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Sermon – You’re a What? (memorial day 2024)

Scripture – Romans 10:9-10, Rev 2:8-11, Job 1:21, Mathew 7:13-14

Main Message – Your heart convicts you of what you truly are during a moments of testing.

This Memorial Weekend of 2024 I wonder how many of the 330 Million folks that live in America are Americans? To answer that question we must first consider what an American is? Is it simply someone who lives within its borders? Though some would say yes, I don’t think that is enough. Is it someone who claims to be a citizen and has the right to vote? Some would say yes, but I don’t think that is enough. Is it those who pay taxes, follow the laws of the land, and proudly wear the colors of our nation? Some would say yes, but I don’t think that is enough. Now that I’ve got your attention, let’s draw a parallel that you know is coming, but we will return to this topic as well.

Today, approximately 60% of those who live in America claim to be Christian. That is down from 1990 of 85% claiming to be Christian. Of that 60% we may have today, is saying you’re a Christian enough to be considered a Christian? Is it simply attending church that makes you a Christian? Is it someone how has memorized a few scriptures a Christian. Is it someone who volunteers occasionally to do a fund-raiser for the church a Christian? Is a Christian someone who wears a cross, tries not to swear in public, follows God’s holy laws, belongs to Facebook groups of Christian fellowship sings in the choir, donates money to the church and goes on mission trips? Well, since I am speaking in generalities, I will say that none of those things are enough. They could be indicators of a saving faith in Jesus Christ, but by themselves none of those things are enough.

Remember what **Romans said in Chapter 10:9-10**? Let me remind you.

Now lets did another step deeper into what those verses say. What does it mean to confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus? It means that at every challenge, every occasion, every critical moment we claim that Jesus Christ is the Lord of our life. That we have become a new creation because of that belief and that even under testing, even unto death, we hold to that faith just like it says in **Revelation 2:8-11**. That is why God tests us and will test us. Many fall away with insignificant and minor challenges because they truly have not the full confession of Jesus as Lord. Or perhaps they lack the belief that Jesus was raised from the dead. Whatever the lack is, it will be evident really only during a time of great trial. Want to know why life is hard sometimes? Well, there is a reason. Recall the story of Job, who lost everything, but never lost his faith in God and Satan lost his challenge to a mere human.

Read Job 1:21

That is the practical application of a saving faith in Jesus Christ. It is none of the outward signs but only the battle that takes place in your heart when the test comes.

So, what makes an American to return to that point. It is those who believe upon this great nation and the example set forth for how we should govern ourselves, it is standing for truth, liberty, and justice by which our freedoms are based and doing battle against those who would tear down, undo, and destroy the fabric of our republic with unlawful laws and ideology. We remember tomorrow, that for a few it has meant there death and those names are written on monuments all around our country for that sacrifice in order to defend our freedom. Today, we are not filled with 330 million Americans here in the USA. Just like the Bible says in **Mathew 7:13-14**, the principles apply with citizens of this nation. Few actually will do what is necessary to defend this nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Few even make it out to honor our fallen. Today, the domestic enemies can be found even in the halls of congress as they wave flags of other nations and wear symbols of their beliefs that are country to the laws of the land. Your name may never be on a monument, but you definitely want this.

Revelation 3:5: He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.