

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

**Introduction:**

- Approach to this sermon – normally expository but there is a place for a different approach on occasion. We saw last week in Part one that God is sovereign over nations and governments and those nations and governments are moral agents that can will do good or evil.
- Secondly, this is part 2 of a two-part series and must not be stripped from the biblical background of last week's sermon from Romans 13.
- I will be more dependent upon my notes than normal – primarily to help me stay with convictions that are biblical and not my personal although strongly held opinions.

250 years ago this summer, the situation in the American colonies was anything but encouraging and any particular outcome far from certain. Before the declaration that summer, the struggle was one perhaps best described as ambiguous and disjointed. Washington had left his Virginia home and rode to Boston wearing his militia uniform without any real guidance from the fledgling congress. He had told Martha that he would probably be a few weeks and then once arriving and seeing the situation wrote in one of the few surviving letters to Martha that it could be as long as September before he would be home. In truth it would be years.

Washington found himself at the head of a rag tag group of farmers and merchants ... disease, much the result of lack of discipline among the soldiers, was sweeping through the American army ... pay and money was uncertain... supplies almost nonexistent ... enlistments were short term and with individual states which meant that Washington was constantly losing experienced men who rightly so wanted to go home and check on their farms and families which also meant that there was no professional standing army... while many saw the need for a navy and worked to begin to build one, there was the truth that no matter what happened on the land, whoever controlled the seas controlled almost everything and the British navy was second to none. When the ships began to enter in NY harbor their number and majesty alone were enough to bend the will of some opposition ... facing most formidable military in the history of the world ... succeeded in Boston thanks to terrain advantage and weather but ... now in NY awaiting the inevitable first engagement there, which would be a rout by the Brits by the way ...

The first major US victory in battle was still 6 months in the future. And ultimate victory was still 6 years in the future!

The seeds for independence had been planted some 15 years prior and had been growing, but the consensus was far from reality and truth is that had the British crown met the colonists even part way in demands, there would have been no declaration. But the crown refused and constantly doubled down on its demands for submission. In June of 1776 the congress appointed a committee to draft a declaration: Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Robert

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

Livingston, and Roger Sherman. The committee (really Jefferson and Adams) determined that Jefferson should take the lead on composing the draft. Jefferson's literary talents were well known and that a Virginian should have the lead on the declaration was politically expedient. The committee made some minor corrections and the congress a few more, but the draft was largely what was signed. The Declaration was not setting up a system of government as much as it was laying out the justification and foundation for what was to come.

But as important, Washington now had something to give the troops as a cause to fight for. They were no longer simply fighting against the British but for their independence as a people.

One of the minor changes was in one of the most known lines – “We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable” was changed to “we hold these truths to be self-evident.”

“these truths...” – I want us to consider these truths this morning.

Truth is defined as that which most correctly corresponds to reality.

- All truth is God's truth (Augustine) and therefore what we have experienced as true as a people and nation is grounded in the ultimate truth

Eric Metaxas *Revolution* said that he titled his new book *Revolution* instead of American Revolution because it is truly the only actual revolution in history. While there have been various political uprisings and even regime changes, none of the other so called revolutions have actually delivered on their promises and thus established a truly new order and system in the way that took place in America in the late 1700's.

So what was it that made the difference? – I have read numerous articles that purport to state what exactly it is that is responsible for America's greatness and longevity. Many of these have some truth in fact ... they talk of ideas and philosophies, written documents, opportunities, prosperity, and on and on – but they all fail to identify the underlying truths.

The uniqueness and durability of our system of government is a direct result of its being founded on basic biblical truths.

In my argument this morning, my claim is that the influence of these truths is undeniable. There are others, many others in fact that we could discuss and all together played a part, but these seem to be pervasive and preeminent. Furthermore, these truths demand a response from us.

**They had a view of God shaped by the Bible**

- When asked what is the most controversial thing

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

Interviewer:

“Congratulations on the book Revolution. Well, tell me, what would you say is the most controversial thing that finds itself in this book on the American Revolution?”

Metaxas:

Well, I guess it depends how you want to phrase it. I would say that this may be controversial, but it's absolutely unavoidable and inarguable ultimately, not debatable, is that all of the founders, most people don't seem to know this because there's been a real kind of secularist push in our lifetimes, but all of the men of the Revolution understood that this “sacred cause” as they called it was inextricably intertwined, with the God of the Bible. That's something that I didn't really learn in school.

You really hardly ever hear it in our culture now, but when I did the research and I did a lot of research, I read a lot of books, it is absolutely undebatable that that's how they saw it.”

From American Thought Leaders: One Key Fact About America's Founding That Isn't Taught Anymore | Eric Metaxas, May 30, 2026

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/american-thought-leaders/id1471411980?i=1000770357684&r=62>

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- Note a few things about what Metaxas stated
  - Inextricably intertwined – meaning that there is no way to separate; we cannot even begin to understand any aspect of originalist interpretations without considering this connection
  - The God of the Bible – not just religion or some abstract concept of a higher being and not the god of any other system of beliefs, but specifically the God of the Bible
  - This has largely been lost in so many of our political discussions that have sought to erode the faith of our founders by intentionally emphasizing/overemphasizing the individual faiths of the Founders and and their divergent views on details; sure some were deists but they were definitely in the minority and even their deism allowed for divine working through men and natural laws; not all were what we would consider Christian, but almost all held to some basic, essential beliefs about God and his role as creator as revealed in the Bible.
- So how did our Founders arrive at such a “radical” view?
- Gen 1:1 – here we have the most fundamental of beliefs regarding God
  - That He exists (and always has)
  - That He created everything
- If one posits no God?
- Since God does exist and since He created everything, then it stands to reason that the Creator has ultimate say in the purpose of his creation and thus we can either

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

pursue and operate within the will and purpose of our creator or we can live in open rebellion against our creator

- Need we be reminded of the absurd arrogance for a created being to consider the Creator and then reject him
- This beginning creation act, the starting point of all of history and revelation, reverberates throughout scripture:
- I have in my library a two-volume series entitled The Genesis Account and its Reverberations in the OT and NT – fundamental to all of the Genesis story is the creation account

Neh 9:6; Is 40:12–14; Is 43:7; Jr 10:12–16; Am 4:13; 1Co 11:7-12 esp 9 and 12; Col 1:16; Rv 4:11

[Creation in the bible]

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[Nehemiah 9:6](#) You, LORD, are the only God. You created the heavens, the highest heavens with all their stars, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, and all the stars of heaven worship you.

[Isaiah 40:12–14](#) [12](#) Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand? Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure or weighed the mountains on a balance and the hills on the scales? [13](#) Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or who gave him counsel? [14](#) Who did he consult? Who gave him understanding and taught him the paths of justice? Who taught him knowledge and showed him the way of understanding?

[Isaiah 43:7](#) everyone who bears my name and is created for my glory. I have formed them; indeed, I have made them.”

[Jeremiah 10:12–16](#) [12](#) He made the earth by his power, established the world by his wisdom, and spread out the heavens by his understanding. [13](#) When he thunders, the waters in the heavens are in turmoil, and he causes the clouds to rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain and brings the wind from his storehouses. [14](#) Everyone is stupid and ignorant. Every goldsmith is put to shame by his carved image, for his cast images are a lie; there is no breath in them. [15](#) They are worthless, a work to be mocked. At the time of their punishment they will be destroyed. [16](#) Jacob’s Portion is not like

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

these because he is the one who formed all things. Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of Armies is his name.

[Amos 4:13](#) He is here: the one who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, the one who makes the dawn out of darkness and strides on the heights of the earth. The LORD, the God of Armies, is his name.

[1 Corinthians 11:7-12](#) <sup>7</sup>A man should not cover his head, because he is the image and glory of God. So too, woman is the glory of man. <sup>8</sup>For man did not come from woman, but woman came from man. <sup>9</sup>Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man. <sup>10</sup>This is why a woman should have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. <sup>11</sup>In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, and man is not independent of woman. <sup>12</sup>For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman, and all things come from God.

[Colossians 1:16](#) For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him.

[Revelation 4:11](#) Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.

Rm 1:18-25; [read in the scripture reading portion of the service]

- Romans 1 makes the connection between creation itself and the revelation through creation to a creator. The biblical language in Romans “clearly seen” and “without excuse” are very much parallel to in every way “self-evident”
- It only makes sense that any system/institution should begin where the Bible begins and that is with the existence of a Creator, without which we would not even exist
- Furthermore, this God is not some standoff abstract unknown being – He is the God of the Bible who has revealed himself to us – what will we do with what has been revealed?
- In theology we refer to this a theology proper – who is God and how has He revealed himself to us and thus how do we relate to him as our creator?
- The inescapable truth that was understood and captured in the lives and documents of our nation’s founders was that each and every one of us have been created by a Creator to whom we will all one day stand before in judgment and give

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

an account. It was true for them. It has been true for every human for all of history. It is true for you today!

**They had a view of Man shaped by the Bible**

- In theology this is anthropology – the study of what it means to be human; the nature of our being and existing
- Gen 1-2 esp 1:27;
  - Created in God's image – meaning our understanding of what it means to be human begins with our understanding of who God is – these two are inextricably linked!
  - We discuss this in many ways but there are really three categories of what it means: substantive/relational/functional
  - But at the end of all of this is the central truth of the inherent worth of every individual human captures by the statement of "rights" granted by our creator and inseparable from us – not granted by any government or king mind you, but by God himself – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
  - This means that every human is not equal but is equally valuable – no one has more value because of where or to whom they are born.
  - APPLICATION – as an aside at this point, need to make a note that to declare one person a citizen and another not is not a declaration of worth, but of practical governance. Yes, people are constantly illegal if their status is not one in compliance with the laws of the land in which they reside – their existence is not illegal, but their status relative to governments, which we saw last week are instituted and granted authority from God
- Gen 3; Rom 5:12ff; Rom 3:23
- The propensity for every human to sin
- Thus the means to
  - Protect against sin in general – the need for gov't
  - Safeguard principles of private property and ownership
  - Protect against any one or group from consolidating too much power
- Rom 5 reminds us that every single one of us shared in Adam's sin – the truth is not that if we had been in the garden that we wouldn't have blown it. No, the truth is that we all shared in Adam's sin and thus sin has perpetuated in the world because every one of us is born not in purity and innocence but in stain and guilt – with a nature that is at once against God.
- All have sinned – Romans 3:23 – not a single one of us has not. All have sinned and thus stand in need of a savior. Which leads us to the third truth that our founders got right.

**They held man's pursuit of God as the highest of endeavors and most sacred of freedoms**

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

- “the pursuit of happiness” is often misunderstood and mischaracterized – it had nothing to do with the pursuit of stuff or personal indulgence; again the assumptions that the Founders had here - that the only path to true happiness was through the pursuit, acquisition, and fruit of virtues
- The 1<sup>st</sup> amendment – the first phrase of the first amendment in the Bill of Rights
- Religious Liberty Commission’s statement on its priority
  - In it’s nearly 200 page report, the commission is emphatic in reminding us that religious freedom is not just a freedom among many, but the fundamental freedom on which all the others rest.
  - “The First Amendment is often called the first freedom because it’s the foundation of individual liberty in our great nation,” explained Commissioner–Allyson Ho.
  - They quote our founders such as Adams and Washington

John Adams, ““We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge or gallantry would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution is designed only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for any other.”

In his famous Farewell Address, President George Washington summarized the essential role of religion in our newly established republic: “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity .... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

- Going back to 1 and 2 above, our founders saw virtues grounded in the character of the Creator and thus the pursuit of virtue was linked to the pursuit of God himself. Therefore freedom to come to and express that relationship with God was essential
- The world of the founders was a Christian world and in a Christian world, there are various expressions of faith and too many had seen the ? and at times even violent conflicts over coercive forces to worship in a particular way or to hold certain systems of Christian beliefs.
- Self-government meant not just government by the people but that each and every self must be governed...

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

- APPLICATION: question before us here is not one of governing others, but of self-governance? Have your “unbridled human passions” been forgiven, broken, and brought under the submission to God through Jesus Christ?

**Conclusion**

- I’m not asking you to agree
- Nor am I conflating the identities of being an American with being a Christian
- I am asking you to recognize the truths that our founders understood so that you might come to know the God of the Bible personally as He desires to know you .
- The truths of our Creator are not just practical for our experience here in this life, they are more importantly consequential for our eternal state when we die. God our Creator is real. One day every single one of us will stand before our holy creator in final judgment. Being an American does not mean you are a Christian and will not get you into heaven, ... Do you know Jesus and does He know you? [Our citizenship in earthly kingdoms will not matter. Our stewardship of earthly kingdoms will matter a great deal.]
- Truth is eternal but knowledge of it is not
- Grace in being born an American and accounting that will be given for stewardship – when it comes to political battles, we must keep them in perspective absolutely but we must engage! To say that is just politics and I don't want anything to do with it as a Christian is to hand the steering wheel of our nation and future into the hands of those who would pillage and squat in the ruins of structures they can no longer maintain, let alone build. (Imagery credit to Auron MacIntyre – The Blaze article July 3, 2026)
- America needs men and women of character and virtue, the sort that can only be brought through the application of the truths of Scripture into the hearts and life situations of men and women.
- America needs the church to remain the repository for truth. The key to the next 250 years is not found in the documents in the national archives but in the truths reflected in them but held in trust by the church. The world will continue to test and prod attempt to find satisfaction and security in all sorts of convoluted ideas and programs and systems. They will all fail. And when they do, the need of the hour will be the church to pick up the broken pieces and become the institution of reconciliation and restoration that it is supposed to be. But this can only be the case if we in the church do not lose our way, do not lose our knowledge of and grasp on the truths that will never change.
- Truths like we are created by a holy creator who created each and every person to be special to have infinite value.
- Truths like we have taken our infinite value and squandered it in pursuit of all sorts of worldly and fleshly pleasures that harm us, our families, our neighbors, and our communities. Our infinite value in being human is overshadowed by our potential for infinite destruction and harm through our sinful rebellion against our holy Creator.

07.05.26: Every Nation Under God Part 2:  
What Our Founders Got Right

- Truths like each and every one of us needed spiritual liberty even more than political liberty and we have been purchased from the auction blocks of slavery to sin by Jesus.
- Truths like you have in God's grace been given an opportunity to hear these truths and even to pursue them and find out for yourself whether they are in fact true and if so how you should respond.
- Truths like, what will you do with this knowledge this morning?
- The invitation is not to America or anything American this morning. The invitation is to come and surrender to the God without which America would never have existed let alone thrived these 250 years.

## Extra notes

Was not as much about ideas as about the men and women who had been shaped by those ideas

We hold these truths...

In the words of Commissioner Dr. Phil McGraw, "The American experiment was built on many bold ideas and none more radical than this: we have inalienable rights that come from God."

### The Creator

- There is one above even government

### Rights

- Derived from our Creator and not from government

### Man

- Sin
- Power

Freedom to exercise faith

Pursuit of virtue/character

From the very beginning those who risked everything in pursuit of something were fleeing religious persecution and coercion for a place with the hope for new ...

Certain biblical truths were fundamental to our founding documents and are

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evidence for the truth claims of the Bible. (and thus the God of the Bible. ..that our Founders held and the God of truth.)