

## Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another  
in all wisdom,  
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



*Tomorrow, May 6, is the annual National Day of Prayer. Our devotions this week reflect on the sovereignty of God, prayer and repentance, especially prayer for our nation. Let your confidence in God's sovereignty be your incentive to pray great prayers for our nation.*

### **Reflections from Scripture on praying for our nation**

***Ezekiel 18:21-23** But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?*

***Joel 2:12-14** "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him.*

***Jonah 3:10** When God saw what [Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.*

***Zechariah 1:3-4** Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the Lord.*

### **Song**

***Psalms 59:16** But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

#### ***Prayer and old hymn by John Newton (1725-1807)***

Oh may the power which melts the rock  
Be felt by all assembled here!  
Or else our service will but mock  
The God whom we profess to fear!

Lord, while thy judgments shake the land,  
The people's eyes are fixed on thee!  
We own thy just uplifted hand,  
Which thousands cannot, will not see.

How long hast thou bestowed thy care  
On this indulged ungrateful spot;  
While other nations, far and near,  
Have envied and admired our lot.

Here peace and liberty have dwelt,  
The glorious gospel brightly shone;  
And oft our enemies have felt,  
That God has made our cause his own.

But ah! both heaven and earth have heard  
Our vile requital of his love!  
We, whom like children he has reared,  
Rebels against his goodness prove.

His grace despised, his power defied,  
And legions of the blackest crimes;  
Profaneness, riot, lust and pride,  
Are signs that mark the present times.

The Lord displeased has raised his rod,  
Ah, where are now the faithful few  
Who tremble for the ark of God,  
And know what Israel ought to do.

Lord hear thy people every where,  
Who meet to mourn, confess and pray;  
The nations and thy churches spare,  
And let thy wrath be turned away.

(John Newton (1725), CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

## **Prayer**

*II Chronicles 7:14* *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

### ***The First Prayer of Continental Congress***

***Prayed by: Rev. Jacob Duché, Age 37***

***September 7, 1774***

“O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee.

To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give.

Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle!

Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation.

That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people.

Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come.

All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen.”