



How are **America**, Christianity and Freedom Connected?

Leviticus 25:10: *And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.*

In this past week America has celebrated her birth as a nation and the 230+ years of freedom that followed. How did this American experience get its start? What was on the minds of those singular men and women whose lives were put on the spot, tested and changed so many years ago? What role did faith - Christian faith - play in all of this? Stay with us as we look back and see...

America's freedom came as a result of a hard choice and an utter commitment to that choice:

Although the writer of the Declaration of Independence did not mention Christianity or Jesus, they acknowledged the Creator and nature's God. They understood the "bigness" of God and wanted to do something good in relation to that bigness of God. Like it or not, this is where our country got its beginning.

 **Introduction to Martin Treptow, *A Soldier's Pledge*, speech by Ronald Reagan**

- *Under one such marker lies a young man, Martin Treptow, who left his job in a small town barber shop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There on the western front he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.*

Christian freedom comes as a result of a hard choice and an utter commitment to that choice: [Romans 12:1-2](#) [1 Peter 4:12-13](#)


 **Martin's diary message, *A Soldier's Pledge*, speech by Ronald Reagan**

- *We are told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading "My Pledge," he had written these words: America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure. I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone...*

This is what our Christianity should look like! The cause of God must win against the flesh. The United States of America was founded with "God first."

What are the greatest weapons of freedom?

American freedom was fought for with truth.

 **This Supreme Court case from 1892 challenged the hiring of a Christian preacher: [87 precedents, David Barton \(historian and Christian\), Supreme Court Case from 1892](#)**

- *...Our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian. Now what would have led the court to such an emphatic declaration that our laws, our institutions, our society was emphatically Christian and that it must include the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind? Well, the court said, "The reason we say this is because it is historically true. From the discovery of the continent to this present hour there is a single voice everywhere making the same affirmation. We find everywhere a clear recognition of this truth," and the court proceeded to go into a history lesson. It went through 87 instances of American history starting from the discovery of the continent in the time of Columbus, going all the way through their current day in 1892. After having gone through 87 precedents, the court said, "We can go like this for a long time. Eighty-seven is sufficient to say that Christ must be the center."*

Christian freedom is fought for with truth: [John 8:31-32](#): American Freedom was fought for with *humble* observance of a higher way: (Source: eadshome.com) James Madison: At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Madison proposed the plan to divide the central government into three branches. He discovered this model of government from the Perfect Governor, as he read [Isaiah 33:22](#): *For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us.* This is how our three branches of government came to be!

Christian Freedom is fought for with humble observance of a higher way: [2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#): Our warfare is not fleshly, so therefore our weapons are spiritual. It takes dedication to achieve Christian freedom. America did not become free because just a few people decided it to be so. There was bloodshed, sorrow, hardship, tragedy and devastation. But they held true to what they believed was the right thing to do.



 **The weapon of freedom, *A Soldier's Pledge*, speech by Ronald Reagan**

- *We must realize that no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors.*

American Freedom was fought for with sacred honor.

Christian Freedom is fought for with sacred honor - engaging in the battle by using God's armor: **Ephesians 6:10-13**: Christianity is the will of God executed in our hearts in a humble way, relying on the power and overruling of God. We do not want to forget the biblical principles that founded this country. Let's not take those principles and their source out of the conversation about where this country needs to go. We do, however, believe in the separation of Church and State. This means not having a state religion and not having government answer to religion. That was not what the founding fathers had in mind. It also does *not* mean that you cannot talk about religion in a political arena.

American freedom looks to deliver "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for its people:

 **The fruit of a nation that forgets God, *George Washington's farewell address***

- *Before 1962-1963, the courts used biblical guidelines in all four areas. George Washington warned in his farewell address, "Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."*

When you take the concept of "God" out of things, you then become like God in the sense of "our way is best; we make the rules."

Christian freedom looks to deliver life, liberty and the pursuit of *sacrifice* for its people **so it can relay life, liberty and happiness eventually to ALL people!** People try to make a Christian life the equivalent of an easy chair with fuzzy slippers and a glass of iced tea! Let's study the Apostles and Jesus, emulating what they said, what they did and how they lived. That is true Christianity!

There are several New Testament words for *freedom*: **See Full Edition Bonus Material for more detailed definitions.**

- The first word carries a physical or civil sense of being free - not a slave, not being held under. **1 Corinthians 12:13**
- The second word carries a very full sense of being made free - not merely "not a slave," but rather being liberated. **Romans 8:2**
- The third word carries the personal application of being liberated - the ability to make personal decisions. **Galatians 5:1**

American freedom focuses on the first of these types of freedoms and Christianity on the other two.

 **Peace the highest goal, *A Soldier's Pledge*, speech by Ronald Reagan**

- *As for the enemies of freedom, those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it, we will not surrender for it, now or ever. We are Americans!*



Observations: A marked difference between the founding of the United States and Jesus and the Apostles' teachings regarding freedom is this:

- The founders were very focused on the first definition, as their objective was a society that would be equitable and just. America would be a place where people would have the ability to live their lives having freedom of thought, religion, etc., without being under the thumb of tyranny.
- Conversely, Christian freedom is not really freedom of thought, because we are supposed to be dedicated to giving up our own thinking and taking on the thinking of Christ. Jesus and the Apostles were very focused on the second and third words in our list. They were not nearly as concerned with physical freedom and the equity of



society, as they understood servitude to be a temporary condition, contrasted with the deeper personal freedom to be gained in Christ on a spiritual level. Their primary concern seemed to be grasping spiritual "freedom with responsibility."

The point of Christianity was never to save the world through America. It is instead to look at the plan of God and execute it with our every thought, word and action. There is salvation in the plan of God for all mankind, not just one country.

Genesis 22:18: This is a promise that reflects the goal of the dedication of Christianity - that eventually all nations of the world will be blessed. This prophecy has not yet come true, so we know it is going to happen in the future.

Jeremiah 31:34: Here is another example of a worldwide freedom. Prophecy does not point to the United States of America as the beacon of freedom that will spread to and overtake the rest of the world. The beacon of freedom is Jesus Christ and his true followers. Those are the ones who personally take on the responsibility of giving their lives, fortunes and sacred honor, dedicating those things to Christ. This will allow the eternal blessings to come to all men.

America's "Freedom Fighters" were the men and women of the time, driven by their sacred honor.

 **Paul Revere's Companion, America Founded Under God, David Barton**

- *And while we're on "things we don't study," you know we do know about Paul Revere. The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere - the famous poem of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow - Revere was not the only one riding. As a matter of fact, there was another guy riding at that time. His name was Wentworth Cheswell. Wentworth Cheswell was a black patriot. He was elected to office in New Hampshire in 1768. He was a leader in his church, he was re-elected in New Hampshire for the next 45 years and held about nine different political offices in New Hampshire. We didn't know that blacks and whites were both riding, giving the alarm that night.*

 **Many Black Heroes, America Founded Under God, David Barton**

- *You know the hero of Bunker Hill is right there in the painting. We just don't talk about it anymore, but his name is Peter Salem. Peter Salem...and right beside him is Thomas Grosvenor. Black and white fighting side by side in the American Revolution. Peter Salem is the one who got all the special honors, awards and commendations, more than a dozen different awards from the national congress, from the state congress, from his military leaders. He was the hero. He saved countless American lives that day, but we've never even heard of Peter Salem today. In the same way, we'll see George Washington crossing the Delaware, but we wouldn't recognize folks like Prince Whipple and Oliver Cromwell, two black patriots who served throughout the American Revolution with the General and the General's staff, but we've never even heard of those guys.*

These black and white men were working for a cause greater than themselves. Christianity is about having a cause greater than ourselves. We draw others to that cause - not to ourselves - but to that cause so that together we can be "more than overcomers," as the Bible describes.

Christianity's Freedom Fighters are the men and women through the ages, driven by their sacred honor, Jesus first and his followers second. Isaiah 53:4-12 John 16:1-2: If you are going to be a "Christian Patriot" fighting for the principles of Christianity, even if it means your very life, then you can be truly free indeed. American freedom's dangers lie in ignoring where and what we came from and while in that state of ignorance, devising a future based upon our wants of the present without consulting the wisdom of the past. This makes us god!

 **No longer taught as history, David Barton, Supreme Court Case from 1892**

- *Had we attended school prior to WWII, we could have known about these 87 precedents and would have found most of them in our textbooks. But anyone who has attended high school since WWII has never seen even one of those instances the Supreme Court cited as the emphatic basis for their declaration that we are a Christian nation and Christian principles are to remain as a basis for this society.*

Micah 6:6-8: These are the principles America was founded upon.

Christianity's freedom's dangers lie in ignoring where and what we came from and while in that state of ignorance, devising a future based upon our wants of the present without consulting the wisdom of the past. This makes us God!



Christianity has fallen into a Prosperity Gospel, teaching that Christianity is here for you to have a bunch of stuff and a life of comfort. God wants you to *sacrifice*. We forget about the life led by the Apostle Paul. We forget about the lives led by the Apostle John, Peter, and Jesus and how they lived. They did not ask for things so that they could be more comfortable. It is a danger to allow time to go by without visiting the origin of where you came from. Christianity was born in the account of Holy Scripture. Study and absorb the lives of sacrifice as our examples. This is why God instituted the Passover for the Jews, *lest ye forget*. They were to stop and recreate what happened so they would know the deliverance provided. Jesus built the Memorial service around the true Passover so we would also stop and remember him and his sacrifice. Galatians 5:13-15 **Remember who the battle is against!** Ephesians 6:10-12

To have an equitable and successful society: There can never be freedom from consequence; There can never be freedom from laws; There can never be freedom from responsibility; and There can never be freedom without contribution! Does God intend this freedom for the human race? John 12:31-32: The world will be free! Jesus prophetically told us that he will have control and will cast Satan out. America's freedom was fueled by **prayerful** and **careful** focus on those things which were understood as God-given human rights:

 **27 clauses, America Founded Under God, David Barton**

- We are often told that the founding fathers made the Declaration of Independence because of "taxation without representation." ...They didn't like what was going on economically, so "taxation without representation," and here we are today. That's okay as far as it goes, but the problem is the Declaration of Independence listed 27 reasons (why) they separated from Great Britain. Taxation without representation was issue #17 out of the 27 - it didn't even make the top half of what concerned them, and that's the only one that we focus on. We have so bored into economics being everything that a nation is that we've missed so many of the moral and religious aspects that have been out there really for centuries. So when you look at the Declaration of Independence, you look at those 27 clauses, rights, that are set forth, historians have documented that every right set forth in the Declaration of Independence had been preached from the American pulpit prior to 1763...*

 **First Congress three hour prayer, America Founded Under God, David Barton**

- If you'll go to any public library or go online, you can read the records of Congress - of everything that ever happened in Congress. If you go back to page one, you'll see the very first time the founding fathers got together -the very first session of the very first Congress, Sept. 6, 1774. And if you read in the records of Congress, you'll say, Oh look! They opened with prayer. And you keep reading and you'll say, that wasn't a dinky little prayer! No, it wasn't. Some historical records indicate that the opening prayer session of Congress ran up to three hours long. Now with such a significant time and so many delegates wrote about it that you take someone like Silas Deane who said, "After that time of prayer in Congress, even the stern old Quakers had tears running down their cheeks."*

Christianity's freedom is fueled by **prayerful** and **careful** focus on those things which are understood as God-given human privilege to **sacrifice**, **for the purpose of restoring the original God given plan for the eternal life of mankind.**

Romans 6:18-22: Christian freedom is "slavery" to the will of God! Have we truly dedicated our lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the cause of freedom in Christ? Isaiah 2:2: Clearly this prophecy has yet to come true! Zephaniah 3:9 Daniel 7:13-14: This is an amazing prophecy! It talks about the kingdom of Jesus with all peoples! Christian sacrifice is for the purpose of being faithful to bring this world and these governments - America included - to an end, so that the government of Jesus Christ can overrule everything. Isaiah 61:1: Jesus paid the price and then handed off the baton to us. We are to follow his steps.

We thank God for the opportunity of being able to live in a country that gives us freedoms. But remember the history of Christianity just like we remember our American history. When you go back to the founding fathers of Christianity, their lives were lives of giving, sacrifice, spreading the Gospel, and laying down their lives to the cause of Christ so that all nations can be blessed. If God said it, we know it will come true!

*So, how are America, Christianity and freedom connected?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!*