

What Is Happening in America?

Prompted by an article, “Our Nation Is a Mess—What Does the Bible Say?”

Romans 1.18–32

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • January 17, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Dominic Meyer – Romans 1.28–32

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – No Suggestions

Prelude:

I. What is going on in America?

Persuasion:

I. What Is America to God?

**15 Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket,
And are counted as the small dust on the scales;
Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.**

– Isaiah 40.15

A. He notes our country and he brought it up from nothing.

B. However, keep everything in perspective.

1. Our nation is not God.

2. Our nation is not the kingdom of God.

a) The church/kingdom is greater than America.

b) The church is the greatest nation every on the earth.

C. Keep your faith in God.

1. That will help America more than anything.

2. Look to God and your fellow Americans will follow you.

II. Will Man Solve Our Problems?

A. How is man doing so far?

B. The Bible told us all along not to trust man:

**11 Give us help from trouble,
For the help of man is useless.**

**12 Through God we will do valiantly,
For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.
– Psalm 60.11–12**

**8 It is better to trust in the LORD
Than to put confidence in man.
– Psalm 118.8**

**22 Sever yourselves from such a man,
Whose breath is in his nostrils;
For of what account is he?
– Isaiah 2.22**

5 Thus says the LORD:

**“Cursed is the man who trusts in man
And makes flesh his strength,
Whose heart departs from the LORD.**

**6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert,
And shall not see when good comes,
But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness,
In a salt land which is not inhabited.**

**7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
And whose hope is the LORD.”
– Jeremiah 17.5–7**

III. Will Politicians Solve Our Problems?

- A. How are they doing so far?
- B. America did not become great because of her politicians.
- C. America became great because she trusted in God.

**3 Do not put your trust in princes,
Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.**

**4 His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;
In that very day his plans perish.**

– Psalm 146.3–4

IV. Will the Military Solve Our Problems?

- A. Is that what we want?

1. If man cannot solve our problems, why do we think the military can?
2. If politicians cannot solve our problems, why do we think the military can?

B. Sometimes it might be necessary, but

1. look at the Civil War.
2. Wars have their purposes.
 - a) Militaries do not know how to govern.
 - b) That is not their job.

C. I have been to several Civil War sites now and it is very sobering.

- 16 No king is saved by the multitude of an army;
A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.**
- 17 A horse is a vain hope for safety;
Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.**
- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
On those who hope in His mercy,**
- 19 To deliver their soul from death,
And to keep them alive in famine.**
- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.**

– Psalm 33.16–20

V. What Has Happened?

A. Listen to a couple of passages from Hosea that will show you.

B. Although this pictured Israel in ancient times,

1. yet, I think you will see
2. how their problem has become our problem.

- 1 Hear the word of the LORD,
You children of Israel,
For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land:
“There is no truth or mercy
Or knowledge of God in the land.**
- 2 By swearing and lying,**

**Killing and stealing and committing adultery,
They break all restraint,
With bloodshed upon bloodshed.**

- 3 Therefore the land will mourn;
And everyone who dwells there will waste away
With the beasts of the field
And the birds of the air;
Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.”
– Hosea 4.1–3**

- 6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being priest for Me;
Because you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.”**

– Hosea 4.6

C. In Second Chronicles 15,

1. a prophet told King Asa what it was like when Israel was without God.
2. The prophet was encouraging Asa to continue the revival:

1 Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. 2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: “Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. 3 For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law; 4 but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. 5 And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands. 6 So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity.”

– 2 Chronicles 15.1–6

VI. What Do We Do about Our Problems?

A. Nothing will help America more than the church being holy and doing good.

1. We are the salt of the earth.

2. We are the light of the world.

B. This was said of Israel, but would not God want to see it from Americans?

14 “...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

– 2 Chronicles 7.14

C. Everyone of us must

1. glorify God and
2. thank God.

21 ...because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

– Romans 1.21–23

VII. You Are Witnessing Romans 1!

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

– Romans 1.28–32

Exhortation:

- I. Let us pray relentlessly

17 pray without ceasing

– 1 Thessalonians 5.17

II. And remember—there’s a raging spiritual war, but we know this:

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...

– 2 Corinthians 10.4

III. We cannot expect others to follow Christ if we do not.