**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Only Hope for America |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Proverbs 14:34 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1865 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. Proverbs 14:34 helps us as we face the future in these beloved United States of America.
		1. The only hope for America is found in this verse.
	2. America ranks near the top in abortions, crime, sexual perversion, the destruction of family values, and in the enforcement of humanistic political correctness.
		1. If the Lord tarries, what kind of nation will our children and our children’s children inherit?
	3. It has been said that the most important thing is the economy.
		1. Many people believe that.
		2. But is the economy the most important issue?
			1. It is better to leave our children and grandchildren the legacy of a godly nation than great wealth to be squandered in a godless society.
	4. Righteousness is our great need.
		1. Proverbs 14:34
	5. Alexander Hamilton: “People get the kind of government they deserve.”
		1. If we want to know what is right or wrong with America, then we probably need to look in the mirror.
	6. We are trying to make our government do something that the Constitution did not design it to do.
	7. We need to understand where we have come from and what has made America the greatest nation on the face of this Earth.
		1. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed.
			1. It marked the birthday of this nation.
				1. This nation, under God, was destined for world leadership.
			2. This same document that declared our independence from Great Britain, also declared our great dependence upon Almighty God.
				1. Firm reliance is dependence.
			3. Leviticus 25:10
		2. In the Declaration of Independence, we said that Sovereign God is man’s Creator.
			1. Today, we cannot teach creationism in school nor that the Creator gave us those unalienable rights.
				1. The government does not give them to us.
				2. The government should not take them from us.
				3. Government is only ordained to protect those rights.
		3. Read Romans 13 to see what our founding fathers believed about government.
	8. In today’s message, we will discuss America’s only hope as we look at three specific things from Proverbs 14:34.
2. the righteousness: the exaltation of a nation (proverbs 14:34)
	1. Righteousness and liberty are inextricably interwoven.
		1. We cannot have true liberty without true righteousness.
	2. Righteousness is living responsibly under God.
		1. Righteousness is my assuming my God-given responsibilities as a citizen of the kingdom of God and as a citizen of this great country.
	3. Righteousness and responsibility are inseparably wed together.
		1. For example, a little baby has no responsibilities.
			1. He does not have to worry about paying the light bills or going to the grocery store.
			2. He does not have to worry about changing his clothes or even his dirty diapers.
		2. But the little baby also has no liberties.
			1. He does not decide where he is going to sleep, what he will eat, or what he will wear.
			2. He has no responsibilities because he has no liberties because he has not lived responsibly.
		3. As the child grows and is able to assume more and more responsibilities, the child is given more and more liberties.
			1. When the child is responsible enough, he can then walk home from school or borrow the car.
		4. When someone becomes a criminal and no longer lives responsibly, he is put in jail.
			1. When he fails in his responsibilities, his liberties are taken away.
	4. What is true for individuals is also true for a nation.
		1. A nation is comprised and composed of individuals.
		2. We have more liberty or less liberty in direct proportion to our character.
			1. When we lose responsibility, character, and righteousness, we will also lose liberty.
			2. Whenever there is a loss of character, righteousness, and responsibility assumed (which is what character is), there will always be a growth of government.
				1. People who cannot live responsibly from within will be governed from without.
	5. What made America such a great nation is that America was born in a revival.
		1. From 1740-1770, there was a great revival that swept across America.
			1. It was called The Great Awakening.
			2. Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield were among the preachers of this time.
			3. Out of this revival, schools were built.
				1. In those schools, principles were taught and character became very strong.

As a result of that, a nation was born.

* + 1. Out of this, a Declaration of Independence from Great Britain and a dependence upon Almighty God were put into our hearts by our founding fathers.
			1. They knew that the more character someone has, the more responsibility he will assume, and the less government he will need.
				1. To our founding fathers, the best government was the least government.
	1. We have in America a constitutional government, a republic.
		1. A government based in law, a constitution.
		2. Those who serve in our government serve as a representative body that represent the people.
			1. They serve only with the consent of the governed.
			2. It is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.
		3. This kind of government can only work where there is character.
			1. It cannot work apart from character.
		4. If there is no righteousness, then this kind of government, which we believe was rooted in Judeo Christian ethic, will not work.
		5. James Madison, the fourth president of the United States and the architect of the federal Constitution, said that our whole future is based upon people who have character, and the basis of that character is the Ten Commandments of God.
			1. The Ten Commandments have been taken from the classrooms of America’s schools and called unconstitutional.
	2. Liberty is responsibility assumed.
		1. Proverbs 14:34
		2. Doing your thing is not responsibility.
			1. That is not liberty; that is license.
			2. The ultimate result is a dependent mentality.
		3. Real liberty always comes from within.
			1. It is taking the policeman from the street corner and putting him in your heart.
			2. The less God rules in our hearts, the more control we will have to have from without.
			3. What is the difference between freedom and slavery?
				1. The difference is where the laws are.

In slavery, the laws are on the outside.

In freedom, the laws are in your heart.

* + - * 1. Proverbs 14:34
	1. When the Constitution was born in the fires of revival, America was born.
		1. She announced her independence with a firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence.
		2. There was an Industrial Revolution, and America began to produce great wealth.
			1. There were certain principles of liberty that began to work in America.
		3. America obtained military strength.
			1. Nahum 3:13
				1. This was God’s judgment upon a nation.

He would take away their strength.

* + 1. Our nation became a strong nation and a wealthy nation.
		2. Our nation had culture and prestige.
			1. Americans were admired all over the world.
				1. Today, we are scorned and hated.

We tried to buy our way through nations around this world.

* 1. Liberty is responsibility and character assumed.
		1. Proverbs 14:34
1. the reproach: the humiliation of a nation (proverbs 14:34)
	1. The great American dream has begun to dissolve because of sin.
		1. We came through the Civil War.
		2. We came through World War 1 with God’s help.
			1. We were poor winners.
				1. We did not know how to give God thanks for what He had done.
		3. The Flapper Age came, and the Roaring Twenties came.
			1. America was out of control and self-indulgent.
		4. Then in 1929, the Great Depression came, and the stock market crashed.
		5. What has happened in America has not just happened recently.
			1. What has happened in America happened a long time ago; we wanted self-government without self-control.
				1. It cannot be done.
		6. Out of the Great Depression, rather than going back and saying what was wrong and fixing it rightly, we tried to fix it the wrong way.
			1. We began to give more and more power to the government.
			2. We began to relinquish more responsibility to the government.
	2. As character disintegrates, there is a loss of liberty; and the government becomes more and more powerful.
		1. When there is the erosion of character, sexual permissiveness and perversion, the disposal of unwanted and unborn children, the breakup of the family, the obsession with material things, and a craving for pleasure, sex and drugs, the government will get bigger and bigger.
		2. What the government does is a very tricky thing.
			1. First of all, government begins to provide for people.
				1. The people fail to realize that the government cannot give anyone anything that it first does not take away.

The government does not have anything to give in and of itself.

It only can give what it takes away.

* + - 1. As the government provides, it assumes more and more authority.
				1. The government that begins to provide begins to regulate.

Anything that depends upon me for its subsistence, I can control.

Whatever feeds us will control us.

* + - 1. After the government provides and then controls, it is then free to oppress.
			2. Then, we have a totalitarian government.
				1. We have less freedom and less liberty because the weak character of the people has permitted it.
	1. Liberty will last only as long as character and responsibility last.
		1. Some people say that it makes no difference what the character of our leaders is so long as they can do their jobs.
			1. They cannot do the job without character.
				1. It is all rooted together.
				2. Proverbs 14:34
	2. We still have a lot of blessings in America, but the blessings we enjoy are the residual blessings that our fathers and forefathers have left us.
		1. We are living in the shadows of an age.
		2. Our liberties are fast receding over the horizon.
		3. It is time that we awakened America.
	3. What will happen if we don’t awaken? What is the reproach that will come to us?
		1. The loss of liberty.
		2. The disappearance of the middle class.
			1. There will only be two classes:
				1. The very rich.
				2. The very poor.

Those who are very rich, for the most part, will be in the government or associated with the government.

The very poor are those who are not in the government and who have to work to keep the government going.

* 1. Government is not here to meet our needs; that is not the purpose of government.
		1. Romans 13
		2. The government is here to protect us from tyranny and to punish evil doers.
			1. Our forefathers said that the government is here to provide the common defense and to promote the general welfare.
		3. 2 Thessalonians 3:10
		4. When we begin to see the government as a cow to be milked rather than a watch dog to be fed, we are in trouble.
	2. Whatever the government subsidizes, the government controls; and this includes education.
		1. Our children are sent off to an educational system that has outlawed God.
		2. In place of the Ten Commandments, we have values clarification.
		3. In place of good, old-fashioned Americanism, we have glories of the welfare state.
		4. Instead of a person standing up with patriotism for his nation, our children are taught the glories of a one-world government and new world order.
			1. Hitler said to give him the minds of the children and in one generation, he would give us the Fascist super state.
				1. That is why he started his youth corp.

Stalin did the same thing.

* + 1. The Bible is out, and humanism with its X-rated textbook is in.
			1. The human educator says that a child is sick if he loves his parents, loves the founding fathers, believes in God, and says America first.
				1. The educators have to re-educate him.
			2. They want to break into the impressionable minds of our children and rob them of the values of the parents.
	1. Proverbs 14:34
1. the revival: the restoration of a nation (matthew 5:13)
	1. We need to take America back.
		1. God is our only hope.
	2. America needs a new birth of freedom.
		1. This will come when we have the character that our founding fathers had.
	3. We do not have to be a majority.
		1. We are light and salt.
			1. Salt penetrates and purifies.
			2. Salt heals and preserves.
			3. We are to be the salt, not the sugar.
		2. Matthew 5:13
		3. Today, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is being walked on and trodden under the feet of men.
			1. This is because we have become salt without savor.
	4. We hear much today about the separation of church and state.
		1. This phrase is not found in the Constitution.
		2. Our founding fathers believed that no state church should be paid for with tax money.
		3. Not in their wildest dreams did they ever think about the separation of God and government.
			1. We are “one nation under God”.
		4. To say don’t mix politics and religion is like saying to put the fish in one barrel and the salt in another.
			1. Surely, our character ought to permeate our society.
	5. We don’t just go out and demand liberty.
		1. That is like a twelve-year-old demanding the keys to the car.
	6. It is time that we assume our responsibility.
		1. We as believers should begin to train our children and to care for our own people, such as the widows and the orphans.
	7. The Constitution was written by people with character for people of character.
		1. We get the kind of government we deserve.
			1. The powers that be are ordained of God.
				1. Romans 13:1
			2. Proverbs 29:2
2. CONCLUSION
	1. Liberty comes when God’s people say, “Enough is enough; there is a God.”
	2. Proverbs 14:34
	3. It is revival which is the restoration of a nation.
	4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	5. 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.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16