

It is always a pleasure to speak on the defense of the Word of God. I'm glad to do what I can to strengthen faith in this important subject.

The Bible has had a very important place in American history. Many of the earliest settlers of our country came here with the Bible in their hands, and in their hearts the desire to establish a nation that would be built on and established in accordance with the teachings and ideals of this Book. The U.S. has developed into the strongest nation in the whole world from an economic, industrial, or military viewpoint. Many of us are convinced that this result can be traced back to the fact that Americans from the beginning sought to do the will of God, and that the great principles of the Bible were placed at the center of our national life.

This was the conviction of Andrew Jackson, one of the most noted of our early American presidents. After he had retired from the presidency, Jackson turned to a visitor who was talking about the great ideal of liberty that characterized America. Pointing to the Bible that stood on his table, Jackson said, "That book, sir, is the foundation of our liberty." We in America are so used to the great freedoms that every American enjoys that we often fail to realize how comparatively rare they are in our modern world. If one American has a little less freedom than most have, we're apt to become very excited about it and to think that it is a terrible thing that this one has less than his full share of freedom. Yet actually the freedom that every American enjoys is practically unknown in more than a third of the world. In communist countries a man can hardly utter a word without the danger that it will land him in the concentration camp and result in his being tortured, or even