WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH

SERMON DATE
July 10, 2024

One Nation, Under God – *Heroes Emerging*

Hebrews 11:32-33 (NIV®)
32 I could go on and on, but I've run out of time. There are so many more—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets. … 33 Through acts of faith, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves.

Ephesians 3:20 (Message®)
God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

I. Facing Adversaries & Adversities

A. What You Ask For …

James 4:2-3 (NIV®)
2 You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Daniel 3:28-30 (NIV®)
28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (NIV®)
9 His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." 10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

1 Samuel 17:23-26 (NIV®)
23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. 24 When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear. … 26 **Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"**

B. What You Give Up …

1. Limits, Tethers, and Weights

a. Perspective of Faith
b. Repentance

1 John 1:7–9 (NIV®)
7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

c. Forgiveness of Others & Receiving Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV®)

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Psalm 103:12 (NIV®)

And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins.

2. Perversion — "Call Evil Good & Good Evil"

Isaiah 5:20 (NIV®)

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

Matthew 15:12–14 (NIV®)

12 Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" 13 He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. 14 **Leave them; they are blind guides**. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

a. Business

Proverbs 11:1 (Message®)

GOD hates cheating in the marketplace; he loves it when business is aboveboard.

b. Relationships

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV®)

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

3. Rejecting God

a. False Spirituality …

Matthew 15:7-11 (NIV®)

7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 " 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" 10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. 11 What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.' "

b. Seeking Direction from Other Sources …

Leviticus 20:26-27 (NIV®)

26 You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own. 27 "'A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads.'"

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of our heart may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which he has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Amen.

— Adapted from Ephesians 1:17–19 (NIV®)

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