

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalm 33:12) Few would argue against the idea that our nation was founded as a Christian nation. Although never perfect, the vast majority of its citizens believed in and respected the Bible, and the God of the Bible. The early Methodists were instrumental in cultivating this belief.

For many years, our nation's God was the Lord. However, times began to change, along with much of this nation's Christian leadership. By the late 1800's, many leaders no longer believed the Bible as plainly written. Accordingly, historical teachings of the Church were modified or abandoned altogether as scripture was re-interpreted to accommodate the prevailing beliefs of the culture.

The book of Genesis was first for re-interpretation. Belief in a six-day creation, a historical Adam, and a catastrophic global flood, was seen as an intellectual embarrassment by Christian leadership. In 1925, during the Scopes "Monkey" trial in Dayton, TN, the pastor of the First Methodist Church of Chattanooga, offered testimony supporting the teaching of evolution. "Students have a right to be taught the truth about the whole man rather than a half-truth." Presumably, the "half-truth" the good pastor mentioned was Genesis.

Genesis is the foundation of all scripture. Once you give up a plain reading of Genesis, the foundation begins to crumble. Once you lose your foundation, the building will soon fall. Today most of our religious establishment takes a very low view of scripture and that is reflected in their leadership.

After over 100 years of compromised leadership in the American church, most discerning believers would now argue that we are no longer a "nation whose God is the Lord." How then, can we continue to expect His promised blessings? Our culture serves a plurality of false gods, and the compromising Church has rushed to accommodate them all. Having a low view of scripture always makes it easy and seem so "right".

On this Independence Day, pray for our nation. Each Sunday we close our services by singing "God Bless America," and rightly so. Pray that we return to the Truth of God and once again be a nation that God can bless. If He can't bless us, He will certainly judge us.

See y'all Sunday,

Perry Cunningham
Lay Leader