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## Sermon – A Patriot’s Plea

Scripture – Nehemiah 1:3-2:6

**Main Message – We as individuals need to repent. We as a nation need to repent. We need to recognize a Holy God before the nations.**

The Declaration of Independence declares that all people “are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

George Washington, the first president of the United States, said, “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God and to obey His will.”

Thomas Jefferson, the third president, said, “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?”

Calvin Coolidge, thirteenth president, said, “The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country.”

Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president, said, “I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this book upon reason that you can, and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, thirty second president prayed, “O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee; faith in our sons; faith in each other; faith in our united crusade...Thy will be done, Almighty God. Amen.”

Ronald Reagan, “And so tonight we reaffirm that Jew and gentile, we are one nation under God; that black and white, we are one nation indivisible; that Republican and Democrat, we are all Americans. Tonight, with heart and hand, through whatever trial and travail, we pledge ourselves to each other and to the cause of human freedom, the cause that has given light to this land and hope to the world.”

Now let me read to you from **Nehemiah**.. Our nation is fast becoming one that is no longer considered great, but is filled with disgrace. We as individuals and as a Nation have sinned before a mighty God. We have tolerated that which is wicked and unseemly. We celebrate things that God told us NOT to do. The gates that are in shambles is the very heritage that this nation was founded upon.

The outcry from groups that despise any judgement that upholds the constitution of this once great nation is a testimony to how far we have fallen. It has been on our watch that the greatest decline has occurred. I weep for our nation, which God once favored with many blessings. Perhaps you do too.

Nehemiah was a patriot. He loved his people, his nation, his heritage and most of all, he recognized God as the supreme creator of all good things and who KEEPS HIS COVENANT of LOVE for those who keep HIS commandments. We can love our country, but it will do us no good at all if we do not put GOD first and become passionate in returning to him. It always starts with God Almighty. It must.

May we also confess our sins before God and return to Him and obey his laws, and then ask what we can do to turn back. We pray for revival, but it won’t come without efforts. We have to turn back to him or we will be scattered even more than we already are.