

Youth Ministry



CLEVE STAFFORD
YOUTH MINISTER

As September 11 approaches, let's take some time to reflect on what we have in this country. I have been watching programs on the tragic events that transpired a decade ago and although it still infuriates me, it has given me the opportunity to think about how blessed we are. From the ashes of those two American landmarks, hope arose. People flocked to churches, found God and committed themselves to friends and family – realizing how fleeting those relationships could be.

When the first settlers to the new world arrived they were glad to have escaped the confines of the English governmental system that placed them under severe subjugation of a tyrant king and controlling religious establishment. What they did not forget, however, was their loyalty to God. Through the traumatic, formative years of the “new” country, God was the center of everything they did. Even the constitution, calling for separation of church and state, did not exclude God from its foundation. What they tried to achieve was religious freedom and not “church control” – something misunderstood by so many opposed to Christianity. This was done and America started to take shape. Like all infants, mistakes were made – some costly – but the dedication to freedom and liberty drove the country on. God was first and foremost, and church attendance was a Sunday ritual that was looked forward to – and God blessed His new nation with prosperity and protection. When other countries were struggling, America was prospering; when other's were dormant, America was building; when other's were fighting for greed, America was fighting for freedom – and when other's were worshipping idols, America was worshipping the true and living God.

Today, we are allowed to practice our religious freedom in safety, and we do not have to travel more than a couple of blocks to see a church we can attend. God is in our constitution, on our money, in our courts, and in our hearts. Although Satan moves against the Almighty and tries to have Him removed from every facet of society, he is doomed to failure. A battle may be won every now and then by the prince of darkness but ultimately, the war's outcome has already been recorded – a victory for the Light. We are blessed because we have everything we need to be effective Christians and witnesses – money, security, freedom, schools, churches and Christ – God bless America.

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