

GLAD TO BE AN AMERICAN!

Rob Robinson

When I was in school, our curriculum included an almost daily dose of patriotism. We were taught that we were blessed to have been born in the USA rather than somewhere else. We were taught that we owed our nation loyalty, gratitude and love. I don't remember being taught that we were better than anyone living in another country, just luckier, because there were plenty of reasons to thank the Good Lord above that we live in this one.

In the decades since those days so long ago, I have gotten the impression that American students and the public in general needs to hear less about what is good about America and more about what is wrong with it. I agree that there is plenty to find wrong with our nation, both in our present and in our past. However when compared to other nations, our nation has no more to be ashamed of than any other nation. And our nation, consisting of generally good people who generally want to do good rather than bad, has done a generally good job of changing what should be changed.

Scripture teaches us to be respectful of those who govern us, and that our prayers should include both entreaties and thanksgiving for our rulers. Living in this nation, there is certainly plenty to be thankful for. Unlike many nations that others must live in, here we have freedom of religion, assembly, speech and press; in many places, these are restricted either by law or the threat of violence. We have unrestricted access to information. As apprehensive as you may be about our choices this election year, be thankful for the relative peace, stability and safety we have in our land compared to what you see happening elsewhere. Immigration is a political topic, but indicative of the fact that more people in other nations want to immigrate to ours than anywhere else; they see how blessed we are whether we do or not. Around the world women are subjected to conditions considered unthinkable here: forced to marry at an early age, forced to wear certain clothing, restricted from education, oppressed or enslaved. That's just a start. This Independence Day week, let us Christians be thankful for our nation and ask God's blessings on the USA! (1 Timothy 2:1-2, 1 Peter 2:13-17)