

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HISTORY

4/9/2017

In this study we have continually noted the fact that our founders believed in the Providential view of History.

I. Our Founders were immersed with God and His Word.

A. They were well acquainted with the Scriptures and their many names for God

1. In the writings of George Washington it is noted that he used at least 54 different titles for the Name of God.
2. Lincoln in his writings used at least 49 titles for the Name of God.
3. Robert E. Lee used 45 different titles of the Name of God.

B. Our Founders and others not far removed recognized God's Hand in history:

1. William Bradford, Governor of the Pilgrims; "But these things did not dismay them...for their desires were set on the ways of God, and to enjoy His ordinances; but they rested on His Providence and knew whom they had believed."
2. Declaration Of Independence; "And for the support of this Declaration, with firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our Sacred Honor."
3. Benjamin Franklin addressing the Constitutional Convention: "How has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly appealing to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible to danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered...I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth-that God governs in the affairs of men and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can

rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that built it....I firmly believe this...

4. The United States House of Representatives in 1854; "The people of these United States, from their earliest history to the present time, have been led by the hand of a Kind Providence, and are indebted for the countless blessing of the past and present, and dependent for continue prosperity in the future upon Almighty God...The great vital and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and divine truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ."
5. George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation, 1789; "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

II. Our Founders and others were taught to be immersed in the Word of God.

- A. Almost every child in America was educated, but not by public instruction.
- B. For the first 150-200 years America's education was primarily centered in the home.
- C. Sometimes the teaching was supplemented by tutors or schools
- D. Two passages of Scripture guided the parents:
 1. Deuteronomy 6:6-7—"And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up"
 2. Ephesians 6:4—"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
- E. Some of our greatest leaders and thinkers were educated at home:

1. George Washington
2. Thomas Jefferson
3. James Madison
4. Benjamin Franklin
5. Noah Webster
6. Abraham Lincoln
7. Thomas Edison
8. Alexander Bell

F. Of the 117 men who signed the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution:

1. One out of three had only a few months of formal schooling
2. One in four had gone to college

G. These great leaders were educated by:

1. Parents
2. Church schools
3. Tutors
4. Apprenticeship
5. By themselves, (Self educated)

H. There were no public school in the Southern Colonies until 1730 and only five by 1776.

I. Note what congress recognized in 1787; "Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

- J. The Puritans developed a strong emphasis on universal education so that all children could read the Bible and hear God for themselves.
- K. Puritan children learned their ABC's with Bible rhymes, in one of the Puritan rhyming alphabets.
- L. During the Revolutionary War the First Continental Congress called the Bible "The greatest textbook of the patriots."
- M. Governor Morris framer and signer of the Constitution said; "Religion is the only solid basis of morals: therefore education should teach the precepts of religion and the duties of man towards God"
- N. On September 10th 1782 the Continental Congress approved and recommended to the people the Holy Bible printed by Robert Aiken of Philadelphia , a neat edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use of schools."

III. Some closing thoughts

- A. Daniel Webster said; "Almost all the civil liberty now enjoyed in the world owes its origin to the principles of the Christian religion...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."
- B. Today those great truths of the American Revolution are scorned openly!
- C. Depending on our relationship with Him, God can be our Greatest Friend or our worse enemy.
- D. It is evident that God is of tender mercy and longsuffering else America would be languishing in a pit of artifacts.