**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Celebrating God’s Opportunities**

**on the 4th of July**

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July 4th In the Year of Our Lord

(Anno Domini A.D.) 2021

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted.)

**On July 4th** of every year since 1776, there has been the American Republic’s national observation of 56 men who *signed* the Declaration of Independence (D.I.). Their signatures paved the way, after the Revolutionary War victory for the U.S. Constitution (U.S.C). Historians tells us, what is well-known, that 52 of the 55 *framers* of the U. S. C. were members of Christian Churches. Thirty-nine (39) men signed the U.S.C. with many demanding for a Bill of Rights that was promised and produced, being ratified by the 13 states (1791).

Contained within the D.I. as compared to the U.S. C., there are four notations of God.

The Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God….”

“All Men are created equal … they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights….”

“Appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions….”

“With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

 Scholars often point to the U.S.C. as not mentioning God. It is true that in the main body of the text that God is not mentioned, because the Founders did not want to establish a government of religion. However, there was an overall view that all their work was under the watchful eye of God, the Creator, who had a providential hand in guiding America. These were smart men who were very detailed in every aspect of their work. They all signed the Constitution under the recognition that they were in the “Year of our Lord”. This leaves no doubt that they all knew and accepted a basic Christian worldview and acknowledged the incarnation by its date.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September **in the Year of our Lord** one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth.

In Witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names.

**George Washington-President and deputy from Virginia**

https://www.usconstitution.cc/

It was Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin who proposed a Great Seal of America to depict the American people to be led by God’s *Cloud by Day* and *Fire by Night -* reminiscent of the Hebrews exiting Egypt. Their seal was not adopted. Congress voted for an Eagle to be embossed on the great seal of America.

There were six (6) men who signed both documents. The fact is that many of the signers of the D.I. were not available to sign the U.S.C. George Washington was not able to sign the D.I. due to his military duties.

September 17, 1787, is when 39 of the 55 delegates signed the U.S.C. Again, those who refused to sign did so because of the lack of a Bill of Rights. There was also a consideration that the Constitution did not address slavery which was an internationally state-sponsored business started by European governments in collaboration with Islamic and African slave traders. Most of these economies were ingrained in the slave trade. Despite these challenges, the founding documents were signed laying the foundation for freedom for people. The fulfillment of the Constitution would only come in time. History has proven the U.S. Constitution to be a work-in-progress.

However, the new Republic would learn through the implementation of these documents that freedom for all people comes by the shedding of more blood beyond the Revolutionary War. As giant a leap in human history that was made by the signing of the D.I. and the U.S.C., it would fall short in bringing peace between a people and God and every person with their neighbor. No written instrument of man can bring peace. Only God can bring peace through His love and forgiveness. God calls all people to surrender to Him.

"Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:22) (Romans 10:13)

Compared to world history, these Founders of America came closer to God’s intent for a people than anyone had come previously. These men believed in something. They had made an internal determination based upon that which they founded their lives, which was the belief in the eternal God.

By signing the D. I., there was not any going back. They knew their names, families and communities would be forever linked to their view of the cause and sacrifice of freedom. They laid down the future of their children. They had weighed the cost and found it worthy.

I went to the National Archives web site and found this presentation of a 1776 reality.

Are you sure you want to sign the Declaration of Independence?

If you had been a member of the Second Continental Congress in 1776, you were a rebel and considered a traitor by the King. You knew that a reward had been posted for the capture of certain prominent rebel leaders and the largest British armada ever assembled was just outside New York harbor. Affixing your name to the document meant that you pledged your life, your fortune, and your sacred honor to the cause of freedom.

Yes, I want to sign!

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/join-the-signers>

 I believe that every American needs to accept and appreciate the fact that the American Republic is the best governmental hope for mankind. Due to the work of American Founders over the past two centuries, there has been progressive movement in the understanding and application of the government’s role in leveling the opportunities to pursue *life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*. All of this progress has come at a price. History tells us that freedom and peace only has come through the shedding of blood. The American Civil War and the Civil Rights era of the 1960’s highlight the progression of a nation coming to the realizations that we must seek and fight for freedom. America’s history has proved this freedom battle is an on-going process. These are internal battles. There have obviously been external battles such as WW I and WW II.

 We have all heard that *freedom is not free*. But what is the cost of Freedom? Blood. To mention again - that freedom has become more encompassing through the American Revolution, the Civil War and the Civil Rights era. All of these called for the shedding of blood. Did the Founders of America or anyone plan for all the blood shedding to take place once they broke from the tyranny of King George?

We see a glimpse of the caution and speculation in Benjamin Franklin’s famous 1787 quote as he left the convention. A woman asked him what kind of government they had passed – “A Republic, if you can keep it”. Franklin was right. Only through war and civil war and the shedding of blood has America been kept. It was Abraham Lincoln who was determined to keep the Southern States in the Union. Lincoln insisted that they were just rebellious and never left the Union. Thus, it was so, after the surrender at Appomattox. The Union was preserved but only through the shedding of blood. (Over 600,000 soldiers died. This does not account for civilian losses).

 I want you to keep in mind that the price of freedom is the shedding of blood. America, the best hope of a free people in history, is only kept by the shedding of blood. What does this tell us about humanity overall? We are told that our best efforts lead to loss of life. Governments cannot provide oversight to preserve life for everyone. Governments can only give guidelines. People, irrespective of Governments, must/should manage their own affairs.

**Shedding of Blood, Pharrell’s The Cross of Christ (John 3:16)**

The Bible declares that it takes the shedding of blood to forgive sin.

**Hebrews 9:22** (CSB)According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

**Leviticus 17:11** (CSB) For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.

 There are realities in our world. People form governments to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness but then exist for 230 years shedding hundreds of thousands of lives (blood) in that endeavor. America now has the fruit of that advancing struggle, and, at the same time, struggles with defining the boundaries of individual lifestyles as a culture. Government has shifted in protecting individual rights of race, religion, gender, association, press, assembly and age to being in the business of promoting sexual preferences and practices. This self-claimed new role is not anywhere in the U.S.C.

 Sticking to the thought that the “shedding of blood” has brought advances in defining freedom for citizens, we see that it was, and is, the “shedding of blood” that started with God that brings peace to the fallen world. 16 *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.* John 3:16

**Romans 3:25** whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

**Hebrews 2:17** Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**1 John 2:2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world.

**1 John 4:10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

 From these Scriptures, we see that government’s attempt to govern only has brought the “shedding of blood” to attain at best a temporary order to things. God’s shedding of His own blood opens the invitation to all who surrender to Him that they will gain eternal life. This is not a temporary gain but an eternal destination.

**When do we see secular government come to be in the Bible?**

I Samuel 8 tells us of a people (Hebrews) clamoring for a secular king. The truth is that the people saw the sons of Samuel making bad choices. Samuel was getting old, and the people saw that his sons would soon replace him. So, the people wanted their own king.

What do we learn from this account? When men who are thought to be godly fail, people turn to themselves. They said they wanted to be like their neighbors and have a king to protect them and guide them. So, Samuel was directed by God to find and anoint a king. Thus, Saul was found and anointed. Saul’s kingship led to tragic consequences. Saul and his sons cost the people a national price as Saul extracted taxes and youthful bodies for his construction projects and military. All of which God warned the people a king would do. In the end, Saul and his sons were killed in battle in humiliating fashion and their corpses paraded around by their enemies.

 When I first read the account of Saul, I thought – Gee, a king anointed by God’s prophet Samuel - what a loser. I mean. . . constantly Saul rebelled against God. Then I thought. . . no wonder governments often disappoint their people they are supposed to nurture and protect. With man in the lead, even anointed by God, things go wrong. The lesson of the account is for people to keep their focus on God for their peace.

 American Presidential administrations are not any different than the administrations of King Saul, David or Solomon (about 1020 – 900 B.C. – 1st United Monarchies). Kin to anointing the Hebrew Kings, all of America’s presidents, starting with George Washington, are sworn into office with their hand on the Bible. Thus, a Divine link to their administration. My view is that their hand on the Bible is a statement by them that there is a higher authority than themselves - in the heavens, specifically God, The Creator. It also harkens back to the coronation of the kings of Europe by the Pope. This act was to tell the people that God was behind the King and his rule origins its authority to govern by God and His Bible.

 We are not Pollyanna and think that all Presidents have administered their office or conducted their affairs consistent with God’s Word. In my lifetime, the list is long of those Presidents who ignored God’s Word even though they were sworn into office with their hand on the Bible. Take your pick. . . JFK with Marilyn, Nixon and Watergate, Clinton and Monica, Obama and gay marriage, and Biden doing the bidding of the genocide Democrat party supporting abortion on demand and transgender lifestyles. . . all with their hand on the Bible. Who lied? They all did and do.

 So, all American Presidents, like king Saul, have the choice to carry-out their office heeding to God’s direction written in His Bible.

 Let us go back and look at the first President, George Washington, who was called from his retirement to serve. We could review President Washington’s presidential record, but we will go directly to his Farewell Address printed in newspapers.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked: Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? **And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion.** Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that **national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.**

It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?

Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

<https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=15&page=transcript>

These words come to us from a man who served his country through the Revolutionary War and eight years in the highest public office in the land. We can see and receive Washington’s characterization of America’s intent to be a Godly country with people who pursued God and His word in their public and private life. Washington did not call for the government to establish a religion, but he made it clear that America was founded upon religious moral principles and adherence to the religious moral principles would safe- guard citizen’s property and lives. And without pursuance of religion and morality - citizen’s lives and property would not be safe.

It is my view that we must assign the application of George Washington’s Farewell Address to every following generation. When we do, what do we find?

We find that many Americans do not know that George Washington wrote his Farewell Address much less what he said in that address. The address is not taught in public schools or at universities unless someone majors in that field of study. So, there is not any impact. It is called “revisionist history” by omission.

In the last half century, there has been one office holder after another who did not have any regard for religion or morality as already detailed. The citizens vote for candidates. The problem is that too many voting citizens do not weigh the candidate’s morality. Thus, public office holders, including the current President, have not any moral authority by which to govern.

The citizens, including pastors and educators within the church, must inform the public.

Jesus called His disciples together before He ascended to Heaven and said to them. . . "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Matthew 28:18-20**

AMEN