

## THE AMERICAN DREAM

If you heard the same thing I did, as a young person, the American Dream involved the following: Married with 2 children. The older was expected to be a boy and the younger a girl. The husband expected to have an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job, and the wife was to be home raising the children. Each family would own a house in the suburbs with a 2 car garage. This was to make room for that second car dream. The family had at least one pet and it was preferably a dog. Going back into the 50's, some of your American Dream many have included a bomb shelter.

The 50's was all about the American Dream. We worked hard for a living. All were encouraged to participate and do their part in making America a country of which to be proud. Hard work was encouraged and rewarded. Integrity was something worth earning. These are qualities that were taught early on in my life. Even understanding a strong link between the God of the Bible and a strong country was honored by most. Yet things seem to have changed.

We now live in a country wherein many of these, are things of the past. A new attitude has been developing and is now coming to fruition. We have transformed into a society of "I want, what I want, when I want it, and I shouldn't have to pay for it. We want to do what we want, when we want to do it, regardless of the affect to others. I want to be what I want, whenever I want, without regard to my inconsistencies. Imagine if the founders of America thought this way. Would they have been willing to pay the price for the freedoms we now enjoy? Listen to the words of the Psalmist: KJV-R (Webster) Psalms 12:1-5a *"To the chief Musician upon Sheminith, A Psalm of David. Help, LORD; for the **godly** man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of **men**. They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us? For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.*

Just as in the time of David, God will tire of the vanity of man. It is time for Godly men to rise up again and pave the way to the future. KJV-R (Webster) Psalms 33:12 *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.* If we expect our dreams to come true and be blessed of God, then we need to have Godly men dreaming Godly dreams.

Many look at the examples of Noah, Abraham, Joseph and David as fictional characters in fictional stories. It is true that they set a high standard for faith. Some wish to discount the truth in order to forward their thoughts. This is damaging to the maturing process for all. We must look to these Godly men for the patterns to follow. Someone said, "If you want to be successful, you must do that which will bring you success." Unfortunately, many have been deluded into thinking that they can do what is wrong and expect a right outcome.

## What is your American Dream?

Note some of the words of the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The founders of America recognized, as being self-evident, that our rights come from the creator. We need Godly men to rise and defend and protect our rights.

Consider where life comes from. Jesus said, “I am come that you might have LIFE, and that you might have it more abundantly.” True and worthwhile abundance comes through Jesus Christ. The founders knew this. They were like vowels in our own English language. Without the vowels, words have no pronunciation. Without godly men, dreaming godly dreams, there will be no pronunciation of God’s blessings upon America as a country or upon the individual life of the American. The selfish consonants of the ungodly cry out to be heard above all else. Yet there is no life in a selfish existence.

The Bible states: “And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” Someone asked, “What is truth?” Another replied, “If I believe it, it is true.” The absurdity of this answer should be apparent, in that no human can change the reality of something merely by thinking it. We may change our perception of something by our thoughts, but thoughts will not change the realities of what is. For example: My desk has a hard surface. Merely by thinking that it is soft will not change the fact that if I bang my head against it at a high rate of speed, my head won’t be affected by something soft.

A better understanding of truth is that which is real based upon God’s revealing it or bringing it into existence. By way of application: Truth is that which is in agreement with God. It is through our coming into agreement with God that we will be free. This is understood in the light of God’s teaching on being in bondage/slavery to sin without God, and with God – being free from sin and the end result of being in sin --- that being death (separation from God).

God gives freedom. It is God that frees from the end result of sin. It is God that frees us from results of sin in this life. He is the one that grants us peace in times of disaster and death. He is the one that provides for our needs in times of famine and pestilence.

We read in the constitution that our forefathers believed that it is a God given right to pursue happiness. Notice they didn’t say being happy was a right, but the pursuit of happiness. What we receive from God is happiness. God gives happiness. Note the words of Jesus in Matthew 5. We call these the Beatitudes. The word blessed here means ‘happy’. Happiness comes to those who are in agreement with God.

What do we dream for our country? Do we dream godly dreams. Do we desire that which is godly? Will we be godly men and women? We must, if we are to expect God's blessings.

John Adams believed this! This is why he wrote the following words: We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. **Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.** It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

In other words, John Adams' dream for America was for it to be godly. He understood that if it were turn to godlessness, then the Constitution would not be able to bridle it. Our whole basis for the government of America would not stand in its face. In order for America to be blessed by God, godly men and women must rise up and America must pursue godliness not godlessness.