

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

2/12/2017

Today we continue to look at the Christian Heritage series.

I. SOME FACTS ABOUT PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS

A. Adams was the second President of the United States.

B. Others facts about John Adams

1. He was the first President to live in the White House.
2. He was Vice President for eight years under President George Washington.
3. He was a member of The Continental Congress
4. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

C. Mr Adams stated;

1. "Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."
2. Adams wrote to Thomas Jefferson; "Without religion, this world would be something not fit to be mentioned in polite company."

II. MR WILLIAM PATERSON

A. Mr. Paterson was a signer of the Constitution from New Jersey.

B. Mr. Paterson was appointed to the United States Supreme court by George Washington.

C. Mr. Paterson understood the important of promoting religion among the citizenry; "Religion and morality are necessary to good government, good

order, and good laws. For when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.”

III. OUR FOUNDERS KNEW THAT RELIGION WAS NEEDED FOR LIBERTY.

- A. They knew that if America ever abandoned the Biblical standards there would be no fixed boundaries for either liberty or law.
- B. In 1838 Biblical morality had so penetrated the American consciousness that the New York State Legislature declared, “This is a Christian nation. Ninety-nine hundredths, if not a larger proportion, of our whole population believes in the general doctrines of the Christian religion. Our Government depends on that virtue that has its foundation in the morality of the Christian religion.”
- C. James McHenry a signer of the United States Constitution said; “Public utility pleads most forcibly for the general distribution of the Holy Scriptures...in vain, without the Bible, we increase penal laws and draw entrenchments around our institutions.”
- D. Patrick Henry fearing the expansion of government said: “It is when a people forget God, that tyrants forge their chains.
- E. Abraham Baldwin
 - 1. Was a signer of the United States Constitution
 - 2. He authored the Charter for the College of Georgia.
 - 3. Mr Baldwin warned that free governments without the aid of religion and morality would be plagued by “evils more horrid than the wild, uncultivated state of nature. It should therefore be among the first objects of those who wish well to the national prosperity to encourage and support the principles of religion and morality.”
- F. Samuel Adams stated; “A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of American than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be

subdued; but when they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties into the first external or internal invader.”

- G. Theodore Roosevelt stated; “There are those who believe that a new modernity demands a new morality. What they fail to consider is the harsh reality that there is no such thing as a new morality. There is only one morality. All else is immorality. There is only true Christian ethics over against which stands the whole of paganism.”
- H. In his farewell address George Washington stated; “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness. “
- I. The first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, John Jay
 - a. His son asked him if he had any final words for his children.
 - b. Jay said to his son, “They have the Book”

IV. PREACHING WAS GREATLY RESPECTED AT OUR BEGINNINGS

- A. John Adams admonished the clergy to speak out against errors; “It is the duty of the clergy to accommodate their discourses to the times, to preach against such sins as are most prevalent, and recommend such virtues as are most wanted.”
- B. Richard Baxter chaplain and scholar wrote; “I preached as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men.”
- C. The breakdown at the Constitutional Convention;
 - 1. They were at a standstill and preparing to leave.
 - 2. Ben Franklin gave a speech and reminded them of the intervention of God in the Declaration of Independence.

3. It was moved, "That a sermon be preached at the request of the convention on the 4th of July, the anniversary of Independence; and thenceforward prayer be used in ye convention every morning."
 - a. The clergy of the city responded
 - b. When they reconvened the records show; "We assembled , again; and every unfriendly feeling had been expelled, and a spirit of conciliation had been cultivated."

V. TIME HAS PROVEN OUR FOREFATHERS TO BE CORRECT;

- A. In 1963 the United States Supreme Court removed the Bible from public education.
- B. The results of the 1963 decision are evident to all:
 1. We have received a sharp increase in crime in our nation.
 2. Drug abuse is out of bounds.
 3. Unwed teen mothers has increased
 4. Sexually transmitted diseases have abounded.
 5. The killing of the unborn in abortion has produced 60 million killings.
 6. Homosexual relationships are now considered normal.
 7. Pornography is a multibillion dollar industry.
- C. Our founders clearly saw that when we remove the influence of religion from society, all society suffers.