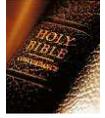


The DEFENDER - July 2019



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: It Would Never Happen Now

The year was 1776. On July 4, the 13 American colonies declared their independence from the British Crown and proclaimed themselves the 13 United States of America. And then the war began in earnest. A war that would claim approximately 36,000 American lives from an estimated 400,000 Continental soldiers and state militia. A war that would last five long years.

King George III was not about to let the insolent British subjects in America sully his reputation or question his tyrannical rule. All who have ever held the mantle of power have one thing in common: they don't want to lose it. We are currently seeing a present-day version of this within our own federal government. The election of Donald Trump as president has brought out the worst evil imaginable in the swamp creatures who oppose him.

But understand the parallel drawn for us here between presidents Trump and Jefferson. In 1776, then-Continental Congressman Thomas Jefferson wanted to destroy the traditions of the British monarchy, as well as personally attack the throne, all of which is clearly seen in his carefully crafted wording of the Declaration of Independence. The battle Jefferson waged was one for lasting change. He wanted laws changed, from subservience to the monarchy to the freedom and independence of a republic. Donald Trump wants to drain the swamp, slashing government regulations and onerous taxes while bringing an even playing field to world commerce and lowering domestic unemployment by creating millions of new jobs. Free market capitalism vs. government socialism.

We've come full circle since our nation's birth. Whereas 18th century Americans wanted freedom from oppression, current-day Americans seem willing to go back to the bondage of an all-powerful government. Americans in the 21st century are weak and soft. They would never endure the pain, make the sacrifice, or pay whatever price was necessary for liberty that freedom-loving colonials were willing to do. Many paid the ultimate price, while others lost family, homes, and fortunes. Jefferson's Declaration introduced the unique notion that free men should be accorded "the pursuit of happiness," an absurd concept to the impoverished masses of British subjects in the UK whose social status prevented any representation or upward mobility. The words chosen by Jefferson were deliberately provocative, designed to publicly humiliate a king who reveled in the fantasy that his colonial subjects universally adored him. What we see today is a large segment of our population who would love to pay homage to any one of the socialist Democrats who are vying for power.

The final parallel between then and now concerns religious freedom. The Crown controlled worship then and the secular humanists, if given complete power, would control it now. Our founders sought the freedom to worship God as they pleased, as opposed to bowing in obeisance to the Church of England. If we lose whatever religious freedom we still have to those who worship the state, we may need another revolution. My fear is we may not have enough patriots or righteous people left who are willing to fight.

Rev. David Lewis

Living in a World of Enemies

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

[What follows is a condensed version of an article found in the Spring 2019 edition of the magazine *“Redeeming the Time.”* The article was titled “Consider Mine Enemies,” by Rev. Robert W. Anderson.]

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, David wrote, “Consider mine enemies ... they hate me with cruel hatred” (Ps. 25:19). In a prophetic psalm David points to the victorious Messiah and the Father’s commendation to the Son; “Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool” (Ps. 110:1). The Apostle Paul also wrote of a time yet future, “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them ... that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with EVER-LASTING DESTRUCTION” (2 Thes. 1:7-9). Truly, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God” (Heb. 10:31) especially so since we were once also God’s enemies (Rom. 5:8-10; Col. 1:21).

Early on, rebellion against God brought enmity (Gen.3:15) since God hates false worship and violence (Gen. 6:11-13; Deut. 16:22; Ps. 11:5) and God’s anger flows from His perfect holiness. Opposition to and neglect of God’s commandments is unholy hostility that manifests in murders, adulteries, thefts, lies, perversions and is open defiance of God. Satan works to turn friends into enemies so that the rate of divorce is over 50% for first marriages. Satan has led parents to kill their unborn children by the millions in America alone.

Ultimately, all who make themselves hostile and enemies of others, pervert God’s moral principles by breaking the First Commandment on their way to breaking the other nine. Sadly, enemies sometimes emerge from those once the closest companions and family members and these hate personally. Others hate all those of certain groups such as those who follow genuine Biblical Christianity. In times of war it could be an entire nation

If God favors a nation such as Israel, she may receive greater hostility from God’s enemies for that reason. Perhaps because of America’s origin as a God-honoring nation, God has blessed America greatly and so hostility and enemies have come our way. In the USA, Christians are still allowed to worship freely, and support for missionaries of Christ’s gospel is abundant which is pleasing to the Lord. Our pledge still contains “one nation under God” and all our currency still has, “In God We Trust.” A nation that brings honor and glory and sings hymns of thanksgiving to the only true and living God may rightly look for His blessings and mercy.

So, we read that our God has, “prepared for us a table in the presence of our enemies” (Ps. 24:5a), and He expects us to be faithful to Christ’s gospel and His commands in our conduct before them.

Our first duty is to be found respectful of God’s commandments (Eccl. 12:13). Most important is Christ’s two great commandments: “Love the Lord with all your heart, all your mind, all

your soul, and all your strength AND your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:29-32). Rev. Anderson suggests that such heartfelt department in faithfulness will please God and He may restrain our enemies. Did not Jesus teach us to, “Let your light so shine” that others may see your good works which glorifies your “Father in heaven”? (Mark 11:30-31).

Solomon wrote, “When a man’s ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Prov. 16:7). In Christ’s sermon on the mount, He taught those who love Him are also to “love your enemies,” bless, do good to and pray for them (Matt. 5:44). God, being the only perfectly righteous holy one, reserves vengeance to Himself (Deut. 32:35a; Rom. 12:19). Vindictiveness is an incompatibility in the godly.

The Apostle Paul’s example of loving and praying for his enemies (there were 5 plots to kill him in the book of Acts – Chapters 9,21,23,25,26) showed in his prayers for “All in Israel” that they be “saved” (Rom. 10:1). David, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, wrote some “Imprecatory Psalms” (confirmed by the Lord – Mark 12:36) not because he himself was seeking vengeance. These psalms from the Lord were to convict men to flee from God’s righteous judgment of their wicked deeds and run to Him for forgiveness and mercy. Those Psalms like all scripture are God-breathed (inspired) and therefore “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16).

Our second duty is to, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) and he is everyone’s greatest enemy. Jesus condemned those who willfully follow the devil’s lies (John 8:44). Memorization of scripture is our spiritual weaponry against the devil (Ps. 119:11; Col. 3:16a; Heb. 4:12). We are also to resist the enticements of our (and God’s) enemies and use all lawful means to counter their evil designs. A biblical example is the Apostle Paul’s appeal to civil authority in the use of his Roman citizenship (Acts 22:25). We first appeal to God in prayer for deliverance, but we may also use all lawful means available. This is our third duty.

Our fourth duty is like the third. We go first to God in trusting prayerfulness, “... my God, in thee do I put my trust; save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me” (Ps. 7:1) and ... “...let not mine enemies triumph over me” (Ps. 25:1-2, 37:39-40, 56:4). The eternally existing God is our refuge (Deut. 33:27).

There is a design in God’s decrees that allows cruelty in enemies. The enemy means his deed for evil, but God can intend that same deed for eventual good (Gen. 50:20). When wicked men work their evil, they demonstrate to the world and to themselves their inherited state of total depravity (Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:20-23; Rom. 3:10-20). What Christians see in their and God’s enemies is exactly what God’s Word tells us we will experience.

There is a proverbial silver lining for all those who first answer God’s call to follow Christ, and second begin to live for and faithfully follow after the Lord’s commandments. A life lived in conformity to Christ’s gospel that follows “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27) yields the promised fruit that comes from consistent fervent prayer and trust in God’s providential work in the lives of all His adopted children (Rom. 8:28).

Once we learn the need to don the “whole Armor of God” we can have victory over the host of darkness AND our enemies (Ep. 6:10-18). As physical exercise yields physical strength, so too spiritual victories strengthens believers spiritually.

In his article, Rev. Anderson wrote “God in His mercy, by sovereign providence externally and by the internal operations of His Holy Spirit, inspires our thanksgiving, worship, trust, courage, perseverance, hope and expectation. Stories of the brightest victories come from the fields of the most fearful battles.”

Our Lord told us that in this present life we will have tribulation (John 16:33). When oppressed by an enemy, He said we were to, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. That ye may be the children of your Father” (Matt. 5:44-48).

Keep looking up.



Blessed is
the nation
whose God
is the LORD.

Psalm 33:12

The Price of Freedom

By Nancy Long

Psalm 33:12-22 – *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance. The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioned their hearts alike; He considereth all their works. There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall He deliver any by His great strength. Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee.”*

On the fourth day of this month of July, our nation, the United States of America, will celebrate two hundred and forty-three years of freedom and independence. Our founding fathers were given absolute assurance *“that the Lord, He is God, it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people”* (Psalm 100:3). They knew to whom they were responsible, and from whence their blessings flowed! They realized that true freedom can only be enjoyed by a people who have a healthy respect and fear, of an Almighty Sovereign God!

The price of freedom came high! It cost many of our ancestors their lives, and many others, tremendous losses and hardships.

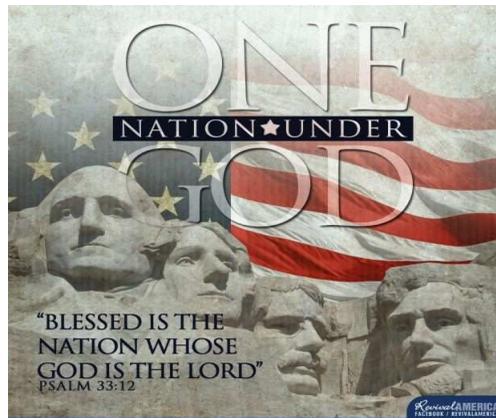
The short article found in a small booklet, Robbins Reader (1976), entitled: “The Price of Liberty”, I believe warrants close attention.

“By 1776, many of the people in the colonies had grown indignant about the unjust taxes England was levying upon them, and the harsh measures she was taking to collect them. But not all the colonists, by any means, wanted to divorce themselves from the Mother Country. They were eager to get rid of the despised taxes, but they didn’t want to throw out the baby with the bathwater.

For their loyalty to England, these “Loyalists” paid a terrible price. A number lost their homes. Many fled to Canada. Some were shot. The scorn in which they were held by the “Revolutionists” is indicated in a speech Samuel Adams made, in which he told them, ‘If you love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude, better than the animating contest of freedom, go home! Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen.’

The colonists who favored a break from England paid a price too. And what a price they paid! Of the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence, who ‘pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor,’ five were captured by the British and tortured until they died. Twelve had their homes burned to the ground. Two lost sons in the Revolutionary Army. Another had two of his sons captured. Nine died of wounds and hardships of the war.”

Yes, the price of our liberty did come high. As we celebrate our country’s birthday once again, I pray we pause to remember and reflect on the “why” of the celebration. May it not only be a time for parties, parades, cookouts, red, white, and blue decorations, and waving flags, but may we develop a renewed appreciation and a restored awareness, of the sacrifices made by those who earned for us that legacy of freedom. Let’s give thanks to our sovereign God who providentially directed the steps of those who have gone before us (Psalm 37:23a). ***“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord”*** (Psalm 33:12a).



A Time to Stand, A Time to Kneel

By Hank Arthur

I stand for the Star Spangled Banner; I love the Red, White and Blue.
I am proud to be an American to stand shoulder to shoulder with you.
I love to see Old Glory waving over the land of the free,
Knowing she watches over us from sea to shining sea.

But, I kneel at the foot of the cross where my blessed Savior died.
I kneel to honor His nail-scarred hands and His spear-pierced side.
I would never stand before my LORD or bow before a man-made thing.
When I bow my head and bend my knee, I'm paying homage to my King.

I kneel to the LORD and stand for the flag; I was just raised that way.
I give honor and glory where it's due; a Christian American I will stay.
Our country was founded on Christian values which many people died to preserve,
Not standing for the flag of our country is an insult those heroes don't deserve.

America the Blessed

By Hank Arthur

In seventeen hundred seventy-six, she took her first breath of life.
Born midst anger and conflict; nourished up in pain and strife.
She fought oppression gallantly to keep her borders free.
She has weathered every onslaught while protecting you and me.

The stars and stripes fly proudly over the land of liberty.
Her ships boldly sail the oceans bringing luxuries to you and me.
Baseball and football are popular sports while her farmers are tilling the soil.
Wall Street is trading stocks and bonds, and the tycoons are pumping oil.

The Statue of Liberty stands waiting to welcome new friends to our shore.
Her soft lights beckon quietly from America's open door.
America, even with your problems, you are the greatest country on earth.
Father God, please continue to bless her; we know what your blessings are worth.

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Summer Movie Night (July 26th)	8:30 PM