

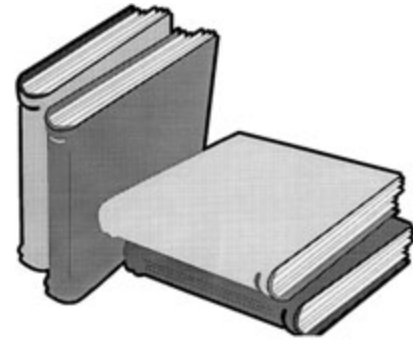
# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Special Issue for Election Season, November 3, 2019.

## **July 4, 1806, Portland Maine, continued.**

All our exertions, however animated by zeal, nerved by energy, and guided by prudence, will be insufficient to restore [our nation] to the height from which we have fallen, **unless we restore those moral and religious principles**, which were formerly our glory, our ornament, and defence. ...

**We have forsaken the God of our fathers**, and therefore evil has come upon us. ...

**We once** gloried in styling ourselves his American Israel; and a similarity of character and situation gives us a claim to the title. Like them, we have often been delivered by his uplifted hand and his upstretched arm; like them we have experienced his munificence in temporal and spiritual blessings; and like them, we have repaid his goodness with ingratitude and rebellion. ...

**Among us** God's laws are disobeyed, his institutions are despised, his Sabbaths are profaned, and his name is blasphemed. And shall he not visit for these things? Will he not be avenged on such a nation as ours. ...

**If then, you would display true love for your country, and lengthen out the span of her existence**, endeavor by precept, but especially by example to inculcate [teach] the principles of order, morality, and religion. ...

Let not these counsels be despised because they are the **words of youth and inexperience**. When your habitation is in flames, a child may give the alarm ...

Edward Payson, the "Praying Payson of Portland",  
featured in the *Behold Your God* video class last spring.  
He was then Portland's 23 year old schoolmaster,  
giving the invited address for the day.

From Asa Cummings, *The Complete Works of Edward Payson, DD*,  
1846, Vol 1 of 3, Reprinted by Sprinkle Publications, 1987, p. 36-41.