

A TIME FOR REFLECTION – [Pastor Gene Henderson]

If there's a single word to describe what America means, it's "**freedom**". There's no end of voices inside and outside our borders raised to criticize and blame. And even the most rabid patriot will admit that America is far from perfect. Ironically, there's also no end to the line of people trying to get into this cruel, messed up nation, either. Go figure.

For those of us gathering in churches coast-to-coast, we might do well to pause a moment or two, suspend our political discourse, and remind ourselves that a Jewish songwriter (Irving Berlin) might have had a revelation when he wrote

*God Bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above*

Sounds like a prayer we can all echo. Katherine Lee Bates stood at the top of Pike's Peak in Colorado and came away so inspired that she wrote:

*O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

Of course, we could stop there and chalk it up to an emotional burst of patriotic love. But Ms. Bates wasn't blind. She kept writing:

*America! America!
God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control
Thy liberty in law!*

In three days we're going to say Happy Birthday to our nation. Not a perfect nation. But our nation. And a nation it would be very difficult to believe God did not have a hand in creating, building and maintaining. Let us pray all the more earnestly, repenting and asking God to have mercy on this great land.



July 1, 2018



"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity In Prayer: 6:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;

Kid's Club & Youth

Prayer ½ hour before services



Sunday Evening Prayer – our hour of prayer at 6:00 PM. Join us as we ask God for direction and revival.

Wednesday Bible Study – will be cancelled for this Wednesday due to the 4th of July. Celebrate with family and bless the Lord!

Snacks For Children – There is a basket in the foyer for donations of snacks for Children’s Church and Wednesday night Kid’s Club.

Ladies Bible Study – this Thursday morning at 10:00 and in the evening at 7:00. The study will be on “Uninvited” by Lysa TerKeurst. Come and learn while fellowshiping.

Missionary Letters – there are new missionary letters on our bulletin boards in the foyer.

Special Missionary Service – July 22nd with the Mattocks, missionaries to Colombia.

SERMON NOTES

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor
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BATTLE FOR FREEDOM

Revelation 12:17; 13:7; 2 Corinthians 10:3–6

Yet we know how this war ends: at the cross, in the victory of Jesus Christ.

I. THE _____ WAR – Ecclesiastes 3:8

These are wars of the _____ — I call them “soul wars” — and they bring a _____ you can’t share with anyone.

II. A WAR OF _____ 1 Peter 1:5–6

The Greek word for grief here suggests _____.

Psalm 119:28; 1 Peter 1:8

_____ helps — indeed, all spiritual things help — but God wants it to be *your* _____.

III. A WAR OF _____ FOR _____ James 4:1

1 Corinthians 10:12; Luke 22:40

How do we _____ a good fight? Psalm 18:34

A. First of all, we _____ to the Lord. Psalm 70

First of all, battles is how the Lord _____ and teaches us _____ as soldiers in His army.

Second, He _____ us in this battle. Others close to you depend on your _____.

B. David made a decision: “Live or die, I will _____ the Lord in this battle.” Psalm 70:4; 34:3; 40:16

C. David _____ himself fully on the mercy of God.

Psalm 94:18; 103:8-14; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 46:9