

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

June 16, 2019

Patriotism in God's Kingdom

This week our great nation is celebrating its independence. For 243 years now we have been a free nation. We are blessed in countless ways as citizens of the United States of America. Far too often these blessings are taken for granted. A new wave of patriotism and awareness of our blessings swept the country following the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001. Though not as obvious as then, patriotism is still strong.

Patriotism is defined as "*love of country and a willingness to sacrifice for it.*" Other words related to the idea patriotism are loyalty, devotion, self-sacrifice, and brotherhood. Because of their love of our country and the people who populate it, men and women willingly risk their lives to protect and defend our liberties and freedoms. At this time of year, patriotism swells within us a sense of pride and renews our devotion when we hear our national anthem or when we simply notice our beautiful flag flying in the breeze. This weekend is a perfect time to display our patriotism. Fly your flags. Decorate your cars and yards. Pray for America.

As Christians we have the privilege of taking the idea patriotism to an even higher and greater plane, to the spiritual level. One of the analogies the Bible uses to describe the people of God is as a *kingdom* or a *nation*. In fact, the *kingdom* was the

central image Jesus used to relate his gospel to us. He began his ministry by declaring, “*The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news*” (*Mark 1:15*). Jesus spoke many *kingdom* parables. The very heart of the words *messiah* and *Christ* is that Jesus is the King of his spiritual nation. Of Christians Peter wrote, “*You are a chosen people ... a holy nation* (*1 Peter 2:9*). Whenever and wherever people surrender to the rule of God, there will be the kingdom of God, the church of God.

But note. Many of us have deep feelings of patriotism towards America. We love the USA, and we give our time, energy and money to participate in patriotic events and organizations. All this is good. It has its place. But how much better it

is to love the Lord’s kingdom and sacrifice your time, energy and money for it.

As great as America is, it will not last forever. It may be overpowered someday by a more powerful nation. Our economy may someday crumble and fall. The examples of the great Roman and Alexandrian empires vividly demonstrate this possibility. But the Lord’s kingdom will never be destroyed (*Daniel 2:44*). Even Satan with his demonic forces cannot destroy the kingdom of God (*Matthew 16:18*).

Do you feel as patriotic towards the church as you do America? Do you have feelings of pride, loyalty and devotion for the church? Are you willing to sacrifice for the Lord’s kingdom with your time, energy and resources? If so, show it! Don’t hide your light under a bushel. Don’t limit your Christian activities to within the walls of a church building. Let everybody know you are a citizen of the Kingdom of God!

— Joe Chesser

By Whose Standard

Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.”

II Samuel 12:5

Nathan the prophet came to King David with a parable. David thought it was a real story about a sheep thief, when in fact it

was a story about a man who stole another's wife, and then had the husband killed. David was that man. He was so blind and clueless, he didn't realize the story was a picture of his own life. The death sentence seemed right to him until he realized he was the man. If someone made up a parable about our lives and came to us for an opinion, would we demand justice and vengeance? Before we set ourselves up as judges of the sinners in the world, we need to look at our lives in the mirror. Jesus told us to be careful when we make a judgment. The same standard may come home to haunt us.

— Email

Upcoming Events :

Lady's Day ... "A Word Fitly Spoken"

Presented by : Sheila Butt

Date : August 3, 2019 (*Mark this date.*)

Venue : Clinton Church of Christ
5450 Evans Rd..
Clinton, Illinois 61727

Luncheon : calling ahead appreciated (217/ 935-5058)

Lady's Day ... "A Heart Full Of Joy"

Presented by : Delores Nelson

Date : September 28, 2019 (*Mark this date.*)

Venue : Sunnyside Church of Christ
5450 Evans Rd..
Decatur Illinois

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Soups in pull tab cans, Hormel dinners in small oval containers (Dinty Moore, turkey and dressing, beef and mashed potatoes) Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, tuna packets (*no pork prod.*)

Birthday : Sherry Clark July 1

Reading : **Judges 8: 1-35**

NEXT WEEK : (July 7, 2019)

Song Leader : Tim

Scripture Reader : Johnathan

Table & Announcements : Greg

Terrifying Statistics :

In the 2010 census only 53% of Shelbyville attend church. Survey's show 75% of Christians don't value evangelism. Pray for the lost for they face eternity separation from God and for Christians who don't share the gospel with them..

Prayer List :

Betty Lowe : Betty is having significant heart issues, but she is involved in physical therapy to rebuild her strength enough to receive a stent this Fall. She is making some progress.

Shelly Kruger : Pete's niece is battling cancer and it's a real struggle. They had to take her back to the hospital on Friday due to an infection. She is in urgent need of prayers.

Mike Nichols : Mike continues therapy and is working hard to regain his mobility. He is beginning to show incremental progress but it is a long, challenging process.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Doris Faulkner : Her condition is advancing more rapidly.

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law is holding his own.

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend has severe kidney failure due to diabetes. His condition is deteriorating.

** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders*

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !