

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

DEUTERONOMY 8:10-20

With the swearing in of our 45th President this upcoming week I want to take a few lessons and talk about our Christian Heritage as a nation, for be aware the stats are on our side that this truth is so!

As never before America's heritage is being argued in the courts, the classrooms, and even on television. The liberal mind set argues that America was conceived as a secular nation.

I. America stands alone as the world's longest enduring constitutional republic.

A. American has endured in part because of:

1. The genius of our Founders
2. The unmerited blessings of our Great God

B. As we celebrate 241 years of history we must thank God for our continued freedoms!

C. Dr James Kennedy has stated: "All nations that have ever existed have been founded upon some theistic or antitheistic principle. If we know our history, we know that America was a nation founded upon Christ and His Word."

D. America has not been without its skeptics who still exist today:

1. "Many fanatics are working vigorously to turn America into a Christian nation. America has never been a Christian nation." (Freedom from religion foundation)
2. "Our Founders knew that mixing religion and government only caused civil strife, inequality and very often violence in pluralistic societies." (Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.)
3. "The Founding Fathers...rarely practiced Christian orthodoxy...They understood the dangers of religions" (Early American Review)

II. Proofs that American had a beginning rooted in the Christian belief system.

A. Christopher Columbus testified that God guided him to the new world!

1. "It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel his hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit...Our Lord Jesus Christ desired to perform a very obvious miracle in the voyage to the Indies, to confront me and the whole people of God"
2. Columbus stated that his motivation for sailing across the vast Atlantic Ocean was rooted in "The fact that the Gospel must still be preached to so many lands...This is what convinces me"
3. When Columbus discovered an uncharted island he did not name the island after himself or the Spanish monarch. He called the island San Salvador which translates into "Holy Savior."

B. Queen Isabella of Spain said that Columbus was attempting "To bear the light of Christ west to the heathen undiscovered lands."

C. Jamestown was claimed for Christ around 1600.

1. The first thing the pioneers did was to erect a cross on the beach and claim the land for Jesus Christ.
 - a. Please note they did not put up a picture of the king of Spain.
 - b. They put up the symbol of the King of Kings, the cross of Jesus Christ!
2. One of the first buildings they built was a Church House.
3. Before the Church House was constructed they put a ship sail between two trees to keep the sun off of them while they Worshipped King Jesus.
4. The First Charter of Virginia stated the purpose for Jamestown: The "propagating of the Christian religion to such people as yet live in darkness and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God"

5. One of the most celebrated events was the Baptism of Pocahontas into the Christian faith.
 - a. This depiction is framed in the Rotunda in Washington DC.
 - b. After her baptism she changed her name to Rebecca because she wanted to be identified with a Christian name.
- D. William Bradford Governor of the Plymouth Colony in 1621 wrote about why they separated from the Church of England:
 1. "The churches of God revert to their ancient purity and recover their primitive order, liberty and beauty"
 2. "They shook off this yoke of antichristian bondage, and as the Lord's free people, joined themselves by a covenant of the Lord into a church estate in the fellowship of the gospel, to walk in all His ways, made known unto them, according to their best endeavors, whatsoever it should cost them"
- E. The Mayflower was blown off course and landed north of their original Virginia destination.
 1. This meant that they were out of the jurisdiction of the colony.
 2. While on board the ship they wrote their own charter for self-government called the Mayflower Compact. The document proclaimed their purpose:

"In the Name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten...having undertaken, for the Glory of God and the advancement of the Christian Faith...do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic."
- F. William Brewster a Pilgrim leader declared;
 1. "The church that had been brought over the ocean now saw another church, the first –born in America, holding the same faith in the same simplicity of self-government under Christ alone"

2. The words on Governor Bradford's gravestone state; "What our fathers with so much difficulty attained do not basely relinquish"

G. A famous Puritan minister, Reverend Francis Higginson declared; "We do not go to New England as Separatists from the Church of England, though we cannot but separate from the corruptions of it; but we go to practice the positive part of church reformation, and propagate the Gospel in America."

III. America has lost its way!

A . America no longer resembles its humble beginnings.

B. When a nation forgets God that nation signs its death warrant!

C. Martin Niemoller was:

1. A pastor

2. A Nazi concentration camp survivor who said:

"First they came for the Socialists,

And I did not speak out-

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionist,

And I did not speak out-

Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews,

And I did not speak out-

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me-

And there was no one left to speak for me."