

Except the Lord Build this Nation

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July 02, 2005 : “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:”[PSALM 127:1] [KJV]



The Fourth of July is in a few days and I thought I would take this opportunity to review with you some history about America and what makes it so great.

The way it was built upon Christian Principles that let us have the freedom that we enjoy in this country.

Our forefathers had the vision and the Christian Values that were needed to keep this country great. But we are losing these Christian Values very quickly.

~Mayflower Compact~



It can all go back as far as “The Mayflower Compact” when our forefathers left England for a better life some might say. But if you have ever read the Mayflower Compact, it starts off with “In the name of God, Amen.” And beginning in the next paragraph it says, “Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and the Advancement of the Christian Faith.” This is clear language that

it was a mission across the uncharted waters to a new land for the Glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith. This writing is clear, plain and to the point. This is our Christian Heritage. God was foremost in the establishment of this great nation. As one writer put it, “they lived it 24/7, with a Bible under one arm and a musket under the other.” They carved America out with the mission of advancing the Christian Faith.

~Oppression of Great Britain~

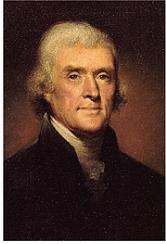
Some 150 years after The Mayflower Compact, the leaders of the thirteen colonies decided that they could no longer endure the oppression of Great Britain. The colonies had



repeatedly attempted to resolve the crisis without war. The British troops were sent in to discourage any rebellion. The thirteen colonies had no rights. They called it, “taxation without representation.”

~Declaration of Independence~

The original resolution confronting King George III with their grievances was introduced by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776, and it called for the



Continental Congress to declare the United States free from British rule. They met in the summer of 1776 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A committee was appointed three days later headed by Thomas Jefferson, along with Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Philip Livingston to prepare an appropriate writing for what was later known as “The Declaration of Independence.”

The first draft of the “Declaration of Independence” was submitted on June 28, 1776 and after various changes the document was voted on and approved on the afternoon of July



4, 1776. I understand there were a total of 86 changes that were made to the original draft. They wanted to get it right. John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence. It is known that he signed his name in very large writing so the King of England would not need his spectacles to read the name. They meant business; all of the fifty-six signers from the thirteen colonies.

The forefathers were not ready to declare war, but did want to let their concerns be known to King George III of England. These original thirteen colonies were then the United States.

~Christian Overtones~

What makes this country great was that we had a choice and that is what makes the Bible and Christianity so great is that we have a choice. We can choose to follow Christ or we can leave Him out of our live. It’s not mandatory that we come to Him. We are free moral agents. It’s not wise to leave Him out of every area of our life, but we can.

The document had a Christian overtone throughout the list of grievances against their Mother Country. They started off this great document with, “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.” In the beginning of this document the name of God is mentioned clearly, “Creator.” They

recognized the importance of God in all the affairs of man and Country. God would and should never be left out of any aspects of man and country.



A number of paragraphs later the Representatives of the United States of America were appealing to the God Almighty. The document reads, “Appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world.” There can only be one Supreme Judge, God; the creator of all things. They knew where to go to get divine help.

The last paragraph of the Declaration reads in part, “With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

The Lord our God is surely in this Great document which is known as the birth certificate of this country. These men gave it all; they would now be considered criminals in the eyes of England’s King George III and several would be put to death as well other misfortunes would come to them. It reminds me of what Jesus said in John 15:13; *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”* [JOHN 15:13] [KJV] These brave men surely put their life on the line for their brothers and sisters; all fifty-six of them from the thirteen states.

~The Price of Freedom~

There is a price to pay for freedom, of these fifty-six men;

- + five were captured and tortured until they died.
- + twelve had their home looted and occupied by the enemy before they were burned.
- + two had sons killed in the war that followed.
- + one had two sons captured.
- + nine others died during the war because of hardships.
- + They all served in the first Congress without pay.
- + Many loaned their own money to the war effort and were never reimbursed. ¹



¹ Zell Miller, 2005, “A Deficit of Decency” p. 171

These men were from many walks of life;

- ✚ John Adams from Maine, Thomas Jefferson from Virginia, John Penn from North Carolina were all lawyers.
- ✚ Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania was printer, publisher.
- ✚ John Hancock from Maine was a merchant.
- ✚ There were also physicians, judges, farmers, soldiers and educators.



When the War for Independence ended and we had won our freedom; the states of our union were still poor and divided. Each went their separate ways and was not united as a nation. For the good, strength, and safety of the nation the forefathers knew we had to be brought together and united. They knew that France or Spain could invade and would be victorious if we were not together.



They called a meeting and only five states showed up. They called another and announced that the great military hero of the war, George Washington would preside. After several tries the states came together for the meeting, but were still divided and each state didn't trust the other states. They were divided in many ways. But the forefathers knew that to be successful and for the good of the nation that they would have to come together.

Just as John Hancock had said while drafting the "Declaration of Independence," "We must hang together." And then Benjamin Franklin added, "Yes, for if we don't hang together, we will hang separately." This was the same situation in uniting the states as the drafting of the "Declaration of Independence." The states must be brought together for the good of their own future and for the strength of the Nation. No state could stand alone and survive.



While trying to unite the states, in one of the meetings it looked as if they would break up and go home. When the oldest man there, eighty-one-year-old Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, who was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence stood up and faced George Washington who was presiding at the meeting. Then Benjamin Franklin made one of the most favorite speeches of his life and the life of this nation.

Benjamin Franklin first reminded them that they had declared independence just a few years earlier, and continued to remind them that at the time, “We prayed for divine guidance,” in this very room. Our prayers were heard and answered.” The room changed to a quiet and you could have heard a pin drop. He then asked, “Have we forgotten that powerful friend, or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance?”

As they were listening quietly he continued; “I have lived a long, long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth; that God governs the affairs of man. And, if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His assistance?” The answer was clear, but still no one uttered a word. “I now make a motion that we take a break and that we pray for Divine Guidance.” They did, and when they returned a few days later, they found a renewed atmosphere of trust and mutual respect allowing them to finish their great work.²

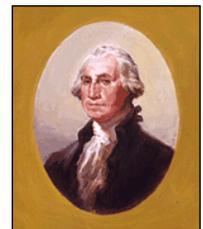
~ God’s Role~

Can it be any clearer that God was at work and played a very important part in the creating of this great Nation of the United States of America? From the very beginning God-fearing and God-worshiping men were leading it. It gets us back to Psalm 127:1; “*Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:*”[PSALM 127:1] [KJV]

God plays just as an important role today as he did over 200 years ago. We cannot be a great-nation, a God-fearing nation and a God-worshiping nation without acknowledging our Creator and Supreme Lord of the Universe, the creator of all things. Every



president from George Washington to George W. Bush has included some reference to God in his inaugural address. God is part of this nation, regardless of what others may say or do



to get the name of God and the ten-commandments off every school yard, courthouse and other government buildings. God is a part of us; it’s in the history of this great nation. Proven by, examining the history concerning the founding fathers. There is no doubt that the forefathers went to the Lord for divine guidance when writing the documents that we still live by and are guided by in this country today.

² Zell Miller, 2005, “A Deficit of Decency” p. 172

~What makes the United States Great?~



In the early 1800s a young French journalist by the name of Alexis de Tocqueville traveled the country and was to write an assessment of what he found that made this country so great? In his book “Democracy in America” he wrote the following:

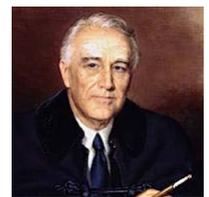
In the end, the state of the Union comes down to the character of the people. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, and it was not there. I sought for it in the fertile fields, and boundless prairies, and it was not there. I sought it in her rich mines, and vast world commerce, and it was not there. I sought it 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 aflame 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, she 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.

~So help us God~

The World War II Memorial in Washington has President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s



famous Infamy speech of December 8, 1941 quoted. It goes like this; “With confidence in our armed forces – with the unbounded



determination of our people – we will gain the inevitable triumph.” The next line should have read – “So help us God” – but is not included. Can you believe that “So help us God” is not etched into the memorial because it has the word “God?” All these men and women named on this memorial died to give us the freedom of this nation that we now have. We all know that God plays a part in all wars. Our forefathers proudly worshipped and

prayed to God as well as wrote about His Divine Guidance that they received in the establishing of this Country.

~**God in this Country**~

- ✚ Our money is stamped with “In God We Trust.”
- ✚ Above the door of the Senate are the words “In God We Trust.”
- ✚ Abraham Lincoln called the Bible the greatest gift God gave to man.

In Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address engraved on the wall at the Lincoln Memorial are



these immortal words: “That this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this earth.” Are we going to sandblast all the monuments that has the word “God” on them or any reference to God?

Such as the Washington Memorial that has verses from Luke and Proverbs etched into its granite. I guess they believe “Out of sight, Out of mind.” But folks it’s not true, God will always be here regardless of how others try to destroy Him. But, we must seek Him and His wisdom in all aspects of our life. As one author put it, “If a child is not allowed to lead his class in prayer, then why should that same class be allowed to visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and read the words, “Here lies an American soldier, Known but to God?”

A Christian by the name Jim Finnegan, told reporters: “Our founding fathers didn’t take religion out of the state. They took the state out of religion.”

Peter Marshall, the great chaplain of the United States Senate, prayed the following prayer before the U.S. Senate. Not sure of the date, but he died suddenly in 1949.

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth, and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

In the end this is what it is all about, to please do what is right. As the saying goes, “Just do the right thing.” And the right thing is about Jesus Christ; what would Jesus do?

“Do The Right Thing”

~The Answer~

God tells us in II Chronicles 7:14, you probably all know it; lets say it together.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

[2 Chronicles 7:14] [KJV]

“Except the LORD build the house (nation), they labour in vain that build it:”

[PSALM 127:1] [KJV]

Amen and Amen, to the Glory of God.

I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take credit for these writings since there are many. In many cases, I did not keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this study. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This is my own opinions based on my understanding of Scripture as the Word of God.



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Side notes of the signers:

John Adams was our second president 1797-1801 and died July 4, 1826.
He served two terms as vice-president under George Washington.

Thomas Jefferson was our third president 1801-1809 and died July 4, 1826.
Jefferson had died a few hours before John Adams.