

Warrington
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AM

"Memorial Day"

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Scripture Lesson: - Psalm 33: 12. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for his inheritance".

Introduction: - Tomorrow is Memorial Day. It is a ^{time} when we remember those who died that we might have liberty and freedom.

Our nation was founded by Christian leaders, on Christian principles. The leaders of our country loved the Lord and when the going was hard, turned to Him for guidance. God seemed to lead them in laying the foundation of our great nation. When a great task confronted them, they asked God for guidance. They asked for wisdom and guidance in writing the constitution and we know that it was a masterpiece, because today, in modern times, in it not yet out of date.

They also sought the Lord's help in time of trouble. During the early days, there were some of the great powers of Europe that were anxious to conquer this country and have it for their possession. France outfitted a fleet to send over for that purpose. The colonies heard of the plans of France, and knew that ^{they} did not have a chance, for they had neither army or navy. So they called a prayer meeting. The leaders came together and prayed to God for help. Because they were serving Him and honoring Him he heard their cry, and while they were yet praying, the Lord sent

a terrible storm over the ocean and disabled the fleet to such an extent that they had to turn back home.

I.

If there ever was a time when Christian forces needed to rally round the church and all of its forces, it is now in this crisis hour. The moral and spiritual crisis of the nation is apparent to every believer in Christ. We have never had more greed, more dishonesty, more political corruption, more crime and delinquency than there is today. The very life of our nation is threatened. If a crash should come to America it would be the death knell to all nations who love liberty. The downfall of America would be the "go" sign to communism to envelop the entire world. If the American ship of state goes onto the rocks of destruction, the powers of hell and darkness would shout on high glee.

We are again confronted with a national election. Not since the days of Abraham Lincoln has so much of destiny been involved. We are not sure that either party has found the man who can do the job which needs to be done. We need repentance and prayer, and a looking to God for his direction in this election. So much is involved in the choice of a man to lead us in this crisis hour.

God cannot help us in this hour unless we make Him the Lord of our lives. God cannot be the wall of defense against the forces of hell that threaten us, unless we return to him and rally round our churches and Sunday schools. May the Lord be our God before we perish like the other nations that have

rebelled against Him.

III
II.

We are also threatened from within. Crime is on the march in America. Day after day, year after year it continues to increase. Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, the head of the F.B.I., says, that one way to stem the tide and restore our nation to moral sanity, is to bring our nation back to God, back to religion, back to the churches.

Recently one juvenile judge gave these figures. Over a period of eight years he had some 8000 boys and girls, under 17 years of age before him. They had violated the laws of the land. Of the 8000 there were only 42 who attended S.S.I. regularly. He further found that none of these children had a father or mother who attended Sunday school and church regularly.

I think we ought to emphasize the word "regularly". The person whose religion is a vital part of his daily living, permeating his every thought and deed, almost invariably will be one who is constant in his church attendance. ~~will be one who is~~ Such a person, truly possessed of the Christian religion, is incapable of committing crime.

But some will say, we have increased in population therefore the increase in crime. The population has increased 13 percent in the last ten years. But crime has increased 56 percent. Crime is costing the United States 22 billion dollars annually. An average family is paying about \$500 dollars per annually for the cost of crime. And this is not the total cost. In addition there is suffering,

DEATH and destruction.

III.

Parents have a two-fold responsibility. They must create in the home an atmosphere of Christian living and a reliance upon divine guidance. Religion must become an integral part of the home. Parents must make their religion vital in their lives. They must live the Christian faith rather than only send their children to church for some Christian training.

To make the home life definitely Christian, the parents may well be accomplished by Bible reading and prayer. Home training and church training are the two halves of an ideal whole.

A few months ago a 17 year old boy was arrested in a California community on the charges of robbery and murder. Involved with him, and also arrested, were another boy, age 16, and three girls, 15, 16, 17 years old. The older boy and the older girl, both armed, held up a liquor store. The proprietor was killed. Two weeks later this particular pair and others of the gang, held up another liquor store. They were identified and arrested. This 17 year old gang leader, his life ruined, was a boy that lacked the guidance of parents. He had never known a father; his mother had become an alcoholic. It is not difficult to imagine how different his life might have been, had he received the incentive toward moral and productive living, which the church would have provided.

Conclusion: - Our nation is facing the greatest task of its history. It is a stupendous task which home and church face today. We give devotion to the honored dead today. But what of tomorrow. Many of the nations of the world today are cutthroats and

because of fear of future.

ganster nations. People's hearts are failing them. We need to turn to God. We need to make Jehovah our God. If we as a nation would only turn to God, then he would guide us and save us from the enemy. He can confuse the enemy as He did in Bible times. But it seems that we are the confused ones. We have refused to turn to God. There is so much at stake today: our liberty, our freedom, our way of life, yes our very lives. We need to forget our petty differences over insignificant things and turn to God, before He turns us over to the enemy.

where is our nation headed?

What will our nation be within the next twenty years? Will we be found lacking? God alone has the blueprint. He knows the way. Has he chosen our nation for his inheritance? Let us so repent and turn away from all unrighteous and all sin, that the Almighty will be pleased with us, and say of **Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord!**

If a nation is to return to God it means each individual must turn to Him. How about you are you serving Him today? Do you love Him with all your heart? Have you quit praying. Our evangelist said Christians would come to prayer meeting - Have you lost your testimony? Seek the Lord before it is too late -