

7-5-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: The Faith of our Fathers

Purpose: Educate people about the Christian heritage of America and provoke America to return to the God of our Founders.

Truth for Today: The greatness of America can be traced to the Christian faith of most of our Founding Fathers.

Text: Psalm 33:12

Topic: Christian History of America, July 4th, Declaration of Independence, Government

The Faith of our Fathers

I. Introduction

- A. Title: The Faith of our Fathers... a history lesson of America's Christian heritage.
- B. This 4th of July marks the 250th year since our nation's birth certificate was signed, The Declaration of Independence.¹⁵ We have been entrusted with the longest running constitutional republic in history. There's a reason why God blessed the USA. [Ps 33:12 (ESV) **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...**] Most of our Founding Fathers were Bible believing Christians and history proves it.
 - 1. John Adams, 2nd President, (1) *The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.* (2) *I have examined all religions, and the result is that the Bible is the best book in the world.*^{1,2}
- C. Today we'll talk about, (1) Tyranny and Freedom, (2) Christopher Columbus, (3) The Pilgrims, (4) The 1st and 2nd Continental Congress, (5) State constitutions, (6) Islam, Communism/ Socialism and Freedom.
- D. Thanks to pastor Paul Blair for portions of today's message. Free book of my last 6 July 4th messages called, 'America's Christian Heritage'.

II. Government and rule by tyranny

- A. **Pic 2** (PP slide 1) Beginning with Nimrod's attempt to rule the known world in Genesis 10, man has desired to rule over his fellow man. **Pic 3** (PP slide 2) For 1000's of years, tyranny has been the default form of human civil government. A strong man assumes power and rules over his subjects. Call him Pharaoh, Caesar, Kaiser, Czar, King, Emperor, Sultan, Dictator, Monarch, Fuhrer, Caliph, Lord or Chief, the default form of human government is a strong man/dictator who rules over subjects.
 - 1. In tyranny, there is no freedom of speech. If you speak against the authority, you face punishment, prison, or death. There is no freedom of religion. You worship the emperor, or whomever the emperor worships. You have no God given rights; you are granted privileges based upon your king's good graces. You don't own private property, the king or state does. Only in America have we enjoyed the blessings of liberty. Why? We have enjoyed freedom because of the faith in God of our Founding Fathers and their commitment to the Bible.

III. Christopher Columbus, journal excerpt upon landing in America

- A. Wed., Dec. 12th. . . A large cross was set up at the entrance of the harbour, as an indication in the words of the Admiral (*Christopher Columbus*), for a token of Jesus Christ our Lord, and the honour of Christianity.¹⁴

IV. The Pilgrims view of government was shaped by the pulpit and Bible **Pic 6** (PP slide 3) Capital building Washington D.C.

- A. In 1620, 102 Pilgrims, left Europe in search of religious freedom, landed in Cape Cod
1. William Bradford, 1st governor, *Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith...a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia...*¹¹ “A great hope...they had for...and advancing the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world.”¹²
 2. For the first time in world history a group of equals – constituted their own limited government and vowed to be governed by the rule of law and not by a king. It was called the Mayflower Compact which became the Constitution for Plymouth Colony. The Compact begins, “*In the name of God, amen.*” “*Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith...*”¹³
 3. Pastor Roger Williams migrated to America and founded the state of Rhode Island. Pastor Thomas was the founder of Connecticut. The Quaker minister William Penn was the founder of Pennsylvania. **Pic 14** (PP slide 14)

V. The 1st Continental Congress (Jump ahead 150 years)

- A. America was established on a Biblical foundation and believed that civil government was a creation of God to serve the people, not tyrannize them. Civil governors were to be “ministers of God for good” not tyrants to oppress.
1. **Romans 13:3–4 (NCV)** Those who do right do not have to fear the rulers...⁴ **The ruler is God’s servant to help you.** But if you do wrong, then be afraid. He has the power to punish; **he is God’s servant** to punish those who do wrong.
- B. In 1774, 55 men from 12 colonies gathered in Philadelphia to discuss what they should do in response to the tyranny of King George. It was suggested they begin in prayer and beg God for divine intervention in their crisis. They called the local pastor of Christ Church, the Rev. Jacob Duche, who led in 2 hours of prayer and Bible study.⁶ **Pic 23**, (PP slide 22) you will see George Washington kneeling in prayer. Next to him was Patrick Henry. Standing above them, John Adams and Sam Adams. Across the room, kneeling in prayer was the first Chief Justice of the first United States Supreme Court, John Jay. From 1620 to 1774, America was literally founded on its knees.
- C. **Pic** (PP slide 43) 41 At the time the Declaration was signed in 1776, New York University Professor Emeritus Patricia Banomi concluded that 98% of the colonists in the 13 American Colonies were Protestant Christian.⁵

VI. The 2nd Continental Congress

- A. Congress met again in Philadelphia the following month in the Second Continental Congress. These men wanted peace, not war. These men wrote the Olive Branch Petition pledging their loyalty to the king and simply asking the King to respect their rights as British Citizens. However, they were wise enough to employ **Pic 4b** (not in

PP) a man of prayer named George Washington as general of the Continental Army – they wanted peace but were willing to fight and die rather than become slaves.

1. Sadly, King George III would not even receive the Olive Branch Petition and declared the 13 colonies to be in rebellion. Secession was now inevitable.
2. Thomas Jefferson opened with these words: *When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them...and to assume...the separate and equal station to which the **Laws of Nature and of Nature's God** entitle them.* These were all legal terms – defined in the second most popular book sold in America other than the Bible – Blackstone’s Commentaries on the Law.
3. Sir William Blackstone was a famous legal mind in England. He defined Natural Law: *“Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator, for he is entirely a dependent being ... And consequently, as man depends absolutely upon his Maker for everything, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his Maker's will. This will of his Maker is called **the law of nature**... The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the holy scriptures...no human laws should be suffered to contradict these.”*³
4. America was built on a Biblical understanding of right or wrong. If God had spoken, the subject was settled. Man did not have the authority to try and overrule God. Our founding fathers agreed.
5. **Pic** (not in PP)⁴⁵ James Wilson, a member of the first US Supreme Court said, *“Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is Divine.”*⁸
6. **Pic** (not in PP)⁴⁷ Thomas Jefferson continued in the words of our Declaration after stating our foundation was built on God and His Word, declared the causes which impel them to the separation. *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain **unalienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness... **That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...***¹⁵
7. The primary purpose of civil government was to secure people’s unalienable God given rights. And whenever a government becomes perverse and begins to abuse its authority, the citizens have a right to alter it, or abolish it and start over, as they did at that time with their Declaration of Independence from British Tyranny.

VII. 13 State Constitutions (3)

- A. On July 4, 1776, as the Declaration of Independence was signed, thirteen British colonies instantly became 13 sovereign states, each having its own constitution. In each of the 13 original states, one could not serve in office without professing to be a Christian and believing a Biblical Worldview.
- B. Maryland: **Pic 58** (PP slide 51) *Every person appointed to office or place of trust ... shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion.*

- C. Penn.: **Pic 60** (PP slide 53) *"I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration."...*
- D. North Carolina: **Pic 61** (PP slide 54) *That no person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments... shall be capable of holding any office... in the civil department within this State.*

VIII. Conclusion: Tyranny and Freedom (Islam, Communism/ Socialism and Freedom.)

- A. **Pic 63** (PP slide 56) For 1000's of years, the world has seen tyrants ruling over subjects. They were servants of the government. Only in America, have we seen public servants who are supposed to serve the citizens and secure our unalienable rights from God. This is why America has been exceptional.
- B. The State can control people through chains, fences and guards. However, for a people to live in freedom, they must be moral and self-governing. President John Adams: *We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion... Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.¹ It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.⁹* In 1849, Speaker of the House Robert Winthrop (Mass.) said: *All societies of men must be governed in some way or other. The less they have of stringent State Government, the more they must have of individual self-government. Men must be controlled, either by a power within them, or by a power without them; either by the Word of God, or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible, or by the bayonet.¹⁰*
- C. **The American way of life is under attack:** (1) Islam and Sharia law are taking a foothold in America. Instead of the bullet they are fighting on US soil with the ballot. ChatGPT: 4 Muslims serving in Congress and 235 serving as judges, school boards and city councils in America. The goal of many is Sharia law in America. (2) Communism, Xi(*she*) Van Fleet: How America and Communist China Pursued Justice and Achieved Opposite Results. In Communist China, the attempt to create a utopia instead unleashed a hell on earth—where the state holds unlimited power and the people have none... I have lived in both worlds. I spent my first 26 years under Mao's iron grip and the Cultural Revolution. Freedom was foreign to me—I was never allowed to make choices. The Party controlled every aspect of my life: where I could live, how much I was rationed—not just for food, but for all daily necessities—whether I could attend college, and what job I would be assigned... where the state is the highest authority, power becomes truth. And when power defines truth, freedom is crushed. When I came to America, I felt as though I had been given a second life. It was a completely different world... no one dictated what I could say or how I should live... I loved my new country and was determined to assimilate and become a true American. Forty years have passed since I first set foot in America. Over that time, I have witnessed changes that... began to remind me of the Communist system I escaped. It started with seemingly harmless political correctness. It is clear that some in America seek to overturn the system born of the American Revolution, advancing

instead a model that echoes Maoist revolution—where equality is redefined as enforced sameness, dissent is silenced, and government power expands without limit. I never imagined that in my lifetime I would witness such a transformation. On this historic occasion, let us remember, freedom is not a given. It requires vigilance and the courage to defend it...I joined millions of patriots in the fight to protect our liberty and keep the American Dream alive for generations to come. As we celebrate this historic anniversary, let us renew our commitment to keep our republic.¹⁷

- D. **As American Christians**, let us commit to (1) Live and proclaim Biblical truth, (2) Resist any cultural force that seeks to take away our inalienable, God given rights.

IX. Response: Prayer for America

- A. Souls: There is another kind of freedom, freedom from the control and outcome of sin by believing and following Jesus.

X. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://onlinecoursesblog.hillsdale.edu/our-constitution-was-made-only-for-a-moral-and-religious-people/>
2. <https://wallbuilders.com/resource/the-founding-fathers-on-jesus-christianity-and-the-bible/>
3. (Blackstone Commentaries on Law, Book One, Section Two)
4. <https://www.toddstarnes.com/campus/george-washington-was-terrorist-texas-school/>
5. <https://www.amazon.com/Under-Cope-Heaven-Religion-Politics/dp/0195162188>
6. <https://www.wnd.com/2015/08/the-prayer-that-influenced-1st-continental-congress/>
7. <https://freedomcivics.org> › blogs › news › the-black-robed-regiment-preachers-who-fought
8. <https://www.nlnrac.org> › node › 240.html
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11. <https://libquotes.com/william-bradford>
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15. <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript> or <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/downloads>
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17. <https://www.breitbart.com/america250/2026/06/29/exclusive-xi-van-fleet-one-ideal-two-revolutions-how-america-and-communist-china-pursued-justice-and-achieved-opposite-results/>

XI. Supplemental Material

A. Email. Communism ¹⁷ Exclusive—Xi Van Fleet: One Ideal, Two Revolutions—How America and Communist China Pursued Justice and Achieved Opposite Results. As America approaches its 250th anniversary, we should be compelled not only to celebrate, but to reflect. History offers a powerful comparison. In the 18th century, American colonists declared independence and launched a revolution in the name of liberty. In the 20th century, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) carried out its own revolution in the name of liberation. Both promised a new world. Both rejected the old order. Both spoke the language of justice. And both succeeded. One produced a nation where individuals are free. The other produced a system where individuals are enslaved by the state. Why? The answer lies not in the slogans, but in their ideological foundations—one rooted in biblical principles, the other in Marxism. The American Revolution was not merely a rebellion against British rule. It was grounded in a radical idea: that rights do not come from rulers or government. When Thomas Jefferson wrote that all men are “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,” he affirmed that government is not the source of rights, but their protector. Because these rights come from God, no one—not even a majority—can take them away. This belief shaped everything that followed. Engraving showing the reading of the Declaration of Independence to a crowd of onlookers in the State House yard in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1776. (Stock Montage/Getty Images “Red Guards” wave copies of Mao Zedong’s “Little Red Book” in Tiananmen, Beijing, circa 1966. (Universal Images Group via Getty Images) The Chinese Communist Revolution also invoked justice—but it began with a very different premise. Justice was defined as state-enforced sameness: an equality of outcome that promises everything to everyone, but in practice leaves no one with anything. Although both revolutions envisioned a better world, their outcomes could not be more different. In America, the American Dream is built on freedom—where anyone, regardless of circumstance, is free to try, to succeed, and to fail. In Communist China, the attempt to create a utopia instead unleashed a hell on earth—where the state holds unlimited power and the people have none. Under Mao, tens of millions perished. Intellectuals were purged. Families were torn apart. Faith was suppressed—all in the name of the people. As the state became the ultimate authority, the individual was reduced to a mere particle of the collective. I have lived in both worlds. I spent my first 26 years under Mao’s iron grip. My formative years were stolen by the chaos and violence of the Cultural Revolution. Freedom was foreign to me—I was never allowed to make choices. The Party controlled every aspect of my life: where I could live, how much I was rationed—not just for food, but for all daily necessities—whether I could attend college, and what job I would be assigned. I obeyed, like hundreds of millions of my fellow Chinese. From a very young age, I understood exactly what would happen if I complained or resisted. Xi Van Fleet as a “Little Red Guard” in elementary school during the Cultural Revolution, holding Mao’s “Little Red Book” and wearing a Mao badge. (Photo courtesy of Xi Van Fleet) When I came to America, I felt as though I had been given a second life. It was a completely different world—people saw me as

an individual, not a label. Above all, no one dictated what I could say or how I should live. This was the freedom I first experienced in America. I loved my new country and was determined to assimilate and become a true American. Forty years have passed since I first set foot in America. Over that time, I have witnessed changes in my beloved country—changes that, little by little, began to remind me of the Communist system I escaped. It started with seemingly harmless political correctness, which I once embraced as kindness. But over time, I noticed that only certain speech was permitted. If I did not comply, I risked being labeled a racist or a bigot—much like being branded “counter-revolutionary” in China. I also saw identity become everything. Once, I was treated as an individual; now, I was reduced to a member of an identity group—just as I had been in China. The familiar terms of “oppressor” and “oppressed” that I grew up with had entered the American lexicon—now used to divide Americans. By 2020, I could no longer ignore the echoes of Mao’s Cultural Revolution. Xi Van Fleet in Tiananmen Square in 1986 on the day after she got her visa to come to the United States. (Photo courtesy of Xi Van Fleet) It is clear that some in America seek to overturn the system born of the American Revolution, advancing instead a model that echoes Maoist revolution—where equality is redefined as enforced sameness, dissent is silenced, and government power expands without limit. I never imagined that in my lifetime I would witness such a transformation. As we mark 250 years of American independence, many are tempted to focus on the nation’s flaws and declare the great experiment a failure. But we should remember that the Founders never sought to create a perfect world—that belongs to God alone. Instead, they created a system rooted in the belief in God-given rights—a system that not only provides maximum freedom to individuals but also allows for self-correction and renewal. On the other hand, in systems where the state is the highest authority, power becomes truth. And when power defines truth, freedom is crushed. On this historic occasion, let us remember: freedom is not a given. It requires vigilance and the courage to defend it. That is why I refused to stand by. I joined millions of patriots in the fight to protect our liberty and keep the American Dream alive for generations to come and for the next 250 years. As we celebrate this historic anniversary, let us renew our commitment to keep our republic. Xi Van Fleet is the author of *Mao’s America: A Survivor’s Warning* and *Made in America: The Hidden History of How the U.S. Enabled Communist China and Created Our Greatest Threat*.

1. // Islam take over ballot or bullet
- B. We’re fighting a war against historical revisionism, i.e., changing what we teach about history to fit a secular, cultural narrative.
1. Pic Bibliography 4 Commentator, Todd Starnes: Students in taxpayer-funded schools across Texas will soon be learning that George Washington was a terrorist and that Christian missionaries allegedly kidnapped Native Americans and converted them to Christianity. Julie Pickren, a Republican member of the State Board of Education, said the lessons were included in an Ethnic Studies course for high schools. The State Board of Education suspended board rules to approve this

far-left propaganda. The public was not notified and therefore could not object.
(School teachers, skip over)

2. Our Founders, like us weren't perfect. When individuals or culture sins, it is imperative that the Church declares biblical truth and calls for repentance.
3. Pic¹⁶ Ronald Reagan said in his farewell address: *So, we've got to teach history based not on what's in fashion but what's important -- why the Pilgrims came here...I'm warning of an eradication of the American memory that could result, ultimately, in an erosion of the American spirit...If we forget what we did, we won't know who we are. Let's start with some basics: more attention to American history and a greater emphasis on civic ritual...And so, goodbye, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.*

C. Pastor Paul Blair's 4th of July Sermon

Preparation for our Country's 250th Birthday

Any title you like. The focus is What it was that actually made the United States the Exception.

Text: Exodus 18:20-22 *You should also teach them the laws and the teachings, and show them how to live their lives and what work they should do. But you should choose from among all the people competent men who are God-fearing, honest and incorruptible to be their leaders, in charge of thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Normally, they will settle the people's disputes. They should bring you the difficult cases; but ordinary matters they should decide themselves. In this way, they will make it easier for you and share the load with you.*

Beginning with Nimrod's attempt to rule Babel and the known world in Genesis 10, man has desired to rule over his fellow man. For 6000 years, tyranny has been the default form of human civil government. **A strong man assumes power and rules over his subjects.** Notice that sentence – a strong man rules over his subjects.

Call him **Pharaoh, Caesar, Kaiser, Czar, King, Emperor, Sultan, Dictator, Monarch, Fuhrer, Caliph, Lord** or **Chief**, the default form of human government is a strong man/dictator who rules over subjects.

- **There was no freedom of speech.** If you spoke against the authority, you faced punishment, prison, or death.
- **There was no freedom of religion.** You worshipped the emperor, or you worshiped whomever the emperor worshiped.
- **You had no God given rights; you are granted privileges based upon your king's good graces.**
- **You didn't own private property,** you worked on the king's property as it was the king's dale, the king's forest, the king's deer, the king's navy, the king's army and in fact you were the king's subject.
- **Only in America and only for the last 249 years have we enjoyed the blessings of liberty. Why have we been different?**

There is an old saying that politics is downstream from culture. Well, the culture in early America was shaped by the pulpit and the truth of God's Word.

- In 1620, what was little more than a church relocation project, 102 Pilgrims had been blown off course by winter storms in the North Atlantic. Rather than reaching their intended destination in northern Virginia, they landed at the tip of Cape Cod.
- After several attempts to sail south to their intended destination failed because of “contrary winds”, they concluded that it was God's will they remain in Cape Cod.
- Recognizing their legal charter was of no effect since they were not on the king's property and realizing that the only way they would survive in this wilderness was to work together, for the first time in world history a group of equals – constituted their own limited general government and vowed to be governed by the rule of law and not by some divine right of a king.
- **(Historical note.** Documents like the Magna Carta had been signed previously between the King of England and English Nobility. The Mayflower Compact was the first time a group of equal individuals who were essentially nobodies with no title or property constituted a document and pledged to be governed by it.)

As they were Separatists and Congregationalists, their churches, rather than the top-down rule of the Episcopal design, each local assembly ‘constituted’ their own churches and elected their own officers - the Pilgrims modeled their civil government after the same design of their church government.

- Forty-one men signed the Mayflower Compact which became the Constitution for Plymouth Colony, and the future history of North America was forever changed.

Shortly thereafter (1625), King Charles 1 cracked down on the Puritans in England, resulting in the Great Puritan Migration – settling all of what is now Massachusetts.

Understand, the political states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine were birthed out of the governmental design of congregational churches.

Even the term “election” had a Biblical foundation as each community would vote for the most righteous man to govern – hence the “elect” was the root of the annual “election”.

- **Pastor Roger Williams** was one of those who came to Massachusetts in the Puritan migration – and Pastor Roger Williams eventually founded of the political state of Rhode Island.
- **Pastor Thomas Hooker** also was part of the Puritan migration and Pastor Thomas Hooker was the founder of the political state of Connecticut.
- The **Quaker minister William Penn** was the founder of the political state or Pennsylvania.

At the time the Declaration was signed in 1776, New York University Professor Emeritus Patricia Banomi concluded that 98% of the colonists in the 13 American Colonies were Protestant Christian¹.

America has been exceptional because America was established on a Biblical foundation and believed that Civil Government was a creation of God to serve the people, not tyrannize them. Civil governors were to be “ministers of God for good” not tyrants to oppress.

In 1774, 55 men from 12 colonies (*Georgia was unable to send a representative*) gathered at Carpenter’s Hall in Philadelphia to discuss what they should do in response to the Intolerable Acts of Tyranny being poured out upon them by King George. This is called the First Continental Congress.

On September 7, before beginning so great a work, it was suggested they begin in prayer and beg God for divine intervention in their crisis.

A question was posed regarding whether individuals from various denominations could engage in collective prayer.

Sam Adams, the founder of the Sons of Liberty and the single man most responsible for our independence said, *“I am no bigot. I will pray with any man of piety who is also a patriot.”*

They called the local pastor of Christ Church, the Rev. Jacob Duche, who led in 2 hours of prayer and Bible study. In the picture on the screen, you will see the gentleman farmer from Virginia George Washington kneeling in prayer. Next to him was the famous orator, Patrick Henry. Standing above them, two cousins from Massachusetts, John Adams and Sam Adams. Across the room, kneeling in prayer was the man who would be the first Chief Justice of the first United States Supreme Court, John Jay from New York.

The very first meeting of the very first Continental Congress, before they began Congressional deliberations, the founding fathers of our country begged God for direction, protection and provision. From 1620 to 1774, America was literally founded on its knees.

7 months later in April, the first shots for liberty were fired. Where? In a church yard. Most have heard of Paul Revere’s famous midnight ride, but few know where he was riding. The British were marching to Lexington to confiscate guns from the citizens AND to arrest two revolutionaries – Sam Adams and John Hancock. Adams and Hancock were staying with Pastor Jonas Clarke of Lexington. Clarke was a brilliant theologian and intellect on principles of proper government according to Scripture. Pastor Clarke was a leading political mind in Massachusetts. When Revere informed the trio that the British were on the March, Adams and Hancock asked the pastor if his men would fight. Pastor Clarke replied, *“I trained them for this very hour; they would fight, and, if need be, die, too, under the shadow of the house of God.”*²

¹ Religious Pluralism in the Middle Colonies, Patricia U. Bonomi, Professor Emeritus, New York University, ©National Humanities Center

² Joel Headley, *Heroes of Liberty: Chaplains and Clergy of the American Revolution*

The first shots of liberty were fired in a church yard as 700 British soldiers were met by 77 men trained and led by their pastor and a deacon and veteran of the Indian Wars named Captain John Parker.

Congress met again in Philadelphia the following month in what we call the Second Continental Congress.

But even though blood had been spilled these men wanted peace and not war. They were proud Englishmen. These men in the Second Continental Congress wrote what history calls the ***Olive Branch Petition*** pledging their loyalty to the king and simply asking the King to respect their rights as British Citizens.

At the same time, they were wise enough to employ what I will call the NUCLEAR option – as they commissioned a man of prayer named George Washington as general of the Continental Army – they wanted peace but were willing to fight and die rather than become slaves.

Sadly, King George III would not even receive the Olive Branch Petition or read it. In August of 1775, King George declared the 13 colonies to be in rebellion. Secession from Great Britain now seemed to be inevitable.

Congress continued to meet as things were now moving quickly. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee from Virginia offered a resolution in Congress to dissolve political connection with Great Britain. Seconded by John Adams, the question was fiercely debated, passing 7 – 6.

On June 11, a "Committee of Five" consisting of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston were assigned to draft the Declaration. It was reported to Congress on June 28. On July 2, Congress voted on the Lee Resolution, in which the former 13 colonies became 13 sovereign states seceding from Great Britain. (12 aye, 0 nay, New York – abstained). The final wording was haggled over for two days and the official Declaration signed on July 4.

Thomas Jefferson opened with these words:

*When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which **the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them,***

This is key. These are not poetic prose from a 18th Century author, these were all known legal terms – defined in the second most popular book sold in America other than the Bible – Blackstone's Commentaries on the Law.

Sir William Blackstone was a famous Parliamentarian in England. He defined Natural Law like this:

*“Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator, for he is entirely a dependent being ... And consequently, as man depends absolutely upon his Maker for everything, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his Maker's will. This will of his Maker is called the law of nature... The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the **holy scriptures**...no human laws should be suffered to contradict these.”*

(Blackstone Commentaries on Law, Book One, Section Two)

America was built on a Biblical understanding of truth and what the Bible considered right or wrong. If God had spoken, the subject was settled. If God had not spoken, then man was free to legislate. But man did not have the authority and should not have the audacity to try and overrule God. Our founding fathers all agreed.

James Wilson, a member of the first US Supreme Court said, "*Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is Divine.*"

Thomas Jefferson continued in the words of our Declaration after stating our foundation was built on God and His Word.

...a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—

I have heard people misquote this term to defend any kind of abomination. This is not a license to licentiousness. Blackstone understood that as creations of God, we can only find happiness by walking in obedience to God's word and enjoying His blessings. **Blackstone Commentaries on Law, Book One, Section Two:**

For he has so intimately connected, so inseparably interwoven the laws of eternal justice with the happiness of each individual, that the latter cannot be attained but by observing the former; and, if the former be punctually obeyed, it cannot but induce the latter. In consequence of which mutual connection of justice and human felicity (happiness), he has not perplexed the law of nature with a multitude of abstracted rules and precepts, referring merely to the fitness or unfitness of things, as some have vainly surmised; but has graciously reduced the rule of obedience to this one paternal precept, "that man should pursue his own true and substantial happiness." This is the foundation of what we call ethics, or natural law.

Marrying, raising children, working, owning property and running a business are examples of some of the blessings God intends for man to enjoy and they are unalienable rights for man.

Jefferson continues:

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

The primary purpose of civil government was to secure man's unalienable God given rights. And whenever a government becomes perverse and begins to abuse its authority, the citizens have a right to alter it, to abolish it and start over, or to throw it off altogether as they were doing at that time with their Declaration of Independence from British Tyranny.

On July 4, 1776, as the Declaration of Independence was signed, thirteen British colonies instantly became 13 sovereign states, each having its own constitution. In each of the 13 original

states, one could not serve in office without professing to be a Christian and believing a Biblical Worldview.

Let me reference each of those 13 State Constitutions

- **Delaware:** *" I, A B. do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."*
- **Georgia:** *The representatives shall be chosen ...and they shall be of the Protestant religion*
- **Massachusetts:** *...every denomination of Christians, demeaning themselves peaceably, and as good subjects of the commonwealth, shall be equally under the protection of the law: and no subordination of any one sect or denomination to another shall ever be established by law.*
- **Virginia:** *...it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other.*
- **Rhode Island:** *...every person shall be free to worship God according to the dictates of such person's conscience.*
- **New Hampshire:** *...and no person shall be eligible to this office...unless he shall be of the Protestant religion.*
- **Vermont:** *" I ____ do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the Universe, the rewarder of the good and punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the scriptures of the old and new testament to be given by divine inspiration, and own and profess the protestant religion. "*
- **Maryland:** *Every person appointed to office or place of trust ... shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion.*
- **New Jersey:** *...all Persons, professing a Belief in the Faith of any Protestant Sect.*
- **Pennsylvania:** *"I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration." And no further or other religious test shall ever hereafter be required of any civil officer or magistrate in this State.*
- **North Carolina:** *That no person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this State.*

- **South Carolina:** *...and that no person shall be eligible to a seat in the said senate unless he be of the Protestant religion.*

Understand the contrast, for most of 6000 years, the entire world has seen tyrants ruling over subjects. They were servants of the government. Only in America, and only for these past 249 years have we seen public servants serving the citizens and securing the unalienable God given rights of same.

This is why America has been exceptional – we are the exception to this rule.

What was the difference? A literate, moral God fearing, Bible reading people who patterned their form of civil government after the model of the congregational church.

Any vile person can be controlled through chains, fences and guards. However, for a people to live in freedom, they must be moral and self governing.

President John Adams said in 1798 that the American system only works on a moral, Christian people who are capable of self-government.

*We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion...Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*³

In 1849, the Speaker of the House Robert Winthrop (Massachusetts) said:

*All societies of men must be governed in some way or other. The less they may have of stringent State Government, the more they must have of individual self-government. The less they rely on public law or physical force, the more they must rely on private moral restraint. Men, in a word, must necessarily be controlled, either by a power within them, or by a power without them; either by the Word of God, or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible, or by the bayonet. It may do for other countries and other governments to talk about the State supporting religion. Here, under our own free institutions, it is Religion which must support the State.*⁴

Every year, the Jewish people were required to return to Jerusalem three times a year for holy festivals. They were to remember and teach their children who they were as a people and who God was as their God. It is important that we in America do the same.

Ronald Reagan said in his farewell address:

So, we've got to teach history based not on what's in fashion but what's important -- why the Pilgrims came here, who Jimmy Doolittle was, and what those 30 seconds over Tokyo meant. You know, 4 years ago on the 40th anniversary of D - day, I read a letter from a young woman writing to her late father, who'd fought on Omaha Beach. Her name was Lisa Zanatta Henn, and she said, ``we will always remember, we will never forget what the boys of Normandy did." Well, let's help her keep her word. If we forget what we did, we won't know who we are. I'm warning of an eradication of the American memory that

³ John Adams, Charles Francis Adams. The works of John Adams, second president of the United States: with a life of the author, notes and illustrations, Volume 9. Little, Brown and Company. 1854.

⁴ Robert Winthrop (MA), US Speaker of the House, Speech to the Massachusetts Bible Society (May 28, 1849), quoted in Robert Winthrop, Addresses and Speeches on Various Occasions, Little, Brown & Co., 1852, p. 172.

*** 64 PowerPoint slides accompany this presentation containing many documented references.

could result, ultimately, in an erosion of the American spirit. Let's start with some basics: more attention to American history and a greater emphasis on civic ritual.

The Apostle Paul said that whatever we do we are to glorify God. The Bible gives not only teaches us about redemption from sin through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. But, the Bible also calls us to live lives of holiness in obedience to God.

As followers of Christ, we should follow Jesus in every area of life. Our marriages, our families, our work ethic, our integrity as businessmen, how we handle money, our sexual proclivities and how we approach this realm called civil government or politics should also glorify God.

If we do things Gods way, God will bless us. If we don't do things God's way, we should expect to suffer the consequences.

We have been reminded this morning of the great influence Christianity has had in America's heritage. We haven't always gotten it right. When we do, it is important that the Church leads the call to repentance and course correction.

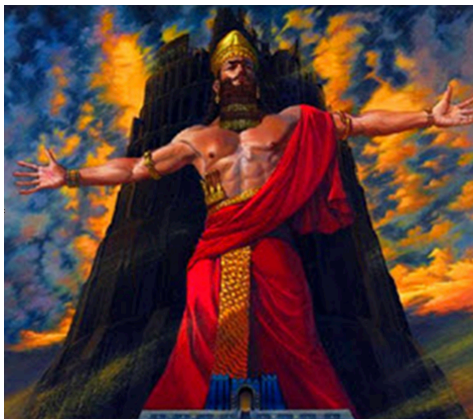
As we celebrate the 249th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration and begin the countdown to 250, I will periodically preach messages touching on important points in our country's history and the role the Bible has played in who we are and why we are here.

I would ask you to join me in kicking off this yearlong celebration by joining me in a 4 PART series released by Patriot Academy called REBUILDING LIBERTY! We will meet on Wednesday (or pick your nights) for 4 weeks beginning on _____.

One day, perhaps soon, the Lord will return. I pray that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the blessings of liberty that we take for granted until that day. We must do our part. But Jesus said, "What does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world, but lose his own soul?" My final question as we close is this: "If something happened and you died today, do you know that you would be in Heaven with Jesus?"

<https://libertypastorsu.com/digital-downloads/>

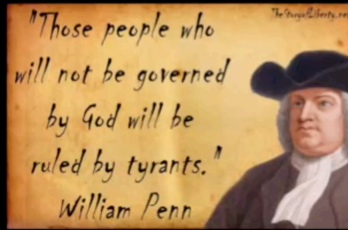
Paul Blaire : Role of pastors in American Heritage





Pennsylvania

William Penn
1681
Quaker





Patricia Banomi, Professor Emerita of New York University, in an article entitled *The Middle Colonies as the Birthplace of American Religious Pluralism* stated that:

“The colonists were about 98 percent Protestant.”

Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is Divine.



James Wilson,
Signer of the Constitution
U. S. Supreme Court Justice

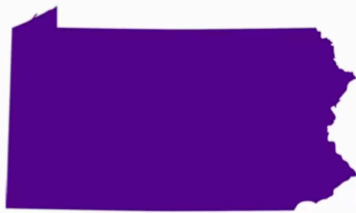


Maryland Constitution, 1776

Article LV. That every person, appointed to any office of profit or trust, shall, before he enters on the execution thereof, take the following oath; to wit :

" I, A. B., do swear, that I do not hold myself bound in allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and that I will be faithful, and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland; " and

shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion.



Pennsylvania

Section 10.

And each member, before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, viz:

"I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration."

And no further or other religious test shall ever hereafter be required of any civil officer or magistrate in this State.



North Carolina Constitution, 1776

Article XXXII.

That no person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall

Contrast

Monarchs
RULING
Subjects

Public servants
securing the Unalienable God given
rights of
Citizens

