

➡ **Slide 1:** Opening (Get the hourglass out and explain)

➡ **Slide 2:** Almighty, we thank you for your providence and goodness in this nation's life. We asked for your continued winds of favor to fill the sails of this ship, America, as she continues into the horizon, constantly pursuing your purpose for her founding, and let each of us have humility and become true students of your will, divine grace and mercy...and always be pursuant of your matchless wisdom.

Let me begin by saying that I stand before you greatly humbled and ashamed of my own ignorance to these matters. I've spent so much time in my life pursuing what I thought was truth that I ignored the most obvious truth that was right in front of me all the time, and much like Paul was thoroughly knocked off of my horse over the last month. So it's important today as we continue on the theme of this month that we define the WHY of this topic and ensure that we know the reality of our nations founding.

➡ **Slide 3:** WHY.

This is a big WHY because not knowing leaves a lack of courage, courage comes from knowing the truth (**Point 1 on the slide**), and the rabid secular minds that contend to destroy what's been built can smell the weakness of our lack of knowledge, which is how people perish. (**Point 2 on the slide**). Now...the question remains (As Pilate asked Christ "What is truth," and like many he then turned around and walked out, not really curious as to what it was. As I said, I...like he, who had truth itself in front of him, have walked away before the answer. Its because of this that I want to encourage you to move away from the learning model of 19th century (**Explain**) and into the thinking that existed for all the millennia before. Its as we think and meditate on these things that the truth continues to be revealed and I pray that it will impact you as much as it has me...and that such revelation will continue to push winds into the sails of America.

Slide 4: In the vacuum of truth lots of ideas emerge, I can assure you that a brief glance into history will tell you what those ideas create....they sound wonderful, like the sirens of old, luring sailors to shore, only to ram their ships on the rocks and perish.

Over thousands of years these ideas, not part of Gods plan for mankind have created unimaginable suffering, only the ideas that came from Christ have brought any relief to the world. In the 19th and 20th century so many died because we had lost the truth of freedom, like those sailors the world sailed to close in the blind hope of new ideas, close to the deadly shore of allowing governments without God to rule us. Look at what it caused in these centuries when man governs himself without God: **Slide 5**

➡ **I am reminded of reading about a church that erected a stone memorial in France during WW1 (which my grandfather was in, the stone said "We prayed to God and yet no one answered." Such was the hell of their life, in mortal combat, Men who sat in trenches for not months but years at a time as their friends bodies literally decomposed in front of them. I will not spare us the graphic nature of what governments that surrender morality will do.**

The famous philosopher Nietchze lamented this when writing *The Madman*. He himself not being a fan of Christianity, was watching the secularization of Europe, and knew that the

abandonment of a God, the idea of which secular society was willing to kill, would actually lead to more brutality, that is the vacuum. He knew that at the very least holding to the idea of a loving God that created free men, would allow a person to even have access to the very secular thoughts that would condemn them!

➡ Look at what he says **Slide 6** What a question! Where did we get the right to try and scrub away this observable truth...more horrifying, look at what he then says...what a prophecy that came true.

Slide 7 He predicts rightly...the consequences haven't even fully come. Make no mistake my friends the enemies are well within the gates. These ideas that erase God are everywhere. These ideas create nothing but suffering. We must contend for the truth that our nation had a moral, biblical founding, **To say anything other than this is either ignorance or malicious lie, both of which are illnesses that should receive treatment immediately.**

I have often wondered how the lies spread so much faster than the truth:

➡ **Slide 8:** *Winston Churchill famously said that a lie gets halfway around the world before the truth gets its pants on.*

That being established let me take us directly into two things that I want to bring clarity and truth to today, that are frequent topics of today's discourse.

➡ 1. The Christian principles that all men are created equal **Slide 9**

I want to continue making our case for the moral foundations of America that stemmed specifically from the Great Awakening and the Second Great Awakening as we did in the first message I did.

Of the several things that come up when you converse with people about America's founding one is typically in relationship to **slavery**, others in relationship to where the **source of our wisdom** came from and the others relating to how our founders **separated, religion, and state.**

It's here that I want to pause and say something very important. It's not possible for us to dig up these men and judge them. In fact there's an old saying that says small minds talk critically about people, average minds talk about events, Great minds talk about ideas. I'm much more interested in their ideas because it's their ideas and where those ideas came from that gave us the longest running governing paperwork of any country in the world, making their ideas and the **source**, the preeminent point of the conversation.

Bear in mind that we're all going to be judged by history and if you're very fortunate or maybe unfortunate (depending on how you see your potential) your name won't be so big that it'll be globally judged as these men's names were, but you will be judged for what you provided to society and humanity on some scale. In light of that we should have humility in knowing that they lived in a different world and that all revelation takes time to bring transformation as Paul said. We are all being transformed by the daily renewing of our minds. During the Great Awakenings those preachers talked about these ideas....mainly because it's hard to read the Bible

and not trip over them. These ideas, like all great seeds planted by great men began to produce fruit and the fruit of those ideas, just like in the natural where when we plant something and it takes seasons to grow.

These ideas of liberty and freedom began to grow and explode in ways they never had before, so I just ask that we remember that and be more focused on ideas than necessarily drilling down on everything these men got corrected in the life they had, not as an excuse ever for it, but with the contextual awareness of their times and the level of revealed knowledge they had.

The Declaration of Independence was itself a breakup letter with more than the British government and its rule. In fact it was a **breakup letter with sin** that had been revealed to these men through the Great Awakening! These men, in the middle of their own sin, wrote the words that **All men are created equal by God**, that is not the action of people trying to hide their own culpability and sin instead, they were saying, we don't know how to fix it, but we know that it must be fixed because we know this is against the ordinance of heaven.

Let me connect some dots from The Great Awakening to the Constitution and Declaration, specifically in the ways that the preaching that occurred shaped the minds of those that wrote them.



a. Jonathan Edwards. Slide 10

Nothing better demonstrates this principle than Jonathan Edwards Jr., one of the greatest voices of that century, and one of the great preachers of the Second Great Awakening.

His father was as well one of the great founders and preachers in the First Great Awakening, yet Edwards Sr, while believing that stealing people from their land was immoral, was still a slave owner...his messages focused on the true conversion of men through salvation, as had Whitefields, and on the Glory of God.



However, It was his son that took his message of mens conversion and unpacked it to wage war against the sins of slavery. **Slide 11.** He wrote one of the most widely circulated books on the topic, one that shaped much downstream.

I want to keep us in mind that upstream of Edwards (who shared their beliefs in many ways) were the early **pilgrims and puritans** who, though themselves in the struggle of what human slavery meant, had established the conviction that:

1. All men bear God's image
2. All men are accountable to God
3. All men need salvation

Those beliefs were the beginning that we owe Americas future to, not the secularism that many claim, as John Thornton said...**To the Puritan Pulpit we owe the moral force which won our independence.** **Slide 12**



These ideas took years to resolve, for men coming from the brutality of Europe, religious oppression, centuries of feudalism and serfdom, the idea that men were completely free would have been almost shocking.

It is unfortunate that men find themselves in positions to settle for the lesser of wrongs, or to make decisions on what matters seem more critical to the moment.

I will be forever thankful that they took courage to boldly declare in WRIT that all men are equal, even while knowing that it highlighted their own hypocrisy...but they did it based on revealed truth that came from courageous men being willing to allow the Bible to shape them, instead of shape it with their own ideas.

➡ **Slide 13.** Look at this Amazing process unfold, look at Witherspoons impact as he was impacted by Edwards. **Slide 14**

Slide 15 Now Look at the chain of events from Edwards down....The Bible is unparalleled in its ability to overturn mans failures and lead him to true potential.

➡ It took another century before those words in the Declaration were fully tested, **Slide 16** it cost many of our young men, but the moral foundation and conviction that came from those messages still fueled America and the Civil War created the next advancement in the pursuit of freedom, at great cost before the Civil Rights movement assured what had been written 200 years before was realized, this continues to be proof of our commitment to the values of heaven, and a constant focusing on what God calls righteous anger at sin. **Slide 17**

➡ I wanted to show the connection of our founding theology to the actualization of the Biblical principle of freedom, our history is so full of the proof of it that I struggle to even whittle it down to a presentable amount, the sheer scope of evidence showing that Americas preachers, and the Bible they sourced, is overwhelming for anyone who is willing to stay and listen when asking “what is truth” as we said. Like Neitzche showed though, if we think we can separate ourselves from the giver of freedom and still have it, we are doomed, this is the proof, its not an American problem, its a sin nature problem, and only the entrance of His word can stop it. **Slide 18** this slide gives ample evidence to point the finger of blame directly where it lays, which is carnal man. I am not trying to make constant defense of our Founders, but rather showing that when we are called to defend this nation we should deal with its ideas and what it has done about them, for only when men have a true Christ centered transformation and awakening will oppression stop, as this nation has demonstrated in this area.

That now leads me to our second thing to resolve, which although it is a separate topic is completely intertwined with the other.

2. The Separation of Church and State.

I have contended this topic many times and would note that it cannot be separated from the results above, that being that the abhorrent practices of slavery would never had ended were it not for governments lending themselves to the duties of God, anywhere Christ is proclaimed at a government level, the people’s are more free and have better quality of life.

Let me first share this small tidbit of knowledge that I found interesting which shows exactly how much God was involved in our founding and we will then move on logically from there. (Remembering the goal is to THINK not just LEARN).



Slide 19: The Aitken Bible

Due to blockading by the British, Bibles were in short supply, Mr. Aitken went to Congress with that concern and ended up printing many copies until the blockades ceased and shipments could continue...incidentally Tennessee recently made it one of their ten state books and it is commonly used by people defending the religious moorings of our nation as proof that government and religion are not separate as this predated the 1st amendment.

Of extra note is the signature of the endorsement signed by Charles Thomson, who was Secretary of the Continental Congress at the time as well as a **signer of the Declaration of Independence**. Thomson is also famous for “Thomson’s Bible,” the first American translation of the Greek Septuagint, published in 1808. (Thomson was an accomplished theologian, publishing such works as “A Regular History of the Conception, Birth, Doctrine, Miracles, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.”) *More evidence that these men had more theological background and doctrine than most scholars today.*

Now, let me move into the ideas of separation as well as the ideas of what exactly “Freedom of Religion” meant to these men. In doing so I want to remind us that although the tactic of the secularist has been to constantly denounce these men and basically reduce them to barely functioning numbskulls, that these guys were more well read than most alive...I would dare anyone to even try and read the Federalist Papers today, given that its not formatted with emojis. I want to likewise encourage you in the same, to read or audio book content as much as you can, especially in matters regarding the truth of our founding, I will paraphrase General Mad Dog Mattis who said (in a less lovely way) that *you must read hundreds of books to be functionally literate and avoid incompetence...because your personal experiences alone aren’t broad enough to sustain you.* **Slide 20**



I am saying all of this because I am pushing back across this constant narrative that come from what were once theologically bent institutions of learning...I have personally talked to parents that told me that once their kids went to “University” they came back filled with loathing and toxicity towards the very systems that back their student loans, and allow the free access to internet (not the case everywhere I can assure you) to prattle about how wicked this country is. This is the direct result of not having enough personal experience with both a historical context and the plight of massive percentages of the worlds population, many of which live on two dollars a day or less...we must go back to our roots, rediscover our heritage, be so proficient in wielding it that you can’t be bullied because you lack content. We should “Study to show ourselves approved...we will never be in a moment of shame if so.”



Look at what our Founders were reading: **Slide 21**

Now, Separation of Church and state, lets define it:

Well, first of all we can't constitutionally, The phrase separation of church and state does not exist in our constitution. It is a reference to the **establishment clause** and its meaning which notes the passage in the constitution that reads *congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting, the free exercise thereof*, while Congress is restricted from enacting a state religion, The founding document says nothing about banishing religion from the public Square, or from government function.

First of all, let's talk about why this would even come up. Let's put on our thinking hats and reflect on everything we've learned over the last couple weeks remembering that this content is not anything anybody shows up to debate. Nobody comes to a Wallbuilder conference and tries to shut David Barton down, at least not often.

All of these things we've talked about are **readily sourced, and cited content** that have historical backing and documentation to support them so using them as a reference point will put the burden of proof upon them. We should ask ourselves why would they had to have even make this statement?

Well one reason is that **there were prominent writers at the time who are advocating for a union between church and state**, that's not super ludicrous to imagine because the church of England under King Henry was a marriage of church and state, its faith and the monarchy were tied together in one person. Well this obviously created massive levels of abuse and oppression, (like John Bunyan) as well as murders, family separations, etc. and was one of driving reason for people leaving to pursue religious freedoms. And so it should be a given that the founding fathers coming from that world would immediately want to state that, although we are a religious, theologically centered people, there will be no marriage between our government and a certain religion (denomination, as the church of England was, and it was in the colonies)

In fact, the founders weren't concerned about the church intervening in the affairs of government at all, as the church was already in the affairs of government. Rather, it was concerned about the government involving itself in the affairs of the church. They believed that the affairs of heaven could not be controlled by men and that to try and control them were wicked.

→ Since we're in thinking mode, let's think about what a separation of church and state would mean if that phrase were to actually exist. Well, first of all, let's define church at the time. **Slide 22** churches consisted of different denominations, when they reference religion the founders were always referring to the Christian Faith represented by different denominations.

If you remember a couple weeks ago, I showed you a map of the colonies and showed you where each state had its primary denomination, outside of a small contingency of Judaic people the American people practiced the Christian faith. It would've been foreign to the founding fathers when referencing religion to even talk about any Faith other than the Christian Faith. the only experience they had with a Faith other than the Christian Faith would've been when dealing with the Muslims at Tripoli as Jefferson had and their knowledge of the constant islamic invasions of Europe, the Crusades, etc. to other than that their world view would've consisted of the Christian faith, things they experienced in Europe related to the institutionalized state run church, and it's many varied forms, and the thoughts of the enlightenment and the Greco Roman world. They would've been well-versed in mythology and it's roots but as far as comparing it to the world

religions of today, Christianity would've been the only religion they would've referenced at all in regards to the religious practices of the colonies.

Why does that matter? Because the argument is that we have freedom of religion (matters of conscience and non government sanctioned specific denomination. However...the differences in religion they were referencing still had a central figure in Christ and a single book they cited, that is not making a case for allowing a different world religion to shape our bodies of government.

Now let's talk about state. What would the state have been? Well the state were the ideas of the men that created it and if we look at a book list of where these men got their ideas given that they were such prolific readers and all most had classical education beyond what we would have today we will see that the state itself was an actuality nothing but a Sunday school. 34% of their cited reference sources were the Bible as far as what landed in our documents and in the letters, we have God and the Bible constantly referenced.

This means it's impossible to separate church in state because the state as one of the famous messages from that time spoke of was nothing but the Earth's form of the pillars of God the Earth itself had pillars, and government was a reflection of those pillars, but still intrinsically attached to the idea of God. In fact our three branch government is, but a reflection of the Trinity. these ideas are inseparable and that's why not a single Founding Father would've ever dared to say that religion shouldn't exist in the government's sphere, that's nonsense. Lets see where it came from:

Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island, was the first public official to use this metaphor. He opined that an authentic Christian church would be possible only if there was “a wall or hedge of separation” between the “wilderness of the world” and “the garden of the church.” Williams believed that any government involvement in the church would corrupt the church.

The most famous use of the metaphor was by Thomas Jefferson in his 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association. In it, Jefferson declared that when the American people adopted the establishment clause they built a “wall of separation between the church and state.” Jefferson had earlier witnessed the turmoil of the American colonists as they struggled to combine governance with religious expression. Some colonies experimented with religious freedom while others strongly supported an established church.

Thomas Jefferson created the most famous use of the metaphor “separation of church and state” in a letter where he mentioned a “wall of separation. One of the decisive battlegrounds for disestablishment was Jefferson's colony of Virginia, where the Anglican Church had long been the established church.

Both Jefferson and fellow Virginian James Madison felt that state support for a particular religion or for any religion was improper. They argued that compelling citizens to support through taxation a faith they did not follow violated their natural right to religious liberty. The two were aided in their fight for disestablishment by the Baptists, Presbyterians, Quakers, and other “dissenting” faiths of Anglican Virginia.

During the debates surrounding both its writing and its ratification, many religious groups feared that the Constitution offered an insufficient guarantee of the civil and religious rights of citizens. To help win ratification, Madison proposed a bill of rights that would include religious liberty.

As presidents, though, both Jefferson and Madison could be accused of mixing religion and government. Madison issued proclamations of religious fasting and thanksgivings while Jefferson signed treaties that sent religious ministers to the Native Americans. And from its inception, the Supreme Court has opened each of its sessions with the cry **“God save the United States and this honorable court.”**

What else did Jefferson think, as well as Franklin who is also cited as being non religious?



Slide 23: Benjamin Franklins remarks at the Constitutional Convention.



Slide 24: Jefferson, and lets reason out these two statements. If Jefferson has sworn hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man, and has also said that Almighty God hath created the mind free, then it is a logical conclusion that he would oppose the tyrannical restriction of Gods inclusion in the affairs of men (Government). As I said above he himself sent missionaries...

We should also remember that the Church of England was founded because King Henry wanted to get divorced and church leaders said no, so he said fine, Ill start my own church with my own theology and subsequently took control of religion in England, Pastors stood up and said hey, you don't get to control Biblical doctrine and that was that. This wasn't the first time that religion and the state were married. The pagan Constantine did the same thing to religion in the fourth century,(that's how we got SUNday) and after that we had the dark ages, which its the result of ungodly government controlling theology, something that happens occasionally here.

So the argument for 150 years after the Constitution was, “You cannot stop us from religious activities, how we express theology, what level of accountability we demand from government, the expression of faith, etc. That's why they said in the First Amendment, Hey you can't do a King Henry and establish a government controlled church, and you can stop us from exercising Faith....so for that 150 years in meant Government doest interfere with us, not vice versa.

In 1947 a judicial decision by the courts said “hey, we think Jefferson didn't have this right, he said the government can't stop our faith, we think it means the church can't get involved in government. So now instead of “Congress will make no law....kids can't say Jesus at school. The same name of Jesus that was prayed over every meeting as our government was founded.

We could go on with this and we should we should spend as much time learning about this as possible however, I'm afraid I won't have the time to save this last thing. These two documents the declaration of independence and the constitution are very much representative of the old New Testament one is the letter of the law and the other one is the spirit of it and the current argument against the Declaration of Independence right now specifically because it references a creator is that the constitution is the only thing we need. It's our governing laws it's that we don't need the spirit of the law, but I contend that the founding fathers knew exactly why we needed the

declaration of independence because when we know the truth, the truth will set us free, and the truth was that there was a creator who created us all free, equal, made in the image of God as the Puritans said, and if you read Romans 8 (READ), you see that they knew that the law in and of itself without the spirit of life in Christ Jesus will not keep us free, it wasn't enough to control men, it wasn't of itself enough to stop slavery, we were all born enslaved...it required the spirit of freedom in Christ, not a freedom to have hyper Grace, that allows me to continually crucify Christ, but rather the spirit of freedom that empowers me to live not as I WANT but as I OUGHT, that is the foundation of this nation, that is the morality and virtue that its citizens must have to keep if free, and that is what must be preached again.

**Slide 25****Slide 26**

Peter warned us of that when he when he stated that we should supplement our faith with moral excellence and moral excellence with knowledge and knowledge with self-control and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness and godliness with brotherly affection and brotherly affection with love for everyone and then you'll be fruitful and productive, but if you're not careful, you'll become blind and forget what you've been given, and you may fall away. the founding fathers knew this...they had studied the fall of the greatest empires, they knew what it would take to last, Separation of Church and state state? Hardly, more like there is no government but God, there is no supreme commander of its armies but King Jesus, and no sustaining freeing spirit but the Holy Ghost.

Flip the hourglass and explain it.

