

GOD'S BLESSINGS





- “The times are evil; that is, there is much that is evil in them. It would be to our shame and discredit if we failed to recognize that evil; if we wrapped ourselves in a foolish optimism and failed to war with heart and strength against the evil. It would be equally to our discredit if we declined to strive for good because we feared the strength of evil. There is much evil. There is much good, too.”

Ephesians 5:15-17 “Be very careful, then, how you live—not

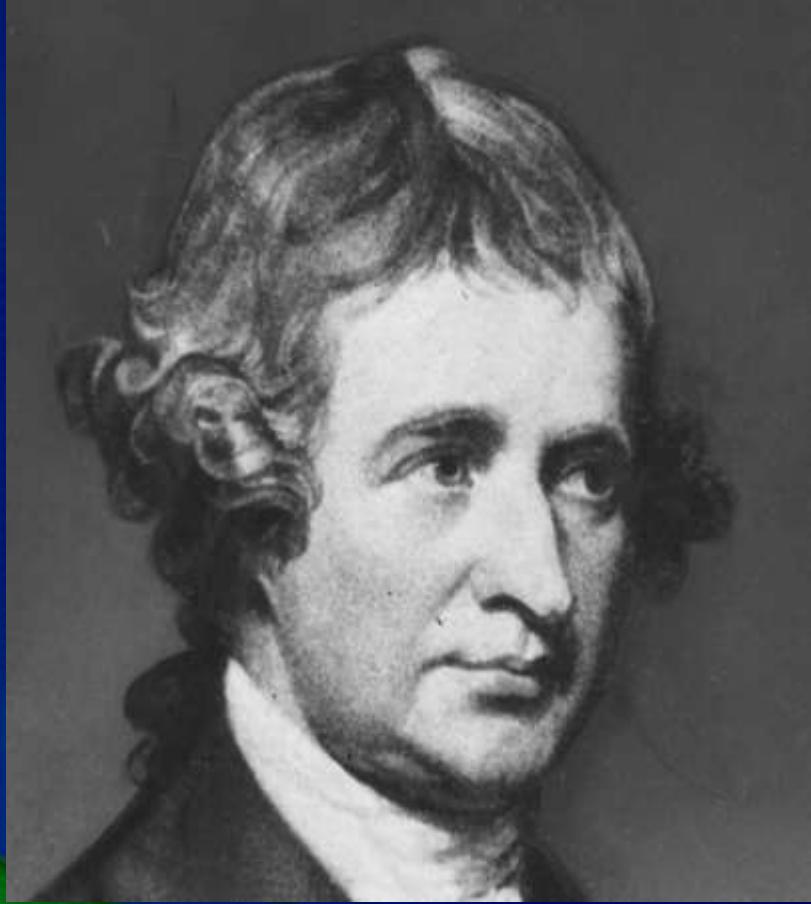
“Be very
careful how
you live...”

1 John 5:19 (NASB)

*We know that we are of God,
and that the whole world lies in
the power of the evil one.*



Sir Edmund Burke



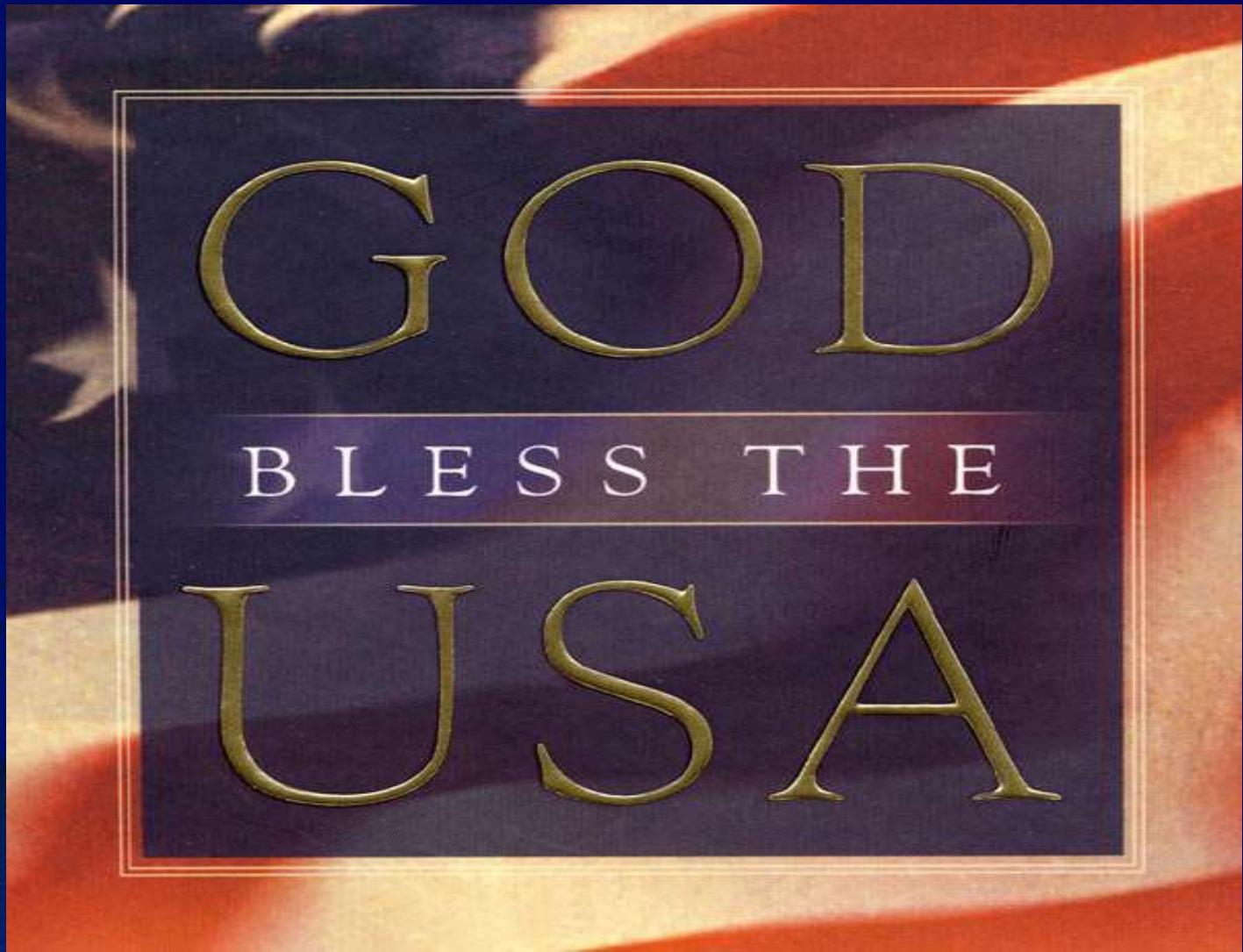
*“All that is
necessary for
the triumph of
evil is that
good men do
nothing.”*



Job 1:10 “*Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.*”



What is the path to blessing for us personally
and as a nation?



I. WE MUST ACCEPT GOD'S CORRECTION

- Someone said that the handwriting on the wall usually means someone is going to get a spanking.



- Job 5:17 “**Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.**”
- Proverbs 22:15 - **Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.**
- Proverbs 19:18 - **18 Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.**
- Proverbs 23:13-14 - **13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. 14 You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.**

- Proverbs 29:15 - *The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*
- Proverbs 20:30 - *30 Stripes that wound scour away evil, And strokes reach the innermost parts.*
- Proverbs 13:24 24 *Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.* Holy Bible, New Living Translation

SO IT IS WITH GOD

- **Deuteronomy 8:5** - *Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.*
- **Psalm 94:12** “*Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD, the man you teach from your law.*”
- **Proverbs 3:11-12** “*My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.*”

Backslidden State Most Miserable by John Charles Ryle.

- *“It is a miserable thing to be a backslider. Of all unhappy things that can befall a man, I suppose “backsliding” is the worst. A stranded ship, a broken-winged eagle, a garden overrun with weeds, a harp without strings, a church in ruins—all these are sad sights.*
- *“But a backslider is a sadder sight still... But I do believe that a man may fall away so far that he shall lose sight of his own grace, and despair of his own salvation. And if this is not hell, it is certainly the next thing to it!”*

Proverbs 1:7 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”



II. WE MUST HAVE GOD'S FRIENDSHIP

- Job 29:4 “*Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God's intimate friendship blessed my house.*”

- Psalm 1:1-3 “**Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.**”
- Psalm 34:8 “**Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.**”
- Psalm 40:4 “**Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.**”

- Psalm 89:15 “*Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.*”
- Psalm 119:1-2 “*Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.*”

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- “He is the supreme example of the tragedy of lack of discipline. Never did so great a mind produce so little. He left Cambridge University to join the army; he left the army because he could not rub down a horse; he returned to Oxford and left without a degree.”
 - “He began a paper called "The Watchman" which lived for ten publications and then died. It has been said of him, *"he lost himself in visions of work to be done, that always remained to be done."*”
 - Coleridge had every poetic gift but one--the gift of sustained and concentrated effort. In his head and in his mind he had all kinds of books, as he said, ***"completed save for transcription."***
 - “But the books were never composed outside of Coleridge's mind, because he would not face the discipline of sitting down to write them out.”

“...that some people have just enough religion to be miserable: Too much religion to be happy at the bars and too little to be happy at Prayer Meeting.”



WE MUST TRUST GOD'S WISDOM

- **Job 42:12** “*The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys.*”
- **Psalm 5:3** “*In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.*”

- Psalm 27:13-14 “*I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.*”
- Psalm 33:20-21 “*We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.*”
- Psalm 37:7-8 “*Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.*”

- Psalm 40:1-3 “*I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.*”

“The trouble is that I’m
in a hurry, but God
isn’t.”



Isaiah 12:2 - "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." NASU



Isaiah 12:2 - "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." NASU



- We can travel first-class or second-class to heaven.
- Second class is, ‘When I am afraid, I will trust.’
- First class is, ‘I will trust, and not be afraid.’



