

AMERICA! GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE

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The words of *America the Beautiful* were penned in 1893, and they were a reflection of God's grace shed on America. However, in the last six decades we have increasingly turned our backs on His grace.

It was amazing that, for the first time in recorded history, our Founders created a Constitution recognizing that all our rights come directly from God and not from man or government. Americans were made equal: free to worship God without permission or control of a priest, minister, governor or king; free from a class or caste system; and free to pursue any educational study or any line of work. This did not happen by accident. God sent the first Great Awakening starting in the 1730s and the second Great Awakening around 1800, with our Founders writing the Constitution and the Bill of Rights during this special time of His presence.

A majority of our Founders were Christians, while some were deists who also believed that God would intercede and answer prayers. One deist was Benjamin Franklin who asked the entire 55-man 1787 Constitutional Convention to stop working on the Constitution and pray for agreement to break a major deadlock. They prayed for over two hours, and a solution was found.

In the 200 years following Independence, America experienced tremendous progress. This has been described as the "5000 Year Leap" by W. Cleon Skousen¹. He found that 28 Bible-based principles were the source of this progress which exceeded the progress made by the whole world in the previous 5,000 years. The 28 principles included:

- the genius of Natural Law,
- virtuous and moral people, and virtuous and moral leaders,
- the role of religion, and the role of the Creator,
- all men are created equal, and equal rights not equal things,
- man's unalienable rights,
- the Founders' sense of manifest destiny.

It was the implementation of these Bible-based principles that made America great.

Although America was far from being perfect in the first two centuries (a fact that is sadly demonstrated by the causes and horrors of the Civil War) the nation's overall focus remained on God. However, as the 20th century unfolded, destructive anti-God forces² started to infiltrate three pillars of our society: education (schools, colleges and universities); government, especially the Supreme Court; and the media. This encroachment went largely unnoticed until the middle of the century when the First Amendment was turned on its head by the Supreme Court². Then, in the space of 18 years from 1962 to 1980, prayer and Bible reading were removed from schools, abortion was legalized, and the Ten Commandments were effectively removed from all public buildings. This ungodly trend has continued to the present day with the latest attacks directed against God's institution of marriage.

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Therefore, as a nation, we have turned our backs on God and said, “We don’t need Your grace!” In response, the words of Jeremiah 18:7-10 sound an urgent warning:

“If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.”

However, God is patient and merciful so there still is hope for America as described in 2 Chronicles 7:14:

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Signs of hope are evident in churches that are true to God’s Word, and who sound the call for national repentance. Also signs of hope are evident in the three hundred plus organizations identified on Godshub www.godshub.com that seek to turn hearts back to God. But the battle is far from over; in fact, we have yet to fully engage in the battle!

God is calling His people to join in this revival of repentance. Will we heed that call so that His grace can once again be shed on America in a new Great Awakening?

Notes:

1. *The 5000 Year Leap: A Miracle That Changed the World*, by W. Cleon Skousen, National Center of Constitutional Studies, 1981.
2. See <http://godshub.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Anti-God-Forces.pdf>
3. “... the [First Amendment] clause against establishment of religion by law intended to erect ‘a wall of separation between Church and State.’” Justice Black in the majority opinion of the Supreme Court, *Everson v. Board of Education*, 330 U.S. (1947).