

INDEPENDENCE DAY, 2019

This morning we want to take this opportunity to Thank God for the independence that we have received as a nation. This nation has been blessed by God and it is due to His blessings that we have prospered for 243 years of our national existence.

When John Quincy Adams, was invited to speak to the town of Newburyport, Mass., on **Independence Day, July 4th, 1837**, many of the Founders had passed away, and Adams was invited because he was about the last one left who could relate to the times when our Declaration of Independence was signed and afterword fought for. In his introduction of that speech he says:

Why is it, Friends and Fellow Citizens, that you are here assembled? ... Why is it that, next to the birth day of the Savior of the World, your most joyous and most venerated festival returns on this day?—And why is it that, among the swarming myriads of our population, thousands and tens of thousands among us, abstaining, under the dictate of religious principle, from the commemoration of that birth-day of Him, who brought life and immortality to light, yet unite with all their brethren of this community, year after year, in celebrating this the birthday of the nation?

Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon the earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity...

Notice that Adams linked the birth of Jesus Christ to the birth of this nation. And in his speech he testifies to the indissoluble link that existed between the Founders who fought for independence and their reliance upon Jesus Christ when they signed that declaration. At least fifty-two of the fifty-six signers were orthodox bible believing Christians. Today, they would be categorized as extreme religious far right by liberals and democrats. And each one knew, when signing that document, that they were signing their death warrant if they were ever caught. In deed. 5 were caught and executed. Another 9 died in the war. Others had their homes burned to the ground and a number of them went completely broke. Yet they reflect the sentiment of David in Psalms 144.

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Psalm 144:1 Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; (2) he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples [nations] under me...

(9) I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you, (10) who gives victory to kings ...

(12) May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace; (13) may our granaries be full, providing all kinds of produce; may our sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields; (14) may our cattle be heavy with young, suffering no mishap or failure in bearing; may there be no cry of distress in our streets!

(15) Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall! Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!

The understanding of our Founding Fathers that Christ must reign is seen in **Psalm 2**, a Psalm which was often alluded to by our Framers. This Psalm speaks of the reign of Christ. Part of it reads:

Psalm 2:5 Then He [YHWH] will speak to them [the nations] in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, (6) “But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.” ... (8) [To the Son He says] “Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession. (9) You shall break them [the nations] with a rod of iron, you shall shatter them like earthenware.” (10) Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. (11) Worship [from *abad*, “serve”; the word is commonly used for one who serves another; Jacob “served” Laban] the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling. (12) Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all [“nations”] who take refuge in Him!

Christ is given the inheritance of nations and as such He rules over them to bless those that honor Him or to punish those that spurn His rule (Psalm 2:9).

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The Founders understood these principles and made clear proclamations concerning the necessity of following Christ and God's Laws. As has been pointed out, the motto of the American Revolution was, "**No king but King Jesus.**"

So we find that even during the war with Great Britain, a number of Thanksgiving Day declarations were issued giving thanks to God for the various victories during the war. In these declarations they would ask God to continue to bless their war efforts and well as commerce and education, and also that the Kingdom of His gospel would spread to the ends of the earth. In their declarations the Kingdom of Jesus Christ was paramount. Thomas Jefferson, for example, as governor of Virginia, also issued a declaration of thanksgiving in 1779, at the height of the war:

I appoint... a day of public Thanksgiving to Almighty God. . . to ask Him that He would...pour out His Holy Spirit on all ministers of the Gospel; that He would... spread the light of Christian knowledge through the remotest corners of the earth;...and that He would establish these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue.

Then in winning our independence, the Founders gave us a constitution that came through much prayer and a hefty amount of historical research, bible reading and debate. In all of this, they gave credit for the freedoms of this nation, not to the Constitution or to the Congress, but to Jesus Christ.

Patrick Henry said, "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."

John Quincy Adams: "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it connected into one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

Horace Greely: "It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a bible reading people. The principles of the bible are the groundwork of our freedom."

Alexis de Tocqueville was a famous French statesman, historian and philosopher. Beginning in 1831, he and Gustave de Beaumont toured America for the purpose of observing the American people and their institutions. His two-part work, which was published in 1835 and 1840, was entitled *Democracy in America*. Robert N. Bellah, in *Habits of the Heart*, described it as "the most comprehensive and

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penetrating analysis of the relationship between character and society in America that has ever been written.” In it De Tocqueville writes:

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. Indeed, it is in this same point of view that the inhabitants of the United States themselves look upon religious belief. I do not know whether all Americans have a sincere faith in their religion—for who can search the human heart? But I am certain that they hold it to be indispensable to the maintenance of republican institutions. This opinion is not peculiar to a class of citizens or a party, but it belongs to the whole nation and to every rank of society.

The Sects [Christian denominations] that exist in the United States are innumerable. They all differ in respect to the worship which is due to the Creator; but they all agree in respect to the duties which are due from man to man. Each sect adores the Deity in its own peculiar manner, but all sects preach the same moral law in the name of God.. Moreover, all the sects of the United States are comprised within the great unity of Christianity, and Christian morality is everywhere the same.

In the United States the sovereign authority is religious, ...there is no country in the world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America, and there can be no greater proof of its utility and of its conformity to human nature than that its influence is powerfully felt over the most enlightened and free nation of the earth.

In the United States the influence of religion is not confined to the manners, but it extends to the intelligence of the people... Christianity, therefore reigns without obstacle, by universal consent; the consequence is, as I have before observed, that every principle of the moral world is fixed and determinate...

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I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her harbors...; in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public-school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless constitution.

Not until I went to 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 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... Christianity is the companion of liberty in all its conflicts—the cradle of its infancy, and the divine source of its claims.

They brought with... a form of Christianity, which I cannot better describe, than by styling it a democratic and republican religion...From the earliest settlement of the emigrants, politics and religion contracted an alliance which has never been dissolved. [That is, up to the point of his writing]

What De Tocqueville was pointing to in this final remark was that one's political position was being advocated by his Christian principles.