

Light of Liberty, Shine on Us Again!

What America is All About – Pastor Clementa Pinckney

“Could we not argue that America is about freedom — whether we live it out or not? But it really is about freedom, equality and the pursuit of happiness. ¹ And that’s what The Church is all about. Freedom to worship and freedom from sin, freedom to be fully what GOD intends us to be and have equality in the sight of GOD...!” ²

A Hymn, “O Beautiful For Spacious Skies”

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! GOD shed His Grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea.
O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May GOD thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, And every gain Divine.
O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! GOD mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, Thy Liberty in Law. ³

II CORINTHIANS 3:17

Now The Lord is... [That] Spirit: and where The Spirit of The Lord is, there is freedom. ⁴

JOHN 15:12

This is My Commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. ⁵

A PRAYER

O Lord, without Divine Love, there can be no true Liberty. And without Divine Liberty, there can be no true Love. Fill us throughout this nation with Your Spirit. Teach us of Your Law of Love. Help us to follow the examples of Reverend Clementa Pinckney and his fellow martyrs. Break down the barriers of hate and replace it in us with hearts that learn to love You and one another as You indeed have loved us! AMEN.

¹ The U.S. Declaration of Independence, 1776. “We hold These Truths to be self evident: That all men are created equal; That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among These Rights are Life, Liberty and The Pursuit of Happiness...”

² “Slain Pastor’s Remarks [10/2013]: ‘Sometimes You May Have To Die...,’” para 7. CBS Atlanta. 6/18/2015. Revered Clementa Pinckney, Pastor of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston SC, was martyred with 8 of his congregants in the Church during a Bible study by an assailant – a stranger whom they had welcomed with love - on 6/17/2015.

<http://atlanta.cbslocal.com/2015/06/18/slain-pastors-remarks-sometimes-you-may-have-to-die/>

³ Hymn, “O Beautiful For Spacious Skies.” Words: Katharine L. Bates, 1904. Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1882. Cyber Hymnal. Retrieved 6/19/2015. <http://cyberhymnal.org/htm/o/b/obfsskis.htm>

⁴ Jerusalem Bible, II CORINTHIANS 3:17.

⁵ Jerusalem Bible, JOHN 15:12.