

7-2-2016, COTR Texarkana

Title: The Faith of Our Founding Fathers

Purpose: Proclaim the Christian history of America's Founding Fathers and provoke people to stand for the same principles today.

Spiritual Truth: Our Founding Fathers gave us a nation built on God and the Bible.

Text: Psalm 33:12

Topic: America, Founding Fathers, 4th of July, Politics, Christian History

The Faith of Our Founding Fathers

I. Introduction

- A. Why do we celebrate the 4th of July as Independence Day? This day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, by the Continental Congress declaring that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and no longer part of the British Empire.

Wikipedia

- A.1. Thomas Jefferson wrote on behalf of a committee The Declaration of Independence says, "*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...* Jefferson and our Founders believed:

- A.1.a There is a God....Our rights come from God, not government....Civil governments are formed to protect our God-given rights....Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

- A.2. Those 13 colonies became the greatest nation in the history of the world. There's a reason: Psalm 33:12 (ESV) **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...** God blessed America so America would be a blessing to the world.

- A.3. *It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.* – Patrick Henry, Founding Father and Governor of Virginia.

- B. Today secular humanists are attempting to destroy every vestige of our Christian heritage and replace it with a man centered, godless, government controlled state. Today we'll talk about the Christian heritage of America and the Christian faith of our Founders. I want to not only educate you but challenge you to be a voice in society and stand for the Christian principles that made our nation great.

- C. Title: The Faith of Our Founding Fathers

- D. Purpose: Proclaim the Christian history of America's Founding Fathers and provoke people to stand for the same principles today.
- E. Spiritual Truth: Our Founding Fathers gave us a nation built on God and the Bible.

II. Video, Indisputable! America's Christian Heritage; [youtube.com/watch?v=IkRxTa1a7qc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkRxTa1a7qc)

III. The religious background of the Founders

- A. Of the 56 signers of the Declaration, all held religious affiliations and the vast majority were Christians: 32 were Episcopalian/Anglican, 13 were Congregationalist and 12 were Presbyterian. 4 of the signers were preachers.
http://www.adherents.com/gov/Founding_Fathers_Religion.html. 29 of the 56 signers of the Declaration held what are today considered seminary or Bible school degrees. Wallbuilders.com
- B. Today our Founders are depicted as a group of greedy, white men of privilege who only gave lip service to God and came to America to pillage and enslave people for their gain.

IV. Quotes of the Founders view of the Bible in society

- A. John Adams, 2nd President and signer of the Declaration of Independence said that *the general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I have examined all religions, and the result is that **the Bible is the best book in the world.***
- B. President Andrew Jackson, the 7th President declared, "*That book [**Holy Bible**], sir, is the rock upon which our republic rests.*"
- C. Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the founder of public schools, said ***the Bible should be used as a school textbook.*** He said *the Bible contains more truth than any other book...and if we removed the Bible from schools we'd waste time punishing crimes and spend little time preventing them.*
 - C.1. We've ignored his advice. In 1962/3 the Supreme Court removed prayer and Bible reading from public schools. (The biggest problem then was chewing gum, now it's violence). Teachers are reprimanded for having a Bible on their desk. Children are forbidden from sharing Bible verses in public school. The 10 commandments are no longer posted in school and are replaced by police and metal detectors.

v. Quotes of the Founders view of Jesus and Christianity

- A. George Washington, our 1st president and "Father of the country" said, "*You do well to wish to **learn...above all, the religion of Jesus Christ.***"

- B. John Hancock, signer of the Declaration of Independence and Governor of Mass. called on his state to *pray that that all nations may bow to the scepter of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and that **the whole earth may be filled with his glory.***
- C. Samuel Adams, governor and signer of the Declaration of the Independence said, "I . . . [rely] upon the merits of **Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.**"
- D. Modern view: President Obama in a speech said, whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation...we are Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and non-believers.

vi. The Founders view of God and government

- A. The 6th President John Quincy Adams said, "*The Declaration of Independence laid the **cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.***"
 - A.1. We're told today religion and government should be separated.
- B. President John Adams said, ***Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.***
- C. During the Constitutional Convention when the delegates were hopelessly bogged down in dissension, Ben Franklin said: "*In the beginning of the contest with Britain...we had daily prayers in this room for divine protection. Our prayers, sir,...were graciously answered.And **have we now forgotten that powerful Friend?** Or do we imagine that we no longer need [His] assistance?...I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth, **prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning.***" He also said Congress needed a chaplain.
- D. Our Founders gave us a Constitutional republic, i.e. a government in which officials are elected as representatives of the people, and must govern according to existing constitutional law that limits the government's power over citizens. The ultimate power was to be in the hands of the people and God. The Founders believed (1) God has principles for civil government and has made them known in the Bible. (2) Our forefathers studied and applied these God-given principles at the founding of America's civil government. (3) Almost all of the problems America is suffering today are a direct result of her departure from God's principles for civil government and moral conduct.
 - D.1. Jefferson Memorial Video: "*Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that **these liberties are the gift of God?***" Hence, the 1st amendment to the Constitution in the Bill of Rights, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...*"<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGKEHF-zXP4>

D.2. What happened to America? Our national motto is “In God we trust” but our godly heritage and religious freedoms are disappearing.

D.2.a (1) Christians have abandoned our citizenship responsibilities and secular people have taken over, Noah Webster, The Father of American Scholarship warned, *“If a republican gov. fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be **because the citizens neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men** to make and administer the laws.”*

D.2.b (2) Separation of church and state myth. In 1802 The Danbury Baptist Association wrote to President Thomas Jefferson to complain about the infringement of their religious liberty by their state legislature. He used the separation phrase to reassure them the state would not interfere with religion, not visa-versa. He was not advancing the modern view that religion must be excluded from the public square since he concludes his letter, written in his official capacity as President, with a brief prayer. In 1947 the Supreme Court left precedent and used the separation phrase to prohibit any government support or preference for religion. <http://www.heritage.org/initiatives/first-principles/primary-sources/jefferson-s-letter-to-the-danbury-baptists>

VII. America is at a Crossroads

- A. Chaplains and ministers can't pray in Jesus name at public functions... The Bible isn't respected in society... 1 million children are murdered every year in the name of choice... It's normal for men to marry men and women to marry women... we call wrong right and right wrong... yesterday's good guys are today's bad guys.
 - A.1. The Bible rightly describes our day: Proverbs 14:34 (NCV) Doing what is right makes a nation great, but **sin will bring disgrace to any people.**
- B. Our greatest need is a spiritual awakening. It starts in the church house not the state house. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) **if my people**, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
- C. Christian citizens can make a difference. The citizens of Texarkana, Ar. voted to repeal M-130, an ordinance that gave people special rights because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The leaders of the repeal were Christians who believe the words of Jesus in the Bible as the basis of marriage and sexuality, Matthew 19:4–5 (NIV) “Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning **the Creator ‘made them male and female,’** 5 and said, ‘For this reason **a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife**, and the two will become one flesh’?”

- C.1. These believers prayed but they did more. They voted, gave \$, spent lots of time gathering signatures, working the polls and encouraging voting. Some ridiculed their effort but God applauds it. Proverbs 14:34 (NCV) **Doing what is right makes a nation great**, but sin will bring disgrace to any people.
- C.2. Abraham Lincoln said, “*it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and **this nation should be on the Lord's side.***”
- C.3. Our Founders applied God’s principles to civil government and God blessed America. “We the people” repealed M-130; may God bless Texarkana, USA.

VIII. Conclusion: America’s greatness is because of God

- A. French statesman Alexis de Tocqueville came to America looking for the secret of its greatness. He wrote: *I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her...in her fertile fields and boundless forests — and it was not there ... in her rich mines and her vast world commerce — and it was not there ... in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution — and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her **pulpits flame with righteousness** did I understand the secret of her genius and power. **America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.***
- A.1. America’s future is up to people like us. If we do nothing: Government will get bigger, individual freedom will become a memory; religious freedom will bow to political correctness, the nation will collapse under the weight of debt and our children will live in a socialist state run by a dictator. Edmund Burke...***All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.*** But if we pray...if we engage the political process and show the American people the right way to go, there is hope that America could once again be “One nation under God.”

IX. Prayer: For a spiritual awakening in America and for us as Christian citizen-stewards.

- A. *** *Logos Bible Software and library, Noah Webster’s first edition of An American dictionary of the English language, Wallbuilders.com, were used to prepare this message.*