

# A Nation Under God

By James B. Pentecost

It is beyond any possible understanding how a nation such as this, founded as a Christian nation and given unbelievable blessings of freedom; given the status of a Republic-- where the will of the majority may hold some sway, but the rights of everyone are protected by law - an so easily forget our Christian heritage. Yes, we were founded as a Christian nation there can be no doubt that this was what the Founding Fathers intended from the start. What they felt is blatantly obvious in reading the things they said or wrote. Consider:

"Every officer and man...live, and act, as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country."(George Washington, in his first general order to his troops.) And,

"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency." (George Washington in his inaugural address, 1789.) And,

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.

It is impossible to account for the creation of the universe, without the agency of a Supreme Being. It is impossible to govern the universe without the aid of a Supreme Being. It is impossible to reason without arriving at a Supreme Being. Religion is as necessary to reason, as reason is to religion. The one cannot exist without the other. A reasoning being would lose his reason in attempting to account for the great phenomena of nature, had he not a Supreme Being to refer to." (George Washington)

"The right to freedom being the gift of the Almighty...The rights of the colonists as Christians...may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutions of The Great Law Giver and Head of the Christian Church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament." (Samuel Adams, The Rights of the Colonists, 1782.)

"The use of the Bible is so universal and its importance so great that your committee refers the above to the consideration of Congress, and if Congress shall not think it expedient to order the importation of types and paper, the Committee recommends that Congress will order the Committee of Commerce to import 20,000 Bibles from Holland, Scotland, or elsewhere, into the different parts of the States of the Union." (The Continental

Congress, 1777.)

"An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States: Article III: Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged." (passed on July 13, 1787 and again and signed into law by President George Washington on Aug. 4, 1769.)

"When in the Course of human events, ot 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 entitles them... 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..."

We, Therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions...And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." (Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.)

"Upon my arrival in the United States the religious aspect of the country was the first thing that struck my attention; and the longer I stayed there, the more I perceived the great political consequences resulting from this new state of things...Religion in America...must be regarded as the foremost of the political institutions of that country; for if it does not impart a taste for

freedom, it facilitates the use of it...I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America...Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her greatness and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great. The safeguard of morality is religion, and morality is the best security of law as well as the surest pledge of freedom. The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other." (Alexis De Tocqueville, 1830)

"I never doubted, for instance, the existence of the Deity; that he made the world, and governed it by his Providence; that the most acceptable service of God was the doing good to man; that our souls are immortal; and that all crime will be punished, and virtue reward, either here or hereafter." (Benjamin Franklin, from his Autobiography), and in a letter March 1778: "A Bible and a newspaper in every house, a good school in every district-- all studied and appreciated as they merit-- are the principal support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty."

On June 28, 1787, the Constitutional Convention was deadlocked and in controversy. Benjamin Franklin rose and made the following plea to the delegates: "In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor.

To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the



means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth-- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid?

We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages...

I therefore beg leave to move-- that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our

deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service." (After doing this, a consensus was soon reached.)

"I have carefully examined the evidences of the Christian religion, and if I was sitting as a juror upon its authenticity I would unhesitatingly give my verdict in its favor. I can prove its truth as clearly as any proposition ever submitted to the mind of man." (Alexander Hamilton, 1787.)

"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. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."(Patrick Henry)

"Our excellent Constitution guarantees to every one freedom of religion, and charity tells us (and you know Charity is the real basis of all true religion)...judge the tree by its fruit.

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