

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The America of Tomorrow

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Psalm 85:1-6

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2416

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) America is still a great nation.
  - i) We should not be ashamed of our patriotism.
- b) America's greatness is not found in her natural resources or in the intellect of her people.
  - i) America is great because God has blessed America.
- c) No nation has ever had such a Christian beginning as America.
  - i) The original colonies were founded because of the Christian faith.
  - ii) The pilgrims came to our shores in 1620 seeking religious liberty.
    - (1) On board the *Mayflower*, the pilgrims wrote the "Mayflower Compact."
      - (a) They stated that their purpose in coming to America was for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith.
- d) Our American government is rooted in faith in Almighty God.
  - i) Our Declaration of Independence from Great Britain was also, at the same time, a declaration of dependence upon Almighty God.
    - (1) Our founding fathers believed in God and in creation.
      - (a) They stated that this is "self-evident."
      - (b) Psalm 14:1
  - ii) Fifty of the fifty-five men who framed the Constitution were professing Christians.
  - iii) James Madison, the architect of the Constitution and the fourth president of the United States, stated that they staked the future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, but upon the capacity of each of us to govern and to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.
    - (1) Currently, we cannot even post the Ten Commandments upon classroom walls.
  - iv) President George Washington, in his first inaugural address, acknowledged that a nation could not expect God's blessings if that nation disregarded God's laws.
  - v) Daniel Webster stated, let us not forget the religious character of our origin.
  - vi) President John Quincy Adams stated that the highest glory of the American Revolution was that it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.
    - (1) Our founding fathers believed in the separation of church and state but not in the separation of God and government.
    - (2) He also stated that from the day of the Declaration, the American people were bound by the laws of God.
  - vii) President Andrew Jackson stated that the Bible is the rock upon which our Republic rests.
  - viii) President Abraham Lincoln, in his farewell address at Springfield, Illinois, acknowledged the power and omniscience of God.

- (1) He also stated that if it were not for the Bible, we would not know right from wrong.
  - ix) In 1952, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas stated that we are a religious people and that our institutions presuppose a Supreme Being.
  - x) In 1954, Congress adopted the phrase “under God” to be added to our Pledge of Allegiance.
  - xi) In 1956, Congress adopted the phrase “In God we trust” as our national motto.
  - e) Sadly, our national heritage lies in decay today, and our Christian values are in retreat.
  - f) We need a national revival.
    - i) Sexual promiscuity and perversion, the disposal of unborn children, the breakup of the family, and the obsession with self and materialism all speak of a nation on its last legs.
    - ii) Unless America experiences a miracle, we are on a collision course with judgment.
  - g) Psalm 85:4-6
    - i) This was a prayer of a patriot.
    - ii) It is a prayer for revival.
- 2) THE SOURCE OF REVIVAL (PSALM 85:6)
- a) In this passage, the psalmist is speaking to God.
  - b) It is not too late for America because there is a God in Heaven.
    - i) Revival is not impossible because God’s grace and power are sufficient.
      - (1) God is omnipotent.
  - c) Romans 5:20
    - i) The sin of mankind is no excuse for not having revival.
    - ii) It is an insult to God to say that we cannot have revival in this time.
    - iii) God is our hope.
  - d) God is our hope, but God is also our biggest threat.
    - i) Our national sin angers God, and we need to repent.
  - e) We should not look to any political party to save us.
    - i) We dare not identify our faith with any political party.
    - ii) We need to be able to tell all parties to repent and get right with God.
  - f) Government cannot save us.
    - i) The purpose of government is to protect us from evil.
      - (1) Government cannot make us good.
      - (2) We cannot legislate morality.
        - (a) There is no law that can make people honest, loving or kind; so, there must be laws to keep people from harming others.
        - (b) Laws are here to legislate against immorality.
      - (3) Only God can make us good.
  - g) Our government is based in the concept that there is a God; and if we take God out of the American government, it then falls apart.

- h) The source of revival is Almighty God.
  - i) We need to get our eyes off the problem and get our eyes on God.
- 3) THE SUBJECTS OF REVIVAL (PSALM 85:6)
  - a) It is not the unsaved who need revival.
    - i) The reason for revival is to reinvigorate that which was once there.
    - ii) Revival is for the people of God.
  - b) The answer for America is not in the school house or the state house, but in the church house.
    - i) The hope for America lies in her churches, in her people.
  - c) 2 Chronicles 7:14
    - i) There are universal principles in this text that apply to any nation anywhere.
    - ii) There are several things we need to notice in this passage of Scripture:
      - (1) The people God has.
        - (a) God does not say, "If only Hollywood would," "If only the Supreme Court would," "If only Congress would," or "If only Washington would."
          - (i) God says, "If my people."
        - (b) God is talking to us, His church.
        - (c) The future of America is in our hands.
      - (2) The pride that God hates.
        - (a) We need to humble ourselves.
          - (i) Many people in America are strutting their way to Hell, thinking they are too good to be damned.
        - (b) We try to save face when we need to be on our face before Almighty God.
        - (c) Proverbs 3:34
          - (i) Not only will God not help us, but God will oppose us if we are arrogant.
        - (d) We should guard against pride in our personal lives.
          - (i) Nothing puts a person so far out of reach of the devil as genuine humility.
        - (e) God wants America to humble ourselves.
          - (i) If we do not, then there are other ways that God may humble us, which we will not like.
      - (3) The prayer God hears.
        - (a) The prayer that God hears is the prayer that seeks the face of God.
          - (i) The face of God is revival.
          - (ii) Numbers 6:25
            - 1. The countenance of God is revival, where God does not turn away His face, but He smiles upon us.
        - (b) Instead of seeking God's face, most of us are seeking God's hand.
          - (i) We're telling God to do something.

- (ii) If we only seek God's hand with unconfessed sin in our lives, then we won't like what He does because God's hand will judge us.
      - 1. God's face will save us.
      - 2. We're to seek His face and turn from our wicked ways.
    - (c) God will not hear the prayer of an unrepentant people.
      - (i) Psalm 66:18
      - (ii) If we want God's face, then we must turn from our sins.
        - 1. Habakkuk 1:13
    - (d) If we want God's face and His beneficence, then we cannot simply hope that America turns from her wicked ways; no, we must individually turn from our wicked ways.
      - (i) America is but the sum total of its population.
      - (ii) There can never be national repentance without individual repentance.
  - (4) The promise God honors.
    - (a) When we deal with our sin, God is fully able to send revival to this nation.
    - (b) God has sent revival in dark days before, and He can do it again.
      - (i) When we are humble and holy, we will be heard.
- 4) THE SIGNS OF REVIVAL (PSALM 85:6)
  - a) True revival is rejoicing in God.
    - i) Not rejoicing in things, privileges, or vaunting ourselves in pride, but rejoicing in God.
  - b) Revival comes in three stages:
    - i) There's a time of weeping.
      - (1) We have plenty to weep about, beginning with the coldness of our own hearts, the ineptitude of our churches, the weakness of our prayers, and the lostness of our neighbors and families.
      - (2) Revival begins with a time of weeping.
    - ii) There's a time of reaping.
      - (1) When we have genuine revival, souls will come to Jesus in multiplied numbers.
    - iii) There's a time of rejoicing.
      - (1) Psalm 85:6
      - (2) When we have a burning, blazing and passionate love for the Lord Jesus Christ, then we will rejoice in God.
        - (a) There is no greater nor higher joy.
- 5) CONCLUSION
  - a) Are we going to just watch our freedoms and liberties recede over the horizon, or are we, as churches and individuals, going to pray for God to send revival?

- i) Because there is a God in the glory, there is hope.
- b) There have been many revivals in history.
  - i) 1 Kings 18:22-35
    - (1) Ahab and Jezebel were on the throne of Israel, and the prophet Elijah challenged the priests of Baal.
    - (2) Everything doesn't have to be just right in order to have revival; we shouldn't insult God by claiming that the wood is too wet to burn.
    - (3) God is God, and He sent revival in those days at Mount Carmel.
      - (a) 1 Kings 18:37
  - ii) There was a revival in Jerusalem at Pentecost.
    - (1) This was an unlikely place for revival.
      - (a) They had stoned the prophets.
      - (b) There was never a city that hated Jesus Christ more.
        - (i) This is where they clamored for His death and nailed Him to the cross.
        - (c) There was scandal in the church.
          - (i) One of Jesus' disciples had betrayed Him, and another had cursed and denied Him.
          - (ii) The rest of the church was panic-stricken.
    - (2) Acts 2
      - (a) On the day of Pentecost, thousands and thousands came into the Kingdom of Heaven.
      - (3) If God sent revival to Jerusalem, then He can send revival to our modern-day cities in America.
  - iii) In the Dark Ages, God raised up Martin Luther, Calvin, and other mighty leaders.
    - (1) The Protestant Reformation was really a mighty revival where thousands came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - iv) Revival came to Wales in 1904.
    - (1) One writer described it as coming like an unexpected tornado.
- c) We can have revival in America today.
  - i) We can have revival in our state, in our city, in our church, in our Sunday school class, in our family, and in ourselves.
- d) Let us pray, "Lord, send a revival, and let it begin in me."
- e) To experience revival, we must first have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31

v) John 3:16