



Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom!

250 Years of Freedom!

August 2, 2026

2 Corinthians 3 ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
TPT

Psalms 33 ¹¹ His destiny-plan for the earth stands sure. His forever-plan remains in place and will never fail. ¹² Blessed and prosperous is that nation who has God as their Lord! They will be the people he has chosen for his own. TPT

Isaiah 9 ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. NKJV

Jeremiah 29 ⁴ Yahweh, the God of Israel, Commander of Angel Armies, says to all the exiles deported from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ "Build houses and settle in the land. Plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Get married and have children; encourage your sons and daughters to get married and raise families. Flourish in your captivity, for you must increase and not decrease. ⁷ Work for the good of the city to which I have exiled you. And pray to Yahweh, asking for a blessing on your city since your peace depends on its peace." ⁸ For Yahweh, the God of Israel, Commander of Angel Armies, says: "Do not be deceived by the false prophets in your midst or by those who presume to know the future. Pay no attention to their dreams, ⁹ for," Yahweh declares, "they prophesy lies to you in my name, and I have not sent them. ¹⁰ I say to you: After Babylon has ruled over you for seventy years, I will show compassion to you and will fulfill my promise of giving you good things, and I will bring you back to your land." ¹¹ Here's what Yahweh says to you: "I know all about the marvelous destiny I have in store for you, a future planned out in detail. My intention is not to harm you but to surround you with peace and prosperity and to give you a beautiful future, glistening with hope. TPT

2 Chronicles 7 ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. NKJV

1 Timothy 2 ¹ Most of all, I'm writing to encourage you to pray with gratitude to God. Pray for all men with all forms of prayers and requests as you intercede with intense passion. ² And pray for every political leader and representative, so that we would be able to live tranquil, undisturbed lives, as we worship the awe-inspiring God with pure hearts. ³ It is pleasing to our Savior-God to pray for them. ⁴ He longs for everyone to embrace his life and return to the full knowledge of the truth.
TPT

Romans 13 ¹ Every person must submit to and support the authorities over him. For there can be no authority in the universe except by God's appointment, which means that every authority that exists has been instituted by God. ² So to resist authority is to resist the divine order of God, which results in severe consequences. ³ For civil authorities don't intimidate those who are doing good, but those who are doing evil. So do what is right and you'll never need to fear those in authority. They will commend you for your good citizenship. ⁴ Those in authority are God's servants for the good of society. But if you break the law, you have reason to be alarmed, for they are God's agents of punishment to bring criminals to justice. Why do you think they carry weapons? ⁵ You are compelled to obey them, not just to avoid punishment, but because you want to live with a clean conscience. ⁶ This

is also the reason you pay your taxes, for governmental authorities are God's officials who oversee these things. ⁷ **So it is your duty to pay all the taxes and fees that they require and to respect those who are worthy of respect, honoring them accordingly.** TPT

Proverbs 26 ² An undeserved curse will be powerless to harm you. It may flutter over you like a bird, but it will find no place to land. TPT

2 Samuel 21 ¹ Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites." ² So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; the children of Israel had sworn protection to them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah. ³ **Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the Lord?"** ⁴ And the Gibeonites said to him, "We will have no silver or gold from Saul or from his house, nor shall you kill any man in Israel for us." So he said, **"Whatever you say, I will do for you."** ⁵ Then they answered the king, "As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us, *that* we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the territories of Israel, ⁶ let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, *whom* the Lord chose." And the king said, "I will give *them*." ... ^{14b} ... **So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.** NKJV

Psalms 127 ¹ If God's grace doesn't help the builders, they will labor in vain to build a house. If God's mercy doesn't protect the city, all the sentries will circle it in vain. TPT

World Cup Tourists See What Too Many Americans Have Forgotten

<https://townhall.com/columnists/joshhammer/2026/06/26/world-cup-tourists-see-what-too-many-americans-have-forgotten-n2678336>

Americans are routinely told that our nation is hopelessly divided, irredeemably flawed and perhaps even in terminal decline. Public polling reflects this pervasive frustration, pessimism and anomie. If someone halfway around the world only followed the polls, he might be forgiven for believing our republic is all but over.

But something remarkable is happening during the 2026 World Cup, which is jointly hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Fans from all across the world have arrived in America — and they are absolutely *loving* it. We too often take our way of life for granted, but many soccer tourists now here cannot stop marveling at what they see.

The unlikely symbol of this phenomenon is "Freddy," a young German soccer fan who has become an internet sensation while documenting his first road trip across the United States. Freddy's viral social media posts have attracted tens of millions of impressions because they reflect something both rare and refreshing: genuine, boy-like wonder. As he has crisscrossed the American South, Freddy has gushed at everything from Waffle House and Taco Bell to Buc-ee's, Bass Pro Shops, sprawling football stadiums and the impressive size of regular, middle-class American homes. Americans, accustomed to taking all these things for granted, have watched with glee as a slack-jawed foreign visitor experiences it all for the first time.

But Freddy the German is hardly alone.

Scores of other World Cup visitors from Europe, Asia and elsewhere have flooded social media with similar observations. They have wandered through Walmart and Costco as if they were touring cultural landmarks. They have posted videos about yellow school buses, small town diners, Texas barbecue, oversize grocery stores and the sheer abundance and variety that characterize everyday life in the

most prosperous country on planet Earth. Elsa the Swede has fallen in love with ranch dressing. And even the Transportation Security Administration took notice, posting on social media: "If you're visiting for a very large sporting event & you happen to discover RANCH while you're here ... please pack it in your CHECKED BAG on the way home."

These reactions, bursting with youthful exuberance, are amusing. But they also point toward a profound insight: Sometimes it takes an outsider to recognize what insiders can no longer see.

The average American rarely pauses to consider how extraordinary our country remains today. We gripe about suburban sprawl while living in homes that would be considered luxurious by the standards of much of the world. We roll our eyes at chain restaurants that millions of foreign tourists eagerly seek out. We treat abundance as ordinary because abundance is all most of us have ever known.

That familiarity breeds a certain blindness.

But the World Cup tourists are not blind. They see an America that remains dynamic, entrepreneurial and welcoming. They encounter strangers eager to offer travel advice. They find communities proud to share local traditions. They discover a country that is far friendlier than the caricatures would suggest. The America they are experiencing bears little resemblance to the negative stereotypes they had long imbibed back home.

America, like every country, has problems. The risk of prolonged decline *is* very real. Patriotism also does not require pretending that everything is perfect.

But it does require perspective — and, above all, gratitude. (*1 Thessalonians 5¹⁸ ...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. NKJV* - *18 And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus. TPT*)

As we approach our long-awaited America 250 celebration next weekend, Americans would do well to remember that ours remains the most successful experiment in republican self-governance in human history. The United States is still the world's leading economic, military and cultural power. And most importantly, as we prepare to celebrate the immortal words of 1776, it remains a nation founded upon timeless truths about human nature and human dignity.

That last point matters. Our republic was founded on the biblically rooted proposition that human beings possess God-given rights, and that legitimate government exists to secure those rights and advance the common good.

In other words, America is great because America is good. Not perfect. Not above reproach. But fundamentally good.

We see that goodness reflected in the generosity that has met so many awestruck foreigners visiting during the World Cup. It is reflected in the spirit that built the businesses, attractions and communities now spellbinding them.

The foreign visitors who are spending this summer discovering America have unintentionally delivered an important message to those privileged enough to call this great land home. They have reminded us that our country remains worthy of admiration. They have reminded us that gratitude is often more appropriate — as it is here — than despair. As we prepare to celebrate America's 250th birthday, that lesson could not be timelier.

There are plenty of reasons for concern. But there is also still reason to hope.

The world still sees something special in the land of the free and the home of the brave. We Americans should see it too.