

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

6/11/2017

Our history is vitally important! During this series we have learned some great truths about our history and today continue to do so.

I. OUR BIRTH AS A NATION IS SEEN

A. A band of American patriots representing the thirteen English colonies gathered in Philadelphia;

1. They were there to declare war against the British Empire.
2. Those involved in such a great endeavor were not trained military men but;
 - a. Farmers
 - b. Merchants
 - c. Lawyers
 - d. Common people

B. They knew they were facing the king of England who ruled most of the civilized world.

C. They also knew that England's army and navy were unequalled.

II THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE STATES ITS PURPOSE.

A. The first paragraph is clear; "To dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume the Powers of the earth that the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them"

B. The last paragraph is bold in its proclamation; "That these United Colonies...are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is...totally dissolved; and that as free and independent States, they have full

power...to do all...acts and things which independent States may of right do.”

III. THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE CONTAINS SPIRITUAL INFORMATION

A. Today many liberals deny any spirituality in the Declaration.

B. At least four times the Declaration acknowledges God

1. “When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them.”
2. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”
 - a. George Washington stated; “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.”
 - b. John Adams stated; “The safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgment of this truth is an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him.”
3. “Appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions.”
4. “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”
 - a. This last statement is very important.

- b. Armed hostility had already erupted at Lexington and Concord.
 - c. The patriots realized they were facing a monumental and difficult task.
 - d. They knew they could not win this war solely by their own efforts
 - e. They knew where to go for help as is set forth in this last statement!
- C. The document was a dual declaration;
- 1. It was a Declaration of Independence from Britain.
 - 2. It was a Declaration of Dependence on God!
- D. John Adams reflecting back over what he had personally seen and experienced declared; "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were...the general principles of Christianity. Now I will avow that I then believed (and now believe) that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God."

IV THE SIGNERS PAYED A GREAT PRICE WITH THEIR SIGNATURES

- A. Our signers took very seriously the last phrase in the Declaration; "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."
- B. They did not know at the time the price they would be called upon to pay:
- 1. Nineteen of the fifty-six signers put on a military uniform and went to war."
 - 2. Two of the signers died at the hands of the British.
 - 3. Seven other signers died during the war.
 - 4. Two were wounded in battle.
 - 5. Five were made prisoners of war.

6. Seventeen lost their estates or fortunes.
 7. Five of the signers incurred heavy debt by personally financing the war.
 8. Fourteen lost their families or were separated from them.
 9. Two lost children.
 10. Three lost their wives.
- C. There is not a single instance where the fifty six signers chose to recant on their promises.
- D. John Adams acknowledged; "Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make a good use of it! If you do not, I shall repent it in Heaven that I ever took half the pains to preserve it."

IV. IN 1774 THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS BEGAN THEIR WORK ON THE DECLARATION WITH PRAYER

- A. Jacob Duche was asked to begin the session with Scripture and prayer.
1. Duche surprised everyone by doing much more than reading from the Book of Common prayer.
 2. He launched into a passionate and spontaneous prayer.
 3. John Adams stated; "Mr. Duche unexpectedly to everybody, struck out into an extemporary prayer which filled the bosom of every man present. I must confess I never heard a better prayer or one so well pronounced...with such fervor, such ardor, such earnestness and pathos, and in language so elegant and sublime...it has had an excellent effect upon everybody there."
- B. Some of the delegates stated about the prayer that it; "Was worth riding one hundred miles to hear" Him pray
- C Rev. Duche's prayer ended in the name "of Jesus Christ, thy son our savior"