

We interrupt our current series on Needs, to bring you an important stand-alone sermon this morning celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Nation. There is way too much to cover in the brief time we have together this morning, but I want to encourage you to do your homework and due diligence to know what the true history of our country is; especially for the younger demographic who are not being taught this in our schools anymore. From the Pilgrims and the Puritans, from Christopher Columbus to Jamestown, from the pioneers and settlers to the original 13 Colonies, God's hand was guiding the founding of this great Nation.

We are not, and have never been a perfect nation. We have had and continue to have sins, flaws and failures; but we have also been blessed, been a blessing and have done considerable good as a society and in the world since our founding. We have consistently ranked in the top of generosity, both as a people group and as a Nation. The United States has historically sent the most missionaries around the world.

A lot of people want to focus on the negative things about our Nation. Many of them threaten to leave, but they never do. Those who complain the loudest are blinded to the freedom, the blessings and the opportunities afforded to them in this country that they have benefited from by living here. They are not grateful, nor thankful, but rather, are idealogues who search for the negative and attempt to rewrite history to suit their goals of division and destruction. The Scriptures have a stern warning for those types of people:

***"He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, But he who seeks evil, evil will come to him."***      **-Proverbs 11:27**

So many great examples have been set by the forerunners of our great Nation in relationship to Thanksgiving and Thankfulness. Proclamations and feasts from those who first arrived on our shores to Presidents who made

*With liberty and justice for all  
But something happened since Jefferson called the Bible the cornerstone  
For American liberty then put it in our schools as a light  
Or since "Give me liberty or give me death", Patrick Henry said  
Our country was founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ*

*Of the 55 men who formed our Constitution  
Fifty-two were active members of their church  
Founding fathers like Noah Webster, who wrote the first dictionary  
Could literally quote the Bible chapter and verse  
James Madison said, "We've staked our future on our ability to follow  
The Ten Commandments with all our heart"  
These men believed you couldn't even call yourself an American  
If you subvert the Word of God  
In his farewell address, Washington said, "You can't have  
National morality apart from religious principle," and it's true*

I could quote the Founding Father's for the next 4 hours straight! 34% of their quotes were directly from the Scriptures and over 50% were indirectly attributed to the Bible. Some will try to tell you that our founding fathers were deists and that's simply not true. **[READ QUOTES]** George Washington wrote his soldiers in 1778 and said [paraphrase], *"It's more important that you are a good Christian, than you are a good soldier."* John Adams said, *"The general principals on which the [Founding] Fathers achieved independence were the founding principles of Christianity."*

While many in our country are bringing division by highlighting and focusing on diversity, our founders were focused on unity, which was why our National motto used to be: E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One. Now it's In God We Trust.

Time forbids me of talking about other great leaders of our country like Abraham Lincoln, who God used to preserve our Union and finally bring an end to slavery here in our Nation; who was God appointed and God anointed, "for such a time as this," in his generation. I could talk about