



**In God We Trust**  
**July 5, 2015**

*Ps 33:12-22*

<sup>12</sup> *Blessed is the **nation** whose **God** is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. <sup>13</sup> From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; <sup>14</sup> from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth — <sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. <sup>16</sup> No **king** is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. <sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. <sup>18</sup> But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, <sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. <sup>20</sup> **We** wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. <sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.*

**4 Subjects:**

1.) ***The blessed nation*** - when God is the Lord of a nation, that nation should be blessed. Some nations have allowed God to be something other than the Lord. The end result is that those nations fall under a curse, not under the blessing of God. They create a legacy which is passed on from generation to generation. For the USA, which was said to have been a Christian nation, slavery was once allowed. Why? Economic interests. As Jesus said: "You can't serve both God and Money." When the pursuit of the Almighty Dollar trumps serving the Almighty God, the nation falls under a curse, not a blessing. We think of the legacies of other injustices done in the name of Jesus: primarily the Inquisition and the Crusades. We admit that many who call themselves Christians have gone off the path.

While other non-Judeo-Christian cultures have had many points of light and agreement (ancient Rome and Greece had some noble ideas). However, I believe that a nation is blessed when it establishes and lives out biblical principles.

2.) **God, the Lord** – God is connected with his creation. He is looking down, seeing, and watching. He is forming heart and considering what is happening. God, is “the Lord” which means God is in charge.

3.) **The king** – who does he trust? His army? His strength? A horse? These all have major limitations!

4.) **We (the people)** - what’s good for a nation is also good for an individual!

**John Wesley** (2 statue pictures) was the founder of Methodism. This Englishman (1703-1791) had an incredible impact upon England and around the world. I want you to know about our history as Methodist people.

We’ve placed a statue of John Wesley on our property near our Southeast entrance. As your bulletin shows, the cost for the statue didn’t come from our budget, but from extra gifts. When you walk by there and see that statue, I hope it will be a link for you with our historic past. When Jews celebrate Passover, the youngest child asks the question: “Why is this night different from all other nights?” I hope that the statue will be a sign and memorial to us about who we are and what we believe.

We will place some of Wesley’s sayings on markers surrounding the statue.

- “I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation”
- “I am a man of one book” (the Bible)
- “The neglect of prayer is the grand hindrance to holiness”
- “I looked upon all the world as my parish”
- “What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace”

- “Be rigorous in judging ourselves and candid in judging each other”
- “You have one business on earth- to save souls”
- “The best of all is, God is with us” (his last words)

A few years before his death, the bloody French Revolution occurred. Some historians believe that had it not been for John Wesley and the Methodist people, there would have been social chaos and possibly revolution in England, too.

**Daniel Henninger** wrote an Opinion piece in Thursdays Wall Street Journal. He described being in Charleston, SC on the days of the funerals for some of the members of the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

He described how there were some newspaper articles about local black leaders speaking against a call to violence by the president of Black Lawyers for Justice. I can understand such a call. Yet, Jesus said, *“Live by the sword - die by the sword.”* Gandhi said: *“An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.”*

He described seeing the most prominent t-shirt being sold on the streets of Charleston. It read: “Charleston Strong: Standing as One Race.”

He said most of the banners covering the facades of buildings quoted the Psalms. Across the street from the church the banner read: “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Ps. 133:1)

Is Charleston the promised land of racial unity? Hardly. But since the shooting, many have noted the remarkable spirit of conciliation in Charleston. Where did that come from? It didn’t come from their religion alone. It came from their *habits of religion*. In the North, on campuses and in sophisticated circles, we are rapidly becoming unchurched, secularized. Which raises a question: Where will a predominantly secularized society learn virtue? At churches like Emmanuel AME, parishioners study the Bible. They learn and then relearn the same lessons of goodness and its inevitable absence. Our smartphone-based politics has a way now of moving on quickly from

anything that happens. But if there is a road away from hateful racial bigotry, it will require a few things. It will require politicians able to accept the possibility of racial progress. It will require a lot of people learning what the members of Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church knew a long time before the night of June 17.

I want YOU to learn scripture + Wesleyan heritage and doctrine. I believe THIS is the road away from the curse and a pathway toward blessing.

\*It's interesting that the State of Oklahoma's Supreme Court has ruled that the 10 Commandment monument must be removed from the State Capitol grounds.

I wonder what needs to happen in the following venues:

\*The **Supreme Court** – has a marble relief of Moses holding tablets containing the 10 Commandments. The Court's daily sessions are opened by a crier who declares: "God Save the United States and the Honorable Court."

\*The **National Archives** has a bronze 10 Commandments design on the floor of the Rotunda

\*The **Library of Congress** – contains many Biblical verses

\*The **Capitol Building** – has 8 large paintings in its Rotunda which evidence America's Christian history. "In God We Trust" is boldly inscribed in letters of gold behind the Speaker's rostrum in the House chamber. A plaque saying: "In God We Trust" is placed above the main door of the Senate.

"In God We Trust" first appeared on our coins in 1864. It became the official motto of the U.S. in 1889.

\*The **Washington Monument** has carved tribute blocks with godly messages: "Holiness to the Lord," "Search the scriptures," "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he's old he will not depart from it," and "In God We Trust."

\*The **White House**. The 1<sup>st</sup> President to live in it, John Adams, cut an inscription in marble in the State dining room which says: "I pray Heaven to bestow the best of blessings on THIS HOUSE and on all that

shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof.”

**\*Lincoln Memorial:** It contains the last words of the Gettysburg Address: “that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

A brief tour of sites in our nation’s capital reveals the deep Judeo-Christian source of America’s liberty and prosperity. We as a nation must not forget that God is the author of our liberty, for if we do, we shall lose it.