

We Hold These Truths

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. - Declaration of Independence

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

- Preamble to U. S. Constitution

There has been a move in our country to rewrite history. In an attempt to make history more politically correct and to reduce the spirituality of our nation's founders much of what we know to be fact is being changed.

I want to talk about our heritage and what motivated the men and women who had a vision for this nation. Their views were antiquated and do not need to be revised and updated. It is amazing that the same people who defend the constitution want to deconstruct it and sanitize of all religious references. Unfortunately, this was the worldview of these leaders. At their core they held certain values that motivated all their opinions and writings. We cannot separate these men's minds from their hearts.

52 of the 55 signers of America's Declaration of Independence were orthodox, deeply committed Christians. The other three all believed in the Bible as the divine truth, the God of Scripture, and His personal intervention.

It is the same Congress that formed the American Bible Society. Immediately after creating the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress voted to purchase and import 20,000 copies of Scripture for the people of this nation.

Patrick Henry, who is called the firebrand of the American Revolution, is still remembered for his words, "Give me liberty or give me death." But in current textbooks the context of these words is deleted. Here is what he actually said: "An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

These sentences have been erased from our textbooks. Was Patrick Henry a Christian? The following year, 1776, he wrote this "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 that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here."

Consider these words that Thomas Jefferson wrote on the front of his well-worn Bible: "I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus. I have little doubt that our whole country will soon be rallied to the unity of our Creator." He was also the chairman of the American Bible Society, which he considered his highest and most important role.

On July 4, 1821, President Adams said, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President of the United States reaffirmed this truth when he wrote, "The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."

In 1782, the United States Congress voted this resolution: "The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools."

William Holmes McGuffey is the author of the McGuffey Reader, which was used for over 100 years in our public schools with over 125 million copies sold until it was stopped in 1963. President Lincoln called him the "Schoolmaster of the Nation." Listen to these words of Mr. McGuffey: "The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our notions on the character of God, on the great moral Governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions. From no source has the author drawn more conspicuously than from the sacred Scriptures. From all these extracts from the Bible I make no apology."

Of the first 108 universities founded in America, 106 were distinctly Christian, including the first, Harvard University, chartered in 1636. In the original Harvard Student Handbook, rule number 1 was that students seeking entrance must know Latin and Greek so that they could study the Scriptures: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, John 17:3; and therefore to lay Jesus Christ as the only foundation for our children to follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments.

James Madison, the primary author of the Constitution of the United States, said this: "We have staked the whole future of our new nation not upon the power of government; far from it. We have staked the future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."

I want to look at the documents we celebrate today, the **Declaration of Independence** and our **Constitution**. Like many of you had to memorize a portion of this document. Today I want to look at some of the key points to this foundational doctrine of our nation and show the worldview of the men who penned it at their own risk of treason and loss of life.

1. Trust in God's Sovereignty

"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; .. 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."

Bible Reference

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

¹¹ *"O afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted, I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires.*

¹² *I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones.*

¹³ *All your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be your children's peace.*

¹⁴ *In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear.*

Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you.

¹⁵ *If anyone does attack you, it will not be my doing; whoever attacks you will surrender to you.*

¹⁶ *"See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work.*

And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc;

¹⁷ *no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD. (Isaiah 54:10-17)*

2. God's Word in Foundation for Law

"Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God ... What a Eutopia, what a Paradise would this region be."

- John Adams, February 22, 1756

Bible Reference

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ *The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.*

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. (Psalms 19:7 - 8)

3. God's Word is Foundation for Morality

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." - John Adams

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible"
- George Washington

"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."
George Washington's Farewell Address

Bible Reference

"Therefore, this is what the LORD says: You have not obeyed me; you have not proclaimed freedom for your fellow countrymen. So I now proclaim 'freedom' for you, declares the LORD (Jeremiah 34:17)

if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

4. God Created Us Equal

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."
- Declaration of Independence

"No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States"
- U.S. Constitution, Art. I, Sec. 9, Paragraph 8

Bible Reference

God does not show favoritism (Acts 10:34)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

5. God Created Us to Reign

"that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." - Declaration of Independence

Bible Reference

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." (Genesis 1:27 - 28)

6. Government Should Rule by Consent of the Governed

"governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." (Declaration of Independence)

"The United States shall guarantee to every state in this Union a republican form of government" (U.S Constitution, Art. IV, Section 4)

Bible Reference

Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. (Deuteronomy 16:18)

Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you." (Deuteronomy 1:13 - 15)

7. There Should be Separation of Church and State

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. (First Amendment, U.S. Constitution)

Bible Reference

"Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." (Luke 20:25)

8. Teaching These Principles to the Next Generation

"Let [the Constitution] be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges, let it be written in primers, in spelling books and in almanacs, let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation."

- Abraham Lincoln, "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions", January 27, 1838

Bible Reference

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)