

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Independence Day

These questions are for the **July 5, 2020** sermon, "The LORD and the Nation." Please read the sermon passage (Psalm 33) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

NOTE THE NATURE OF . . .

1. the Creation, that it came about by the sovereign Word of God. (6-9)
 - a. Consider the power of the Word of God.
 - i. He speaks and brings galaxies into being.
 - ii. By the power of His Word he created all things (John 1:1-3)
 - b. Science and technology cannot save us, but is itself a servant to God and for God.
2. The Nation, that it comes under the sovereign watch of God. (10-22)
 - a. God is not merely watching but watching over us (orchestrating all events).
 - b. Note how planning and wisdom is contrasted . . . (10-12)
 - i. The counsel of the nations is brought to nothing.
 - ii. The counsel of the LORD stands forever.
 - c. Note how hope and security are contrasted . . . (13-19)
 - i. Military might cannot rescue or save.
 - ii. The LORD rescues those who put their hope in Him alone.
 - d. This is why we wait upon the Lord to save us. Waiting is the norm, not the exception.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: If we do not start with creation and the Creator above it we will forget what the nation is should be all about. In what way does your understanding of God's ultimate rule and reign shape your expectations of the nation? In what way is the role of politics limited?
2. Based on #1, above: Christians love science. Sometimes we question or doubt the assumptions or conclusions of scientists, but we love science, archeology, history and data. When speaking to your friends, how does a high view of science help you present Jesus Christ? How does science serve God?
3. Based on #2, above: Sometimes we see difficulty, moral decay and cultural godlessness as a sovereign entity which creates fear in our hearts about the future. But God is sovereign over all these things. What did your parents say about the state of the world (while you were growing up)? How has God preserved you through cultural godlessness? Do you believe he will preserve your kids and grandkids, using them to extend, promote and proclaim his love and reign?
4. Based on #2, above: Nations make plans (counsel) and they sometimes happen, and sometimes do not. Even the good intentions of the USA are not ultimately sovereign. But the counsel of God is permanent and eternal. How does this reality give you confidence, courage and hope?
5. Based on #2, above: The US has a strong military, but Christians in the US should put no confidence in military might. We should put all of our confidence in the LORD. Discuss.