



Thank you for downloading the
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the **CQ Rewind FULL EDITION** at no charge, simply sign up at www.ChristianQuestions.com.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



What Does Freedom Mean to a Christian?

Isaiah 33:22: (NASB) *For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us.*

We are free. We have liberty. We can speak our minds, make choices about our lives and be an influence on the influencers. Because of these things, we are truly among the most fortunate people to live on this earth today. As a matter of fact we are among the most fortunate people to ever live on this earth. The United States of America grants us these freedoms. How did the founders of this country get so smart?

Proverbs 3:5-6: (NKJV) *⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

God has taught us what is necessary for freedom:

- There can never be freedom from consequence.
- There can never be freedom from laws.
- There can never be freedom from responsibility.
- There can never be freedom without contribution.

The Christian's common denominator for freedom: **Romans 14:1-6:** The original debate being discussed had to do with meat first being offered to pagan idols. The idol of course would not eat the meat, so it would be taken back and sold in the marketplace at a discount. Should you eat meat previously offered to idols or not? Some Christians said no; some said yes. The Apostle was dealing with this philosophical difference. He instructed the Christians not to judge one another on this - each individual had to be true to their own heart, trying to serve God the best way they knew how.

The common denominator for freedom shown here is worshipping and honoring God. Even though we may not see things the same way does not mean we shouldn't honor one another's freedom in Christ. There is diversity within the confines of the functions of a body. There are guidelines of the freedom. God is our common denominator, as He can read our true devotions!

The Founding Fathers began the Declaration by honoring and recognizing God Almighty, Creator of mankind where all men are created equal. They end the Declaration by appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World (obviously God) and relying on the protection of Divine Providence. They were able to pledge to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. They wanted their honor to be pleasing to God.

Our Christian sacred honor is to live up to our calling: **John 8:31-32:** We have accountability to *continue in the word* and let it settle in our hearts, not just intellectually.



1781 the first Bible, David Barton, America Was Founded by Christians, YouTube

- *And that's why when you get to 1781, which is the end of the American Revolution - the final major battle of the American Revolution, the battle of Yorktown - that's when the British lay down their arms. They say, "Okay, we give up." Now, that's a significant time because at that point in time we're no longer under the laws of the British. We're out from under the British kings. What makes that significant in being out from under of the laws of the kings - one of the laws the kings had passed was a very simple law passed decades earlier. It said if you live in an English speaking colony, America, you cannot print any Bible in the English language; but having whooped the British in Yorktown, we're not under that law anymore so now we can print our first English language Bible. Within a month of Yorktown, the plans advanced to print that first English language Bible. Eleven months later, that Bible rolled off the presses. Now, it's become one of the rarest books in the world. When it rolled off the presses in 1782, they printed 20,000 copies of that first English language Bible. Today there are only 29 left in the world.*

Within 30 days of the end of a bloody war, one of the first things they do after the Revolution is put plans in place to print the Bible in the English language. Why would they do that if it wasn't important? Those individuals had a godly focus based on the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament. We should do the most important thing first! **Micah 6:6-8**



 **Who printed the first Bible and why, David Barton, America Was Founded by Christians, YouTube**

- *This is the Bible - 1782. This is called the Bible of the American Revolution. You know what's significant about this Bible? First Bible printed in English in America - you know who printed it? The Congress of the United States printed this. Whoa, time out. The founding fathers printed the first Bible in English in America? Why would they do that? They tell us in the records of Congress included here. They tell us this Bible is "a neat addition of the holy Scriptures for the use of our schools." I thought they didn't want the Bible in schools.*

In early America, trust in God was tangible. It could be felt, it could be seen and it therefore could be emulated. Their cause was that of freedom - freedom to live, worship and thrive, without the heavy hand of tyranny beating them down. They knew what they wanted in its place and knew freedom without responsibility is not really freedom and it would fall apart. They were striving to put all these principles in place in a very exact, precise combination.

Christian freedom is fought for with sacred honor - engaging in the battle by using God's armor: Psalms 119:104-106: Our Founding Fathers did not advocate a church/state system, but they did advocate godly Christian principles as presented in the Bible. They wanted to allow the individual to choose a denominational or non-denominational approach - or choose no religion at all - and to be able to choose, thrive and speak. Freedom with responsibility should allow individuals to contribute to society in a positive way. Ephesians 6:10-12

 **The first public school law (1647), David Barton, America Was Founded by Christians, YouTube**

- *Let's go back to the first public school law ever passed in America, 1647, passed in Connecticut; passed in Massachusetts. Do you know what the title of the first public school law in America was? It was called the "Old Deluder Satan Act." It was called that because it says the one chief project that old deluder Satan was to keep us from the knowledge of the Scriptures as he has in former times. Since Satan's number one purpose is to keep us out of the Scriptures, we're not letting that happen in America - that's why we're starting public schools. For the next 320 years, the Bible was part of public education in America, hands down. The first time it was not was on June the seventeenth of 1963 when the Supreme Court issued a double decision and Abington Schempp (Editor's Notes: Abington School District v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963), was a United States Supreme Court case in which the Court decided 8-1 in favor of the respondent, Edward Schempp, and declared school-sponsored Bible reading in public schools in the United States to be unconstitutional) and Murray Curlett (More famous than Schempp was Madalyn Murray O'Hair, mother of plaintiff William J. Murray III in Murray v. Curlett. O'Hair founded the group American Atheists in 1963. The Murray case was consolidated with Schempp's on appeal to the Supreme Court.) where they said, you know this thing about the Bible in schools - we're not going to do that. You know, for 320 years we did. What we think today is we think it's been for the last fifty years is the way it's always been. No!*

Christian freedom means passing God's truth from generation to generation: Psalms 78:2-7: In early America, the awareness of keeping godliness as part of life was obvious! Proverbs 22:6

A look at the Pledge of Allegiance and the changes it has undergone:

1892 "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the republic for which it stands: one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

1892-1922 "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the republic for which it stands: one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

1923 "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States, and to the republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

1924-1954 "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

1954-Present "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Why was "under God" only added in 1954? Perhaps a shift away from God had become obvious and was growing. What had been a society that was built on sacred honor and a belief in divine providence for 200 years before was now taking the sacredness out of honor and the divine out of providence. Nine years later, prayer would be outlawed from schools.

So, what does our theme Scripture have to do with freedom in America? Isaiah 33:22: (NASB) *For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; He will save us.* James Madison read this Scripture and realized God is shown in three different ways upon



which the new government should be based. God is our Judge (we should establish a judicial system). God is our Lawgiver (we should have a legislative system). God is our King (we should establish an executive system).

We want to focus on our Christian responsibility to be solely dedicated to the cause of Christ. Our Christian dedication is an individual one that this country's freedoms allow us to freely express. Our freedom is to be a bond-slave to Christ! We are to be bound to do the will of God instead of our own. It is both constricting and the greatest freedom ever.

This prophecy regarding Christianity shows a parallel to the American experience:

2 Timothy 3:13-17

Romans 6:18-19: *Righteousness leading to holiness* is freedom for excellence! We are really enslaved no matter where we are, so why not be enslaved to righteousness that leads to holiness? That is the Christian call! That is what we individually are supposed to be about in our everyday lives. We are grateful we can live in a place where we can express that publically and it is legal!

Freedom fighters are the men and women through the ages, driven by their sacred honor. Jesus first; his followers second: Isaiah 53:4-9: There is an all-out example for the true Christian to follow here - fight for the will of God regardless of circumstance, consequence or outcome!

 **John Witherspoon, David Barton, America Was Founded, YouTube**

- *See, folks we don't talk about today include folks like signer of the Declaration, John Witherspoon. Now, John Witherspoon one of the most prominent signers of the Declaration; he served on over 100 committees in Congress including the Board of War. He's George Washington's boss in the Revolution, he's also the President of Princeton University, he's also the best known gospel evangelist in American history back then; he has more than a dozen volumes of published gospel sermons. Americans couldn't wait for his next volume of sermons to come out, and he's also responsible for two American editions of the Bible including this one right here. This is original from 1791. This is done by Dr. John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration - this is considered America's very first family Bible.*

Dr. Witherspoon's life was about much more than being a politician. He is a good example of dedicated Christianity at work during the founding of America. **Our Christian call to the fight for freedom:** Hebrews 12:1-3: Following Jesus is our goal and focus. We meditate upon him. That's how we fight for Christian freedom. That is where our sacred honor has its greatest application.

Do Christians have a Declaration of Independence?

NO! Actually we should have a Declaration of DEpendence!

Philippians 4:12-13: We declare ourselves entirely dependent on Christ! It's not "me," it is "Christ in me." That is our declaration of DEpendence. America was founded on godly principles. The beauty of it is that if you choose *not* to believe in God, you are free to do so in America. You are free to express your contrary opinion with the same voracity as we express ours! That is the beauty of the liberty we have here, only made possible through its founding upon godly principles.

The Christian work is not a work of establishing a nation - it is a work of establishing a character! 2 Peter 1:5-8: True, transformational knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ means changing our character into Christ-likeness. Our call is not about politics or country, but is about developing our Christian character for the sake of serving God through Christ so that all men can be blessed later.

 **Charles Thomson, David Barton, America Was Founded by Christians, YouTube**

- *Charles Thomson: Thomson was only one of two guys who signed the original Declaration of Independence on the fourth of July. It was the 19th of July that the Founders got an idea and said, why don't we create the Declaration we can all sign? So on the second of August is when they signed the one we see and celebrate, but on the fourth of July, Charles Thomson was one of two who signed it. But Charles Thomson was a theologian; he's responsible for this work right here - this is called Thomson's Bible. You can still get this in Christian bookstores today. Not to be confused with Thompson's Chain Reference Bible (that's Thompson, this is Thomson.) This is the first translation of the Greek Septuagint into English. It took Charles 25 years to*



make this translation, and we still sell it today as one of the most scholarly of American translations of the Bible, and he was very outspoken about his faith as well.

Ours is not a work of fighting the battles of men - it is a work of fighting off Satan's influence! 1 Peter 5:8-11: Our faith is the portal through which our sacred honor flows to fight an overwhelming enemy!



Roger Sherman, David Barton, America Was Founded by Christians, YouTube

- *Roger Sherman, one of my favorite Founding Fathers. He is the only Founding Father to sign all four founding documents. He signed the Declaration, the Constitution, the Articles of Confederation, and the Articles of Association. No other Founders signed all the documents. He is called the Master Builder of the Constitution. He's the guy who came up with the bicameral system that we have with the House and the Senate. He's also a framer of the Bill of Rights. He's the guy who got George Washington to do our very first federal Thanksgiving Proclamation and Congress. He went through the Bible verses explaining why now that we're a federal nation, we ought to have a Thanksgiving Proclamation - just a really cool guy. He's a judge, he's the mayor of New Haven, Connecticut, he's a surveyor, and he's all sorts of stuff. He's also a theologian for his denomination in the state of Connecticut. He actually wrote the denominational creed for his denomination.*

Ours is not a work of the physical freedom of men - it is a work of the *eternal* freedom for mankind in the future! Romans 8:18-22: Our work IS the work of true freedom for all, a deliverance to be under the mighty hand of God!

American freedom looks to deliver life, liberty and the *pursuit* of happiness for its people, not *guaranteed* happiness. **Christian freedom looks to deliver life, liberty and the pursuit of *sacrifice* for its people so it can relay life, liberty and happiness to ALL people in the future! Genesis 22:15-18: Abraham was obedient to the will of God. That is a powerful principle we can build off of. Because of that, *all* the nations of the earth would be blessed. That shows the power and generosity of the Almighty.**

„Let's look at those final words from that America the “Beautiful” and expand them to show the fulfillment of God's Plan for the whole world!

***God shed His grace on thee* Hebrews 2:9-10: Jesus had to leave heaven and be born a man - to be *made lower than the angels*. Adam sinned and Jesus died as a payment for that sin. By the grace of God, Jesus tasted death for everyone. That is a whole different level than the grace of God being applied to just our country. This is God's grace shown in the ransom price paid by Jesus. God in His foreknowledge understood the execution of sin and put into place a plan to allow sin to be experienced so humankind could learn lessons for eternity. There is incredible wisdom in God's grace.**

***And crown thy good with brotherhood* Jeremiah 31:34: The brotherhood of mankind - not just of today's Christianity - but of all mankind - will honor God.**

Zephaniah 3:9: Every man, woman and child will be able to thank God for His miraculous deliverance through Jesus Christ. These are the prophecies that are going to come to pass!

***From sea to shining sea!* Daniel 7:13-14: This is a powerful promise and prophecy, regardless of what ocean you are near! ALL people will come to honor and love God. We know there will be trouble first, then the Day of Judgment, and a proving for all mankind after the resurrection, but this is the end result! When we say “America the Beautiful,” it is beautiful, but it is just a drop in the bucket compared to the beauty of the everlasting plan of God. Isaiah 2:2: *Mountains* in Scripture represent governments. The highest government in the entire world will be the government of God. All nations will stream to it! God will bless all mankind.**

We are truly blessed in America to live in freedom and with freedom. With that freedom comes responsibility, not only to be good citizens, but to also be ambassadors for Christ to represent what we believe to be the plan of God. Let us use the freedom afforded us. Speak loudly about the wonder and encompassing power of God's love and mercy through Jesus. That is what our country was founded on and is what our purpose in life ought to be.

***So, what does freedom mean to a Christian?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***