



## 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?

**First of all, how do we define freedom?**

A somewhat philosophical view of freedom:

 William Allen defining freedom, *The Birth of Freedom*, YouTube

- *The things that we do unthinkingly we do not do freely even if there is no impediment to our doing them. When we say that we have no impediments to doing what we do and we describe that as freedom, we're actually describing nothing very different from the ball that rolls down a hill without a stone being in its path. There's no glory in that, no credit for it. It's just something that happens to it. We aren't concerned with whether there are impediments to our action. We are concerned whether we can choose our action. So, when I spoke of Franklin Douglas going towards something when he escapes slavery, I meant he was trying to place himself in the situation where the fullest possible effect of his own choices could be realized, where he could choose the purposes and move toward them deliberately. That's what freedom is about.*



- The concern is not whether there are impediments to our actions; the concern is choosing our actions.
- We look for the fullest possible effect of our choices to be realized.
- We choose the purposes and move towards them deliberately.

**Obviously there must be a larger guideline in place under which we can be free to move towards chosen purposes with deliberate steps:**

**Proverbs 3:5-6: (NKJV) <sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>In 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:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. <sup>3</sup>The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup>One person regards one day above another. Another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

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!

How did the American founders see their common denominator to freedom?



### Hamilton and Madison, *America Was Founded on Christian Principles*, YouTube

- *"I have carefully examined the evidences of the Christian religion, and if I was sitting as a juror upon its authenticity I would unhesitatingly give my verdict in its favor. I can prove its truth clearly as any proposition ever submitted to the mind of man" - Alexander Hamilton*
- *"The future and success of America is not in this Constitution but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded." - James Madison*



### The first few lines of the Declaration of Independence:

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The common denominator is the Creator endows His creation with certain basic human rights!



## Just how firmly was biblical thinking engrained in the founding of the United States?

### The last paragraph:

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

They 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: (NASB) <sup>31</sup>So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed him, *If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine;* <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

We have accountability to *continue in the word* and let it settle in our hearts, not just intellectually.

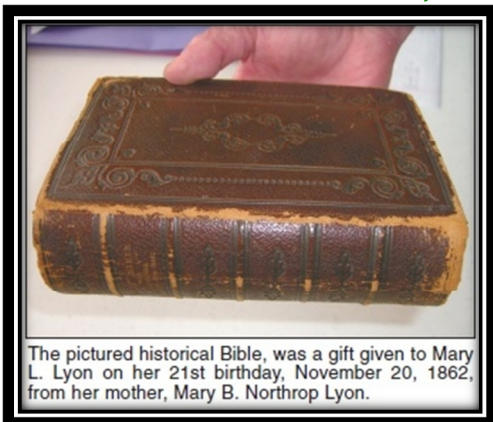


What was there about the year 1781 that was so significant in American history?



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 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



The pictured historical Bible, was a gift given to Mary L. Lyon on her 21st birthday, November 20, 1862, from her mother, Mary B. Northrop Lyon.



*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: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>With what shall I come to the LORD and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? <sup>7</sup>Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?



How serious of a requirement is this? **George Washington's farewell address in 1796:** "Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion...Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail to the exclusion of religious principle."

So, what publisher published that first American Bible?



**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: (NASB) <sup>104</sup>From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. <sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. <sup>106</sup>I have sworn and I will confirm it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances.


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:** (NIV) <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

### What about the Bible, God and the public schools?

 **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:** (NASB) <sup>2</sup>I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, <sup>3</sup>Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. <sup>4</sup>We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. <sup>5</sup>For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, <sup>6</sup>That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, <sup>7</sup>That they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.

In early America, the awareness of keeping godliness as part of life was obvious!

 **Daniel Webster, America Was Founded on Christian Principles, YouTube**

- *"If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible our country will go on prospering and to prosper, but if we in our prosperity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity" - Daniel Webster*

**Proverbs 22:6:** (NASB) *Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.*



A look at the Pledge of Allegiance and the changes it has undergone: "You have to be specific to be dynamic."

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.



 **29 founders had seminary degrees, David Barton, America Was Founded by Christians, YouTube**

- Isn't it interesting that we've all been trained to recognize the two least religious Founding Fathers? We can find Jefferson, we can find Franklin, we can't find any others, but it doesn't matter because they're all like Jefferson and Franklin anyway. Really? Do you know out of the 56 guys who signed the Declaration of Independence, 29 of them had seminary degrees? That's not bad for a bunch of atheists to have seminary degrees and apparently that's what we had going on back then.*

**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:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, <sup>15</sup>and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.



### **Freedom for excellence, Samuel Gregg, *The Birth of Freedom***

- I can be free in the sense that I play a musical instrument without any training, without any instruction, without any learning, but essentially what that amounts to is me just banging away on the piano or rubbing away on the violin without making any beautiful music. Instead all I get is noise and static. On the other hand, however, if I train myself, if I discipline myself, if I am humble enough to submit myself to the guidance of those who are wiser than me, then I can learn to begin to play the piano; I can learn to begin to play music that others have written; I can even learn to begin to compose my own music. In other words, I can create something beautiful with this freedom, but that's freedom for excellence. It's not freedom in the sense that I can just choose whatever I want arbitrarily and willy-nilly. What it's about is choosing what makes us better as human beings, which means having an appreciation of the truth about ourselves and the truth about the way the world has been made.*

**Romans 6:18-19:** (NIV) <sup>18</sup>You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. <sup>19</sup>put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

**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!**

### **Who are the "freedom fighters" in these struggles?**

**Freedom fighters are the men and women through the ages, driven by their sacred honor. Jesus first; his followers second:**

**Isaiah 53:4-9:** (NRSV) <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was **wounded** for our transgressions, **crushed** for our iniquities; upon him was **the punishment** that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed... <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its

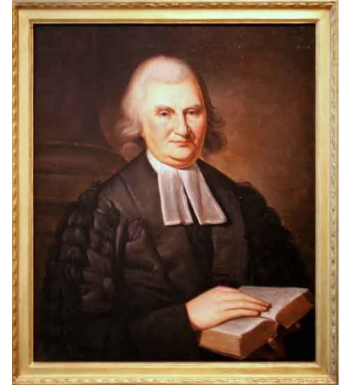


shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

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: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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.



"America the Beautiful" lyrics were written by Katharine Lee Bates and the music composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward. In 1893, at the age of thirty-three, Bates, an English professor at Wellesley College, had taken a train trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to teach. Several of the sights on her trip inspired her, and they found their way into her poem. The poem was initially published two years later. Amended versions were published in 1904 and 1913. We rarely hear all the verses!





**"America the Beautiful," (Second verse) Twila Paris**

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet  
Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw  
Confirm thy soul in self-control  
Thy liberty in law!*

These lyrics are very profound! It was obvious America was not perfect. This was written after the Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln. "God mend thine every flaw." Remember we discussed how true freedom has guidelines? "Thy liberty in law." This captures the essence of the guidelines of freedom in a godly fashion. Why don't we hear this verse more?

If someone were to rewrite that last line today, we fear it would be more like this:

*Destroy your life with all kinds of strife  
to claim freedom above the law!*

Godly principles give people freedom with responsibility. Why don't we go in *that* direction? We are unfortunately beyond that at this point.



A caller from Connecticut suggests [Isaiah 1:18](#): *Come, let us reason together, says the Lord.* It is easy to forget how revolutionary the American Revolution was. The Founding Fathers and all the patriots defied the "divine right of kings" to defend the right of men to stand before God. George Washington wrote, "Religion is as necessary to reason as reason is to religion. The one cannot exist without the other." Today we celebrate that kings had used religion to suppress, but our Founding Fathers embraced God as their Liberator.  
[1 Peter 2:16](#): *As free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.*

**Do Christians have a Declaration of Independence?**

**NO! Actually we should have a Declaration of DEpendence!**

[Philippians 4:12-13](#): (NASB) <sup>12</sup>*I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.* <sup>13</sup>*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

We declare ourselves entirely dependent on Christ! It's not "me," it is "Christ in me." That is our declaration of DEpendence.

American freedom was fought for with sacred honor and a clear dependence upon God.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.





Here is what George Washington said on the day of his swearing in as America's first President, April 30, 1789:

(Source: [www.eadshome.com](http://www.eadshome.com)) "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."



During his inauguration, Washington took the oath as prescribed by the Constitution but added several religious components to that official ceremony. Before taking his oath of office, he summoned a Bible on which to take the oath, added the words "So help me, God!" to the end of the oath, then leaned over and kissed the Bible.

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.

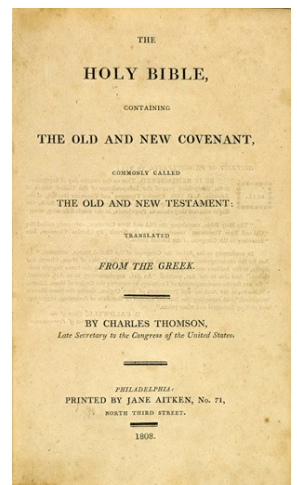
**The Christian work is not a work of establishing a nation - it is a work of establishing a character!**

2 Peter 1:5-8: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup>and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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*



*Charles Thomson*

*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.*



We can only assume his truest call was to honor God.

**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: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. <sup>10</sup>After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To Him be dominion forever and ever.

**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.*

*Roger Sherman*

**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: (NASB) <sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

**Our work IS the work of true freedom for all, a deliverance to be under the mighty hand of God!**

**Is our objective "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?"**

American freedom looks to deliver life, liberty and the *pursuit* of happiness for its people, not *guaranteed* happiness.

 **Charles Carroll, David Barton, America Was Founded by Christians**

- *Charles Carroll of Carrollton: He is not only a signer of the Declaration, he's also a framer of the Bill of Rights, and he was very outspoken about the role that Christ had in the founding of the nation. In a matter of fact, this is one of his statements; he says: "I am grateful for the Almighty God for the blessing, which through Jesus Christ our Lord, He's conferred on my beloved country." As a matter of fact, we've been very blessed as a nation. No*



*question about that. Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord. When you look at our foundations and our history, even though there are warts and blemishes and things were done wrong, we still tried more than any other nation in that era to apply biblical principles.*

*Charles Carroll Harrell III*

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:** (NASB) <sup>15</sup>Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, <sup>16</sup>and said, by Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

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.



**"America the Beautiful," (last verse) Ray Charles**

*America, America,  
Well God done shed his grace on thee, (oh yes He did)  
He crowned thy good, don't cha' remember, in a brotherhood,  
From sea to shining sea.  
(You know, ya'll can just hum a little bit if it's alright)  
America, I love you America,  
My God, He done shed His grace on thee,  
And you oughta love Him for it,  
Cause He, He crowned thy good,  
He told me He would, with brotherhood,  
From sea to shining sea.*

Let's look at those final words from that American hymn 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:** (NASB) <sup>9</sup>But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup>For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

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: (KJV) *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

The brotherhood of mankind - not just of today's Christianity - but of all mankind - will honor God.

Zephaniah 3:9: (KJV) *For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*

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: (NRSV) <sup>13</sup>*As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion and glory and kingship that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.*

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.

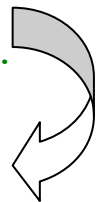
Isaiah 2:2: (NRSV) *In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.*

**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...!***

***And now even more to think about...  
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!***





## New Testament words for "freedom:"

Strong's #1658 eleutheros (el-yoo'-ther-os); unrestrained (to go at pleasure), i.e. (as a citizen) not a slave

Strong's #1659 eleutheroo; from 1658; to liberate, i.e. (figuratively) to exempt (from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability)

Strong's #1657 eleutheria; from 1658; freedom (legitimate or licentious, chiefly moral or ceremonial)

**The first word for freedom carries a physical or civil sense of being free - not a slave, not being held under.**

1 Corinthians 12:13: (KJV) *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or **free <1658>**; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

**The second word for freedom carries a very full sense of being made free - not merely "not a slave," but rather being liberated.**

Romans 8:2: (KJV) *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath **made <1659> me free <1659>** from the law of sin and death.*

**The third word for freedom carries the personal application of being liberated - the ability to make personal decisions.**

Galatians 5:1: (KJV) *Stand fast therefore in the **liberty <1657>** wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*



**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.
- 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, etc... 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."

**Some history of "America the Beautiful:"** "America the Beautiful" is an American patriotic song. The lyrics were written by Katharine Lee Bates and the music composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward. In 1893, at the age of thirty-three, Bates, an English professor at Wellesley College, had taken a train trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to teach a short summer school session at Colorado College. Several of the sights on her trip inspired her, and they found their way into her poem, including the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the "White City" with its promise of the future contained within its alabaster buildings; the wheat fields of America's heartland Kansas, through which her train was riding on July 16; and the majestic view of the Great Plains from high atop Zebulon's Pikes Peak.





On the pinnacle of that mountain, the words of the poem started to come to her, and she wrote them down upon returning to her hotel room at the original Antlers Hotel. The poem was initially published two years later in *The Congregationalist*, to commemorate the Fourth of July. It quickly caught the public's fancy. Amended versions were published in 1904 and 1913.

Ward had originally written the music, *Materna*, for the 19th century hymn, "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem" in 1882. Ward's music combined with the Bates poem was first published in 1910 and titled "America the Beautiful."

**America the Beautiful Lyrics  
by Katharine Lee Bates (1913)**

O beautiful for spacious skies  
For amber waves of grain  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet  
Whose stern impassion'd stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw  
Confirm thy soul in self-control  
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife  
Who more than self their country loved  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And ev'ry gain divine!

O Beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

**The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration**

The Declaration of Independence: A Transcription

IN CONGRESS on July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and



organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:





For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

