

**July 5, 2016**

**Romans 1:32, “Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”**

Yesterday was the United States 240<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is the second year in a row that I have found myself on Independence Day considering how free and independent we really are. Our nation has completely lost its moral compass and the reason we have lost that compass is because we have completely abandoned God.

The leadership of our country especially has jettisoned any concept of God. Yes I know that most of them claim to worship God, but the god they worship is the god of self, the god of human autonomy. When God has been cast aside, then all sense of morality and propriety quickly follow. You see God is the ultimate Judge; He is the determiner of what is right and what is wrong. When God is divorced from the equation then the determiner of morality becomes the desires, the feelings, the lusts of humankind. Yes, people often dress up their wants, desires, feelings, and lusts in quasi-religious language but let’s be clear what we really are is a nation of practical atheists.

Romans 6:16 says, “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness.” The fallacy of modern thought is that true freedom only comes when there are no rules. Rebellious humans have constructed thought systems that tell them that their rejection of God is really a sign of enlightenment and that this is the only path to true freedom and liberty. Conversely they tell themselves and anyone who will listen that to love God, to love His word, to obey His word is narrow minded, anti-intellectual, and bigoted. The problem with all of this in regards to our nation and where we find ourselves this July 4<sup>th</sup> is that a democratic republic only functions effectively when there is the rule of law. The rule of law or the concept of that has served us well for 240 years. The idea that there is right and wrong, that God is the arbiter of truth, and that no one is above the law of God, has led us to become a very healthy and vibrant people. So when we abandon truth, God’s truth, we become a nation of individuals and the wants and perceived needs of those individuals. This is why our early founders like George Washington and John Adams understood all too well that a democratic republic would only function with a people who feared God.

Since we are no longer a religious people then what follows naturally is just about anything. Just a little over a year ago against not only the commandments of Scripture but also against common sense and the laws of nature the Supreme Court ruled that people of the same sex can marry. Already there are movements to allow polygamy and a movement to allow pedophilia. You see when you redefine something at the cost of morality, then anything can and will become “okay.” After all who are you to say that what I am doing is wrong?

The answer to our nation's problems friends will not be found at the ballot box. If this election cycle thus far has not convinced you of this then I'm not sure what will. The answer is only found in the truth and the truth is Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 14:9, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.**" As Christians we must forget to some extent the political process which for far too long Evangelicals have looked to for answers, and we must devote ourselves to prayer and the faithful preaching of the word of God. We must become that city on a hill.

In John 8:31-32 Jesus said, "**If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**" True liberty and true freedom only come when we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When we turn to Him as our Lord He then becomes the beacon of morality. We turn then from the god of self to the God of the universe who is perfect, holy, and righteous. Only Him and Him alone will save us from ourselves.