

"America The Beautiful"

by Judge Roy Moore *

America the Beautiful, or so you used to be
Land of the Pilgrims' pride; I'm glad they'll never see.
Babies piled in dumpsters; abortion on demand,
Oh, sweet land of liberty, your house is on the sand.

Our children wander aimlessly poisoned by cocaine,
Choosing to indulge their lusts, when God has said abstain.
From sea to shining sea, our Nation turns away
From teaching of God's love and a need to always pray.

So many worldly preachers tell lies about our Rock,
Saying God is going broke so they can fleece the flock.
We've kept God in our temples, how callous we have grown,
When earth is but His footstool, and Heaven is His throne.

We've voted in a government that's rotting at the core,
Appointing Godless Judges who throw reason out the door,
Too soft to place a killer in a well deserved tomb,
But brave enough to kill a baby before he leaves the womb.
You think that God's not angry that our land's a moral slum?
How much longer will He wait before His judgment comes?

How are we to face our God, from whom we cannot hide?
What then is left for us to do, but stem this evil tide?
If we who are His children, will humbly turn and pray;
Seek His holy face and mend our evil way:
Then God will hear from Heaven and forgive us our sins,
He'll heal our sickly land and those who live within.
But, America the Beautiful, if you don't then you will see,
A sad but Holy God withdraw His hand from Thee.

* In 1992, Chief Justice Moore became a judge of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Alabama and served until his election as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 2000. In 2003, Chief Justice Moore was removed from his position by a judicial panel for refusing to remove a Ten Commandments monument that he installed in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building to acknowledge the sovereignty of God.

This poem was printed in our Chester bulletin, July 6, 2003



On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress approved the wording for the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, delegates of the Continental Congress voted to accept it. Congress ordered it engrossed in script on parchment and on August 2, 1776, the members of Congress signed the parchment copy.

We often forget that, in declaring independence from an earthly power, our forefathers made a forthright declaration of dependence upon Almighty God. The closing words of this document solemnly declare: "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

Sources: *America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations*, William J. Federer;
The Rebirth of America, The Arthur S. DeMoss Foundation

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil. - Isaiah 5:20

News & Notes

FELLOWSHIP DINNER: TODAY at about Noon at the Fellowship Building. All are invited.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Canceled for the next two Tuesdays, July 4th (holiday) and 11th (camp). Resumes Tuesday, July 18th at 9:00 a.m.

AREA-WIDE MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, July 8th at 8:30 a.m. at the Columbian, OH Church of Christ. Sign-up sheet on the desk in the foyer.

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP: July 10-15 at Tomlinson Run State Park. Teachers and counselors are needed. If you would like to help with either of these positions, a sign-up sheet is on the desk in the foyer. Submit camp applications ASAP.

CHESTER'S AREA WIDE SONG SERVICE: Friday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet to donate cookies is on the desk in the foyer. Monetary donations can be given to Pam Thompson or Sharon Sprout.

PANTRY: Peanut butter & jelly.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYER & CARDS: Susie Haught (daughter-in-law of Skip & Sue), 220 Rexroad Drive, Weston, WV 26452. Margie Chisler (Peggy Williams' sister), 1596 Daybrook Road, Fairview, WV 26570.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Eva Stefl, Melissa Barr, Joe Collins, Pat Allison, David McCoy, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Lewis Call (Cindy Miskimen's dad). *WEIRTON MEDICAL*: Bill Robinson. *LIFELINE HOSPITAL, WINTERSVILLE*: Jim Smith. *FOX NURSING HOME*: Mary Nelson. *CROSSROADS*: Sarah Miller, Jim Mick, *CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE*: Ella Beagle. *IN FLORIDA*: Ilene Rayl.

Righteousness Exalts A Nation - Bill McFarland

Broken down walls. The house of the Lord burned. The people taken into captivity. None but the poorest left. All fleeing to Egypt in fear. It's heartbreaking to think of, isn't it? But it's happened in Judah — at the command of the Lord.

Most of us have thought about what sin does to a person. We know it disappoints and ruins. We should also consider what sin does to a people. As the proverb says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." (Proverbs 14:34).

The reproach which sin is to a people may be observed in the story of Judah (cf. 2 Kings 24:2-4). Decline into degrading immorality and injustice. Refusal to heed the warnings of the prophets. Willingness to tolerate leaders like Manasseh, who burned his own son as an offering to idols. Persistence in evil practices even when judgment had begun. The Lord would not pardon; He could not.

It came to the point that He cast them out of His presence (v. 20). He judged sin according to the word He had spoken. He did so after giving them more than enough time to repent. And, He did so in a way which He made clear that He rules in the kingdom of men. What happened demonstrated where evil ultimately takes a society.

Today we think of our own beloved country. Though we rejoice in its freedom and blessings, when we reflect on Judah's experience, we can't help but be concerned with the fabric of our culture. We wonder what the future may hold.

Remember that righteousness exalts a nation. If sin can have an effect on a people, so can righteousness. The Lord's people can function as salt to preserve, leaven to influence, and light to guide. Above all, we can hold out the word of life which has the power to change lives for the better.

- Water Mill Church of Christ, Springfield, MO -