

America's Christian Heritage

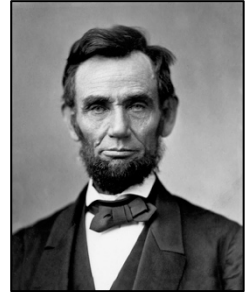
by Doug Hamilton

Section I: Part B) The Later Presidents and Other Notables

Abraham Lincoln -16th President of the United States

“All the good from the saved of this world is communicated through His book, the Bible. All things desirable to man are contained within.”

Lincoln knew that everything that man needs in this life, whether individually or nationally, can be found in the Bible. We need no other core source of knowledge on which to base our lives. Man shall not live by bread alone, but every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. He would later comment *"I can understand how man can look to the earth and not see a God but how can he look to the heavens and not acknowledge Him?"*



Some other Lincoln Quotes:

- "My great concern is not whether God is on our side; my great concern is to be on God's side."
- "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior (Jesus) of the world is communicated to us through this book."
- "If it is God's will that I must die at the hand of an assassin, I must be resigned. I must do my duty as I see it, and leave the rest with God."

Lincoln was a convicted, biblically religious man who was not ashamed of Christ and His word. He was not afraid to wear his faith on his sleeve. We have a tendency to forget that these men were chosen by the people to represent them because they thought they represented the people. There is even an historical record that Lincoln was baptized by a church of Christ minister in Illinois before taking office.

With that in mind, we can see what type of people were voting at that time.

U.S. Grant - 18th President of the United States, General of the Union force during the Civil War

“The Bible is the sheet-anchor of our liberties.”
(Halley's Bible Handbook, Zondervan, Grand Rapids MI, 1962, pg. 18-19)

Without the base of the Bible showing us how to be free, liberty becomes a meaningless word. There must be a standard to hold the values in place and according to Grant, it is the Bible.



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Woodrow Wilson -28th President of the United States

“America was born a Christian nation for the purpose of exemplifying to the nations of the world the principles of righteousness found in the word of God.”

Even into the nineteenth century, Wilson reflecting back to the formation of the country for the purpose of proclaiming the word of God. Could you imagine if a politician were caught saying this today?

A brief look at the Bible society leaders yields a list nearly identical to the founding fathers. There were at least fifty-five of the founding fathers that headed these Bible societies (Barton, David. Original Intent, pgs 139-143). The reason they were so heavily involved with this was for the purpose of evangelizing the world. Wilson knew this well into the twentieth century, yet we forget it today.

Calvin Coolidge -our 30th President of the United States

“The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country.”

Harry S. Truman - 33rd President of the United States

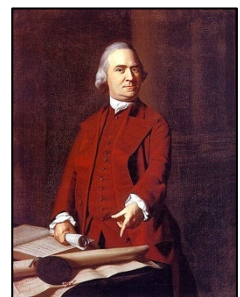
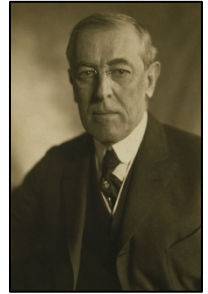
"The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul. I don't think we emphasize that enough these days. If we don't have a proper fundamental moral background, we will finally end up with a totalitarian government which does not believe in rights for anybody except the State!"

I believe the buck is truly stopping on Truman's desk concerning this point. He recognizes what made this country great and what will happen if we abandon it. Is this not what we are seeing today as our nation is falling apart at the seams?

Samuel Adams - Signer of the Declaration of Independence and was one of the writers of the Federalist Papers, cousin to John Adams

“If you want to know what your rights are and how they have been violated, read the New Testament.”

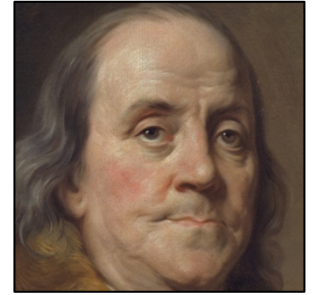
Without the New Testament teaching of Jesus, without the absolute morality and standards that transcend and do not change, we are nothing more than moral agents of our own rule. Somebody's values have to be followed and if they are not God's, then that leaves only moral relativism. Adams is telling us our rights must come from the Bible, not us. If we do not base our rights in the authority of God, that only leaves us as wicked men to invent some non-God given rights. *Jeremiah 17:9, The heart is deceitful above all things,*



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and desperately wicked: who can know it? Even John F. Kennedy acknowledged this, stating, "The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God."

Benjamin Franklin - He became one of the committee of five chosen to draft the Declaration of Independence and was also one of the signers of that historic document, addressing the assembly with the characteristic statement: "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." Listen to what this man had to say.



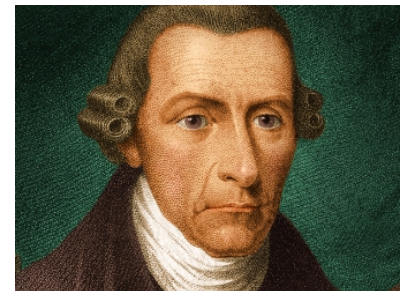
"History will also afford frequent opportunities of showing the necessity of a public religion... and the excellency of the Christian religion above all others, ancient or modern."

What the history books leave out is the rest of the story and the rest of the quotes. All of the delegates from the different colonies were about to end the attempt to unify. They were all worried that special interest groups would try to take over the government, and for fear of this, would not put away their differences. Franklin addressed the group:

"We have been assured in the sacred scriptures that except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it; And I also believe without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." (James Madison, *The Papers of James Madison*, Henry D. Gilpen, Langtree and O'Sullivan, Washington DC, 1840, Vol II, pg 985, June 28th, 1787)

Do you realize Ben Franklin was quoting Ps 127:1 and Genesis 11? He was saying unless we use God's rule and authority in assembling this government, we will be scattered like the builders of Babel who tried to unite apart from God. Almost immediately, the delegates met with their Church leaders and congregations, prayed about the situation, came back to the negotiation table and penned the Constitution. Most historians would agree that this was an impossible task in light of the differences of all who were there. It occurred because they were uniting on biblical principle.

Patrick Henry - Member of the first and second Continental Congress
This is the famous quote the history books of today like to state:
"I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"



The quotes that used to be in the history books:

"This nation was not founded by religionist, but by Christians. It was not founded by religion, but by the gospel of Jesus Christ."

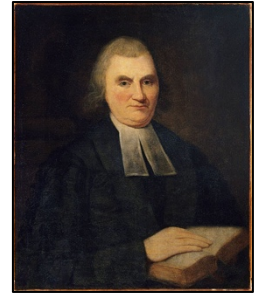
"The Bible is worth more than all other books which have ever been printed."
(Halley's Bible Handbook, Zondervan, Grand Rapids MI, 1962, pg 18-19)

"This is all the inheritance I can give to my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed" (Original Intent, David Barton, 1996, pg 135)

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There would be no way of calling Patrick Henry an atheist, deist or agnostic. He can be quoted dozens of times as being as being a devoted follower of God.

John Witherspoon -signed the Declaration of Independence and served on over 100 congressional committees, American clergyman, educator, and statesman, born near Edinburgh, and educated at the University of Edinburgh.... member of the Continental Congress (1776-79, 1780-82), he signed the Declaration of Independence. He was also a delegate to the New Jersey convention of 1787 that ratified the U.S. Constitution. (Encarta Electronic Encyclopedia)



“The best friend of liberty is the one most sincere in promoting religion. Whoever is an avowed enemy of God I don't hesitate to call him an enemy of America.”

Witherspoon was reflecting a common belief of this young nation and her base thereof. We have no rebuttals or rebukes to this strong claim that anyone who does not side with God is an enemy of the United States. What would happen in this election if the politicians were to say things like this? That would be political suicide in the eyes of the networks.

John Hart -signer of the declaration of Independence

“Thanks be given unto Almighty God, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die and after that the judgment (Heb 9:27)....principally, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it and my body to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner....to receive the same again at the general resurrection by the mighty power of God.” (John Hart Will and Testament)



What kind of man is produced who does not hold to a concept of the afterlife? Here is a man that governed his life by this very factor. When the leaders of a nation write laws based on the fact there will be judgment, they have a tendency to make laws more reflective of the Bible.

One of the core problems in the country today is ungodly leadership put in office by ungodly voters. It is a fact that ungodly men will pass ungodly, unjust laws.

- Proverbs 20:8, A king who sits on the throne of justice disperses all evil with his eyes.> Proverbs 29:4, The king gives stability to the land by justice, but a man who takes bribes overthrows it.

When the leaders of a nation turn from God and His ways, there can be no blessings from God for a nation that chooses not to follow His ways.

- Deuteronomy 30:19-20, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that

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you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

David Brearly -Signer of the Constitution

“First and principlly, I commit my soul unto Almighty God”

Charles Carroll - A signer of the Declaration of Independence

“On the mercy of my Redeemer I rely for salvation and on His merits; not on the works I have done in obedience to His precepts”

Daniel Boone -Revolutionary Officer and legislator

“The religion I have is to love and fear God, believe in Jesus Christ, do all the good to my neighbor, and myself that I can, do as little harm as I can help, and trust on God's mercy for rest.”

Benjamin Rush -Signer of the Constitution

“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. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!
(Benjamin Rush. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush*. George C. Corner. Princeton University Press for the American Philosophical Society. 1948. pg 166)

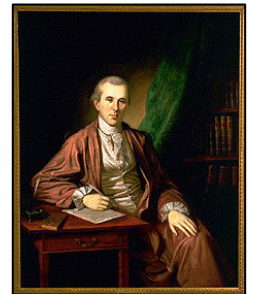
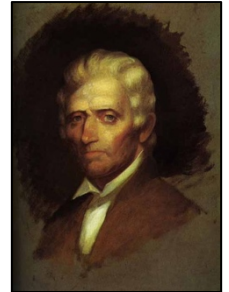
Zephaniah Swift -Author of the first legal text in the country

“Jesus Christ has in the clearest manner inculcated those duties which are productive of the highest moral felicity and consistent with all the innocent enjoyments, to which we are impelled by the dictates of nature. Religion, when fairly considered in its genuine simplicity and uncorrupted state, is the source of endless rapture and delight.”

Swift was reminding us that apart from Jesus Christ, there cannot be rapture and delight in the lives of a people.

- Psalm 1:1-2, How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

There is no delight apart from the righteousness of God. The early fathers of the country recognized this and aimed for it on a national level.



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John Jay -Original Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

“Unto Him who is the author and giver of good, I render sincere and humble thanks for His manifold and unmerited blessings, and especially for our redemption and salvation by His beloved Son...Blessed be His holy name.”



Can you imagine a President today appointing John Jay for a place in the Supreme Court? They would say he is the biggest religious zealot and has no business in the system. Can you imagine a politician saying this at the Presidential debates and survive in this system of today?

There were official government oaths to Christianity.

Politicians in the infancy of this country had to be a believer in order to run for office! Politicians would have to take an oath as to their belief in Jesus Christ. That would empty out Washington D.C. today would it not? All the original states had rules in their constitutions that required a statement of belief in Jesus Christ. The following are a couple of examples.

Massachusetts Constitution- Any person chosen governor, or lieutenant-governor, counselor, senator, or representative, and accepting the trust, shall before proceed to execute the duties of his place or office, take, make and subscribe the following declaration, viz. “I, _____, do declare, that I believe the Christian religion, and have a firm persuasion to its truth.” (Constitution of Massachusetts Bay. pg 44. Chapter 6, Article 1)

Delaware Constitution - “I, _____, do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed forever; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.” (Constitutions. 1785. pgs 99-100. Delaware. 1776. Article 22)

In fact, if you follow the activities of the founding fathers, one cannot deny what their intention was. They knew that a government could not base its existence on anything but what was in the scriptures. It was so important to know what the politicians professed about Christianity, they required the oaths. More than 200 years later, , it has completely reversed itself. You can rarely find a politician that will profess anything spiritual concerning Jesus Christ.

You can go to these states and find every kind of ungodly law being passed from homosexual marriages to special rights for criminals. We have abandoned our core values and the result is anarchy.

I wouldn't be telling you this if you could not make a difference. My goal is not to preach condemnation, but to call us to action. What can we do?

- 2 Chronicles 7:14, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

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We need to humble ourselves, we need to be praying for the nation and the nation's rulers. We need to turn from our wicked ways. We need to be the salt and light of the world that God has called us to be. We can change this nation one soul at a time, but it has to start with you and me.

Those who are not right with Christ, get right with Christ. If you are not a Christian, become a Christian. If you are a weak Christian, grow in the grace of our Lord. If you are a strong Christian, share the precious message of Jesus with others. We can change the nation one soul at a time if only we will allow ourselves to be changed by Jesus. Brothers and sisters, it does not matter who represents you in the House of Representatives, it matters if Jesus represents you before the Almighty God. It does not matter who is in the White House, it matters if Jesus Christ is in your house. Will you allow Jesus to make you a new creature? Will you be transformed through the renewing of your mind? Will you stop letting society shape you and start shaping society as a citizen of heaven?