

**Psalm 33: 4-19; “The Nation whose God is the Lord”, A Sermon prepared
for the Morning Worship Service on June 3rd, 2020,
and delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall.**

Verse 12 says – “Blessed is the nation who God is the Lord.” We are living in a time, in this nation, where much of the true knowledge of the Lord our God has been lost, and it is being lost at a great rate, because it is being ignored. Proportionate to our total population, there are not all that many people who are reading the Bible, or taking heed to what it says. There are a good many people do not know what to believe in our nation today. They are perishing for lack of knowledge. You and I must pray to have the opportunities to tell them how great and glorious our God is. Do you pray for our country? Are you a patriot? Do you love our country? Do you see the greatness of what God did, in the founding of our nation? Then you should have a love for the souls of people around you, that they might come to know God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today I want to set before you the truths which will show you what God is really like, and what He wants all men to know about Him. If you are a lover of God and a patriot, I believe that you will try to communicate to others around you these important truths. 1st of all – The Lord wants all men to know that His word is right, and that all of His work is done in truth. 2nd – The Lord wants all men to know that they ought to stand in awe of Him. 3rd – The Lord wants all men to know that He perfectly evaluates them and considers all their works. And 4th – He wants all men to know that His eye is on those who fear Him; those who hope in His mercy. These are the important truths which if believed by enough people, will save our nation from destruction, establish in the hearts of many, the desire to do what is right, according to God’s word the Bible.

1st of all – The Lord wants all men to know that His word is right, and that all of His work is done in truth. (verses 4-7)

This is what verse 4 says – “For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth.” “He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.” We are told here that all of the work of God is done in truth; that is, it is done according to His eternal purposes, and it is done with perfect concurrence with His written word. All of God’s declarations concerning Himself and His work are true, and they are right. In His holy mind He does not change or grow into being any more righteous than He has always been. He has always been and He will always be steadfast in His loving righteousness and hate lawlessness. He will always judge all things that He has made according to His perfect evaluation of them. He is impartial in His justice. He is infinitely wise in all that He has purposed to do concerning all men in every generation.

He was righteous when Adam fell to bring condemnation upon all men descended from Adam. He was righteous and loving and kind and good when He sent Christ into the world to save sinners like Adam and like us. He has perfect discernment in all of His providential care and His governing of all men and all nations. He is always wise in relation to His judgments of individual men and nations. The Lord is essentially good in His Being, and this is demonstrated in His filling the earth with the evidences of His goodness. In Psalm 145, verses 1-7 it says – “I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever.” “Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever.” “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.” “One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.” “I will mediate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works.” “Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness.” “They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness.”

Ah, this is what you and I need to tell all men. We need to tell them of God's great goodness. We should be declaring His greatness, His glory, and His goodness, day by day, because the Lord's word is right. Well, if the word of the Lord is right, then why don't more people listen to it? It is because they are blinded by their own prejudices against it. There is sinful rebellion in their hearts against God's telling them through us, what they should be doing. Many do not know God and they do not love God. What are we, God's people, to do? We must declare to people around us this truth, that the word of the Lord is right. We need to understand, if this nation is to be kept from greater judgments coming upon it, if we are going to need to learn how to instruct them of what He is really like and what He expects of those whom He has created. This involves each one of us praying to be able to declare to others the truth of His word.

It is God who establishes peace for a nation. It is God who brings peace or calamity. He does so in terms of what His purpose is, and what He sees us doing in relation to His purpose which is declared in His word. Just this past week we saw a display of many people's desire for justice in many of the major cities of our nation. The Lord loves righteousness and justice our text says. But the way that many of these people were going about to get justice was not pure or peaceable or righteous in itself. It ought to be apparent to all of us that God is not pleased with our nation when we see such things as we did this past week. It ought to humble us to the dust. There were people rioting in the streets. In a number of cities there was a despising of police authority because of one man's grossly sinful and stupid acts.

All of this started because one man, Derek Chauvin took the life of a man who he was supposed to be apprehending in a righteous way. Instead he stupidly placed his knee on George Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and killed him. And so, many thousands of people protested all over our nation. This, we should understand was not wrong; to peacefully protest George Floyd's killing. It was a terrible thing, and it was all caught on film. Many people were righteously indignant. We all were when we saw it. But the conclusions of what should have been done next were not thought out in the right way. Some people thought that they ought to go act out their anger and frustration by destroying the police station in Minneapolis. Others in Washington D.C. thought that they had a right to take matters into their own hands and they attempted to burn down a historically significant church building.

And then, to our dismay, we also heard of some who went about to unjustly take the lives of policemen, and a great number were injured, and some died. Some were actually murdered in cold blood! Oh my brethren, the word of the Lord is right and all of His work is done in truth! But there are many people in our nation who would claim to be righteous who are really very sinful people. You and I must take our stand against this kind of supposedly righteousness thinking that says that it is alright to take the lives of people in authority, because the people that are doing it are frustrated about what they see as systemic racial injustice. You and I should understand that the answer to racial injustice is found in the Bible. Really, it is much simpler than many people might think. It is to love your neighbor as yourself, no matter what their skin color is. It is to obey God and to keep His commandments. And the 1st and 2nd commandments are to love God with all of your heart, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Now, I hope that you can see what our nation must do if we would survive these days of the troublesome judgments of people in our country who are anarchists, people who despise authority. We must pray that God might have mercy on us. We must repent of our own sins and seek to love our neighbor as ourselves. And we must declare God's word to others around us, for the word of the Lord is right. We do not need to argue and fight on Facebook. We need to gently but firmly declare the truth in the right way. We must point people to Christ and what He came to do, to save sinners. They must be rescued from themselves; their acting out their sins in public like they did this past week. This is what we need to tell them.

2nd – The Lord wants all men to know that they ought to stand in awe of Him.

Verses 8-12 say – “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.” “For He spoke and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” “The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of peoples of no effect.” “The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.” “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.” The injunction that is given to all men here, is to fear the Lord. To fear the Lord is described in the second phrase of verse 8 as “standing in awe of Him”. It is to hold the Lord God in the highest regard, and then order your conduct according to the truth of His word. In Proverbs chapter 23: 17 it says – Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; for surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.” To be in the fear of the Lord all day long is to have such regard for God and His word, that you are fearful that you might sin against Him. Those who do not know the Lord often do not like being told that they are sinful in many ways in the sight of God. But truly, they need to fear Him; they should stand in awe of Him, for He is the judge of all the earth, and He is their judge.

For a person to come to Christ, they need to see that they are sinful. And so we must be willing to warn them when we preach Christ to them. We need to warn them that that a spirit of lawlessness is sinful. We need to warn them that God’s judgment is upon lawless people who despise authority; God’s authority, and His definitions of sin and righteousness in the Bible. God’s authority is respected by the honoring of our father and mother when they teach us what is right. God’s authority is respected when we submit to our elders in the church and listen to their counsel. God’s authority is respected when we honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, and honor the king. The king, in our case, is our President. The real problem in our country today is not President Trump. Oh, I know that he has his own very real and sinful problems which he needs to address by bringing them to Christ. But as far as I can see, he is trying to do the right thing for our country at many, many points. Let us pray for his conversion to Christ.

The real problem in our country right now is the many people who do not want to submit to God’s authority, and the things which He tells them to do in the Bible. The President held up the Bible the other day, in front of the historic St. John’s Church, across from the White House, and many people condemned it. But The word of the Lord is right, and those who are righteous will take heed to it. The truth is, our President is to be commended for holding up the Bible in front of the nation. He was preaching to them in picture form, without saying a word. He was saying by this act, that this was the book that they need to read and to heed. He needs to read and heed it himself in relation to his speech. But let us not see him as the problem. Rather, let us address the people who would act lawlessly, as though they think that they are justified in doing so. Those people will fall under the condemnation of the Lord for their unrighteous deeds.

Listen to what the apostle Jude says in his little book, verses 5-10 – “But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.” “And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.” “Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” “But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beast, in these things they corrupt themselves.” “Woe to them!” “For they have gone in the way of Cain, and have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.”

What was the way of Cain? It was to murder his brother Abel who brought a more excellent sacrifice of worship to God than he did. He didn't care to know what God thought about his making up his own way to worship God. What was the error of Balaam? It was to think that he could be a true prophet of the Lord and not obey the specific instructions of God's word. He would encourage immorality and rebellion against the Lord by his own example. He was found to be a false prophet in the end. How should we look at these people who foment rebellion against God and His word's specific instructions. Well, we should pray for them to repent. But we must also repent or listen to us. Listen to 2nd Peter 2: 9 – "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority." "They are presumptuous, self-willed." "They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord."

Verse 15 says – "They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet." What shall we do if we would have our nation change for the better? We must show people around that the greatest problems in this country are not from racism, although we do have our problems in that regard. Our greatest problems, rather, are related to our discriminating against God, our not letting Him speak to us by His word, not asking Him to come into our heart to clean up the mess of our sins. Our greatest problem is our not letting Him change us by the grace of Christ to become righteous in His sight; better people in our behavior in His sight, people who seek to please Him, first and foremostly. Let us remember that the Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing. He can make the plans of the peoples of no effect. His counsel will stand forever. No plans formed against Him will prosper.

But what He would have us to do, is to speak to others of the Perfect Man, of the Righteous Jesus, and what He did to save a people for God's inheritance. We need to tell them that they need to be reconciled to God. We need to tell them that they must be born again to enter the kingdom of heaven. Listen to 2nd Corinthians 5: 16-21 – "Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh." "Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer" "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." "Now all these things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

This is what we need to declare to people around us. We all need to fear the Lord. We all need to stand in awe of Him, we all need to be reconciled to Him. But you know, God can do this great work of causing a sinner to be born again. Verse 9 of our text says – "For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." This is referring to the first creation, when He made the world. But the same is true of the 2nd creation, the new creation, when He causes a person to be born again in relation to the truth of the gospel of Christ. He simply speaks the word and it is done. He commands and His work stands fast in their heart. You and I should pray to become better ambassadors for Christ, and somehow learn to plead for sinners, as though God was pleading through us. We implore you, be reconciled to God. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

3rd – The Lord wants all men to know that He perfectly evaluates them and He considers all their works.

Verses 13-15 say – "The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men." "From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts

individually; He considers all their works.” Now, this is what is literally taking place in heaven at this very moment. The Lord Jesus Christ, the One who has died for our sins, and was raised for our justification, is sitting at the right hand of God, and from that exalted position He looks out, and He sees all the sons of men. He can see all the inhabitants of the earth, and concerning them He considers all of their works. He is also the One through whom the world was made, and it says here that He is the One who fashions our hearts individually. Oh, how sovereign is our God. How much He is in control of all things! O that we would see that our Lord Jesus Christ is the God-Man, and the Judge of the Living and the Dead. He rules and reigns in righteousness over all people and over all the nations of the earth! This is what we must tell people around us if we want them to be saved, if we want them to come to Him for salvation, and for Him to be their King, to rule over them. If we believe, we should speak about Him.

It will be good for us if we will think about the fact that He, our Christ, together with the Father and the Spirit, considers our works. Do you understand that He is the One who thinks deeply about the things that you do. He thinks about what you think about, and He thinks about the motives for your doing all that you do. He thinks about whether you pray to Him for wisdom about the things that you are doing, or the things that you want to do. Sometimes we do not recognize just how well He knows us. Why He knows us better than we do ourselves. This is why we should pray with this realization in mind. Psalm 139: 1 – “O Lord, You have searched me and known me.” “You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.” “You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.” “For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.” Is this the way that see Him and think about Him? Do you sincerely pray to Him saying – “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting?”

Can you imagine what it would be like if God brought great revival and many people were converted to Christ, and they all started thinking this way and praying this way? Why all of society would be affected and holiness would be written on everything that they do. This is what shall happen someday in many nations. Listen to God contrasts the evil of our days, with the holiness that will come to many nations in a coming day. Habakkuk 2: 9-14 – “Woe to him who covets evil gain for his house that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of disaster!” “You give shameful counsel to your house, cutting off many peoples, and sin against your soul.” “For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the timbers will answer it.” “Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, who establishes a city by iniquity!” “Behold, is it not of the Lord of hosts that the peoples labor to feed the fire, and nations weary themselves in vain?” “For the earth will be filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”

What a shame it was to hear the other day about the retired former St. Louis police captain who was killed by people who broke into a pawn shop after protests turned violent there, after George Floyd’s death. His name was David Dorn. He was 77 years old. He was an outspoken leader who mentored young people and insisted on strict ethical conduct among his employees. His being shot and the theft of the pawnshop were posted on Facebook Live, so perverse were the people who killed him. That was the same night when four officers were shot, and other officers were pelted with rocks and fireworks, and 55 businesses were burglarized or damaged. Verse 10 of the verses that I just read to you from Habakkuk chapter 2, really apply don’t they? “You give shameful counsel to your house, cutting off many people, and sin against your soul.” You see, that’s what anybody does, when they advocate violence, after one sinful act of murder is done. You sin against your own soul.

But let us remember that the counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Let us remember that blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. The time will

come in this present Church age when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. No matter how much evil is perpetrated over many generations, no matter what the devil and evil people design, Christ's Church shall overcome and prevail. The day will come as it says in Zechariah 8: 20 – Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying 'Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord, and seek the Lord of hosts.' "I myself will go also." "Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord." "Thus say the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'" Has this ever happened in the history of the world? No, it has not! But it will, my beloved brethren, because God's plans and His purposes will stand.

4th – God wants all men to know that His eye is on those who fear Him; those who hope in His mercy.

Verses 16-19 say – "No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength." "A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength." "Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine." Is it not amazing to think of what is being said here? Men often trust in military might; the multitude of an army. If you read history, you see many battles have been fought, men riding upon horses, and thinking that in doing so, they would be delivered in battle by their great strength. But our verses here say that a horse is a vain hope for safety. But the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His mercy.

In closing, let me read to you some things about George Washington. George, before he became the great commander of the American forces in the War of the Revolution, also fought in the French and Indian War. The Americans and their English and Indian allies fought the French and their Indian allies. In 1755, 23 year old Colonel Washington brought 100 Virginia buckskins to join forces with veteran General Edward Braddock and his 1,300 British troops on an expedition to oust the French from western Pennsylvania. Their combined force reached a point seven miles from the French fort, and while following a path through a wooded ravine, they marched directly into a waiting ambush; the enemy opened fire on them from both sides. When the British came under fire, they lined up shoulder-to-shoulder along the bottom of the ravine and, not surprisingly, were slaughtered. Over the next 2 hours, 714 of the British and Americans were shot down, with only thirty of the French and Indians being shot – nearly all of those by Washington's buckskins, who were accustomed to woodland warfare and had sought cover when the attack began.

When General Braddock was mortally wounded, Washington took command, and even though he was shot at numerous times, did not die in the battle. Years later in 1770, Washington returned to the same Pennsylvania woods in which he had earlier fought, but this time on a peaceful surveying mission. An ancient leather-faced Indian chief heard that Washington was back in the area and traveled to meet him, explaining – "I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle." Over a council fire, the chief declared that he had been a leader with the French fifteen years earlier, and then he recounted the famous battle from his perspective. He explained that he had ordered his braves to single out the officers and shoot them down, and that Washington had been specifically targeted. The chief proudly announced that his own rifle had never before been known to miss, but after personally firing at Washington seventeen times without effect, he concluded that Washington was under the care of the Great Spirit.

He therefore instructed his braves to stop firing at him, confessing to Washington that he had “come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of heaven, and who can never die in battle. Red Hawk, another Indian chief in the battle, similarly testified of shooting eleven times at Washington without hitting him. And because his also never missed its mark, he too, ceased firing at him, likewise convince that the Great Spirit protected him. “Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy.” It is also reported of Washington, that in 1779, when chiefs from the Delaware Indian tribe brought George Washington three youths to be trained in American schools, that he reaffirmed that the fear of the Lord was still central to American education. Commending the chiefs for their decision, he told them: “You do well to wish to learn our arts and way of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ.” “These will make you a greater and happier people than you are.” “Congress will do everything they can to assist you in this wise intention.” (Taken from David Barton’s *The Founders Bible*, P. 841, B-1)

By George Washington’s own words, what young people learned in America’s schools “above all” was the religion of Jesus Christ – that is, the fear of the Lord. My beloved brethren, that is the way that it was at the time of the founding of our nation. May each of us pray that God will restore this holy mindset to us in our generation, so that generations to come may benefit from it; so that generations to come will be blessed by the gospel, learn the fear of the Lord, and become one of those many nations who will come to the glory of the Lord covering the earth, as the waters cover the sea.