is that better homeland which God desires for us. Our true country is that heavenly country, where God is revered as King and where His people live in the glory of His eternal grace. God bless you. God bless America. And may the eternal blessing of God bring us to our true home in heaven with Him.

Pastor Jacobs

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