

WARM UP

D.L. Moody once said, "Dirty Bible, clean heart: clean Bible, dirty heart!" Any nation that is not embarrassed to have the Bible as its foundation will not only be blessed by God, but will rise to be a great nation.

During the Great War (1914-1918) the then president of the USA, Woodrow Wilson, wrote this testimony in a special edition of the New Testament, "The White House, Washington, July 23, 1917 - The Bible is the Word of Life. I beg that you will read it and find this out for yourselves... and the more you read the more it will become plain to you what things are worthwhile and what are not, what things make men happy - loyalty, right dealing, speaking the truth... When you have read the Bible, you will know that it is the Word of God..."



READ Hebrews 4:12

QUESTIONS

1. Someone once said, "Men fight for freedom, then they accumulate laws to take it away from themselves". Have you been tempted to compromise on your convictions to please people in general? Discuss. Read Proverbs 29:25. If you fear man you will begin to compromise!

2. Discuss how you think Proverbs 14:34 would affect nations. Give practical illustrations from the physical, moral and financial points of view. (See also 2 Samuel 23:3.)

BACKGROUND

For years America has been a great nation. That is because its Founding Fathers regarded the Bible as the Word of God and fashioned its constitution around the Bible's pages. This is the only nation that was courageous enough to have stamped on their coins and printed on their dollar notes the words, "In God We Trust". But when US leaders decided not to offend others with their spiritual beliefs, they began to compromise which led to their taking prayers and Bible reading out of the schools. Today, the once greatest nation on earth is beginning to unwind.

3. The Psalmist stated that he had more understanding than all his teachers - why?

4. Read, discuss and appropriate Psalm 119:99-104. (See also 2 Timothy 3:15; Proverbs 4:20-22.)



CONSIDER THIS

Proverbs 29:2 says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan". The more we live by the laws of God, the more we will keep the laws of the land. And the more we keep the laws of the land, the more the nation will prosper under the blessing of God. It would be good to bear in mind that "No one breaks laws, but we go against the laws and the laws break us!" In fact, the same laws that benefit us when we obey them will work against us when we disobey. Those who have a discerning spirit will realise that submission to authority is a God thing!

WRAP UP

D.L. Moody also said, "Sin will keep you from this Book, or this Book will keep you from sin". In Psalm 1:1-3 we read of the benefits of meditating on the Word day and night. It will keep us **ever-green, nourished and fruitful**. But more than that, we are also promised that whatsoever we do will prosper. That's worth thinking about!

7:20

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will commit myself in my busy schedule to read at least a portion of the Bible every day.

I will endeavour to obey what I feel God is telling me in His Word, knowing that we must do things, not because they are easy, but because they are right!

