

God's Hand of Protection

Psalm 127:1

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.”

Protection of our nation

In 1755 a young officer in the British army was part of General Braddock's force trying to kick the French out of what is now western PA. A battle took place just below where Kennywood Park is now located. This officer wrote to his brother about this battle that was lost saying he had 4 bullet holes in his coat and 2 horses shot out from under him. George Washington credited Divine Providence with his survival.

On Aug 27, 1776 the Continental Army of 8,000 was trapped against the East River at Brooklyn Heights by a vastly superior British force that they had just engaged and had to withdraw. They decided on an all-night evacuation across the mile-wide river to Manhattan Island. Rounding up every possible craft they worked all night to get men, equipment and horses across the river. Daylight came and they still had several hours before all would be safely across. Major Benjamin Tallmadge's unit was still to be evacuated when he noticed “a dense fog began to rise out of the ground and off the river, and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments.” They were able to evacuate the remaining troops right under the nose of British ships while the fog hid them and muffled the noise. The fog lifted and the British troops discovered empty trenches.

During the Civil War we lost 600,000 men, but in God's mercy between 100,000 and 200,000 came to Christ during tent meetings that were encouraged by Generals Lee and Grant.

Even more modern times our losses in WWII were a little over 400,000 men while Germany lost seven to eight million and Japan lost multiple millions as well.

Could God's hand of protection be removed?

Some may feel that 9-11 is evidence of God's protection being removed. We can't say for sure what is on the mind of God, but the 4th plane was supposed to fly into the Capitol or White House and most of the people were evacuated out of the twin towers before the buildings collapsed. I believe God's mercy was evident even in that horrible day.

Let's not allow our arrogance to figure we're always under God's blessing.

What if God's hand would be against us? This actually happened multiple times with the nation of Israel. Can we really think it could never happen to us here? Heb 10:26-31: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (V. 31)

Our response?

Who is the guardian of this hand of protection? The CHURCH!!

However, we've been on the defensive for decades. The Church has too often only been taking care of itself and not concerned for the nation. It's time to reengage in the life of the nation!

Matt. 16:18: "...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."

Gates are for defense, thus we are supposed to be on offense (not offensive, belligerent, hateful, nasty). So how do we go on offense to guard the city and know we have God's protection?

- 1.) **Stand for truth:** from the pulpit and in general. The churches in Houston TX were speaking out regarding a moral issue in 2014 that they felt needed to be addressed concerning a law passed by the City of Houston and the mayor's office issued a subpoena for their sermons, emails and other documents. The churches said no way. One official from a national denomination said, "The separation between church and state means that we will render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and we will. But the preaching of the church of God does not belong to Caesar, and we will not hand it over to him. Not now. Not ever."
- 2.) **Love radically:** Love people in every situation as Jesus would. Much of the world is driven by hate....we need to be driven by the love of Christ.

We need both, or we either have harshness and judgment with truth only or sentimentality with love only.

Eph 4:15: "...speaking the truth in love...." We need both in play.

Do we deserve the protection of God if we abrogate our role in these things?

It's time to get off of defense and reengage in the life of the nation....every area of the life of our nation....education, business, politics, entertainment, media....

No doubt God is calling some of you to reengage in some fashion...to take your faith and your commitment to Christ into some arena that he has for you. Some of you are actually to engage in the battle for the soul of our nation.

The Patriot last battle clip

There comes a time when you have to turn around and reengage....now is that time! You each have a role in what God wants to do in our church, in our community and in our nation. Cry out to him and find it.

If we do that our nation will have a different story to tell.

We will rewrite our nation's history.

Amen.

Don Nixon April 19, 2016