

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



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OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Brief American History & the Bible

Over the past few years there has been a major decline in thinking America is a good/great country. Schools have tried to penalize students from flying the American flag on the back of their trucks. HOA members attempted to intimidate a WWII vet into removing his American flag he was flying in his own yard. Students have been taught that America is bad. That it was founded on slavery, that the Founding Fathers were all a bunch of greedy, slave-owning racist, and none of them were Christian.

Are someone who wants to know what our Founding Fathers actually thought. If you have the time, you can read the book, the Federalist Papers – a compilation from John Jay, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton. They explain many of the ideas behind the Constitution.

If you go to Wallbuilders.com, you can read what our Founding Fathers actually wrote in correspondence about the issues of the day. You will be surprised at what they have to say about God and the Bible.

Let's start with Thomas Jefferson:

Thomas Jefferson

*SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE; DIPLOMAT; GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA;
SECRETARY OF STATE; THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES*

The doctrines of Jesus are simple, and tend all to the happiness of man.⁶³

The practice of morality being necessary for the well being of society, He [God] has taken care to impress its precepts so indelibly on our hearts that they shall not be effaced by the subtleties of our brain. We all agree in the obligation of the moral principles of Jesus and nowhere will they be found delivered in greater purity than in His discourses.⁶⁴

I am a Christian in the only sense in which He wished anyone to be: sincerely attached to His doctrines in preference to all others.⁶⁵

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I am a real Christian – that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ.⁶⁶

How's that for someone who is NOT supposed to be a Christian and didn't believe in the Bible?

Now, let's see what George Washington thought. . .

George Washington

JUDGE; MEMBER OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS; COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY; PRESIDENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION; FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; "FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY"

You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are.¹²¹

While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.¹²²

The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger. The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.¹²³

I now make it my earnest prayer that God would... most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of the mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion.¹²⁴

James Madison

SIGNER OF THE CONSTITUTION; AUTHOR OF THE FEDERALIST PAPERS; FRAMER OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS; SECRETARY OF STATE; FOURTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

A watchful eye must be kept on ourselves lest, while we are building ideal monuments of renown and bliss here, we neglect to have our names enrolled in the Annals of Heaven.⁷¹

I have sometimes thought there could not be a stronger testimony in favor of religion or against temporal enjoyments, even the most rational and manly, than for men who occupy the most honorable and gainful departments and [who] are rising in reputation and wealth, publicly to declare their unsatisfactoriness by becoming fervent advocates in the cause of Christ; and I wish you may give in your evidence in this way.⁷²

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A number of us remember Dan and Pat Rush. Well, their ancestor, Benjamin Rush had a few things to say:

Benjamin Rush

SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE; SURGEON GENERAL OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY; RATIFIER OF THE U. S. CONSTITUTION; "FATHER OF AMERICAN MEDICINE"; TREASURER OF THE U. S. MINT; "FATHER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION"

The Gospel of Jesus Christ prescribes the wisest rules for just conduct in every situation of life. Happy they who are enabled to obey them in all situations! . . . My only hope of salvation is in the infinite transcendent love of God manifested to the world by the death of His Son upon the Cross. Nothing but His blood will wash away my sins [Acts 22:16]. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly! [Revelation 22:20]⁹⁷

I do not believe that the Constitution was the offspring of inspiration, but I am as satisfied that it is as much the work of a Divine Providence as any of the miracles recorded in the Old and New Testament.⁹⁸

By renouncing the Bible, philosophers swing from their moorings upon all moral subjects... It is the only correct map of the human heart that ever has been published.⁹⁹

[T]he greatest discoveries in science have been made by Christian philosophers and . . . there is the most knowledge in those countries where there is the most Christianity.¹⁰⁰

[T]he only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government is the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible.¹⁰¹

The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effective means of limiting Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the Bible at schools.¹⁰²

Christianity is the only true and perfect religion; and... in proportion as mankind adopt its principles and obey its precepts, they will be wise and happy.¹⁰³

The Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world.¹⁰⁴

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The Bible, when not read in schools, is seldom read in any subsequent period of life... [T]he Bible... should be read in our schools in preference to all other books because it contains the greatest portion of that kind of knowledge which is calculated to produce private and public happiness.¹⁰⁵

<https://wallbuilders.com/resource/the-founding-fathers-on-jesus-christianity-and-the-bible/>

So what does all this mean to us in 2024? Do you remember the Adult Sunday School Class Pastor Jerry taught in 2008? I doubt that you do, but there was a book for it. It was a study on our Founding Fathers written by Peter Marshall, Jr. He said one thing that I have never forgotten. . . our Founding Fathers made a covenant with God through the Constitution of the United States of America. The covenant is to keep God as our God – “*In God We Trust*.” While it wasn’t added to our money until 1864 when it was added to all coins – first appearing on the 2 penny coin. *Congress authorized it to be on all silver and gold coins. On July 11, 1955, Congress passed H.R. 619, which mandated “In God We Trust” be included on all U.S. currency. The first paper money to include “In God We Trust” was printed in 1957. Now, not even 100 years after it’s added to paper money we are arguing over removing it completely from all currency.* (M<https://study.com/learn/lesson/in-god-we-trust-history-purpose-money.html#:~:text=On%20July%2011%2C%201955%2C%20Congress,Trust%22%20was%20printed%20in%201957.>)

What is my point? In response to that, I want to ask you – have you ever read the Old Testament? If you haven’t read the entire thing, how about Deuteronomy 28? This chapter lays out all the blessings and curses from God if we do/don’t follow Him. Remember, our Founding Fathers made a covenant with God. God takes that VERY SERIOUSLY. I encourage you to read Deuteronomy 28. Then look at our nation. Which side do you want to be on – God’s or the other side? It is entirely up to you.

Readers:

October 6 Charles Gray

October 13 Joe Glass

October 20 Bill Heierding

October 27 Michelle Brennan

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Scripture Reading:

October 1-3 James 3-5

October 4-13 Ezra 1-10

October 14 - 23 Esther 1 - 10

October 24 - Nov. 5 Nehemiah 1 - 9

