

America – The Liberty Experiment - Lesson

Tim Day 07-04-2023



“It has been 247 years since **the American people threw off the tyranny of an oppressive government**, and created the most glorious ruling document in history – the US Constitution. It is the most pro-freedom constitution in the world. It is based on the fundamental assumption that **government is evil, and the people must be able to defend against it.**”

– Peter St Onge

Do those words surprise you, that “*government is evil?*” It was the unanimous view of our Framers that **limited government was a necessary evil**. Listen to Thomas Paine:

"The duty of a true Patriot is to protect his country from its government." - *Thomas Paine*

Centralized power is the issue:

"Absolute power corrupts absolutely." – *Lord Acton*

"The *more power* we give the government the **more corrupt it will become.**" - *Ronald Reagan*

"If you think that the **Bill of Rights is what sets us apart**, you're crazy. Every Banana Republic in the world has a Bill of Rights. ... [we must] **prevent the centralization of power.**" – *Late Justice Antonin Scalia*

"The American Republic will endure, until politicians realize they can bribe the people with their own money." - *Alexis de Tocqueville*

America is at a **crossroads in history**. The greatest **experiment in freedom** the world has ever seen is in danger of being lost – indeed, destroyed.

Will we make it to our Semiquincentennial or Quarter-Millennial birthday as a free nation? We will soon know.

“I wonder, **how many years does liberty have left?** It is a sobering question ... We like to pretend that everything will be alright ... But that is to live in denial and ignorance.” – *Aaron Ferguson*

Our nation has been hijacked by an evil regime hell-bent on destroying that which God created. The masses are slowly awakening to this **tyrannical reality**.

“**We the people are the rightful masters** of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who would pervert the Constitution” – *Abraham Lincoln*

Meanwhile, there is much talk about **making America great again**. Which I applaud!

But, to **Make America Great Again**, presupposes that we know **what made America great** to begin with.

We must **remember from which we came**. America will never be great again until we place God, our true Founding Father, first.

In this **two-part teaching** we will endeavor to reconsider what made our Country the greatest in the history of the world. We **must remember**:

“If we do not **remember well**, we will not **continue well**.” – *Al Mohler*

Part 1: Our Christian Founding – One Nation under God



First in this two-part series, is the understanding that America was, and is, a **Christian nation** – although, we live in a *post-Christian culture*. **Do not confuse the two.**

I find that **many today are shocked** to learn that **America was actually founded as, and to be, a Christian nation.**

Sadly, most alive today are the product of *revisionist history* – at least to some degree.

There has been a premeditated **effort to erase the evidence of our Christian foundation** in the minds of its citizens. Our Christian underpinnings are being systematically removed from the public consciousness.

"If you **take away the creator, you take away our equality**. If you take away the creator, you take away our rights. And that's what the left is trying to do for 50 years." - *Sen. Josh Hawley*

"**It's when people forget God that tyrants forge their chains**" – *Patrick Henry*

Truth is now considered offensive.

"In order to be able think you have to risk being offensive." – *Jordan Peterson*

Our schools and universities have become **Marxist indoctrination centers**. They teach our children to hate the greatest country ever founded. Our children have learned **social justice talking points instead of history**.

"Cultural Marxism is **dystopia peddling utopia** through grievance narratives ... Marxism itself **cannot live peaceably with federal republicanism** or individual autonomy." – *Jeff Goldstein, Federalist*

This cannot continue without **grave consequences**. A nation dies when its people are taught to **hate** their own *history, heritage and culture*.

"**No one is so blind as he who will not see.**" – *Warren Wiersbe*

America's Christian Founding – Our Heritage



Is America a Christian nation?

Was America founded as a Christian nation? Were our Founding Fathers Christians? Did our Founders have discernible intentions to form a Christian country?

Some **vehemently argue** that America is not a Christian Nation. Some go so far as to state that there never have been Christian nations. They even contend that such is impossible.

Their argument goes like this: *only people can be Christians; nations cannot be*. Others argue that given that **not all Americans are Christian**, therefore we are not a Christian nation.

Still others contend that we were Christian at our founding, but in our '*post-Christian*' culture we ceased to be a Christian nation somewhere along the way. Do these arguments hold up?

I contend that they are **weak arguments resulting from shallow thinking**.

Let me first address it like this: as we shall see, there exist **reams of documentation** that **our Founding Fathers based the founding of America on God's word**; even founding it on the "*bedrock of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*." (See: *Our Christian Heritage – Notes*). Their **intentions were patently clear**.

Let's take an example of the church. Can we have Christian churches? Of course we can. Are all their members Christian? It is doubtful; in fact, I would contend the answer is clearly no. So, if not all members are Christian – saved by the Blood of Christ – is the church still a Christian organization? Yes. So long as its **founding principles** define it as a Christian church, it remains a Christian church until its founding principles are changed.

Therefore, if we find non-Christians in the ranks of the Church, it does not cause the church to be no longer Christian. Likewise, if America was founded on Christian principles - to be a Christian nation - the inclusion of non-Christian citizens does not make America no longer a Christian nation ... it changes not the **original intent**.

This in no way implies that our Founders intent was to force Christianity, or any specific form of Christianity, onto its populous. **Freedom of Religion**, regardless of Christian sect or denomination, was paramount in their purpose. (See: *Separation of Church and State*)

Jefferson's often misconstrued letter to the **Danbury Baptists** clearly confirms he and his fellow Founders intentions to embrace Christianity within government, but likewise to **prevent a State-Sponsored church** – a Christian Sect or Denomination, favored or even supported by the government. They were adamant that the government should in no way interfere in the affairs of the Church.

However, a compelling case can be made that these religions (those with recognized rights under the *First Amendment*) were to be “*Christian*”. Not specifically *Baptist, Anglican, Methodist, Catholic, etc.*; Rather, falling under the broad Christian umbrella, as it were.

Our Founders were keenly aware that certain *religions* were considered **wholly incompatible** to the American way – our Constitution and Bill of Rights. **Islam** would be chief amongst them (See: *Islamic Issues*). Other non-Christian religions, which did not demand submission, would be tolerated, but not embraced, within our borders.

So the real question then becomes, **was America founded as a Christian nation?**

I strongly contend, based on the words of our Founders, **we were indeed founded as a Christian Nation**; therefore, we remain a Christian Nation regardless of our citizenship – or the opinions of secular, liberals within her borders.

"We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that '**except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain** that build it' ... I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed ... no better than the Builders of Babel." – *Benjamin Franklin*

"The Declaration of Independence reflects the feelings of men to whom **religious faith was all-important**. There was **not an atheist or an agnostic among the 56 who signed that Declaration**, though some were deists. Before they strode forward to append their signatures, each bowed his head in prayer." - *Billy Graham, Dec. 31, 1975*

America's Christian Founding – Founded on the Bible

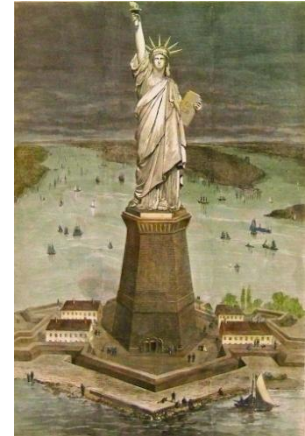
“History is on the side of those who claim that **America's founding was Christian.**” – Gary DeMar

America - A New Nation founded on an Old Book

We live in the greatest nation on earth. We may, in fact, live in the **greatest nation of all time.**

Such comments are, these days, **politically incorrect**; today, in some circles, they elicit violence.

Oddly, America is so great that even those who hate it, **refuse to leave.** It is a sad fact that too many living in, and benefiting from, the wonders of this Great Land fail to see **exceptional nature of our Country.** Others, recognize this fact but tend to take it merely for granted; this is dangerous.



God has blessed this Land as no other. He has protected, prospered, and used our Country for His glory and good since her founding. Sadly, today, the Left are making great strides in their clandestine efforts to denigrate America. Theirs is an **effort to erase from our history the Christian heritage** upon which this Country was founded.

It is our legacy, our trust in Almighty God, and our firm and sure foundation on the Word of God, that made America great. **America is blessed by God because America was founded to bless God.**

“America is a nation with the **soul of a church.**” – GK Chesterton

Ours is a genesis that has its very roots in the **Protestant Reformation.** Our early **settlers came here,** to the ‘*New World*,’ to worship God freely, without restraint and interference. America's founders established our foundation not on religion, but rather on the **cornerstone of the essence of Christianity.**

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that **this great nation was founded,** not by religionists, but **by Christians;** not on religions, but on the **Gospel of Jesus Christ.**” - Patrick Henry

Our **Originators** were keenly aware that a nation erected on any other basis would not last. It would not, and could not endure the test of time. Our Founding Fathers knew that this new *Republic* **depended on God's law ruling in the hearts of man.** To remain free, America must remain “*virtuous*”.

“Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are **decrying the Christian religion ... are undermining the solid foundation** of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.” - *Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration of Independence*

There is underway a **battle raging for the very soul of our Country**. Those on the Left would erase every last vestige of any reference to the God of our founding. They yearn to create secular state and grow the almighty government in a futile effort to replace God.

They believe that ‘*man is the arbiter of his fate*’. However, **Moses** warned the Israelites, “*If you ever forget the Lord your God ... you will surely be destroyed*”. I fear the same could be said to America.

“A nation that **does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today**, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we have come from, or what we have been about.” – *President Woodrow Wilson*

The Agenda

Sadly there is a full court press to **rewrite our history**. The new *storyline* excludes all things of God. If the Left can **delegitimize the Founders**, it advances the agenda of **delegitimizing the founding principles** of our nation. If the Left can convince the nation that *Washington, Jefferson, and Madison* were godless, money-grubbing, evil, slave-owning racists, then their **ideas can be more easily discounted**.

“A nation **ashamed of its ancestry** will be despised by its posterity.” – *Bishop Charles Galloway, Emory College, 1898*

The collective goal is to expunge history of each and all references to the God of our founding. In order to fit the new narrative, **our founders would each need a new biography**. No longer could they be the Godly men who **risked and sacrificed all** for the sake of our freedom and founding. Each would need a new story.

Some would be denigrated by extracting **comments out of context**, or even ascribing to them things they neither said nor believed. Others would be made out as mere **deists**, rather than the Christian men they were. Still others would have **lies** spun entirely out of whole cloth. It has been a premeditated effort. It has been going on now for decades. It is harder and harder to discern fact from fiction.

[Typical layers of un-cited books; Jefferson Lies (David Barton)]

So who were these men? Our Founders.

Our Heritage

I find this fascinating. It sheds light on who these men were.

Our **Continental Congress** was on the run. The British were overrunning town after town. Our fledgling nation could not afford to pay the troops; in fact, they could barely feed and arm them. At Valley Forge, Washington's army went without food for days at a time. We were losing battle after battle.

[Continental Congress Prayer]

Far too often all looked hopeless. Yet, **in every victory they stopped to thank God, in every defeat our leaders initiated national days repentance and 'fasting, prayer, and humiliation' before the Lord.**

Even more astoundingly may be that with all the issues before them, the topic that kept appearing and reappearing on the order of business for our emerging Congress was **how to get more Bibles for Americans.**

They could not afford to print them. They didn't have the paper or ink, if they could have. They certainly were not about to buy them from England.

In fact, upon winning the war, the Continental Congress made it one of their **first official acts to authorize the first printing of the Bible on America soil.** It was even endorsed by the Congress.

Why the concern? Surely they had bigger issues to attend to.

Simply because they knew full well **if we won the battle, and lost *virtue*, we would still lose the war.** Our Founders were wholeheartedly aware that the Republic, the landmark experiment in freedom, they sought to establish **required God's virtue** pervasive amongst her citizens to survive.

Samuel Adams and his peers knew that this new Republic depended on '*God's law ruling in the hearts of man.*' To remain free, America must remain "*virtuous*". **Os Guinness** informs us that "*Freedom requires Virtue; Virtue requires Faith; Faith in turn requires Freedom.*" This, he refers to as the '**Golden Triangle**' upon which our Republic rests.

Our Founding Fathers were acutely aware of this truth. "*Only a virtuous people are capable of Freedom*", **Benjamin Franklin** instructs us. Our second president and Founding Father, **John Adams** would heartily agree, wherein he said, "*Our Constitution is made only for a moral and religious (meaning Christian) people, and wholly inadequate to the government of any other*".

We have sadly become a Nation for whom our own Constitution is **wholly inadequate to govern**. We are quickly becoming an immoral people in grave danger of losing our cherished freedom. We have “*A Republic, if we can keep it*”, **Benjamin Franklin** said. Can we keep it?

If only we drank **Samuel Adams** less and listened to him more. His wisdom rings loud and true as he further articulates the concern of him and his peers:

“While the people remain *virtuous* they cannot be subdued, but when once they lose their *virtue*, they will be ready to surrender their liberties ...”

– *Samuel Adams*

Divine Providence

However, our **Nation begins** not in 1776, but more than **one hundred fifty years earlier** – this is a crucial concept. At nearly every key event in our founding, we see our leaders invoking God’s blessing and pleading for His divine direction and protection. Even as far back as **Christopher Columbus**, we see God’s hand in the course of events as Jews financed his adventures during the Spanish Inquisitions.

Our first **university’s** origin and stated mission testifies to the purpose of this Nation – the “*advancement of the Christian faith*.” Prayer events at the founding of **Jamestown**, landing at **Plymouth Rock**, inauguration of our **first president**, etc. all demonstrate our dependence on the God of the Bible.

In fact, our genesis can be traced directly to the **Christian Protestant Reformation**. As the reformation gained traction in Europe new religious groups formed one after another. Many of these groups became the beginning of our various denominations.

But, in Europe these new religious groups caused tension within Catholicism and The Church of England. This tension led to persecution; persecution led to movement throughout Europe, and ultimately to the **New World**, to be able to practice their faith in freedom.

Many of our early settlers came to America as a direct result of religious persecution in Europe. Most were Christian with varying degrees of minor differences in their Christian faith.

Early voyagers gathered in prayer and set a wooden cross at **Virginia Beach** at Cape Henry in **1607** to dedicate this new land to the ‘*will and purposes of God*.’ In 1620 the **Mayflower Compact** became the first constitutional governing document of the Plymouth Colony. In it **Governor Bradford** stated, “*...having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith...*”.

A decade later, in 1630, **John Winthrop**, the first governor of Massachusetts, said in a writing entitled A Model of Christian Charity,

*“We shall find that the God of Israel is with us, when 10 of us shall be able to resist 1000 of our enemies, when He shall make us a praise and a glory, that men of succeeding plantations shall say, ‘The Lord make it like that of New England.’ For we must consider that we shall be as a **city upon a hill** [Matthew 5:14], the eyes of all people are upon us...”*

Twelve presidents have restated this purpose from Matthew’s gospel!

America’s **Biblical foundation was affirmed and reaffirmed** over and over again from the **Pilgrims** of the Mayflower, to the **Puritans** of Massachusetts, to the **leaders** of the first America colonies who declared publicly and in writing that the **new commonwealth had come into existence solely for the ‘glory and purposes of God’** – the Christian God.

America came into existence with our *first president’s hand resting on the Bible*. That day concluded with America’s **first government gathering in prayer** to dedicate the Nation’s future to God.

Every new president since has taken his **oath with his hand on the Bible**. Surely it is obvious that non-Christian nations do not do this. “*Washington: A Man of Prayer*” commemorates the events of April 30, 1789, when, after being sworn in at Federal Hall, President **Washington**, accompanied by **Congress**, proceeded to St. Paul’s Chapel where they “*offered dedicatory prayers to God in divine services on America’s behalf.*”

He, in his **first-ever inaugural address**, warned that if America should ever turn from God and His ways, then His blessings would be removed from the Land. (*It is a direct reflection of **Moses’ warning** to Joshua and the Israelites as they were about to cross the Jordan River into their Promised Land.*)

Forgotten Founding Father

It’s important to backup just a bit. There were key events that preceded most of the discussion thus far. As mentioned in passing, America has her origins deeply rooted in the **Protestant Reformation**. This event cannot be taken too lightly with respect to our founding. While this pivotal event was emerging primarily in Europe, it ultimately led to America.

In contrast to the Roman Catholic Church, where interpretation of scripture is carried out by the Pope and his Bishops, **Protestantism** encourages ‘*Private Interpretation and a personal relationship with God*’ of scripture. As a direct result, differing denominational groups emerged, each holding to distinctive doctrines.

The persecution following the **reformation** in England and Europe, much like the persecution of the First Century Church, caused these groups to spread. It is interesting to note that God has a way of using what appears to be evil for His good.

Persecution forces His people to relocate, thus spreading the Gospel as they do. Even the Roman Roads of the first century enabled the spread of the Church.

Likewise, the persecution in the wake of the Reformation spread the Protestant church, in all of its emerging factions, throughout Europe and abroad, ultimately to the New World. This spread was indeed one of the chief origins of the **early settlers of Colonial America**.

The Thirteen Colonies were initially made up of numerous **post-reformation Christian Protestant denominational groups** looking for a place to practice their religion freely.

- **New England region** was dominated by **Congregationalists**, including **Puritans** and **Separatists** such as the **Pilgrims**.
 - **Pilgrims**, known as **Separatists**, believed that they should separate themselves from the state Church entirely.
 - **Puritans** believed in purifying the established church. In 1630, seventeen ships left England for America when Archbishop William Laud was attempting to eliminate Puritan influences from the Church of England. The years 1630 to 1640 are known as the **Great Migration**.
- **Middle region** was comprised of **Lutherans, Presbyterians, Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Quakers**, and **German and Dutch Reformed**.
 - **Society of Friends**, AKA **Quakers**, rejection of social hierarchy led to their persecution in England. In 1675, large-scale migration began; by 1750 they made up the **third-largest religious denomination** in the American colonies.
- **Southern colonies** were predominately **Anglican**.

This migration to America led to a **fragmented collection of colonies** – at least along religious lines. As each denominational group settled in various regions, their regions became **territorial strongholds** of a particular form of Protestantism. In fact, and ironically, they **began persecuting neighboring factions** much resembling the persecution of which they had fled.

Fortunately, God raised up revivalist like **Jonathan Edwards** and **John Wesley** to break up the fallow ground in preparation for more to come. And, more came; in fact, much more. It was a uniquely Colonial American experience called the **Great Awakening** spawned by an English Preacher named **George Whitfield**.

Mr. Whitfield had been barred from preaching in the Church of England. So he **came to Colonial America**. His fame had already spread to the New World. When he docked in Philadelphia, there were thousands waiting on him. He immediately preached his first sermon. That evening he preached again to some 8,000 people.

Tirelessly this man **preached unity and equality** in Christ to the 13 Colonies. It is said that he preached 40 hours a week; he was in his saddle at four AM sharp and in bed at exactly ten PM each evening. He covered some 2,000 miles on horseback. Crowds assembled to hear him preach routinely numbered into the thousands. **His preaching united the colonies** and led to the salvation of untold numbers of colonists.

[Nathan Cole's Letter]

Whitfield bridged the theological lines of colonial enclaves. Had he not come along when he did, it is most unlikely that the **emerging American Colonies would have ever united to win the Revolution**. Biggest mistake the British made leading up to the Revolution made was driving him from their shores.

While his name never appeared on the Declaration of Independence, he is without a doubt **chief among our founding fathers**. He was the **quilt-maker** who brought together the Protestant patchwork that was the fabric of our Christian nation.

Our Christian Heritage

While I have often heard it said that **George Washington**, and other founders, were mere deist, I beg to differ. Given what is revealed in George Washington's own words he was no deist. For example, in Washington's personal prayer notebook he ended a prayer:

"Bless my ... country, be our God and guide this day and forever for his sake, who lay down in the grave and arose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

In another he said, *"... increase my faith, and direct me to the true object, Jesus Christ the Way, the Truth, and the Life, bless, O Lord all the people of this land ..."*.

Clearly his God was the God of Christianity, as no other religious thought acknowledges the **revelation of the deity of Jesus Christ**.

Moreover, he wholly and **confidently brought his God**, my God, the God of the Christian faith **into the public arena**. Deism, by definition, refuses revelation of God beyond that of natural reasoning and denies the intervention of God in the affairs of man.

This man, who was found daily, morning and evening, on his knees in prayer and study of the Bible, was no mere deist. Nor did he fear in any way bringing the God of Christianity into public affairs – nor should we!

America was founded on God's word, on His principles, by His people. To those with **spiritual eyes** to see, the influence of God's Word can, in fact, be traced through our founding documents.

We were founded as a **Republic**, *a government of the people, by the people ... submitting to the rule of law*. It was an **experiment in freedom** that would work so long as God's law rules in the hearts of man. Sadly, it no longer does.

We have "*forsaken God, the Fountain of Living Waters, we have hewn out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water*". But, our drift from God, in **no way changes our Christian heritage**.

God seemed to have **created America as a place of refuge**. She is a land of promise. In fact, I believe America is a Promised Land of sorts. She was established as a Light on a Hill as a **beacon to the world**.

Our Nation has been blessed by God like no other Nation in the History of the world. We have also been used by God to help and defend the *defenseless, the downtrodden, and the persecuted* the world over.

Founder's Words

Our Christian heritage can be clearly seen in the words of many of our Framers and early leaders:

- **Samuel Adams** – "The rights of the colonists as Christians ... may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutions of The Great Law Giver and Head of the Christian Church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament."

"Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote ... he is exacting one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his Country"

"Thanks be to God of Heaven for the great Things he has done for America ... and fervently pray that she may be *virtuous*, without which she cannot long enjoy the Blessings of Freedom"

"That ... all the people willingly bow to the Scepter of Him who is the Prince of Peace."

- **John Adams** - "Our constitution is made for a moral and religious people, and wholly inadequate for any other"
- **Patrick Henry** – "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, 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.”

- **Andrew Jackson** – “The Bible is the rock upon which our republic rests.”
- **John Jay** - “Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” – *Founding Father and First Chief Justice.*
- **Thomas Jefferson** – “God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever.”
- **James Madison** – “Religion [is] the basis and Foundation of Government ... We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

I could go on, but let us move to other examples. Our **monuments**, historic sites, and government buildings are replete with examples, including: **Biblical inscriptions** and depictions of Biblical characters and events.

Our Christian foundations can be seen in **Moses image carved** into very walls of the **Supreme Court** holding tablets containing the Ten Commandments. In this same place they declare, whenever court is in session, “God save the United States and the Honorable Court.”

Statues of many early leaders are displayed throughout the **Capitol**. Most of these people were Christians; many were **Christian ministers**, including: *George Washington, James Garfield, Samuel Adams, Rev. Peter Muhlenberg, Rev. Roger Williams, Rev. Marcus Whitman, Daniel Webster, Lew Wallace, Rev. Jason Lee, John Winthrop, Rev. Jonathan Trumbull, Roger Sherman, and Francis Willard.*

Engraved upon the **capstone** of the **Washington Monument** is *Laus Deo*, meaning “*Praise be to God!*” Inside the structure are carved tributes with Godly messages: “*Holiness to the Lord,*” “*Search the Scriptures,*” “*The memory of the just is blessed,*” “*May Heaven to this union continue its beneficence,*” “*In God We Trust,*” “*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*”

You would have to **tour Washington DC** with your eyes closed not to see the **intentional recognition of the hand of God** in our founding. Again, I could go on for pages. But, surely you see my point.

The **University of Houston** searched to find where the Founding Fathers chose their ideas. They assembled 15,000 writings from the era of the founders. They researched for 10 years, isolated 3,154 direct quotes and identified the source of the quotes: **34 percent of their quotes came directly from the Bible.**

Can it be any clearer that our Founders intended this Nation to be a Christian nation founded on the bedrock of God's Word ... even the gospel of Jesus Christ?

America at War

George Washington feared that one-day "*our Nation would be at war against its own foundation*". That day has come.

We are "*One Nation under God*". Not just any God, but the one true God, the God of our Judeo-Christian heritage.

Long may this Land be bright, with freedom's holy light; Defend us by Thy might, great God our king.

To win this war, we **must remember who and what we are**. We must **remember what originally made America Great**.

"In the beginning of a change **the patriot** is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot." - *Mark Twain*

Now is the time for the patriot, the **Christian Patriot**, to stand up once again.

We are in our **Second Revolution**. The first was seeking *Freedom from Tyranny abroad*; this one is seeking *Freedom from Tyranny within*.

"[T]he propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that **disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.**" - *George Washington at Founding of America, 225 years ago in NYC, then the Capital of the US*

Part 2: America's Christian Foundation - The Liberty Pyramid

Extracted in part from: *The Liberty Pyramid*, Aaron Ferguson, et. al. - Tim Day, 2021



“America is **losing its heritage of God-given freedoms**, which were originally derived from biblical teaching. We sense that our well-sung **liberties are being lost** to a point of no return.” – *William Federer*

Liberty is not free. We have “**A Republic, if we can keep it**”, **Benjamin Franklin** said. Can we keep it?

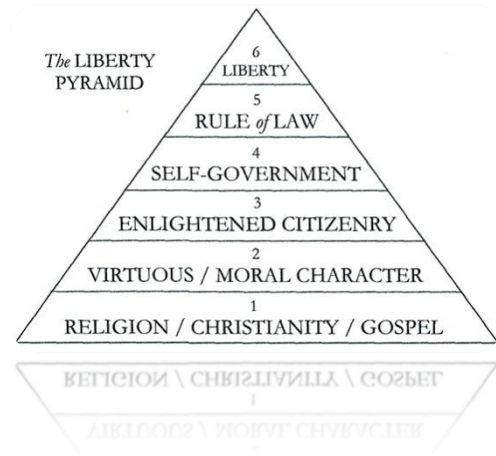
While **democracy** may have eliminated the rule of one despot, it created the **rule of many despots** ... subject to the whims of many. The mob wins and the minority loses. But, we are a Republic.

Israel, after the exodus and before the reign of kings, was the freest country on earth. America attempted to pickup her history there.

Liberty, true liberty does not come without cost. Liberty **lost in the Garden of Eden** has been man's quest since. America, like Israel, found true liberty in Jesus and God's Word. In fact, liberty apart from Jesus is not possible. Real liberty can only be found in Christ.

Liberty requires the **Rule of Law**, formed around Self-Government, rooted in an Enlightened Citizenry, with Virtue and Moral Character, based on the Christian Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Eric Metaxas says “*Ours is a fragile unprecedented form of government*”.



“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.” - *Ronald Reagan*

“God who gave us life **gave us liberty.**” – *Thomas Jefferson*

“Our cause ... is nothing less than **to maintain the liberty** with which *heaven itself hath made us free.*” – *John Dickinson, ‘Penman of the Revolution’, Signer*

“Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these **liberties are of the Gift of God?**” - *Thomas Jefferson*

“The **value of liberty** was thus enhanced in our estimation by the difficulty of its attainment.” - *George Washington*

“Our children and grandchildren should be taught to take **pride in their country**, to **respect our founding principles of liberty and equality**, and to have a **sense of American history** that is both truthful and inspiring. Teaching children to hate their country and each other is immoral and deeply harmful to our society and **must be stopped.**” - *1776 Pledge*

Guys, I am a nobody, from nowhere. I don’t know much of anything.

So, I am building on the work of men who have devoted much of their lives to understanding what made America great. Bright men who took the time to explore **primary source documentation** to discover our **Founders intent:** *William Federer, David Barton, Aaron Ferguson, Rod Gragg, Newt Gingrich, Os Guinness, Eric Metaxas, Gary DeMarr, et. al.*

Today we looked at **America’s Christian Founding.** Next week we will look at **America’s Christian Foundation.** I have taught this for years, but the nuances get lost in the details.

Aaron Ferguson in his book, **The Liberty Pyramid**, lays out a brilliant framework to discuss the layers of our foundation – what made America Great. Next week’s discussion will explore the six layers of our Godly Foundation.

Our Christian Foundation - The Liberty Pyramid

Aaron Ferguson – The Liberty Pyramid, The Founder's Framework

“Liberty means **responsibility**. That is why most **men dread it.**” - *George Bernard Shaw*

Level 6 — Liberty

God created us to possess liberty, but our sin ruined everything, jeopardizing life, liberty, and property. Only by the grace of God, through His Son Jesus, did we rediscover the secret to liberty. **We all have God-given rights. Only few have the liberty to enjoy them.**

Level 5 — Rule of Law

Liberty cannot exist apart from law. Sinful people need regulation and restraint. Even rulers need rules. Thus, societies must establish a fixed common law, grounded in the laws of God.

Level 4 — Self-Government

With limited civil government, we are free to govern ourselves. Therefore, **we must have the capacity to do what is right without coercion.** They must be controlled by a force within them (conscience).

Level 3 — Enlightened Citizenry

If people are the highest authority, then **we must be educated in truth.** Only enlightened citizens will protect our God-given liberty.

Level 2 — Virtuous / Moral Character

If we are free to govern ourselves, then **our conscience must be informed by moral standards.** We must learn and do what's right, as **our duty to God** and service to one another.

Level 1 — Religion / Christianity

We are created by God. We are under His authority. Each of us bears His likeness and has value, purpose, and rights. However, we are also imperfect. Restoration is only possible through Christ. **Salvation transforms individuals. Transformed individuals transform societies. Liberty is the result of the Gospel.**

“Liberty is a **gift from God**, but the **responsibility of men.**” - *Aaron Ferguson*