

The Eroding Foundation

Introduction. On July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, 56 courageous men signed the Declaration of Independence. This grand document is not only a revered part of our history, but the foundation of our republic. Although the Declaration is not a long document, it has five references to God — He is called “the Creator,” “Nature’s God,” “the Supreme Judge,” and the source of “Divine Providence.”

While our founding fathers held varying religious beliefs, it is apparent they were men of deep religious convictions based on the Bible. Almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence held seminary or Bible school degrees. John Hancock, the first signer of the Declaration, admonished, “Continue steadfast and, with a proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us.” John Adams, our second President wrote, “The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.” Thomas Jefferson affirmed, “God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God?”

On this 238th anniversary of our nation’s birthday, forces are hard at work to deny our God honored history. Pride, laziness, immorality, disrespect for the life of the unborn, and disregard for the sanctify of marriage are all issues chipping away at the moral foundation of our country.

David raised an important question 3,000 years ago, and it is still relevant to our day: “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3). What can we do with a country that is rapidly changing around us?

I. Trust In The Sovereignty Of God

- A. God is in control (Jeremiah 18:7-10). Governments exist because God ordained them (Romans 13:1-2).
- B. When He is ready to bring a country to its knees, He will (Daniel 4:17, 25, 32). In the meantime, trust in God and let Him be your shield (Psalm 106:47-48).

II. Pray For Our Leaders

- A. It is very easy to criticize, call names, hurl insults, question integrity, and demean the office. Listen to Paul and pray more and criticize less (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

- B. Many of the decisions and needs in this country lay frustratingly outside my influence, but they are not beyond God's (Proverbs 21:1). Balance each comment of criticism about your country with an earnest prayer for help to your God. Our country needs the wisdom of God (Proverbs 3:5-6).

III. Make Your Faith Apparent

- A. To the eyes of a corrupt culture our walk carries much more weight than our talk (Ephesians 4:1). Live in the world and do not isolate yourself from others (John 17:11, 14-15, 18).
- B. Our conduct among unbelievers needs to be so honorable and our deeds so good that their minds are elevated to think about God (1 Peter 2:11-12, 15).
- C. A Chinese proverb says, "Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." In your job, social circle, or neighborhood, exhibit the character of Christ.

IV. Fortify Your Family

- A. Make your family a Christ-centered home. Men, love your wives and lead your home, teaching your children to be righteous (Ephesians 5:25-6:4). Ladies, be the godly wife and mother the Lord expects (Titus 2:4-5).
- B. You cannot isolate your children from the world, but you can insulate them with divine principles that will fortify their faith and guide them in making righteous decisions (Hebrews 11:24-27).

V. Celebrate Your Citizenship

- A. We are grateful to be Americans! You may march in a parade, shoot fireworks, fly your flag, support a political party, or even give a speech.
- B. But remember that your real citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 21:27). You are a pilgrim and stranger. Let your homesick heart yearn with expectation for someplace better (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16).

Conclusion. We would do well to remember the words of President Ronald Reagan when he spoke at a prayer breakfast on August 23, 1984: "You know, if we look back through history to all those great civilizations, those great nations that rose up to even world dominance and then deteriorated, declined, and fell, we find they all had one thing in common. One of the significant forerunners of their fall was their turning away from their God. Without God, there is no virtue, because there's no prompting of the conscience. Without God, we're mired in the material, that flat world that tells us only what the senses perceive. Without God, there is a coarsening of

the society. And without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

Proverbs 14:34 says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." In order to have a righteous country, we need righteous people. All of you who can hear my voice have the capacity to be redeemed and blessed in God's sight (Daniel 12:1-3). The inscription on Ronald Reagan's tombstone says, "I know in my heart that man is good, that what is right will always eventually triumph, and there is purpose and worth to each and every life." Your goodness, purpose, and worth will be found in being a Christian and righteously following the Lord. If you need to answer the call of the gospel, respond as we stand and sing our invitation song.

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