

# The Answer to America's Problem

Nehemiah 9:35-37

PROPOSITION: Our country is in trouble, and we have many problems, but God has the answers to America's problems.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. The first three verses of Psalm 85 reference a restoration.
  - a. Then the work ceased, but after the preaching of Haggai and Zechariah, the temple was completed in 516 B.C.
  - b. Yet, sixty years later, Ezra went to Jerusalem to find a national failure in the restoration of the worship of God.
  - c. When Nehemiah went to Jerusalem, the city was still in ruins.
  - d. The Levites admitted that "in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves" (Neh. 9:35-37).
2. Psalm 85 is a national lament which illustrates the timeless relationship we have with God.
3. The answer to the problems of the Jewish nation was revival. That is the answer to America's problem today. We need a turning (cf. Psa. 85:1, 3, 4, 6, 8).

## **DISCUSSION: The answer is...**

### **I. Recognition.**

- A. America needs a recognition of sin and a realization that we, as a nation, have departed from God's way.
  1. The murder of unborn innocents is not God's way (cf. Prov. 6:16, 17; Matt. 19:14).
  2. The "marriage" of two men or two women is not God's way (Rom. 1:27, 28).
  3. Supporting the lazy and/or promiscuous with government funds is not God's way (2 Thes. 3:10).
- B. The first part in bringing about the revival is to understand that we need one.
- C. America's problem is my problem, and my problem is America's problem: sin!
- D. Man in unforgiven sin cannot be in fellowship with the Lord Who hates sin (cf. Heb. 1:9).

### **II. Repentance.**

- A. God cannot bless sinning. He is holy. Therefore, the people must turn from their sins by confessing them and putting them away.
- B. When the nation is a sinful nation, it is time for national repentance (cf. 1 Chron. 7:13, 14).
- C. Though God has not recorded His name on a government, governments are accountable to Him (cf. Rom. 13:6), and God expects certain things of them.

- D. When Joel was preaching, God's people had suffered a locust plague, extreme drought, and a devastating fire, which things became tools in the hand of God (Joel 2:11-13).
  - 1. Here was a nation, supposedly God's nation, but, in reality, they were far away from God.
  - 2. How are we different?
- E. Consider the Lord's qualification in Luke 13:1-3.
  - 1. God is not acting in such ways to punish people, and catastrophes do not mean guilt (cf. Job).
  - 2. Yet, He can and does use such events to bring us to awareness of our real needs.
- F. The answer to America's problem is the truth about sin and repentance.

### **III. Reception.**

- A. There must be an acceptance of God's peace and forgiveness.
- B. When people repent, God grants His forgiveness and turns away from His wrath (Psa. 85:3).
- C. God's indignation returned to Israel, because of sin. The writer begs for revival again (v. 4).
- D. Because of His faithfulness, there was reason to believe that God would forgive again if they would repent (cf. Heb. 10:23).
- E. One does not receive a pardon until he accepts it.
- F. America needs to recognize her sins, turn away from those sins, and accept the free gift of God which is salvation in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:23).

### **IV. Return.**

- A. After a realization of sin and what sin does, after turning away from sin, and after receiving the salvation that God offers, we must still return to God's life and fellowship (cf. Luke 15:2-24; Matt. 21:28-32; 1 Thes. 1:9).
- B. Repentance cannot be the end.
- C. Only when we walk in the light do we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Christ cleanses us (1 John 1:7).
- D. A revival is the answer America needs, but a revival is more than turning to God. It is entering into a new life with Him.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. The answer to America's problem is YOU.
- 2. What can we do to help America with her problem?
  - a. Prepare. Educate yourself (cf. 1 Chron. 12:32).
  - b. Practice your faith every day.
  - c. Participate in the process. Vote.
  - d. Pray diligently (cf. 2 Chron. 7:14).