

IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR AMERICA



by
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Please open you Bibles to Proverbs chapter fourteen and verse thirty-four. I would like to preach a message entitled "Is There Any Hope for America."

There is no doubt in my mind that God has blessed America because she was founded upon Biblical principles and a sincere reliance upon Him.

So let me ask you something: Is there any hope for America? Yes there is hope for America, but we need to do some things!

In Proverbs 14:34, the Bible says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

We are going to notice several things—number one, America must repent and turn back to God; number two, God's people must repent and turn back to the Lord; and number three, nonbelievers must repent and receive Jesus Christ.

Please notice number one: America must repent and turn back to God or God's judgment will fall upon this nation. You see, America has turned her back on God and because of that she is losing her greatness. Our forefathers would have never dreamed that this nation would have ever turned her back on God.

Too many children are growing up in America without knowing God except as a word to swear with. It has been years since many of our citizens have entered the door of a church to hear the Word of God proclaimed. People have taken their liberties and freedoms for granted. There is no fear of God in our country. God's name is blasphemed. More people go shopping on Sunday than go to church.

We sing God bless America but in many ways our country has turned her back on God. Jesus Christ has been shoved aside. He is no longer welcome. He is despised by those in places of authority.

For years America has been telling God to get out of our schools and to get out of our government. Jesus Christ ought to be the centerpiece of every school. He ought to be the head of every government.

The Word of God has been dishonored and laughed at. Prayer and Bible reading have been kicked out of our schools. Just think education without God!

America is rotting in sin. People are ungodly. Pornography is ravaging our country. Sex and violence are glorified through the media and movies. Drug and alcohol abuse have reached an all time high in our country. Crime is stalking our nation and homosexuality has become an open accepted lifestyle.

In America more than 43 million babies have been slaughtered since abortion on demand was legalized in 1973. Nearly 4,000 daily! Abortion has killed more unborn children than those who died in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World

Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and the War on Terrorism combined.

In Proverbs 14:34, the Bible says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

Sin is on the rampage. We need to get on our knees and repent of the atrocities that are going on in our country today or God will bring judgment upon this nation and rightfully so.

We have noticed number one, America must repent and turn back to God; but notice number two, God's people must repent and get right with the Lord.

Many of the ills of society today are because of God's people have turned their backs on the Lord and have forsaken the church.

Church attendance is often sporadic by God's people. Fathers are absent in body. Mothers are at the office. Church ministries designed for the Christian family are often ignored. Sports often come ahead of church services. Prayer and Bible reading are overlooked.

God's people are so busy trying to keep up with their neighbors and buying more things until, finally, one day, they have no time to worship the Lord.

The Lord's name is rarely heard in many Christian homes, except in the profanity that comes from the television set.

Greater value is often placed on getting things than in the blessing of spending quality time together with the Lord in prayer. Prayer is something offered only at mealtime, if then.

A vast majority of God's children today are so caught up in their own dreams, in their own plans, in their own ambitions, in their own goals, that they take no time, or very little time, to tell others about Jesus Christ.

The vast majority of God's children today are so caught up in their own problems, in their own careers, that they take no time, or very little time, to share the gospel with anybody.

A sad commentary of God's children today is that they are no longer concerned for those who are perishing around them.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." That's not just good advice. That's not just a strong suggestion. That's a command.

You say, Preacher! What's the big deal? It is two-fold. The Devil is laughing at the vast majority of God's children today because they are not doing what they

are commanded to do in the Word of God, and the souls of human beings are perishing by the millions today in an awful place called hell. That's the big deal.

God's people are not doing the job they ought to be doing. Souls are not being won. America is going to hell and God's people sleep. Of all those who call themselves Christians 20% never pray, 25% never read the Word of God, 30% never attend church, 40% never give to any cause, 50% never go to Sunday school, 60% never attend evening services, 70% never give to missions, 80% never go to prayer meeting, 90% never have family devotions, and 95% never win a soul to Jesus Christ.

God's people must be awakened. I believe that God would be pleased to send true revival if God's people would repent and get right with Him. God judges because His people cease to be the salt and the light that He intended them to be, and the ills of society sweep in and take over.

In II Chronicles 7:14, the Bible says, "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."

I know that this verse is a promise to the nation of Israel. But I see an application here for us.

It says, if my people! There is a choice implied there. America is made up of God's people and if God's people turn from their sin and pray you will begin to see healing come to our troubled land.

Another sad commentary on God's children today is that they take very little time or no time at all with God in prayer. Did you know that the average Christian prays less than three minutes a day? That's hardly enough time to bless the food. Did you know that the average preacher (I am talking about the evangelist, the missionary, and the pastor of the 21st century) prays less than seven minutes a day? No wonder there is no blessing or power of God on the lives of God's children today. They have lost the art of praying. That's not right. That is the sin of prayerlessness. One great sin among God's people today is the sin of prayerlessness. We who embrace God as our Father; Jesus Christ, God's Son, as our Saviour and Friend; and the blessed Holy Spirit as our indwelling Comforter, do not take the time or make the time for prayer. It is a great sin among God's people.

One concern of the Devil, our Adversary, Satan, is to keep Christians off their knees. He fears nothing from the prayerless Christians. He fears nothing from the prayerless preachers of the 21st century. He laughs at all of their toils, and he mocks at all of their wisdom.

Why then don't you pray? It must be that you really do not believe that God Almighty is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answer God.

I beg to differ with you. It is the very nature of God to hear and answer prayer. In Psalm 65:2, the Bible says, "O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come." In Mark 11:17, the Bible says, "Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?" Think with me. Why would Jesus say in Luke 18:1, "That men ought always to pray, and not to faint" if He were not a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God? Why would the Apostle Paul command us to pray in I Thessalonians 5:17, which says, "Pray without ceasing," if God were not by nature a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God? I submit to you that God Almighty is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. Listen to the Word of God. In Matthew 7:7-8, the Bible says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." In John 15:7, the Bible says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." In John 16:24, the Bible says, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." In Philippians 4:6, the Bible says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." In Proverbs 3:5-6, the Bible says, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Can you grasp the absolute assurance of those promises? In John 14:14, Jesus said it this way, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." Jesus said He would do the very thing that you asked for. My dear Christian friends, that is a promise; that is something that the Son of God said He would do for you if you would ask. God said He would give you the petitions.

Why then don't you pray? It must be that you really do not believe that God Almighty is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answer God.

Pulpits need to become aflame again with the righteousness and holiness of God declared and God's people must respond in repentance. The choice is yours.

God's people need to decide to live for God and do what is right! You say, "Preacher! I am not always sure what's right. I am not always sure what I ought to do." But that is why God gave you the Bible. In Psalm 32:8, the Bible says, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go." In Psalm 37:23, the Bible says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD." In Psalm 119:9, the Bible says, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." In Psalm 119:11, it says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." In Psalm 119:105, the Word of God says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." In James 1:5, the Bible says, "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." In I Peter 2:2, it says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." In II Timothy 3:16-17, the Bible says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (the Bible tells you what to believe. It is profitable) for reproof (the Bible tells you when you are wrong. It is profitable)

for correction (it tells you how to get right. It is profitable) for instruction in righteousness: (it tells the child of God how to stay right so) that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

The reason some of you have not made a solid decision is that you have not connected those decisions with the Word of God. What you need to do is get in the Word of God and find out what you ought to be doing. In II Timothy 2:15, the Bible says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

You need to come to that place in your life where you say, "I ought to go to church on Wednesday night because the Bible says I ought to go. I ought to be involved in soul winning because the Bible says I should be involved in soul winning." You need to decide that. You need to decide that whatever God says, that is exactly what you are going to do.

As a child of God, you need to come to a settled decision in your life that you are going to live for God and do what is right; and once you have decided that, you need to discipline yourself to do what you have decided, regardless of the circumstances, regardless of the situations.

God made this country great and God's people must repent and get right with Him or I am concerned there will be ruin. In Ezekiel 18:30, God said, "Therefore I will judge you, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin."

Take heed! In Proverbs 1:25-31, God said, "Ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices."

God Almighty is not going to answer your cry for help. You say, Preacher! I don't believe that. Listen to the Bible. In Isaiah 59:1-2, the Bible says, "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

In Psalm 139:23, the Psalmist said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." In Zechariah 1:14, the Bible says, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from you evil doings." In I John 3:21, the Bible says, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we

confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

God knows everything about you. God never comes to learn anything. He is everywhere present at all times. In Hebrews 4:13, the Bible says, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." In Proverbs 15:3, the Bible says, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

You say, "Preacher! What can I do about my sins?" The very first thing that you must do is repent of your wicked way by confessing forsaking all know sin in your life. In other words, you need to have your sins washed away. In I John 1:9, the Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And don't go on in your sins against the Lord. In Proverbs 28:13, the Bible says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Now that you are right with God, now that you are in fellowship with the Lord, the second thing you must do is judge sin in your life. You must not allow sin to tell you what to do or what not to do as a child of God. You need to take a strong stand against sin. In Romans 13:14, the Bible says, "Make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." In Philippians 3:3, the Bible says, "Have no confidence in the flesh."

You get your sins forgiven instantly as you confess them to God; and, as you day by day seek to live under the authority of the Word of God and rule of the Word of God, you maintain cleansing. You will maintain personal purity before God.

Question! Are you pure? Are you clean? Are you right with God? Are you in fellowship with the Lord? Are there sins in your life that you need to deal with today? Are there sins in your life that you need to confess and forsake? Are there sins in your life that you need to face up to? If the spirit of God is speaking to you saying that these things keep you from being pure, these things keep you from being clean, these things keep you from being right with God, these things keep you from being in fellowship with the Lord, then you need to deal with them or I am concerned there will be ruin.

We have noticed number one: America must repent and turn back to God, and number two: God's people must repent and turn back to the Lord, but notice number three: nonbelievers must repent and receive Jesus Christ.

If you are not saved I would encourage you to put your faith in Jesus Christ today. God is calling you to freedom in Jesus Christ in release from the bondage of your sin.

My dear friends, it is possible to know that your sins are forgiven. It is possible to know that your sins are dismissed, that God holds no crime against you, that God holds no charge against you, that you are forgiven. Listen! That can only come through the gospel. The gospel gives you freedom. The gospel sets the

captive free. It is possible to have your sins forgiven and be set free from the dominion of sin, that sin that has you in its grip today, that sin that has you in its power. You can, by means of the gospel, be forgiven and be set free.

You say, Preacher! How does a person get saved? How does a person get right with God Almighty? Did you know that all religions have some sort of salvation plan to offer you? However, all false religions have some sort of works tied to their salvation plan. They say you must do something in order to get saved, in order to get right with God Almighty. That is not right. Salvation is not by your own works of righteousness.

Listen to the Bible! In Titus 3:5, the Bible say, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." In Isaiah 64:6, the Bible says, "...all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...."

Salvation is not to be found in church membership. You can join every church in the state and it will never earn you a home in heaven. Salvation is not to be found in baptism. You can be baptized three hundred and sixty-five (sixty-six) days in a year (a leap year), and it will never earn you a home in heaven. Salvation is not to be found in morality. There is absolutely nothing in all the world you could ever do to earn your salvation. Forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and a home in heaven only come through personal faith in Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 2:8-9, the Bible says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Salvation finds its basis in the shed blood of Christ apart from any human merit. In I Peter 1:18-19, the Bible says, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Do you know the problem with all false religions? They miss the Person of Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, the Bible says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." And that is why the religions of the world are not going to save mankind—they miss the Person of Jesus Christ.

You ought to believe that salvation exists only in Jesus Christ. Only in the Christian faith is there a salvation that is secure. In Acts 4:12, the Bible says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

You say, Preacher! What must I do to be saved? You need to exercise faith in the gospel message. In I Corinthians 15:3-4, the Apostle Paul said, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scripture."

When a man hears the gospel (and that is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ) and with a repentant heart receives that gospel as the only hope of his salvation, that man is saved. Acts 3:19 says, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.." In Acts 17:30, the Bible says, "...God commandeth all men every where to repent." This repentance is a change of mind that agrees with God that one is a sinner. In Romans 5:12, the Bible says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." And also agrees with what Christ did for us on Calvary's cross. He became our substitute. In other words, He paid the price of man's sin. In II Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, "For he (that's God) hath made him (that's Jesus Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

And if man would simply believe on Christ, he could be saved. In Acts 16:31, the Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." In John 6:47, the Bible says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." In John 1:12, the Bible says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." To believe on Christ is to receive Christ. To receive Christ is to believe on Christ. Simply believe on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead.

In Romans 10:9-10, the Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." In Romans 10:13, the Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Don't you see? The man who believes on Jesus Christ is saved through the gospel. His sins are forgiven. The Bible makes that very clear to us. In Ephesians 1:7, the Bible says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins."

My dear friends, it is possible to know that your sins are forgiven. It is possible to know that your sins are dismissed, that God holds no crime against you, that God holds no charge against you, that you are forgiven. That can only come through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In John 8:32, the Bible says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." You can be free in Jesus Christ today.

My friend! Jesus did a wonderful thing for you. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him any more than to save you today so that you can have your sins forgiven, have eternal life, and have a home in heaven when you die.

If you are saved, it is your responsibility to tell a lost and dying world, a world that does not know Christ, about Him.

We have noticed that American must repent and turn back to God or God will bring judgment upon this nation and rightfully so.

We have noticed that God's people must repent and get right with the Lord or there will be ruin.

We have noticed that nonbelievers must repent and receive Jesus Christ as their own Personal Saviour before it becomes eternally too late.

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

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