

## A WORD OF INSPIRATION



The month of July will take on a grand magnificence that we, as a nation, have not seen before. The “fourth” will have a life of its own that will be remembered by our children and talked about to our grandchildren. This celebration of Independence Day will accentuate our national freedom like no other because of the events of 9/11 which showed us our vulnerability and threatened our freedoms at the very core of America’s greatness. Our country will come together in parades, flag flying, picnics and fireworks to demonstrate to the world that America has not forgotten its forefathers and the great cost of life to gain and preserve our freedom. That which other people long for, we have long taken for granted.

But there’s something else America has long taken for granted that is a greater threat to our strength and stability. And that is God’s grace and mercy poured out upon this “land of the free and the home of the brave.” There are those who want to put their “hand” upon us to do us harm, but that will be nothing compared to the resulting chaos and carnage if God removes “His hand” from us. Daniel Webster said it this way, “If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”

Can you see a direct correlation between the spiritual, moral and economic condition of our country and its attitude toward the God of heaven these past five decades? I believe the answer is obvious to all who love God and our country.

When the Psalmist wrote, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance” (Psalm 33:12), his frame of reference was Israel, but God looked to any and all nations who would trust Him, exalt and honor Him above all else. And when America does that, God will once again “bless America.”

So, as we celebrate this year’s “**Independence Day**” with family and friends, let’s not forget that our true freedoms and security lie in our relationship with the God of heaven and our continual growth and service to Him alone.

Respectfully,  
Dr. David J. LeBlanc  
Baltimore County Baptist Church