

Freedom, Favor, & the Future

"Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic, expression of Americanism. Thus, the founding fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help, it will continue to be."

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President; February 20, 1955

As we approach the celebration of 250 years of our great nation, may we seek to have the right perspective on what it means to be a Christian living in America. Here are a few thoughts worth pondering as you go to the parade, eat watermelon, watch fireworks, and sing in the depths of your soul: "God bless America, land that I love."

1.) You are a Christian American, not an American Christian. Your citizenship in heaven is of far greater importance than your American citizenship.

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

2.) Seek the welfare of your country, county, and city.

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7).

3.) Use your freedom and favor for Gospel advancement. As a Christian living in America with all of our religious freedoms, there is no excuse not to speak the name of Jesus!

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

4.) Freedom always costs something. Be grateful for those who fought battles of war, legislation, civil rights, humanitarian, and social reform to get us to where we are today.

5.) Pray for America. We are instructed in the Bible to pray for our leaders and governing authorities, even if we don't agree with their policies.

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

6.) The Nations have come to us. Whatever your view is on immigration, save it for the 6 o'clock news and the couch to hear... But what we must realize is that the nations are now in our backyard more than ever before, and what an opportunity to reach them for Christ!

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations" (Psalm 67:1-2).

7.) In faith, let God be sovereign over America's future.

"He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings..." (Daniel 2:21)

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Romans 13:1).

May God continue to bless America, you, and your family this 4th of July!

Respect the Blood,

Dalton Mathis