



the lake church

JULY 3, 2022



**Our success as a nation depends on our adherence to Christian principles.**

**I. AS A MATTER OF FACT ...**

a. Spiritual beliefs of our founders.

52 of 55 men at Constitutional Convention were orthodox, conservative Christians.

- Elias Boudinot – President of Continental Congress 1782 (1st President of American Bible Society 1816)
- John Jay – 1st chief justice of our supreme court – ABS Pres 1821.
- Francis Scott Key – National Anthem – VP of ABS from 1817 – 1843.
- Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin – were deists (not Christian) – but they understood need for a spiritual foundation for our country.
- Ben Franklin believed the Continental Congress should begin each session seeking God's favor.

b. The State Constitutions.

- Nearly all 13 colonies had a constitution with a state-sponsored Christian denomination.
- Representatives to the Constitutional Convention ... had to meet certain criteria. Each rep needed to pass a Christian test of faith.
- Proverbs 29:2
- God or the divine is referenced in ALL 50 state constitutions.
- California Preamble: "We, the People of the State of California, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure and perpetuate its blessings, do establish this Constitution."

## II. What about “SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE”?

- a. Where did it come from?
  - NOT in any government document.
  - Using 1st Amend to separate us from our Christian heritage was NEVER the intent.
  - 1802 – President Jefferson – first to authorize use of Capital building for first church service in Washington DC.
- b. Relevant Early Court Rulings:
  - Runkel v. Winemiller (1799) – Supreme Court of Maryland
  - Vidal v Girard’s Executors (1844)

So – What happened? Between THEN and NOW?

## III. GROWING THE CHURCH – State “Block Wall” of Separation

- First “block” (1947) Justice Hugo Black and Everson v. School Board of ED
- Next block (1962) Engel v. Vitale.
- Next block (1963) Abington School District v. Schempp.
- Next block (1967) DeSpain vs Dekalb County Community School District.
- Next block (1980) Stone v. Graham

## IV. ACTION STEPS

1. **PRAY**... For our nation. “What can I do today, Lord?”
2. **BE GRATEFUL** – for ALL He has done for you, yours and America.
3. **DO** what it says in 2 Chronicles 7:14
4. **REVERENCE** the Lord.
5. **Don’t go along** with the mockers and scorners. (Psalm 1:1)
6. **Be COURAGEOUS**. Speak the truth in love. (Eph 4:15)
7. **TEACH our grands** our real history – from real documents.

**Psalm 33:12 – Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord.**

Alexis de Toucqueville: *“America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”*