



# NEWS & VIEWS

Eternal Vigilance is Forever the Price of Freedom

Vol. No. 26, No. 5

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

May 1963

## "THE *Christian Faith* AS THE ANSWER"

By DR. ALLAN MACRAE, PH.D., D.D.  
President, Faith Theological Seminary  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Never in history has a country been so Blessed of God as this one has been. About three hundred and fifty years ago poverty-stricken refugees began to cross a tempestuous ocean, preferring to seek to build homes in an unfriendly wilderness, rather than to give up their desire to worship God in accordance with the teachings of the Bible. They entered a land peopled only by hostile savages. Forsaking the comforts to which they had been accustomed they dared the rigors of an unknown land, rather than to submit to orders that they conform their religious life to commands that they considered to be contrary to the teachings of God's Word. From such a humble beginning has developed the mightiest nation on earth. America's strength today is entirely out of proportion to the area that it covers. Its people enjoy a standard of living higher than that of any other nation on earth, and far beyond the dreams of the millions who eke out a miserable existence under the brutal sway of communist despots. All the other continents of the world taken together, with only Europe excluded, do not have as many telephones or as many automobiles as this small segment of the earth's surface. American gifts are poured out lavishly to our friends and to our enemies. Thousands of millions are wasted in efforts to place a man on the moon or in other similar chimerical projects. And yet the American economy, up to the present, has kept on producing, and even increasing. All the world now looks with envy on the United States. Why has it developed so far beyond nations that had so much earlier a start?

In one of his books, Roger Babson, the famous statistician, tells of a meeting that he had with the president of a great South American nation. After the dinner the two of them sat on the porch of the presidential palace, looking out over a great expanse of country. In the distance lofty mountains reared their heads. Nearer they could see great waterfalls, lavishly pouring out their energy, unharnessed. The soil was so fertile that it produced large crops, almost without human effort.

The President of the Republic turned to the statistician and spoke somewhat as follows: "Mr. Babson, there is a problem that I have puzzled over for a long time. Perhaps you can give me the explanation. Latin America was settled by Europeans a century before there was much settlement in what is now the United States. Our nation had a university and a publishing house long before anything of the kind existed there. In natural resources we are in no way behind you. Yet your nation possesses many times the wealth and power of any of our South American nations. Can you explain to me why this is?"

Mr. Babson says that he answered the statesman as follows: "Mr. President, the reason for the difference is not hard to find. South America was settled by Spaniards in search of gold. North America was settled by Pilgrims in search of God."

These words of Mr. Babson reminds us of the statement of the Lord Jesus in Matt. 6:33: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Our nation was founded by those who sought a place where they could worship God according to the teachings of the Bible. God has honored their faith and poured out His blessings upon us without measure.

It is possible to analyze a little further the reasons why our God has so richly blessed us. It is not merely a reward for the piety of our Founding Fathers. It is also a direct result of the fact that they established our American system on principles taught in the Bible. Three of these principles we must examine briefly.

First and most important is the fact that God's Word teaches that man is lost in sin and that his condition is utterly hopeless unless he turns to Jesus Christ and is saved through Faith in the sacrifice that God has so freely provided. Through most of its history our nation has been the scene of constant preaching of the necessity of repentance from sin and acceptance of Christ as Saviour and Lord, with the consequent experience of the new birth. This has resulted in a nation characterized by solid honesty and dependability, qualities that have provided a foundation on which great enterprises could flourish.

Second, our Founding Fathers gained from the Scripture the concept that all men are created equal. They did not establish a civilization in which a few individuals, owning great tracts of land, would live in luxury on rentals paid by thousands of helpless serfs. They made provision that a limited amount of land should be granted to each man who would do a certain amount of work on it. This American system of enabling people without capital to take up new land and to develop it themselves has been a well-spring of American enterprise and development.

The founders of our nation recognized no difference of race or national background. They welcomed the oppressed of every land and gave them equal opportunity to develop whatever talents the Lord had given them. American ideas of the dignity of the individual and equality before the law, have come directly from the teachings of the Bible.