

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 24, 2017**

**THEME: "World View: the United States"**

**LAST DAY SCOFFERS**

**Sunday ..... Read II Peter 3:2-12**

*"Knowing this first, that there shall be in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts."* The description of the average American today, as I see it, is far different from the description of the average American in times past: quite different! A careful study of our colonial days and the founding of this new nation would reveal a strong faith in God and the Bible as His inspired Word. Their faith in the truth of Holy Scriptures was the solid rock on which God saw fit to build this nation. Why else would leaders in the early years pick "In God We Trust" as their national motto? Why else would our national anthem include these words: "Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation?" Now I am led to believe from polls, if they indeed accurately reflect truth, more Americans than not don't attend church; they agree with anti-Biblical social practices. They agree with Court rulings that reading the Bible in public schools is unconstitutional, and that the Ten Commandments should not be posted in public places because it offends some atheists. That is truly ironic, and borders on the ridiculous, in that the delegates at the Constitutional Convention in drawing up the Constitution engaged in what modern courts consider to be unconstitutional. They approved a motion by Benjamin Franklin that all sessions begin with prayer and Bible reading. Now really, how could a practice of the writers of the Constitution be rightfully accused of engaging in an unconstitutional procedure? Now I hear many scoff at the deep conviction of us who believe in Biblical truth that we will some day experience the coming of Christ, first in the Rapture of believers and ultimately to set up His earthly kingdom. Little do they know that their scoffing is proof of the Scriptures in which they do not believe. Ironic, but true!

**A BLESSED NATION**

**Monday ..... Read Psalm 127:1-5**

*"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."* This is the verse of Scripture that Benjamin Franklin, the senior statesman at the Constitutional Convention, quoted before putting a motion on the floor that sessions begin with Bible reading and prayer, a motion that successfully passed. He stated that it was foolish for men to assume they could write a governing doctrine without the same Divine assistance that had enabled them to be victorious in a war against the most formidable armed nation in the world. How true are the words of this other statement of the Most High God in Psalm 33:12: *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."* How fortunate are Americans to have had founders who laid the foundation of our nation on the solid rock of Holy Scriptures with a firm reliance on Divine Providence. We are the beneficiaries of the work of people of faith, and God truly did bless our nation. Now that we have abandoned God and the eternal truth of His Word, we have lost our moral absolute and are leaving it up to political foes to determine what is the better course for our nation. What a risk that is!

**OFFENSIVE WORSHIP**

**Tuesday ..... Read Matthew 15:3-9**

*"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."* I think we all notice that in times of emergency, our leaders and commentators use the phrase: "You are in our thoughts and prayers." Some are truly sincere for which I praise God, but many are the very ones who feel our nation can do without God's Word. Now that is particularly tragic, because of the truth of Proverbs 28:9, which says this: *"He that turns away his ear from the hearing of the law, even his prayer is abomination to God."* That is what God thinks of the prayers of the people who reject the Bible as the truth of

God. Jesus mentioned a false profession of faith in our Bible reading for today: people who substituted man's thinking to replace the wisdom of Almighty God. Worship that emphasizes man's doctrine in lieu of God's is vain!

### SECULARISM

**Wednesday..... Read I John 2:18-24**

*"It is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now there are many antichrists, whereby we know that it is the last time."* The fact that the United States could be more accurately called a secular nation since it had abandoned the Judeo-Christian ethic seems to have opened the door for an Anti-Christian spirit. That seems to be a fair conclusion in that our country has deemed acceptable behaviors that are clearly in opposition to the Holy Scriptures. Examples of this include the wide practice of adultery, the acceptance of homosexuality as appropriate, the idea of transgender identifications. These are the result of our rejection of the use of the Bible in public schools and the opposition to public expression of Christianity; the notion that it should be kept private. When the true and living God is taken out of the picture, the door is wide open for God's enemy to have free course. It is quite obvious that the enemy of Christ is the antichrist. The Bible teaches that, for a short period of time before Christ comes to rule God's earth, the antichrist himself will rule in what will amount to a reign of terror. It is no surprise that terroristic threats are a common occurrence in our day. That alone would tell us that the Biblical warning in today's Bible reading is a reality! Are these the last days?

### CULTURE OF HATE

**Thursday ..... Read I John 3:7-13**

*"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."* We are taught in today's Bible reading that there will be an atmosphere of hate levied against Christians even as it was against Christ Himself when He lived on earth. As a matter of fact, Jesus cautioned about that in John 15:18: *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."* Christians are accused of hate because they stand opposed to those things that violate God's word. It is true that, just as their Savior, they hate sin; but again, just as their Savior, they have a love for people. Not tolerating what is considered wrong by our Lord is not hating people. The truth is our being intolerant of wrongdoing is proof of our love for our fellow man. No doctor was ever accused of hating a cancer patient because he hated the disease. Intolerance of wrong is a demonstration of love! But a world that has been blinded by the devil will not see the light of God's truth. Their rejection of God's truth has turned into a hate for those who revere God's truth and use it for a guide for life. The hate culture is one of the signs of the last days according to Jesus in His teaching in Matthew 24:9: *"Ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."* Hate for Christ is hate for His people.

### ANARCHY

**Friday ..... Read II Thessalonians 2:7-13**

*"The Spirit of lawlessness doth already work."* When God's law is not held in high esteem, lawlessness is sure to follow. There is little question that we are experiencing in our nation lawlessness like we have never seen before. The same is true throughout Europe and around the world with what seem to be daily terroristic threats. The main target continues to be Israel, God's chosen nation. Obviously, the force behind all of this is Satan, the arch enemy of God. When people can parade in streets with signs calling for the killing of police officers, it is a symptom of lawlessness. When demonstrators under the banner of free speech as a first amendment right include the destruction of property and the physical assault of those with whom they disagree, we have anarchy. Would anyone ever have guessed that hundreds of thousands of dollars have to be spent on security when a person of opposite political persuasion is invited to speak at a college campus? The Holy Spirit led Paul to give a similar warning in His letter to Timothy with these words describing the end of the age in II Timothy 3:1: *"Perilous times shall come."*

### FAITHFUL CHURCHES

**Saturday ..... Read Revelation 3:4-10**

*"Thou hast a few names... which have not defiled their garments: and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy."* Praise God that there will be a faithful remnant in the last days, a body of believers who refuse to compromise the Holy Scriptures to go along with the thinking of the day. Praise God that we have many true believers in our nation who have not diluted their doctrine with politically correct manmade ideas. God takes notice of those who are faithful and will continue to use them to

complete the building of the Church to set the stage for the catching away of believers when Jesus appears in the air just before the Great Tribulation on earth. The promise in our Bible reading for today is just that in Revelation 3:10: "*I will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon the whole world.*" America still has many who are faithful! They are the true Americans if we judge by those whom God used to found this nation. What a joy to be God's workers in the task of building His Church, maybe the finishing touches!