

## ***America: A Country Worth the Sacrifice***

May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### ***1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***

#### **Three important directives from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

- ❖ *Rejoice always* – daily expressing joy and gladness
- ❖ *Pray without ceasing* – daily communing with God and walking in His presence  
*Psalm 16:11* “*You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*”
- ❖ *Give thanks in all circumstances* – daily acknowledging God’s sovereignty in both good and bad!  
*Job 1:21-22* “*And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’ In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.*”

Why does God’s Word give us these directives? “*For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*”

#### **Memorial Day is a day to remember** the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

- ❖ The freedom and blessings we enjoy today in America came at a great price paid by those who both served our country and gave their lives to protect and ensure our freedom.
- ❖ Our concerns about the direction our country is taking are serious and need to be addressed.
- ❖ Today, however, we are not going to focus on the problems in our country, instead we will take to heart the directives in God’s Word to give thanks and emphasize the many blessings God has given us in America!

*Psalm 33:12* “*Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord...*”

- ❖ America was founded upon the principles of God’s Word

#### **10 Great Things About America**<sup>1</sup>

- ❖ “What’s So Great About America”<sup>2</sup> is the title of a book written by Dinesh D’Souza who is an immigrant from Mumbai, India

“Having grown up in a different society...I am not only able to identify aspects of America that are invisible to people who have always lived here, but also acutely conscious of the daily blessings that I enjoy in America.” – Dinesh D’Souza<sup>1</sup>

1. America provides an amazingly good life for the ordinary guy.  
*Acts 4:34* “*There was not a needy person among them...*”
2. America offers more opportunity and social mobility than any other country, including the countries of Europe.  
*Matthew 25:14-29* – *The Parable of the Talents*
3. Work and trade are respectable in America, which is not true elsewhere.  
*Ephesians 6:5-9*
4. America has achieved greater social equality than any other society.  
*Proverbs 22:2* “*The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all.*”
5. People live longer, fuller lives in America.  
*1 Timothy 6:17-19*

6. In America, the destiny of the young is not given to them but is created by them.  
*Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."*
7. America has gone further than any other society in establishing equality of rights.  
*Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*
8. America has found a solution to the problem of religious and ethnic conflict that continues to divide and terrorize much of the world.  
*1 Peter 3:15 "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,"*
9. America has the kindest, gentlest foreign policy of any great power in world history.  
*1 Peter 3:9 "Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing."*
10. America, the freest nation on earth, is also the most virtuous nation on earth.  
*1 Peter 2:16 "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."*

***"Give thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus for you."  
1 Thessalonians 5:18***

<sup>1</sup>D'Souza, Dinesh. "10 Great Things About America." *www.phillytalkradioonline.com*. Philly Talk Radio Online, 4 Jul 2002. Web.

<sup>2</sup>D'Souza, Dinesh. *What's So Great About America*. Washington DC: Regnery Publishing, 2002. Print.

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