

**Chapter 41:**  
**A Trip to Washington, DC: Reflections on *One Nation Under God/In God We Trust*<sup>1</sup>**

***Life Application Verses:***

**Psalm 33: 12:** Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance; **Proverbs 3: 1-5:** My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

**T**o open this chapter, let me cite two things we often see, hear, or partake of as citizens of the United States of America. I think you will have heard of both, seen both, or even spoken both in some manner, whether in conversation or a group event, such as a ballgame or gathering. Here they are, omitting their origin for the sake of brevity; I would encourage you to read the history of each:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: **"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."** The second item is the reference to God on our monies: the \$1 bill has IN GOD WE TRUST over the word ONE with the Great Seals of the United States on either side of ONE, with the image of George Washington on the reverse; the \$5 bill has IN GOD WE TRUST over the Lincoln Memorial, with Abraham Lincoln on the reverse; the \$20 bill has IN GOD WE TRUST over the White House, with Andrew Jackson on the reverse; and, you can review the \$10, \$50, \$100, and others. But I think you have the idea. In the Allegiance, it is ONE NATION UNDER GOD, and on the monies, IN GOD WE TRUST—both paper and coin.

What got me to thinking about this, foremost, is that God gave me the idea—hands down on that; secondly, my wife and I are going to Washington, DC, in January 2015, for a conference. To locate the hotel and relatives in Falls Church, VA, I connected to Google Earth<sup>2</sup>, and began to review from the satellite images the location



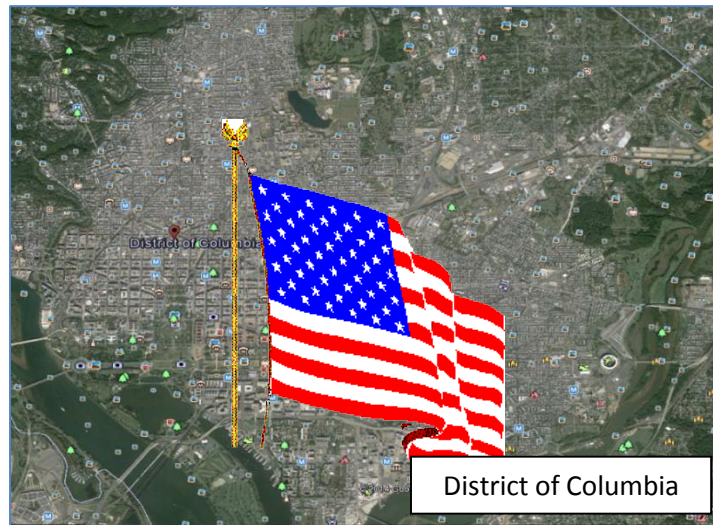
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<sup>1</sup> This chapter was written in preparation to attend; I did not attend as my mother died on 16 January 2015.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.google.com/earth/>

of the hotel and some of the sights in DC. It's been decades since I was there in Georgetown, the Smithsonian, the Washington and Lincoln Memorials, and so forth. As I was looking at the vast number of national and international symbols, and buildings, I realized that in our nation's capital, we have dedicated buildings, artifacts, and trillions to our war dead, our living, and our political efforts. It then (I told you God had a hand in this!) dawned on me that we have dedicated so much to our human struggles, but how much of what is in Washington, DC, is dedicated to the Glory of God? Do we as a contemporary nation, actually remain inflexible to the IN GOD WE TRUST and ONE NATION UNDER GOD words on our printed monies and in our national pledge to our symbol of Freedom, our Flag, respectively?

As I reviewed the buildings in Google Earth, even going down to the street level, I was awe struck by the vastness of the city that represents our Nation before the entire world: the memorials, The White House, Congress, The Pentagon, and more than I have room even to do justice to



in this chapter. Yet, in all of this, where is God? Where is Jesus Christ? Are there any Memorials dedicated to the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross? There's the Vietnam Memorial, World War II Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and a plethora of others—and these men and woman who have sacrificed so much should be recognized. But, brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ gave the ultimate sacrifice. He didn't have to die for us; He could have called the Host of Heaven to His rescue and said, "I've changed my mind! These humans want to remove IN GOD WE TRUST from their money and stop making a pledge to their Flag by omitting ONE NATION UNDER GOD. The Father and I are one and they are dishonoring Him unashamedly! I am coming down from **this** Cross of **theirs** in My Father's Blessed Glory!" But Jesus didn't do that, did He? So, I ask again, where is His memorial in Washington, DC? Where is the Mercy, Love, and Grace Memorial that Honors God for all He has done for this nation and its people?

Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot. We can't have Church and State in the same sentence, on our money, in our pledge, in our schools, in our social-justice system, and you name it, it's been challenged. For our nation, those who think Political Correctness trumps God and Jesus, want them delimited to the farthest unreachable corners of our Religious Liberties. IN other words, as I looked over Washington via the Google Earth images, I thought of God in this way: He was calling out as a Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good God to all of us, but so many of us are not listening. I imagined as I looked at the streets in the satellite images—considering all of the global transactions, and political posturing in DC—that The God of All Creation and Jesus Christ, The Son of God, were not on the minds of the majority of those people in Washington. Do you think I am insane to make this statement? If you said yes, are you following our national priority in the removal of God from every corner of our existence?

Are you listening to the news of our nation, and our world? Our politicians have forgotten God, and the mere mention of Jesus Christ is near scandalous! Do we realize as a nation how much Patience, Love, Mercy, Grace, and Forgiveness our God has given to the people of the United States? We perpetuate Washington, DC, as a city to mesmerize the Earth's nations! Yet, we self-mesmerize ourselves right into leaving God out of our lives, our memorials, and our very Eternities. What would you do if You were God? (Please choose my words carefully, O Father of Heaven, as I dare not insult your Name or Your Holiness in the Heavens!). What would you do? Jim Carrey and Morgan Freeman were in a movie some years back, titled, "Bruce Almighty." In this movie, Morgan Freeman's character was God, and he gave his powers to Carrey's character, Bruce Nolan. With these powers, Bruce confused, amused, and abused himself, and the world, respectively. If you had these powers and you were Bruce Nolan, knowing that Washington, DC, is so self-perpetuating that you (God) were not even an afterthought, what would you do? Would you build another ark and start over again? Would you openly exhibit the Patience, Love, Mercy, and Grace that our True God exhibits? Would you smite Washington because of the sin that abounds in the hearts of those who make the laws as if God is no longer a God to be considered?

Do you see what I am alluding to in this discussion? I'm getting ready to travel to this City of Cities, have already made hotel reservations at this writing, and yet—I see not God in

DC, but Man. I believe we have lost our focus on what matters. Just do a bit of research on the current crusade by many groups and individuals on getting our Pledge of Allegiance to no longer have the words, ONE NATION UNDER GOD allowed, spoken, uttered, considered, or worthy of our minds and hearts to repeat—and you can see what I am getting at here. Or, those who want the words IN GOD WE TRUST removed from our monies because it insults some of us, some groups, our sensibilities, our need to separate God from Us; because God cannot be worshipped by a few if He cannot be worshipped by all as some want Him worshipped! Please accept my apologies for my temperament at this moment as the more I write, the angrier I become. What ‘fools’ they have become and what ‘fools’ do they take Christians to be or what ‘fools’ do they hope that we will remain? **GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED!** His Word makes this very clear in *Galatians 6: 6-8*: “The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

Washington, DC, is a great city. It has a rich history, it is a place where we have enamored our past, and it is a place of turmoil over our future. It is also a place that has forgotten God and is doing whatever it can to forget God even more, every single day. It is a place where the name of Jesus Christ is spoken in a few places, and in the sundry places in which His Name is spoken, the speaker does not have an abiding Faith in Christ. Oh sure, the polls will tell you that some 90% of Americans are Christian. When? On Easter Sunday, the only day many of them attend Church? When? When it is convenient in a meeting to convince someone of their Faith? When? In deciding to remove Christmas trees or the Lord’s Prayer or the name of God in printed materials or on buildings in Washington? **GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED!** Do we not understand this TRUTH in our nation, and in particular, Washington, DC?

My wife and I will go to this conference in January 2015. While there, I will take so many digital images that my head will spin-nearly-off at how many photos I will take in a day or two. Even so, I hope and pray that God will remind me of the need of this nation to return to His Word, to live for Him, to seek His face and not our own, and to seek Jesus Christ while there is

yet time. If you stand in The Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and The Washington Memorial, you can look in the two directions and see the symbols of our nation to honor Washington and Lincoln, two of our greatest assets, and Presidents. You can also see the WWII Memorial if you walk towards the Washington Memorial, while the Vietnam Memorial is just a few hundred yards from The Mall. If these sights do not cause you to feel Vibrant Patriotism, I actually can't think of a response. I'll leave that to Our Heavenly Father. In the midst of these sights and our national pride and patriotism, our nation is working to remove ONE NATION UNDER GOD and IN GOD WE TRUST from our national psyche and our lives. Not only will God NOT be mocked; He will NOT allow this to continue unabated or unpunished. There will be corrective action, and I believe that His correction action has already begun.

IN the midst of the buildings and memorials and other sights and sounds of Washington, I think of my nation in terms of being a Navy Veteran; a teacher and technologist for 31 and 43 years, respectively; a son, father, grandfather; and the sum total of my life as I have lived in this nation for six+ decades. I remember when JFK was assassinated and when Barak Obama because the first African-American President; I remember when I was drafted during the Vietnam Conflict and I remember the faces of my current students wanting advice about joining the All-Volunteer Service; I can clearly see my wedding, my daughter and son's birth, and my granddaughter and grandson's arrival. Yet, today, our national ability, pride, and desire to be Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good, seems to have eroded. And to think: I haven't even, at this writing, made it to Washington yet? I can only imagine what it will be like when I finally arrive, visit my aunt and uncle, and sight-see the memorials, streets, and buildings of Washington, not to mention my ePortfolio Forum presentation with two of my close friends in the Educational Arena.

Why do we, as a nation, want to discredit God? I believe He has chosen us as a favored nation, second only behind Israel. Now, before you write me letters and send me those "cheeky emails", this is just my opinion, okay! You may agree to disagree, but please do so with moxie! If my opinion is valid, then how can America look itself in the mirror and feel good about who we have become? We, as a nation, have made mistakes, but we have done much to atone for those mistakes. Even so, removing ONE NATION UNDER GOD and IN GOD WE TRUST from our

national pledge and monies, is not an indirect slap in the Face of God; rather, it is an intentional ‘fist-pump’ under the very Holy Face of God. It’s not just a mistake we have made; it is an intentionally determined act of rebellion and an “in-your-face” to God! Oh Heavenly Father, do we not understand that as a nation, You will NOT BE MOCKED! Are we so naïve that we have fallen so far from Grace that our nation will one day—soon—reap the rewards of our rebelliousness?

Dear Christians: Pray with me that our nation will come to its senses and turn once again to God. For those of us who Stand-Fast in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior, we must be more diligent in our Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good living than at any time in our lives. Spend time with family and friends in presenting the Word of God to them, for Salvation in Jesus Christ is the only true hope that we have. Did I just make this up? No. You know that is not the Truth; God has Spoken of this for all time; Jesus has spoken of this for all time. May we look at our lives in all its composite form as I am looking at my trip to Washington, DC: our nation needs God more than ever in its relatively short History. I believe that while Praying Christians are active, God hears our Prayers. I don’t know the Mind of God, but I do know what God has said in His Word, and what Jesus has said of Himself and The Father. **GOD WILL NOT BE MOCKED!**

**That is an ABSOLUTE!**

**Question of Curiosity:**

From this day forward, every time you hold a coin or a bill, or you see the flag of our nation, in your Heart—right where you are—Pray to God for Mercy, Grace, and His Love for our nation, our citizens, our policy makers, our families, our military, and for a Revival in our Land. God has commanded us to Pray without ceasing as a Petition Unto Him 24x7x365. Washington, DC, is not our Lord or our Savior: it is a place. As Christians, we must stand our ground, and call upon the Name of the Lord for Guidance, Help, and Leadership in one of the greatest nations this world has ever seen. And you say...

<>< <>< <>< Please Stand and Say The Pledge of Allegiance With Me <>< <>< <>< <><

**"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."**

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### **My Prayer For You:**

God of All Things: It is my Humble Prayer that You receive the Glory Due from The United States of America. It is also my Humble Prayer that Jesus Christ receives the Glory Due from The United States of America. We claim to be the most powerful nation on the face of the Earth; we forget Who holds All Things in Power. I Pray for my nation, for the people who legislate, and for every single person within our borders that we as a Nation might once again, turn to You in Revival of Heart, Mind, and Spirit. For without You, O Lord, we are but a patch of ground in the Universe; a people who have deluded ourselves into thinking we can solve our problems apart from You, apart from Christ Jesus. I hope that many Faithful Christians who may read these words might Take Up Arms in Prayer, by folding their hands together, getting to their knees, and crying out to You for Mercy, Grace, and Love—once again—on this nation. I Pray that You would hear our Prayers, from the smallest child who holds onto Hope in You, to the most elderly Saint who also holds onto Hope in You. Bless our Nation, in spite of its design to rid ourselves of Your Name by removing ONE NATION UNDER GOD and IN GOD WE TRUST. We have NO Hope outside of Your Grace, Mercy, Love, and Long-Suffering towards America. I Pray for our nation—a nation that has become so self-centered that we miss Blessings that I believe You are ready to pour out upon our Nation. And, I also Pray for the Nation of Israel, as your Chosen Nation upon the Earth. May we fall to our knees in repentance, and seek Your Face while You may be found. As You have told us: “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon” (Isaiah 55: 6-7). Our God Will Not Be Mocked! To Your Glory, and in Christ, I Say, Amen and Amen!

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### ***The Flag of the United States***



What do the colors of the flag mean?

**Answer:**

According to custom and tradition, white signifies purity and innocence; red, hardiness and valor; and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice.<sup>3</sup>

***As a follower of Christ, what does The Flag of the United States mean to you?***

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.legion.org/flag/questions-answers/91471/what-do-colors-flag-mean>