

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

LAMENTATIONS 1

10/22/2017

Today we continue our series on this important subject as we look at Daniel Webster.

I. SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DANIEL WEBSTER

- A. Daniel Webster was born on January 18, 1782
- B. From a New Hampshire farm he attended Dartmouth College and became the highest paid attorney of his day.
- C. He served as Secretary of State for three presidents;
 - 1. President William Harrison
 - 2. President John Tyler
 - 3. President Millard Fillmore
- D. When asked what the most profound thought was that ever passed through his mind, Daniel Webster replied; "My accountability to God."
- E. Webster stated; "Moral habits...cannot safely be trusted on any other foundation than religious principle, nor any government be secure which is not supported by moral habits...Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens."
- F. Daniel Webster loved the Scriptures—
 - 1. He loved to recite and memorize Scripture as a child.
 - 2. His memorization of Scriptures was so well known that; "It was customary for the teamsters to remark, as they pulled up their horses before the Webster tavern, "Come, let's go in and hear a Psalm from Dan Webster"
- G. Mr. Tappan one of Mr. Webster's early school teachers stated;
 - 1. "Daniel was always the brightest boy in the school."

2. Mr Tappan recounted the following story; He [Daniel] would learn more in five minutes than another boy in five hours. One Saturday, I remember, I held up a handsome new jack-knife to the scholars, and said, the boy who would commit to memory the greatest number of verses in the Bible by Monday morning should have it. Many of the boys did well; but when it came to Daniel's turn to recite, I found that he had committed so much that, after hearing him repeat some sixty or seventy verses, I was obliged to give up, he telling me that there were several more chapters yet that he had learned. Daniel got that jack-knife.
 3. Webster used that knife to carve his name in his desk as he served in the House of Representatives.
 4. That desk with his name carved within still exists today in the halls of Congress
- H. At his funeral Rev. Otis Skinner in a sermon stated; "Remember the faith of Webster! Great as he was, he asked to have engraved upon his tombstone, this simple sentence, He was a believer in Jesus."
 - I. Rev. Henry Augustus Boardman stated of him: "Those who value our Constitution and who desire the perpetuity of the Union, have great reason to bless God that Daniel Webster loved and studied the Bible."

II. MR WEBSTERS SPEECHES STILL SPEAK TO OUR NATION

- A. Serving as the headmaster of Fryeburg Academy in 1802 he delivered a Fourth of July oration stating; "If an angel should be winged from Heaven, on an errand of mercy to our country, the first accents that would glow on his lips would be, 'Beware! Be cautious! You have everything to lose; nothing to gain.

We live under the only government that ever existed which was framed by the unrestrained and deliberate consultations of the people.

Miracles do not cluster. That which has happened but once in six thousand years cannot be expected to happen often.

Such a government, once gone, might leave a void, to be filled, for ages, with revolution and tumult, riot and despotism.

- B. At the age of 70, just eight months before his death, Daniel Webster addressed the New York Historical Society, February 23, 1852:

"If we, and our posterity, shall be true to the Christian religion, if we and they shall live always in the fear of God, and shall respect his commandments, if we, and they, shall maintain just, moral sentiments, and such conscientious convictions of duty as shall control the heart and life, we may have the highest hopes of the future fortunes of our country... It will have no Decline and Fall. It will go on prospering and to prosper. But, if we and our posterity reject religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution, which holds us together, no man can tell, how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us, that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity.

III. THE STATEMENTS OF MR WEBSTER STILL SPEAK TO AMERICA TODAY

- A. "If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."
- B. On June 17, 1843, at the Bunker Hill Monument in Charleston, Massachusetts, Webster spoke these stirring words about our forefathers' reverence for the Bible: "The Bible came with them. And it is not to be doubted, that to free and universal reading of the Bible, in that age, men were much indebted for right views of civil liberty.

The Bible is a book of faith, and a book of doctrine, and a book of morals, and a book of religion, of special revelation from God; but it is also a book which teaches man his own individual responsibility, his own dignity, and his equality with his fellow-man. Thank God! I also — am an American!"

C. In speaking of our Christian faith Mr Webster stated;

If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country, I do not know what is going to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be;

If God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy; If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will;

If the power of the Gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness will reign without mitigation or end.

D. Away from Washington Mr Webster would attend services in a little church building. His niece asked him why he did not attend the far abler sermons in Washington:

1. Webster stated; "In Washington they preach to Daniel Webster the statesman, but this man speaks to Daniel Webster the sinner and telling him of Jesus"
2. That is the reason he wanted the epitaph on his tombstone to read; "He was a believer in Jesus"

E. Webster knew that beyond his fame as a politician his relationship with Jesus Christ was most important! It still is!!