

Decision 2012, part 1

October 14, 2012

A Baptist minister wrote “The Pledge” in 1892.

- It was adopted by Congress in 1942.
- In 1954, the words “Under God” were added by Congress.
- President Eisenhower pushed through the initiative to add “Under God.”
- Eisenhower stated, “From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty. . . . In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war.”

The “Wall of Separation” has taken a whole new meaning in the last 40 years, which the Founders never intended.

The allegiance of the Christian should not be to a political party or any personal benefit promised by the government, but to the Word of God and the doctrine of Jesus.

Today Christians are accused of being “intolerant,” while the very freedoms that demand tolerance came from the principles of Christianity.

We will take a historical look to see where the freedoms we enjoy originated.

What is the responsibility of a Christian in society?

Matthew 5:11-16 – ¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹³ **You are the salt of the earth**; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ **You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men**, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Patrick Henry full quote of “Give me Liberty”:

- "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the Gospel

of Jesus Christ. We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations. The battle is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, ALMIGHTY GOD! Give me liberty or give me death!"

- *Patrick Henry of the Constitutional Convention*

What foundation was this great nation built upon? If you crumble the foundation, ruin is certain.

"The religion which has introduced **civil liberty** is the religion of Christ and His Apostles. . . This is genuine Christianity and to this we **owe our free constitutions of government.**" - *Noah Webster*

"He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of a primitive Christianity, will change the face of the world" - *Benjamin Franklin*

Example: Pond and the Stream Analogy

- If you cut off the stream the pond will stagnate and die.
- The stream or foundation of this nation's plurality is Christianity and the pond is the place of tolerance, freedom, plurality and open dissent.

HISTORICAL FACTS:

- Over half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence received their education from seminaries or Bible schools.
- 95% of the Founding Fathers were Christians and open about their faith.
- John Hancock, while governor of Massachusetts, issued 24 prayer proclamations, one of which was a call to pray and fast that if someone doesn't know Christ, that he would come to know Christ.
- John Trumble, signer of the Declaration of Independence and Harvard graduate, while governor of Connecticut issued a proclamation that offerings should be taken up across the state to fund missionaries for the preaching of the gospel.
- We moved into the U.S Capital building in 1800 and on December 4, 1800, one of the first official acts of congress in the new capital building was to approve the use of the Capital for a church building.
 - Thomas Jefferson was the President of the Senate and approved it.
 - Later Jefferson, also as President of the U.S., attended church in the Capital for 8 years and ordered the Marine Corp band to come and play for the worship.
 - Jefferson initiated and secured funding from the Federal government to send missionaries to evangelize the Indian population.
 - Jefferson was one of the least "religious" of the founders.
- The Founders promoted "Freedom of Religion," not "Freedom from Religion" and they freely expressed their faith in a public and political forum.
- It was the position of devout Christian Founders that America would be a land of tolerance, diversity, individual rights all blending together in harmony.

“America sees the absurdities--she sees the kingdoms of Europe, disturbed by wrangling sectaries, or their commerce, population, and improvements of every kind cramped and retarded, because the human mind like the body is fettered 'and bound fast by the chords of policy and superstition': America laughs at their folly and shuns their errors: America founds her empire upon the idea of universal toleration: America admits all religions into her bosom; America secures the sacred rights of every individual; and she sees a thousand discordant opinions live in the strictest harmony . . . America will finally raise her to a pitch of greatness and luster, before which the glory of ancient Greece and Rome shall dwindle to a point, and the splendor of modern Empires fade into obscurity.” - *Noah Webster*

"We've staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us . . . to Govern ourselves according to the commandments of God. The future and success of America **is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded.**" - *President James Madison*