



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. — Hebrews 7:25

Can America Be Saved to the Uttermost

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Evil powers are ascendant in America. We all know it. Some of us choose to ignore the facts. Every day, however, more people choose reason, hope and love. They turn away from the manufactured propaganda. They look to God. They want the good, the true and the beautiful. They know the chaos that reigns isn't necessary. It is manufactured by evil.

Salvation and the formation of good character begin with the individual choosing to serve God no matter what. This gift of salvation is always available, and it doesn't cost anything. It is free. Truly free. It doesn't have anything to do with money.

Governments, cultures ... everything in this world ... pass away. God is eternal. We are eternal because we are made in His image. The High Priest of Christianity isn't dead. He is alive. The writer of Hebrews informs us, "He always lives to make intercession" for those "who draw near to God through him." He is able to save them to the uttermost.

Are you being saved to the uttermost? What would it look like for America to want to be saved to the uttermost by Jesus Christ? Why wouldn't a nation want to be saved to the uttermost by Jesus Christ?

There is only one reason. They believe they know better. They think eternal, practical laws like the Ten Commandments can be either ignored or bent. They choose not to follow them. We choose evil over good. We choose hate over love.

Make no mistake, the ones who are shouting loudest about hate are the haters. They hate Jesus Christ. Barack Hussein Obama declared that we are no longer a Christian nation. His political party has officially rejected the very concept of God. Jesus Christ means nothing to them. Republicans have papered Jesus Christ over with their profits in American dollar bills. Donald Trump, an echo from post World War II America, is reverberating off the walls of what is left of that somewhat wholesome culture.

It is unlikely that America will be saved. Our empire is corrupt to the core. This, however, has no effect on God's promises to those who choose to accept His free gift of salvation. Christians have an eternal mediator who is making intercession for them. He is able to save us to the uttermost. We must draw near to Him. As we do we will gain strength and wisdom for the spiritual war that rages around and within us.

Continued on the back

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The really important decision we all make each day is not which politically-charged news source we will trust. The decision that matters is whether we will submit to God's rules instead of our own. Will we choose a path forward with the God of love, truth and beauty who knows our grief and is acquainted with our sorrows. Or will we follow the broad path of distraction that is served up to us every nanosecond by the charged machines of the post modern age.

Order for your world is just one decision away. You choose whether to step onto the narrow path of salvation to the uttermost or remain on the broad path to destruction. Nobody can make the decision for you. And nobody can take away your right to make that decision. What follows is a minute-by-minute walk on whichever path you choose. If you choose the narrow path of salvation you will grow in love for your savior, Jesus Christ. You will meet Him around every corner, especially when the path takes you through trouble. Those are the times when He draws closest.

America has a long tradition of days of prayer. Imagine if we really meant it. Imagine if our days of prayer weren't just political theatre. What would things be like if we'd maintained the respect for Jesus Christ that carried us through the nineteenth century, and brought us into the twentieth.

This overarching respect for Jesus Christ lies just behind Abraham Lincoln's appeal for healing as the Civil War drew to a close. In his Second Inaugural Address he observed about the war:

Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope -- fervently do we pray -- that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether." With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan -- to achieve and cherish a lasting peace among ourselves and with the world. To do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

Amen.