

Is America Losing Its Christian Principles?

<u>Micah 6:8</u>: (NASB) 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?

Yesterday we celebrated Independence Day, a day that for over 200 years has symbolized all that is good about these United States of America. How did the United States become such a modern day beacon of freedom over the last several hundred years? Is this country still the same beacon of the same freedom or has something changed?



Was the United States of America founded as a Christian nation?

The negative side of the issue:

(1)NO! America Founded as a Christian Nation - Myth or Reality?

• Actually, the U.S. Constitution never mentions God and the mention of religion in Article 6 in the First Amendment served to separate religion from government altogether. The words "In God We Trust" weren't printed on American coins until 1863 after a religious surge during the Civil War. Paper money didn't have it until 1957. The words "Under God" weren't even in the original Pledge of Allegiance. They were added by Congress in 1954. And many of our founding fathers were either deist or ambivalent about the Christian God including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, John Adams, Thomas Payne and even George Washington.

(Source: Wiki.answers.com) The Declaration of Independence was written in the summer of 1776 primarily by Thomas Jefferson, agreed upon on July 2 by the Second Continental Congress, sent to the printer on July 4 and all signatures were collected in the following weeks. Because not all delegates were present in Philadelphia at that time, the signing of the document took some time to complete. Most agree on the date August 2 as the official completion.

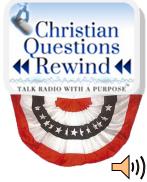
The first few lines of the Declaration of Independence:

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. This declaration is based on two things: First, independence is being declared because issues of human rights and freedom have risen, and second, these issues are recognizable through acknowledgement of the Creator. It all starts with the Creator.

The other side of the issue...

()) YES! The Case and the Conclusion, David Barton, Supreme Court Decision of 1892

Is the United States a Christian nation or was it founded in any way on Christian principles? Well, there was certainly a period in the American history when we believe that, when we firmly believed that it was built on Christian principles. Probably one of the best indications of the fact that we believed that comes from, of all sources, the U.S. Supreme Court. There was a case that came to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1892, a case called "Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States." At issue in this case was the hiring of a minister, and someone had challenged the fact that a Christian minister was being hired in America and the court in itself thought that was ludicrous that anything Christian should be challenged in America, and so they went into an explanation as to why that was absolutely absurd to challenge Christian principles in America in the court. We understand that when the court does a decision it goes back through history, it goes back through law, it goes through pervious precedents; it tries to arrive at some strong conclusion and that is what the U.S. Supreme Court did in this case. The court emphatically declared our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based on and must include the teachings of the redeemer of mankind.

Exodus 20:1-3: (NASB) ¹Then God spoke all these words, saying, ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³You shall have no other gods before Me.

So, the Declaration of Independence begins in the same place that God's Law to Israel began - honoring God!

³Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

<u>Psalms 29:2</u>: (KJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

James 1:8: (KJV) A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Violation of this First Commandment is the beginning of the downfall of any society.





The founding fathers were not all Christian so what did they envision by "the pursuit of happiness?"

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"Golden Dream," from EPCOT's The American Adventure, (Verse One) Bob Moline



America, spread your golden wings Sail on freedom's wind across the sky Great bird with your golden dreams Flying high, flying high

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.

There is such potential goodness in America!



"It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here." - Patrick Henry, May 1765 Speech to the House of Burgesses



Do we believe the United States is a Christian nation? No, but we believe it was founded upon Judeo-Christian principles. For some reason in present day, we like to minimize the role the Bible played in the development of this country. We miss the point, then, about why things were done.

One of the beautiful principles the country was founded upon was the freedom to think and worship as one believes one should. We fear this is morphing into the freedom of speech being allowed only if that speech is politically correct.

How do we see this "American Dream" of freedom now?

(i)) American dream, Entitlement-Driven American Kids, Fox News, January 2012

- (Reporter) I understand on one of the first days of your class, which is predominately sophomores, you asked the kids to get out, write a 10-minute essay on what the American dream means to them.
- (Jack Chambless) Well, in addition to asking them what the American dream looks like for them, I then had them write specifically what they wanted the federal government to do to help them achieve that dream. I took the essays from three classes - about 180 students - back to my office and over the next day poured over them. About 10 percent of the students said that they wanted the government to leave them alone and not tax them too much and let them regulate their own lives, but over 80 percent of the students said that the American dream to them meant a house and a job and plenty of money for retirement, vacations and things like this.

Christian freedom and happiness come as a result of a hard choice and an utter commitment to that choice:

<u>1 Peter 4:12-13</u>: (NASB) ¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of his glory you may rejoice with exultation.

Selfishness is not a part of this. Our commitment to sacrifice is personally costly. True freedom always costs something.

(i))Free future, Entitlement-Driven American Kids, Fox News, January 2012

- (Jack Chambless) But when it came to the part about the federal government, eight out of 10 students said that they wanted free health care, they wanted the government to pay for their tuition, they wanted the government to pay for the down payment on their house, they expected the government to "give them a job." Many of them said that they wanted the government to tax wealthier individuals so that they would have an opportunity to have a better life.
- (Reporter) I tell you what Jack; we've got a little snippet from one of the essays. One of the kids wrote, "As human beings we are not really responsible for our own acts, and so we need government to control those who don't care about others."

IN CONGRESS, Jun

A DECLARATION



In many minds, freedom equals entitlement. "I want, therefore I should have." That is not the "freedom" America was founded on. Unfortunately, we have "grown" into this sense of entitlement - spelling it this way: g-r-o-a-n! What is missing in this very sad representation of our country today? To find the answer to that, let's go to the last paragraph of the Declaration of Independence:

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.

What is missing today? Firm reliance on divine providence, personal responsibility and sacred honor!





Observation: The shell of the Declaration of Independence is fashioned after the format of the 10 Commandments, starting with honoring God and ending with honoring one another.

Exodus 20:17: (NASB) You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

We are not to covet those things which do not or should not rightfully belong to us. This honors your neighbor.

Satan the original coveter:

<u>Isaiah 14:12-14</u>: (NKJV) ¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning...¹³For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.

In the covetousness of Satan, we see the principle of what has happened in our country today. We have removed God and replaced Him with ourselves.



Christian Freedom is fought for with humble observance of a higher way:

<u>2 Corinthians 10:3-5</u>: (NASB) ³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

1) Freemason Franklin, America Founded as a Christian Nation - Myth or Reality?

• Franklin is one of the most significant Founding Fathers. He was the only Founder who signed all of the establishing documents for the United States the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and then the Treaty of Paris that brought an end to the war with England. Benjamin Franklin was well known as a Freemason. A recurring theme that you find among the Founding Fathers is the idea of rejecting the righteousness that is represented in the Bible, and that is the righteousness of God by faith. They were saved by God's grace "through faith not of works lest any man should boast," and so they rejected the notion that all you had to do was believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and that his righteousness would be imputed to you because you believe it.

Some Founding Fathers felt freedom was more than belief in Christ; they worked to develop their freedom. But this was not a rejection of every biblical principle.

"God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." - Ben Franklin, Constitutional Convention of 1787



Christian Questions Rewind A

While the Founders were God-fearing men, they did not have any desire to set up a nation under any single religion or a nation where religious freedom would be hindered. They took many Judeo-Christian principles and created <u>a manmade government</u> "of the people, by the people and for the people" (Gettysburg Address, 100 years later) to give all citizens the right to pursue happiness. It was a man-made government looking for the blessing of God.



A caller from Connecticut suggests that the Founding Fathers did a lot of good in looking to God. Our values have been diluted because of internal strife (current events) and political expediency.

Remembering John F. Kennedy's, "Ask not what your country could do for you but ask what you can do for your country," would be very helpful.

If the United States was founded on Christian principles, then why does the Constitution never mention God?

Putting the Constitution in perspective with the Declaration of Independence:

(Source: Wiki.answers.com) The U.S. Constitution was written in 1787 after the Second Continental Congress called for a convention in Philadelphia to modify the Articles of Confederation, the document that served as the foundation for the United States' first national government. On May 25, 1787, 55 delegates from 12 of the 13 states (Rhode Island boycotted the convention) converged on Philadelphia intent on solving problems that arose from weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation. The written authorization was "to devise such further provisions as shall appear to [the delegates] necessary to render the constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies of the Union." Some of the issues they needed to address was the lack of Executive and Judicial Branches (no federal court system), a means of providing fair representation for states of unequal population, a way of mediating disputes between the states, provision for taxing power or other means of raising revenue, and related issues.

They did not have an Executive or Judicial branch and there were a lot of holes in the Articles of Confederation. This would be fixed by the Constitution.

(1)) My future, Entitlement-Driven American Kids, Fox News, January 2012

• (Jack Chambless) When I went back to class the next time to meet with them, I told them I'd read over their essays and I read some of the comments they had made and then I set them on the table and I asked everybody to pull out their wallets and their purses. And I picked one student in each class, and when their wallet was in their hand I grabbed their wallet out forcefully and in one case I grabbed a girl's purse and I rifled through her purse, pulled out her wallet, pulled out all her cash, and I said that part of <u>my</u> American dream was to have a cabin in Northern Minnesota someday so I can have a nice retirement and that this money was now going to help fund that American dream.

This country was founded on the sense of personal responsibility.

Christian Questions Rewind (TALE RADIO WITH A PURPOSE

So, America's constitutional government was a government of men, for men and therefore God must of necessity be left OUT of the Constitution. However, it was the principles of God, the Bible and Christianity that were the driving forces behind it - everyone knew that back then!

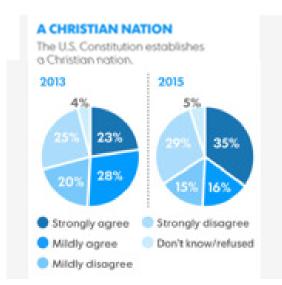
"For my own part, I sincerely esteem it [the Constitution] a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests." - Alexander Hamilton in 1787 after the Constitutional Convention



American freedom was fought for with humble observance of a higher way: (Source: www.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."

The United States had its founding upon Christian and biblical principles. It was not a "Christian nation," but founded upon biblical truth of how to treat each other.

USA TODAY: SURVEY BY THE STATS GROUP, BASED ON TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS WITH 1,002 AMERICAN ADULTS





A bit of a summation:

(Source: http://www.heritage.org/research/lecture/2011/06/did-america-have-a-christian-founding)

1. While America did not have a Christian founding in the sense of creating a theocracy; it was deeply shaped by Christian moral truths, and the Founders created a regime that was hospitable to Christians as well as to practitioners of other religions.

2. To a person, the Founders were committed to protecting religious liberty.

3. Moreover, almost without exception, they agreed that civic authorities could promote and encourage Christianity and that it was appropriate for elected officials to make religious arguments in the public square.

4. There was no support among the Founders for contemporary visions of a strict separation of church and state that would have political leaders avoid religious language and require public spaces to be stripped of religious symbols.

Another non-Christian Founding Father:

(1) Thomas Payne, America Founded as a Christian Nation - Myth or Reality?

- Thomas Payne wrote the pamphlet, "Common Sense." ... Historians relate that the pamphlet "Common Sense" was the writing that brought about the Declaration of Independence.
- His influence is undeniable but why has he been marginalized by modern historians? The answer, almost certainly, is because once the Revolution was over Payne then published his true thoughts about Christianity and the Bible. In his nefarious work, "The Age of Reason," he wrote, "When I see throughout the greater part of this book, the Bible, scarcely anything but a history of the grossest vices and a collection of the most paltry and contemptable tales, I cannot dishonor my Creator by calling it by His name. I do not believe in the creed professed by any church that I know of. My own mind is my own church."

He had an internal belief in God, which is the freedom he was part of protecting.



A caller from Connecticut works in the lunchroom of an elementary school and believes that Christianity starts at home with the family. She has heard one first grader say to another that he does not believe in God. Not being allowed to give her opinion, our caller was bothered by this all day.

People, of course, can believe what they choose. But when God is removed from the environment, you take away the depth of the greatest kind of freedom and peace available.

In spite of theological differences among them, the Founders used what they had in common and what they knew to be of the most importance to guide their new country. While God was not at all a part of their government, He was certainly a part of their daily consciousness. Thomas Payne is proof of that. So, six years after the Declaration was written but five years before the Constitution - and while the war was winding down (peace negotiations were underway) - God's part in the minds of men was again proclaimed on Thanksgiving Day, 1782:



The Continental Congress Thanksgiving Proclamation, October 11, 1782 By the United States in Congress assembled, PROCLAMATION.

IT being the indispensable duty of all Nations, not only to offer up their supplications to ALMIGHTY GOD, the giver of all good, for His gracious assistance in a time of distress, but <u>also</u> in a solemn and public manner to give Him praise for His goodness in general, and especially for great and signal interpositions of His providence in their behalf:

Therefore the United States in Congress assembled, taking into their consideration the many instances of divine goodness to these States, in the course of the important conflict in which they have been so long engaged; the present happy and promising state of public affairs; and the events of the war...

...Do hereby recommend to the inhabitants of these States in general, to observe, and request the several States to interpose their authority in appointing and commanding the observation of THURSDAY the twenty-eight day of NOVEMBER next, as a day of solemn THANKSGIVING to GOD for all His mercies: and they do further recommend to all ranks, to testify to their gratitude to GOD for His goodness, by a cheerful obedience of His laws, and by promoting, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness.

Done in Congress, at Philadelphia, the eleventh day of October, in the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, and of our Sovereignty and Independence, the seventh. JOHN HANSON, President CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary



A caller from Connecticut restated our theme text, <u>Micah 6:8</u>. George Washington wrote that "Amer ica is open to receive the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions whom we should welcome to participation of all rights and privileges." <u>Deuteronomy 1:17</u>. Christians and Christianity are under attack in the world today. In this country the Christian is able to be a Christian without fear of death. This weekend we celebrate the freedom and ease denied to so many others. <u>James 1:25</u>: One who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does.

(1))4,500 quotes, Freedom of Religion - History of God in America, Randall Niles

• But let's not revise history. It's very profound in history that there was no freedom <u>from</u> religion. We have over 4,500 public quotes of politicians, public representatives, quoting from Scripture or praying on public lands. This notion now that we're not somehow allowed to have an invocation or a prayer or a Bible reading on public property as somehow violating the First Amendment? That's ludicrous! And this notion that we're really founded by a bunch of deist at best? No, no! We were founded by many, many theists and even evangelical Christians, Catholics and Protestants.

Acknowledging and thanking God was commonplace!

As Christians, our acknowledgement and thankfulness to God through Jesus are for a different kind of freedom:

Luke 4:16-20: (NASB) ¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. ¹⁷And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. And he opened the book and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, Because He anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord. ²⁰And he closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

This is the freedom a Christian should be focused on.



Do we still have "sacred honor?"

Here are the basics that drive the sacred honor of a Christian:

<u>Micah 6:6-8</u>: (NASB) ⁶With 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? ⁷Does 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? ⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice (do unto others as you would have them do unto you), to love kindness (being kind makes this world so much better!), and to walk humbly with your God? (God deserves all glory!)

(1)) Facts, 77 Percent Agree America Losing Religion, The Resident

• According to a new Gallup Poll, it found that a whopping 77 percent of Americans say religion is losing its influence in the U.S. So, could this actually be true? Well, there is the fact that a courthouse in Florida is about to unveil the country's first Atheist monument on government property. It is a 1,500pound granite bench engraved with atheistic quotations. That sounds like evidence that America is losing its religion. Then there's also the fact that the Supreme Court has agreed to rule on whether or not prayers can be offered at government meetings. Two women in Greece, New York, challenged the town's practice of repeatedly having Christian clergy conduct prayers at the start of its public meetings. Opening prayers have been going on in Congress and throughout states since the birth of the country, so the fact that this is an issue today sounds like more evidence that America is indeed losing its religion.

When we lose our focus and acknowledgement of God, we lose our ability to truly be free. That seems to be where we are heading.

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

(Source: Excerpts from "Death and Freedom" a sermon by Dr. Neil Chadwick

<u>www.webedelic.com</u>) Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

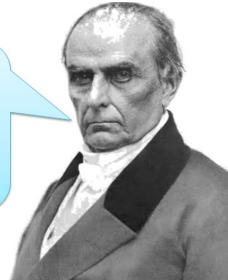
In addition, five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died, and nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

As a Christian, our sacred honor should be tied to something higher than nationality. Our first and foremost responsibility is to be an ambassador for Christ, representing the Creator of the Universe.



Why is America's freedom important to us? Because we are given the ability to speak about the plan of God. We MUST by definition appreciate that incredible freedom. We are thankful for what we have been given and for those who protect us.

"If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible our country will go on prospering and to prosper, but if we and 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





A caller from Florida suggests that America is losing its Christian principles, but God's plan is going to go forward regardless.

God does have a plan. We do not believe He is at this time micro-managing every little thing that happens, but He manages everything overall so that His plan will come to fruition. As ambassadors, our primary allegiance must always be to the plan of God through Jesus and living a life of sacrifice. We know these present governments are not permanent. They will be replaced - not enhanced - replaced with Christ's kingdom. This will be a perfect government for all.

The price for freedom Jesus paid and the sacred honor with which he paid it:

<u>Isaiah 53:3-9</u>: (NRSV) ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He 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. ⁸By 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. ⁹They 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.

What humility! Jesus could have stopped his crucifixion but chose not to because the plan of God was bigger than any personal preference. He was mistreated but absorbed it all.



As Christians, we should stand for something far greater than the principles of the United States of America. But we want to appreciate the efforts of the Founding Fathers and how they tried to always have God first. We should call out for God to STILL be first, for without God there is no real freedom.

Whose definition of freedom do we follow? Is it a freedom based on our actions or is it from above?

Freedom does come as a result of our actions coupled with taking responsibility to use it in accordance with righteousness. This was the founding principle of America.

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"Golden Dream," from EPCOT's The American Adventure, Bob Moline

America, you must keep dreaming now Dreaming the promise now of your pioneers America, keep on flying now Keep your spirit free Facing new frontiers

(John F. Kennedy) "And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world, ask not what not what America will do for you but what together we can do for the freedom of man."

(Martin Luther King Jr.) "I have a dream this afternoon that the brotherhood of man will become a reality in this day with this faith."

(Astronauts giving instructions while landing on the moon) "The Eagle has landed!"

America, spread your golden wings Sail on freedoms wind across the sky

This reminds us of our great opportunities. We have a country built around the basis of freedom of thought, speech and religion. There is so much good that can come from these things.

But if our actions do not reflect the goodness from above, which was the intention of the Founding Fathers, the freedom we pursue will ultimately lead to ruin. Without the boundaries of righteousness from above there is no true freedom!

(I)) America's Safety Belt, Mark Dever

• There was this interesting article in which Hotterman, this Jewish Rabbi in Mobile, says, basically I'm summarizing, "I'm sick and tired of the Eastern media establishment writing threateningly or in threatening tones about American fundamentalist Christians." He said, "I live on every side of me with fundamentalist Christians," and he said, "I have to tell you they are great neighbors. They think if they steal something God sees and God will judge them." He said, "It wasn't a kind of Christian fundamentalism that took over in Russian or in Germany before the terrible tyrannies of the 20th century." Then he writes, "I should know; I fled from Vienna in the 1930's because of the rise of Nazism there and what I saw was no accident that the Soviet's stake and Hitler's Third Reich both identified the Bible and its teachers as primary enemies." He said, "So far as belief in the Bible being true, a threat



TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE

to our freedoms, it is America's safety belt." Well, that was 30 years ago. I'm not sure what the Rabbi would say now.

Like it or not, the Bible was instrumental in the founding of this country. Saying it is no longer relevant or it is bigotry is like saying we should drive without the safety belt.

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!

Christian freedom requires something of us because God's plan says we are to sacrifice and follow after Jesus so that His plan can release every man, woman and child from the prison house of death and give them an opportunity for life through the Day of Judgment.

<u>Genesis 22:18</u>: (KJV) And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed My voice.

New Testament words for freedom:

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

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

<u>1 Corinthians 12:13</u>: (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.

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

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

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

Strongs #1657 eleutheria; freedom (legitimate or licentious, chiefly moral or ceremonial)

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

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

Christian liberty gives us the ability to think, choose, interpret, understand and to act. We may differ in the way we do these things, but as Christians we are supposed to take that liberty and honor it in each other. Even though we may not see eye-to-eye spiritually, we can still discuss, reason on the Scriptures and respect each other.





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

- The founders were very focused on the first definition <1658>, as their objective was a society that would be equitable and just.
- Jesus and the Apostles were very focused on the second <1659> and third <1657> 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."

<u>Jeremiah 31:34</u>: (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.

This prophecy has not yet come into fulfillment. In the future, there will be a time when God's government will be implanted so firmly on this earth that none will mistake it for what it really is: Justice, mercy, love and power.

We are very thankful for the opportunities we have been given, by God's grace, and for our Founding Fathers who gave us the place and ability to speak about God's word.

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Great bird with your golden dreams Flying high Flying high Flying high America! Keep on flying high

So, is America losing its Christian principles? For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions... Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!



First, the entire Thanksgiving proclamation:

The Continental Congress Thanksgiving Proclamation, October 11, 1782 By the United States in Congress assembled. PROCLAMATION.

IT being the indispensable duty of all Nations, not only to offer up their supplications to ALMIGHTY GOD, the giver of all good, for his gracious assistance in a time of distress, but also in a solemn and public manner to give him praise for his goodness in general, and especially for great and signal interpositions of his providence in their behalf:

Therefore the United States in Congress assembled, taking into their consideration the many instances of divine goodness to these States, in the course of the important conflict in which they have been so long engaged; the present happy and promising state of public affairs; and the events of the war, in the course of the year now drawing to a close; particularly the harmony of the public Councils, which is so necessary to the success of the public cause; the perfect union and good understanding which has hitherto subsisted between them and their Allies, notwithstanding the artful and unwearied attempts of the common enemy to divide them; the success of the arms of the United States, and those of their Allies, and the acknowledgment of their independence by another European power, whose friendship and commerce must be of great and lasting advantage to these States:

Do hereby recommend to the inhabitants of these States in general, to observe, and request the several States to interpose their authority in appointing and commanding the observation of THURSDAY the twenty-eight day of NOVEMBER next, as a day of solemn THANKSGIVING to GOD for all his mercies: and they do further recommend to all ranks, to testify to their gratitude to GOD for his goodness, by a cheerful obedience of his laws, and by promoting, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness.

Done in Congress, at Philadelphia, the eleventh day of October, in the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, and of our Sovereignty and Independence, the seventh. JOHN HANSON, President CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary

The Declaration of Independence: A Transcription 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.--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 mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured 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 harrass 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 neighbouring 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 compleat 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 endeavoured 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.

Lastly, some more basic information on other founding documents.

(Source: Wiki.answers.com) The US Constitution was written in 1787 after the Second Continental Congress called for a convention in Philadelphia to modify the Articles of Confederation, the document that served as the foundation for the United States' first national government. On May 25, 1787, fifty-five delegates from twelve of the thirteen states (Rhode Island boycotted the convention) converged on Philadelphia intent on solving problems that arose from weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation. The written authorization was "to devise such further provisions as shall appear to [the delegates] necessary to render the constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies of the Union."

Some of the issues they needed to address was the lack of Executive and Judicial Branches (no federal court system), a means of providing fair representation for states of unequal population, a way of mediating disputes between the states, provision for taxing power or *other means of raising revenue, and related issues*.

The first order of business was to elect George Washington to serve as President of the Convention, and to establish rules of procedure.

During the course of debate, it soon became clear that the Articles of Confederation, written only a decade earlier in 1777, was unsalvageable as a framework for the envisioned Republic, so the delegates decided to write a new Constitution.

Some delegates were outraged by the idea and left the convention early. Those who remained gradually worked out a system of plans and compromises that they believed would create a strong central government without depriving the states of all sovereign authority.

On September 17, 1787, thirty-nine of the fifty-five delegates signed the Constitution and agreed to promote its ratification to their state legislatures.

As required under Article VII, the ninth state ratified the Constitution on June 21, 1788, and the new federal government became operational on March 4, 1789.

The Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. They were introduced as a series of amendments, in the first Congress, by James Madison, in 1789. Ten of the amendments were ratified and became the Bill of Rights in 1791.