

HOPE OF AMERICA: PRAYER
1 Timothy 2:1-7

Prayer. 1 Tim. 2:1

- To **know** the needs and focus on those needs. 1 Tim. 1:1; Luke 22:31-34; Eph. 2:8-9; John 8:1-11; Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; Phil. 4:6-7
- To set a **time** of devotion and worship with God. 1 Tim. 1:1; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:28; John 17:1-25; Dan. 6:10; Ps. 46:10
- To have empathy, compassion and involvement in interceding for **others**. 1 Tim. 1:1; Rom. 8:26, 34; Heb. 7:25; Luke 23:43
- To give God **praise** and thankfulness for who He is and what he has done. 1 Tim. 1:1; Ps. 103:1-14; 111:1-6; 138:1-3

People. 1 Tim. 2:1-2

- Everyone deserves and **needs** someone praying for them. 1 Tim. 2:1-2; Luke 23:34; John 3, 4, 8; Luke 15:11-34
- Everyone in **leadership** and positions of authority need our prayers. 1 Tim. 2:2; Rom. 13:1-5; 1 Pet. 2:17; Titus 3:1-3

Purpose. 1 Tim. 2:2-7; Ps. 33:12; Prov. 14:34

- For us all to **live** the right kind of life. 1 Tim. 2:2-3; Ps. 33:12; Prov. 14:34; Matt. 5:44-48; Rom. 12:16-21; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; 1 Tim. 4:12
- For those who don't know Christ to **accept** Him as Savior. 1 Tim. 2:4-6; 2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 4:10; John 3:16-17; Eph. 3:11; Is. 45:22; 55:1
- For those who know Christ to **share** Christ. 1 Tim. 2:7; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Luke 24:45-49; John 17:15-18

Our first president, George Washington, took the oath of office and put his hand on what? (The Bible)

What was his first official act as President? (He kissed the Bible, then held a 2 hour praise/worship session in Congress)

How did they determine to open sessions of Congress? (Prayer)

Who would lead in those prayers? (Chaplains)

In 1776, 11 of the 13 colonies required that one had to be a Christian to be eligible to run for political office.

In 1777, the Continental Congress voted to spend \$300,000 to purchase Bibles for distribution in the nation.

The Gettysburg address states, "...this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom..."

94% of the writings of the founding fathers of the U.S. contained quotations from the Holy Scriptures.

The state constitutions of all 50 states mention God.

On that First "Thanksgiving", who do you think the people were giving thanks to? To God!

The famous "Liberty Bell" has part of Leviticus 25:10 inscribed on it: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

Part of the Scripture Proverbs 14:34 is inscribed above the L.A. city hall door: "righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

An image of Moses carrying the tablets of God's Law faces the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The entering President takes his courtroom OATH OF OFFICE with his right hand on the Holy Bible, and concludes his vow "So help me God."

The Supreme Court itself begins each of its sessions with the phrase 'God save the United States and this honorable court.'

First Vice President and Second President, John Adams wrote in 1798: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

President Thomas Jefferson: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." 1781

Our sixth President, John Quincy Adams said, "No book in the world deserves to be so unceasingly studied, and so profoundly meditated upon as the Bible."

At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin said, God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

The Christian writings and pronouncements of our 16th President Abraham Lincoln would fill an entire book. He said this when he assumed leadership over a nation on the brink of civil war: "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven... But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." 1863

Theodore Roosevelt, America's 26th President, wrote: "In this actual world, a churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at, or ignored their religious needs, is a community on the rapid down-grade." 1917

Woodrow Wilson, our 28th President and Governor of New Jersey, said, "America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of the Holy Scripture." 1911

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President, said this about our founding fathers: "They were intent upon establishing a Christian commonwealth in accordance with the principle of self- government. They were an inspired body of men. It has been said that God sifted the nations that He might send choice grain into the wilderness... Who can fail to see it in the hand of destiny? Who can doubt that it has been guided by a Divine Providence?" 1923

Franklin Roosevelt prayed this prayer on a national radio hookup on D-Day, June 6, 1944, as our troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, France: "Almighty God... with Thy blessing we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogance. Lead us to the saving of our country. Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen."

Harry Truman, our 33rd President, not known to be a committed believer, understood the spiritual heritage of this nation: "If men and nations would but live by the precepts of the ancient prophets and the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, problems which now seem so difficult would soon disappear."

President Ronald Reagan: "If we ever forget that we are 'One nation, under God', then we will be one nation gone under."

One Nation Under God Rev. Jerry Shirley

Consider the influence that the followers of Christ had in the foundation of this nation.

Frances Bellemy, a Pastor, wrote our "Pledge of Allegiance."

Another Pastor, Samuel Smith, wrote the Hymn "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

John Leland, another pastor, wrote the introduction of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Prior to the Civil War, 90% of all of America's College Presidents were Preachers of the Gospel.

Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Dartmouth, William and Mary and Columbia were founded by Christian pastors and church affiliations with the expressed intent to educate youth for Christ.

Rev. John Harvard, a Pastor in Charlestown, Massachusetts was the man for whom Harvard University was named - His stated purpose of the University: "That every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main ends of his life and studies: to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life and therefore to lay Christ as the foundation of all knowledge and learning, and understand that the Lord only giveth wisdom. To let everyone seriously set himself by prayer to seek Christ Jesus as Lord and Master." Harvard's original seal, which can be seen on the campus today: "Truth for Christ and the Church."

Columbia University's founder seal reads: "The chief things that are aimed in this college are to teach and gauge the children to know God and Jesus Christ and to love and serve Him in all sobriety."

America's first schoolbook was the "New England Primer." It had the Lord's Prayer on its cover.

Declaration of Our Dependence Dr. Larry Thompson

July 4th, 1776, 56 brave men signed the document known as "The Declaration of Independence."

Do you have any idea what price these men paid for the independence to live in a nation built on the Righteousness of God?

Five were captured and tortured by the British before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned to the ground.

Two lost their sons in the war.

One had two sons captured.

Nine fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the war.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in Congress without pay and he died in poverty.

Thomas Nelson's home was seized by the British at the Battle of Yorktown and used as a command post. He urged General George Washington to open fire on it. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt. Rev. Jerry Shirley