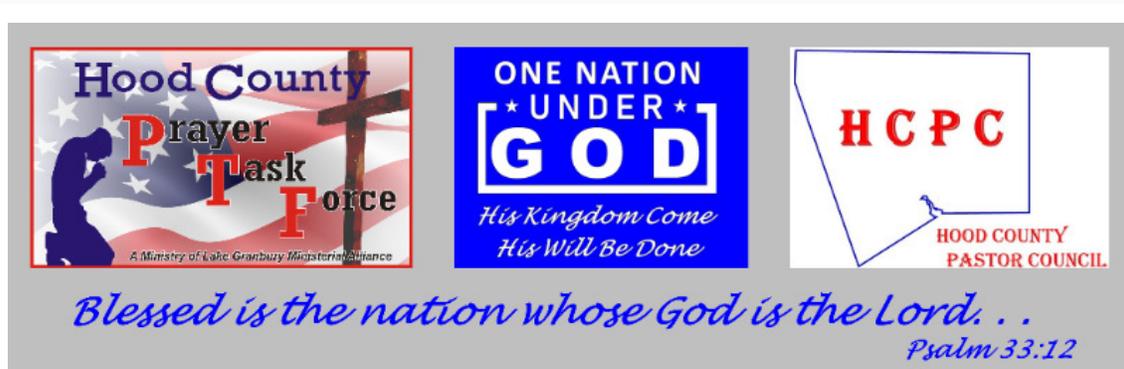


Fred Orcutt

From: Hood County Prayer Task Force <ptf@granburyministries.org>
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2018 1:59 AM
To: fred@orcutfamily.net
Subject: ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional - October 19, 2018

ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional

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As I Pray for the Nation; Is There Something In Me That I Need to Give to You?

Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. So the spies questioned him: “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

He saw through their duplicity and said to them, “Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

He said to them, “Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

Luke 20:20-26

Reflections

Have you ever stopped to consider how many things we do constantly without even having to think about them? Breathing, moving, seeing, feeling, thinking, reacting, and the list goes on and on. Have you ever considered that prayer could be on that list? It's possible because we can cultivate a spirit that is focused on communication with God, keeping our hearts attuned to Him.

Although translations vary slightly, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to pray without ceasing, pray continually, or pray at all times. The word in the original Greek language for "without ceasing" means "constantly recurring." In other words, we can't be on our knees all day, but we can spend the moments of our days with recurring prayer.

We should continuously be aware of God's presence in our lives, which should create a desire to intersperse our days by fellowshiping with Him. That means even allowing our everyday tasks to become times of prayer. For example, praying for each of your family members as you fold their laundry . . . thanking God for providing the meal you just enjoyed as you clean up afterward . . . praying for your child's sports teammates and families as you drive your child to soccer practice. As you wait in line—or in traffic—turn those situations into your personal prayer closet; transform that wasted time into something meaningful by praying for others or

Challenge

Take time to mediate on Luke 20:20-26.

For Discussion

Do you see everything you have and everything you are is from God?

Who is Caesar in your life? (employer, teacher, or laws of city, state, or national government)



Rev. Mr. Craig
McAlister, OFS

Married, 6 children,
18 grandchildren, 24
great-grandchildren

personal concerns. Praying without ceasing reminds us of the nearness of God and that He is our constant companion.

Sometimes our prayer time will be spent simply listening and resting in His presence. Remember that the best conversations are like a two-way street; you won't hear anything if you never stop to listen.

When is the last time you prayed during your workaday world? Do you waste opportunities to pray that are right in front of you? God is waiting for you to fellowship with Him through prayer—and you have the time to do so each day if you will simply look for it.

A Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light and where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned. And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Permanent Deacon at
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