

## **GOD BLESS AMERICA?**

In 1620 when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the House of Burgesses was in session at Jamestown, Virginia. The Plymouth Rock Pilgrims were not the first, yet we find great significance in the New England history primarily because of the motives of the people who came to the new land.

It is not without reason that we call these early settlers "Pilgrims" They were Pilgrims: they journeyed a long distance for a sacred purpose. We know that purpose was Freedom of Worship. Notice that it was not just Freedom; but Freedom of Worship. Many times, we think of these early settlers as somewhat primitive people, yet it is we who came after them who substituted the ignoble idea of freedom from worship for that sacred purpose for which those pilgrims came. We have grabbed the word "freedom" (forgetting we are to worship God in our freedom) and have worshipped instead the concept or idea of "liberty and freedom."

I have often thought that if some future civilization were to find the remains of our civilization that they would conclude that we worshipped at the Shrine of Freedom and that we worshipped the goddess Liberty -- in fact, we even erected a huge statue of this goddess in the harbor near one the large cities. One glimpse at our daily lives, one introspective examination of what really motivates us and we too can conclude that freedom is high on our list of priorities. For some, "freedom" as they define it, is more important than family, community, country, the church, the Kingdom of God, and the God of the Kingdom.

When we see what we have done with the concept of freedom, we have cause to wonder whether God will still bless America.

In Congress, on July 4, 1776, in a unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America, fifty-six men signed their names to a document that helped change the course of world history. In the second paragraph they stated:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."

Wait a minute! You mean that the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence – the Founding Fathers of our country, the architects of our government were Creationist?

" . . . . we are endowed by our Creator!" they said.

It is our generation who have moved from these self-evident truths and tolerated an untruth that denies the God of Creation and makes mankind a chance happening of some highly improbable scheme called evolution. Surely, we do not honor God by denying Him the credit for creating this His universe and suggesting that it all "just happened". He who honors God; him will God honor.

Considering what we have done with the concept of "God our Creator" we can wonder whether God will continue to bless America.

Among the unalienable rights are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These men believed in the sanctity of LIFE. They believed that it is a Creator-God given right to not be denied life. This concept is God honoring. It is our generation that has moved from this God-honoring concept to a hellish, satan-inspired idea that life is cheap.

Jesus warned us that satan came to steal, kill, and destroy. Since Roe vs. Wade, scores of millions of unborn human lives have been destroyed because they would have been an inconvenience to someone who valued freedom above someone else's life. While

it may be noble to value freedom above our own lives, it is ignoble to sacrifice unborn children on the altar of irresponsibility, falsely called freedom.

When we consider our disregard for God-given life, we can again wonder whether God will bless America.

Since institutionalizing “politically correct” child sacrifice our nation has looked for other expressions of irresponsible freedom and found that in blatantly distorting God’s foundation for families. There are three obvious and progressively rebellious practices that are contrary to the divine intent that we find in the word of God. The first (which has been practiced for thousands of generations) is easy divorce and dissolution of families. This is essentially a “non-issue” in our present-day culture. The second expression is somewhat related. Many have ignored the commitment of marriage and are simply “living together.” Several decades ago, this practice was shameful and that shame provided some incentive to seriously consider marriage. We have certainly gotten over that inhibition and large segments of the population are experiencing out of wedlock births of well over 50%. The third thing that we have recently seen is that some seek to legitimize the perverted abomination of homosexual practices by calling it marriage.

There is no question that God has blessed American. Surely God has blessed our nation – it began well. It began with great and noble ideals, God honoring ideals. We began in Godliness and we shall continue only in Godliness.

In Galatians 3:3 Paul asks the question:

*Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

We might ask our nation:

*Are we so foolish? Having begun in Godliness, are we now being perfected in Godlessness?*

There is hope. We are a nation of people who embrace the concept of simple solutions to complex problems. There is a simple, one-word solution that would allow us to answer "Yes" to the question of "Will God bless America?" That one word is REPENT. We must turn back to God who is the author of true, responsible freedom that is founded on the truth of the Word of God. We, who are the Church, must lead the way.