

WHAT IS RIGHT WITH AMERICA
MATTHEW 16:13-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. David Noebel - Article
2. Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."NIV
3. What is right with America

I. AMERICA'S FOUNDING WAS RIGHT

- A. Paul Johnson states, "George Washington – in the light of the dreadful events which had occurred in Revolutionary France – wished to dispel for good any notion that America was a secular state. It was a government of laws but it was also a government of morals.
- B. Washington was saying that America, being a free republic, dependent for its order on the good behavior of its citizens, cannot survive without religion. Paul Johnson, A History of the American People, p.229
- C. Thomas Jefferson, "With all the defects of our constitutions, whether Federal or State, the comparison of our governments with those of Europe is like a comparison of heaven and hell.
- D. Thomas Jefferson, inscribed on the Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC, "Can the liberties of a nation be secular when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever."

- E. Patrick Henry, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ! For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here.”

II. AMERICANS ARE THE MOST GENEROUS PEOPLE ON EARTH

- A. They give more of their wealth away to help others than any nation or combination of nations or groups of people (\$128 billion in 1996, \$240 billion in 2003).
- B. John Dewey, 1922, “The church-going classes, those who have come under the influence of evangelical Christianity . . . form the backbone of philanthropic social interest.”
- C. Larry Witham, The Washington Times, June 27, 2002, A9, “Americans who help religious congregations not only give more time and money than people working with secular causes, but provide three-quarters of secular charity as well, a new study shows.”
- D. Hugh Hewitt, World magazine, March 25, 2006, “In 2004, U.S. charitable giving reached \$249 billion, with individuals giving \$188 billion of that total. Where does this massive charitable impulse come from? Altruism is seen as a virtue in many religious traditions, but the explanation for the enormous network of giving in the West – its breadth and depth and continuing vitality – has to be the Christian roots of the West.”
- E. New Hampshire gives the least to charitable giving per person. Its average income is eighth-highest in the country while its average giving ranks 48th.
- F. By comparison, Mississippi, which has the lowest average income, is the most generous state. “The regional difference has been attributed to the Southern Christian practice of tithing.” AP, The Gazette, Colorado Springs, Nov. 5, 2003 A6

III. AMERICA'S INITIATIVE IN HELPING OTHERS

- A. John Perazzo, Frontpage Magazine, Dec. 4, 2002, "The US was by far the principal benefactor of the U.N. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which was founded in 1943 to help feed and repatriate the hungry, displaced masses of Europe."
- B. "To this day, when famine, natural disasters, civil wars, and ethnic cleansing ravage foreign populations, the U.S. is invariably the first, and often the only, nation to send help."
Ibid.

IV. AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

- A. The freedom to believe, think, worship, not worship, assemble, debate, travel, vote, complain, praise, print, not print, stay in the country, leave the country – nearly unprecedented in human history."
- B. Go on a mission trip. You will see what freedoms that don't have. You'll have a greater appreciation for ours.

V. AMERICA'S HOSPITALITY

- A. America has welcomed more peoples to its shores than all other nations on earth.
- B. Paul Johnson, National Review, Sept. 12, 2005 p.19-20, "It is, so far, the world's only unqualified success in building on the largest possible scale a multiracial society. Every culture in the world is represented in the U.S. usually in considerable numbers. To take in the peoples of the world is not only a U.S. tradition but a current and future reality. Some of the most successful U.S. communities – the Koreans, the Lebanese, the Vietnamese and the Cubans – are quite recent creations. To hate America is thus not to hate a particular nation as such but to hate humanity."

VI. AMERICA'S ADVANCES

- A. Stephen Moore and Julian L. Simon, *It's Getting Better All the Time*, "America's hospitals, schools, universities, technologies, inventions, churches, courts, businesses, highways, airlines, cities, farms, water systems, food chains, money, military, government structure are the envy of the world."

VII. AMERICA'S PROVISION OF FREEDOM

- A. Bill Bennett, *Why We Fight: Moral Clarity and the War on Terrorism*, "Whatever may be America's many faults, we have provided more freedom to more people than any nation in the history of mankind, that we have provided a greater degree of equality to more people than any nation in the history of mankind, that we have created more prosperity, and spread it more widely, than any nation in the history of mankind, that we have brought more justice to more people than any nation in the history of mankind, that our open, tolerant, prosperous, peaceable society is the marvel and envy of the ages."
- B. America did more to put down the 20th century's three most evil empires (Facism, Nazism, Communism) than the rest of the world combined. 172 million died under these evil empires. And, America, after WWII, was the most powerful nation on earth with 13 million men under arms and A-bomb. We did not conquer the world – we disarmed. Yet, the U.S. is considered the evil empire by our liberal intellectuals.
- C. When the Arabs rose out of the Arabian desert in the 7th century and swept across the entire mid-eastern world, it was not to liberate those nations, but to subjugate them – as they still do.
- D. When Hitler rolled his tanks into Poland on September 1, 1939, it was not to liberate her, but the subjugate her – along with the rest of the entirety of Europe.

- E. When Russia invaded Afghanistan in December, 1979 with over 100,000 troops, it was not to liberate her, but to subjugate her.
- F. Neither the Muslims, the Third Reich, nor the Russians have ever liberated anyone in modern history.

VIII. AMERICA'S VOLUNTEERISM

- A. America's non-governmental volunteer organizations (churches, Sunday Schools, missionary organizations, clubs, foundations, ministries, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, Red Cross, PTA's, etc.) are the backbone of the nation. They prove that Americans are not growing weary of self-governance and sacrifice.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. What is right with America is because of what is right with the church.

2. Matthew 16:13-18

3. What is right with the church?

- A. **Built on a solid foundation.** Not man's:

- 1. Philosophy
- 2. Dream
- 3. Intellect
- 4. Fortitude
- 5. But Jesus Christ
- 6. Word of warning to America

- B. **Generous**

- 1. The church is the backbone of all charity.

2. Why? The love of God.
3. Christians understand a generous God – the cross.

C. Accepting of all people, races, cultures.

D. The message of the church gives true peace and contentment.

1. The church is right because the message is right.

E. Our missionaries.

1. Bibles smuggled into Romania, etc.

F. Solves the eternity problem. When I die as an American???

1. America does not solve the eternity problem.

G. It will last forever. It will always conquer. It will never be conquered. America will fall. It will be defeated from within or from without.

H. John 16:33, "Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

I. Now is the time for the Church to rise!