

**“Proclaim Liberty”**  
**By Jesse Rairdon**  
**Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Remain standing as Brother Mike comes and leads us in prayer:

**Mike:** Lord Jesus, we just praise Your holy Name, Lord God. Thank You for Brother Jesse, Lord God, as he diligently prepared the message, Lord God, that You laid on his heart, Lord God. And, Lord, just thank You for Your blessing, Lord God, and for using us, and helping us through our day-to-day life, Lord God, and all the things that we’ve got to do, Lord God. Help us to make it to the end, that we can hear, “Well done, thy faithful servants,” that we could be in Heaven, with You, forever, Lord Jesus. Just use this service to help us to tool us, Lord God, so that we can help others to make it, too. We ask this in Your name, in the name of Jesus, amen.

Please be seated. Good morning, church! Again, welcome back to all of our brothers and sisters who went to the conference, and had a great time of fellowship and worship. We had a great time, here, too, didn’t we? Wherever two or more are gathered together, He is in the midst (Matthew 18:20), so, it doesn’t matter if you’re one up on the island by yourself, or twelve of us that are gathered here, or many of us that are gathered across the country or around the globe, the Lord is with us, wherever we’re at, wherever we go. It’s not the location, it’s the location of the heart. Amen?

Our Scripture verse for July is Isaiah 60:12, and our theme is, “One Nation under God.”

**Isaiah 60:12** *For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.*

Utterly wasted. The title for today’s message is, “Proclaim Liberty.”

This comes from Leviticus 25:10—on the Liberty Bell, as Parrish had mentioned, last week, in his message:

**Leviticus 25:10** *And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.*

There was going to be three main points, but we had to add a fourth one:

1. One Nation under God.
2. Indivisible- A people divided will not stand.
3. Liberty and Justice for all.
4. Everyone needs to be free, but not everyone wants to be free.

The Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy in 1892. He had originally written it to be used in every country in the world. The original wording of the Pledge, it said:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1923, the words, "the Flag of the United States of America" were added. At that time it read:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1954, in response to the Communist threat of the times, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words "under God," creating the 31-word pledge we all say today, which says:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

## 1. One Nation under God

Parrish talked a little about America's Godly heritage, and our founders, and how they had a faith and a belief in God. In fact, a lot of the things in our Constitution, our judiciary system, was set up—everything was Biblically-based. How we taught our children in our schools was Scriptures from the Bible. Imagine what we've gone through.

A bunch of us were getting together to prepare for this month, because it was Independence Day, and our sermon topic was, "One Nation under God," we watched a video, "Our Godly Heritage." I learned a lot from that video. Some of the things I had learned before, but I learned a little more in-depth about how much of a deeper faith our founding fathers had. No, they were not perfect—they didn't have slavery right, yet. They didn't have a lot of things right, yet. So, of course, "liberty and justice for all," it wasn't for all, yet. It wasn't for the Native Americans that were here. They don't celebrate liberty and justice for all like we do, but there is a way in Christ that they can, and we're going to talk about that today. Amen? Bill of Rights and even our 3 branches of government were inspired by scriptures and a deep faith in God.

One nation under God. They believed they couldn't be free—even gain their independence—without the help of God. They implored God for His aid. And, not only did they also believe that, without His help they couldn't win the war with Great Britain, but they couldn't keep a nation together without God's help.

**Psalms 33:12-22** *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.*

One nation under God. We as a nation, we need to fear God. We need to hope in His mercy. More than that, we as individuals, we need to fear God. We, as individuals, because God's looking over everybody and seeing who's going to trust in Him, who's going to hope in Him, who's going to revere Him, who's going to live right in Him, who's going to rejoice in His Law, His liberty? Are we perfect, as a nation? No. And we never will be, really, because we're human, we're flesh. We lean on the wrong things. We become selfish. With the people of God, it's different, we have the Spirit of God in us, and God leads us, and guides us, and helps us live it according to His will.

There is still no other place in the world I would rather raise my daughter, than in America. No other place in the world. The only other free place, really, out of all the rest of the places, is, probably, Israel. When you think about it, all the other nations are really oppressed, one way or another. Whether it be sin, or the laws, taking away the laws of God out of our schools. We were looking at this video, it kind of shows timelines, each time when they took God out of something—when they took prayer out of school, this crime sky-rocketed. When they took posting of the Ten Commandments out of public places, crime sky-rocketed. An all that was, really, as just to see it, so people would remember that they should have a conscience: “Maybe I shouldn’t steal. Maybe I shouldn’t kill. Maybe I shouldn’t covet my neighbor’s things. Maybe I shouldn’t take the name of the Lord in vain.” Is that happening a lot today? My goodness, it’s common language around me lately, and it’s like, it grates against my spirit when I hear it. It vexes me, like Lot, who was in that land, and he was vexed in his spirit, every day.

Let’s go to George Washington. After we became free, in the first Presidential Proclamation, in New York City, in 1789, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, said these words:

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and Whereas both Houses of Congress [Really? Everybody agreed? Both Houses?] have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanks-giving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. [Listen to his language: All that He did for us, all that He’s doing for us, and all that He will do for us. They understood that we need God.] That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed [There was, really, no division of church and state. It was all one, together. They always called upon God. They always talked about God in their writings. You could really do a lot of research in this.], and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the People, by constantly being a government of wise, just and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and Us, and

generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Our founding fathers knew who to give glory to, knew who was going to keep this nation together, knew who was going to allow us to be wise and make the right, just laws. Oh, how far we've gotten from it.

## 2. Indivisible- A People Divided Will Not Stand

**Matthew 12:22-28** *Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

Amen. How interesting how people perceive things. Here it is, someone called and anointed of God, the Son of God, Himself, in the flesh, manifested in the flesh, healing people, and they're finding fault, and saying it's not of God. But I like the point that He makes, "If a kingdom—if I really was of the other—of the wrong place, I wouldn't be casting out the wrong things. But, because the Kingdom of God is nigh unto you, that's why I do these things."

The religious folks were jealous and filled with hatred. Many people can't and won't see the truth, even if it's right in front of them.

As brothers and sisters in Christ we can disagree on a lot of things in this life, but in Christ, we can always agree. We always need to be on the same page. We always need to be able to look back in the Word—and we need to admit when we're wrong. Have you ever been wrong? I've been wrong. I've even preached some things that were wrong, and I've had to admit that I'm wrong. It's good to admit when you're wrong.

James put it this way to the church, in his general epistle:

**James 4:1-2** *From whence come wars and fightings among you? [He's not talking about the rest of the world. Among you. Right here.] come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

God has everything you want. Everything you could ever desire. If you desire to be a teacher, to be able to share the Word of God, God has that. Don't be jealous of somebody else, cause division.

**James 4:3** *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

This is another point, here: if you ask of your flesh, it's all about you. But, if you start to look at the needs of others, and say, "God," like Solomon prayed when he dedicated the Temple, he said, "God, not for me, but for Your people," and God said, "Not only that, but I'm going to give you all the riches and wisdom past all you desire, because you didn't ask selfishly." (2 Kings 3:5-14) So, God has it for you, but you still talk to God about how you want it for yourself. You're not willing to serve others, amen?

**James 4:4** *Ye adulterers and adulteresses [that's some heavy language], know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

Now, be careful, in these times, who you pick sides with. Especially with social issues, be careful in these times that you're on God's side, because you might end up being on the side of an enemy with God, and that's not a good place to be. Amen?

The world likes to put us in categories and cause division: Rich vs Poor, North vs South, East Coast vs West Coast, Democrat vs Republican... They try to divide us because of our races. This is often one of the meanest, and the ugliest divisions that I've seen, especially in our history of our nation. People have even tried to prove to me that Jesus was one race or the other, but the Bible that I read says God is a spirit, not a race. God looks at your faith, not at your race. God loves you, not because of what race you are, but because of the faith that you have. Jesus said, "When I return, am I going to find any faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8) He didn't say, "Am I going to find the right race on the earth?" He asked if he was going to find any faith on the earth. So, God looks at your faith, not your race.

**1 Corinthians 1:10-15** *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.*

Now we are of the same mind, and speaking the same thing. We as the Body of Christ cannot be divided. It's kind of easy to be around people of the same culture, the same background, same political affiliation. "They kind of rub me the wrong way!" But, sometimes, when you hang around folks who're a little different, you're kind of like, "I don't know if I want to hang around with them, I don't quite agree with them." But, you'll never learn anything about your brothers and sisters unless you spend some time with them, and you'll never know how to pray for them unless you spend some time with them. Amen? So we tend to kind of cling to that.

When I was in the Navy, I was stationed a small island in the middle of the Mediterranean, and the mainland Italy had a bigger fellowship; they had a couple of families there. And, these two families were all baptized in Jesus name, all heard the same doctrine, all raised in the faith just like me, but, they both stop communicating. Both of them! So, the elders of the church called me up, and said, "Why don't you go pay them a visit, and see if you can encourage them?" So, I went and paid them a visit, and, first off, I started noticing, you know, I had to kind of work to even get them together, in the house together. They were from totally different backgrounds, totally different races, from different sides of the world. They were looking at their differences, though, not at the requirement to do their mission. Jesus had saved their souls, and they were called together to work together, to do a work, there, but they were so focused on their differences, nothing was being done. Souls were not being saved. This could happen to us, too. If we just hang out—"Oh, I like Parrish, because I like the way he teaches. I'll go hang out with him." Or, "I like Brother Andy, because I like the way he's quiet, and doesn't say much. I like him more, so I'll just go hang out with Andy more." We sometimes have our likes and our dislikes, don't we? But, maybe the person that rubs us the wrong way is just the person we need to hang out with. Maybe the person that needs to share things that we need to get a little further in our walk. Maybe we're stalled,

and there might be some sin in our life, or some error in our life, and this brother or sister might be able to say, "You know what? You're wrong!"

A divided people will not stand. There is a lot of division in our world, and in our country, isn't there? Even people that go out to do a friendly protest, there's division. There's hatred, there's anger. But, there should never be that kind amongst us, because people need to see the true light, the true liberty, and that's the Lord Jesus Christ, amen?

**1 John 1:1** *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;*

They had seen Jesus in the flesh; they could speak about this.

**1 John 1:2-7** *(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Some of you, who refuse fellowship, are refusing the blood of Jesus Christ in your life. It's that blunt. It's that simple. This is the only other place, besides baptism, where blood is applied to your life, is when you fellowship, have true fellowship, and walk in the light, as He is in the light. Amen?

**1 John 1:8-10** *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

We're all a bunch of liars, aren't we? Without God, we're all a bunch of liars. Let the Word of God be true, and every man a liar (Romans 3:4), amen? It's not a happy message, today, but it's a good one. Amen? And we live by it; don't just hear it—live by it!

### **3. Liberty and Justice for All.**

Our country hasn't had this right, liberty and justice for all, all the way along, amen? True liberty and justice can only be found in Jesus. We are here to proclaim that liberty.

This is the same scripture that Jesus stood up in the Temple, when He began His ministry; He quoted this Scripture.

**Isaiah 61:1-2** *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;*

It's a little bit different of liberty than what we sometimes see or hear about in our history books. This is a liberty that's for all men, everybody, everywhere, all nationalities, all races, all countries, all peoples...

**Isaiah 61:3** *o appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.*

There's a heaviness in the world, today, isn't there? A heavy sorrow in the world. We proclaim, and set the captives free. Proclaim liberty, God's liberty

Isaiah 61:4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

It's talking about Israel, here, too, but it's also can apply to us.

**Isaiah 61:5-11** *And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

See, when they rang that liberty bell, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, they knew you could only hear it so far. You had to get the word out. It has to spring forth. That liberty that's in us, we have to carry that, wherever we go. We have to share the message. We have to live it, we have to share it, people have to know that there's hope, people have to know that there's deliverance, people have to know that there's a God who cares about and loves them, more than anybody else.

#### **4. Everyone Needs To Be Free, But Not Everyone Wants To Be Free.**

This was a later addition, like, early this morning addition to the message.

**John 8:31-38** *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because*

*my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.*

They didn't know that they were under bondage. They said, "We're Abraham's seed. What are you going to free us from?" Sin. It was mentioned in testimonies today, the whole world is in sin. That is what Christ came to free us from. That is what Jesus came to free us from, was sin. Yet, most people, when it's evident in front of them, won't even see it.

Harriet Tubman, a great deliverer of the slaves in the South, had two great things. They asked her, "What kept you through all this time of fear, and trouble, and escaping?" And she said, "Two things: My faith in God, and the pistol on my right side." Because, some people were like to turn her in, along the train route, because she had a bounty on her head. She was wanted, dead or alive, because she was freeing people, and that wasn't the law, at the time. So, she was going about to free people, and her quote, that she's famous for, she said, "Dead men tell no tales." So, they knew that she was going to use that gun on them, that she was going to liberate them. One of the code words, as she was coming, that they would use, they would sing a song, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," and they knew that Harriet Tubman was in the area. And then they would sing another song, "Go Down, Moses." They called her the Moses of the Underground Railroad. "Go down, Moses, tell old Pharaoh, let My people go." And they would sing that song, and, whoever wanted to be delivered, whoever wanted to be free, would be free. And, later on, years later, after the Civil War, and after she had done many other great accomplishments, that she was not recognized for until after her death, many, many years later, before she died, she was asked, you know, "You saved over 500 people; we see a record, probably more than that." She stated "I could have delivered a lot more, had they known they were slaves."

Sometimes people don't realize the state they're in. They don't realize they're in sin. That's why we're to go out. That's why we're to proclaim liberty. That's why we're to realize that we have a purpose and a calling in our life, that the fields are white, and ready to harvest. It's not to sit around and be comfortable at home and watch TV and just let everything go by and people just be in anguish, and in peril, and be afraid. We are the light! We're the ones to do it. I'm the one to do it. I might be preaching, today, but I'm in that boat, too.

Our job is to proclaim liberty. It's our job to lead people to the freedom Jesus has to offer.

**Proverbs 21:13** *Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.*

**2 Corinthians 3:17** *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

Wherever you take the Lord with you, there's liberty. If you leave God out, there's no liberty; all there is, is your flesh, and your opinion, and your anger, and your whole take on that, your fleshly desires, everything that you have wrong about you, you're taking it with you, if you're not taking the Lord. But, if you take the Lord, you're setting captives free. Give the Lord a praise as Andy comes up.