

Hope of Glory in an Age of Flags

Dear Haven Friend,

March 2026

“Canada’s lasting glory is seen in deeds of justice, care for the vulnerable, and humility under God –more than in flags or applause.” Lincoln-inspired, Canada-adapted (Micah 6:8)

We live in an age of loud loyalties. Flags wave high. Olympians drape themselves in patriotic pride. Slogans are shouted. Nations promise safety, identity, and a future worth fighting for. And yet, Scripture quietly insists on a greater reality—one that outlasts beyond every Olympic cycle, political election, border conflict and citizenship. I recently returned from the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Convention in Nashville. Grateful for the opportunity to connect there with our Haven USA Team (David Wollen, Troy Lambert, and Danny Rojas) and Christian media leaders across North America. It was refreshing to see the zeal and fervour of those who share a passion for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. NRB was in many ways inspiring - to see the energy and impact of new technologies, creativity and innovation to reach people with the Gospel. At the same time, it was concerning to see how many ministries passionately promote a purely *American* worldview, often called Christian nationalism—the blending of political identity with faith. One ministry caught my eye called *Four G Media - God, Gas, Guns and Glory!* Unlike Olympic glory, which is often described as fleeting or a "vapour-like" moment that fades quickly after years of intense preparation, *glory* in Scripture is not fleeting. The Christian’s hope of Home bound glory is meant to shape how Christians live, not only in church, but also as citizens of earthly nations.

What is Christian Nationalism?

Christian nationalism is a term that has gained prominence in the United States, wherever faith and national identity are closely intertwined. Christian nationalism is the belief that a nation should be explicitly defined by Christian identity, values, and laws. It is based on a belief that a nation has a special covenant or blessing from God. Political power cleverly blends faith with politics, making national loyalty a measure of spiritual faithfulness, which can distort the Gospel.

Although the movement can be problematic, there are definite aspects that align with Biblical principles: **Love of country and community** – God calls us to be good neighbors, respectful of authority, and caring for our communities (Romans 13:1-7). **Promotion of justice, mercy, and righteousness** – When Christian values encourage charity, protection of the vulnerable, and ethical behavior, they reflect God’s heart (Micah 6:8). **Cultural influence for good** – Christians are called to be a salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). Engaging in society to protect the sanctity of life, the sacredness of marriage and family, and Truth are the ultimate expressions of a faith-based political view. Christian nationalism, at its best, emphasizes Judeo-Christian moral responsibility, public service, and care for society through a Biblical lens. The concern, of course, is hijacking the global message of Jesus for all nations and peoples. **Overemphasis on national identity** can alienate non-Americans, non-Christians, and harm the Church’s testimony (John 17:20-23). Christian nationalism risks idolatry, injustice, and misrepresenting the Gospel, even when well-intentioned. It can distort the Gospel and undermine our Christian witness to the world (James 2:1-9).

Biblical Perspective on Faith and Citizenship

Our loyalty is to Christ and supersedes any national allegiance. Christians are called to participate in society responsibly and ethically (Romans 13:1-7). Our mission is to bring the message of Christ to the world, not to a single nation. National pride should never replace eternal priorities (Matthew 6:33). Christian nationalism mixes truth with error. Loving your country and pursuing justice is Biblical. Elevating a nation to a spiritual role or making salvation contingent on patriotism is contrary to God’s Word. Christians are called to serve society humbly, love all people, and keep a heaven-bound perspective. We would not trade our heavenly citizenship for the fleeting glory of an Olympic gold medal or an earthly passport.

What is Glory?

Glory is mentioned 449 times in the Bible (KJV, including glorify/glorified). When the Bible speaks of God's glory, it refers to His worth, honour and majesty. It is **"not for us, O Lord, not for us"** (Psalm 115:1) but for His greatness above all creation. Glory relates to how we are to reflect Him to others, as **"we are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another"** (2 Cor.3:18). Glory speaks of God's manifest presence – an amazing, radiant expression of who He is, **"like a consuming fire"** (Exodus 24:16-17). John declares that we have seen God's glory represented in Jesus, **"the Word became flesh"** (John 1:14). God promises that believers **"who's life is Christ,"** will appear with Christ in glory and share in His honour in eternity (Colossians 3:4). Our modus operandi is **"to do all things for His glory"** (1 Cor.10:31).

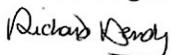
Hope of Glory Beyond Patriotism:

- 1) **Glory keeps patriotism secondary, not supreme - "[God] has called you to his eternal glory in Christ"** (1 Peter 5:10).
Heavenly glory reminds us that no nation is eternal, no flag final, no constitution perfect. Calling precedes citizenship, glory defines our vocation in Jesus.
- 2) **Glory Reorders Our Loyalties - "Christ in you, the hope of glory"** (Colossians 1:27).
Patriotism can be a good gift. Gratitude for one's country, concern for its well-being, and participation in public life are good. Glory is not an Olympic gold medal but a Person dwelling in believers. Our glorious destiny is union with Jesus.
- 3) **Glory Protects from Political Idolatry - "Grass withers, flowers fall, the word of our God endures forever"** (Isaiah 40:8).
Empires rise, dominate, and fall. God alone remains. That perspective keeps believers from panic when nations stumble or pride when they prosper. When glory is eternal, politics becomes important—but never ultimate.
- 4) **Glory Sharpens Courage to Speak Truth - "God of grace has called you to his eternal glory in Christ"** (1 Peter 5:10).
The hope of heaven gives Christians courage on earth. Christians are free to love their country without excusing its sins—and to criticize injustice without hatred. Prophetic faithfulness flows from eternal confidence.
- 5) **Glory Expands Our Vision Beyond Borders - "God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever"** (Psalm 73:26).
Jesus prayed that His followers would share in His glory and one day be with Him (John 17:22–24). That glory gathers a people from every nation, tribe, and tongue. God Himself is our portion – above land, passport, borders or power.
- 6) **Glory Keeps Our Joy Intact - "for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb"** (Revelation 21:23).
When nations disappoint us—as they inevitably will—the hope of glory steadies our hearts. Christians are never ultimately defeated, because the final chapter has already been written.
- 7) **Living as Citizens of Heaven - "But our citizenship is in heaven"** (Philippians 3:20).
The hope of glory makes Christians rightly engaged. We become grateful without boasting, loyal without blindness, courageous without fear, hopeful without illusion. Heaven's glory is God's presence, not human achievement.

We love our countries best when we remember they are not our forever home. We are thankful citizens and critical patriots, yet heaven-bound pilgrims. We love our countries best when we love Christ more because only His glory will last. At Haven, we continue to proclaim this unshakable truth - the best is not behind us, and it is not found in any nation on earth. It is ahead of us, revealed in Christ, and secured by His glory. **"To Him be glory forever. Amen"** (Romans 11:36).

"Lord, thank you that our true citizenship is in heaven, not here on earth. Flags may wave in victory, medals may shine today, but our eternal hope is in You. Nations rise and fall, Your kingdom is forever. May our lives reflect Your eternal glory. Strengthen us to shine light in every dark place. Keep our eyes on You, Jesus, our Hope that endures beyond all loss. Amen."

To God be glory forever,



Richard Dendy
Executive Director