

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

6/25/2017

Today I want us to look at the fact that America was established a Christian Nation at the state level.

I. NINE STATES WERE NEEDED TO RATIFY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THEY DID SO BASED ON THEIR PREVIOUS STATE RATIFICATIONS

A. The individual States acknowledged religion in their State Constitutions:

1. DELAWARE, the first State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1776 State Constitution: "Every person ... appointed to any office ... shall ... subscribe ... 'I ... profess faith in GOD THE FATHER, and in JESUS CHRIST His only Son, and in the HOLY GHOST, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration.'"
2. PENNSYLVANIA, the 2nd State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1776 State Constitution, signed by Ben Franklin: "Each member, before he takes his seat, shall ... subscribe ... 'I do believe in one GOD, the Creator and Governor of the Universe, the Rewarder of the good and the Punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine Inspiration.'"
3. NEW JERSEY, the 3rd State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1776 State Constitution: "All persons, professing a belief in the faith of any PROTESTANT sect, who shall demean themselves peaceably under the government ... shall be capable of being elected."
4. GEORGIA, the 4th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1777 State Constitution: Representatives shall be chosen out of the residents

in each county ... and they shall be of the PROTESTANT religion."

5. CONNECTICUT, the 5th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, retained its 1639 Fundamental Orders and 1662 Colonial Charter, which established the PROTESTANT CONGREGATIONAL faith till 1818: "By the Providence of GOD ... having from their ancestors derived a free and excellent Constitution ... whereby the legislature depends on the free and annual election ... The free fruition of such liberties and privileges as humanity, civility and CHRISTIANITY call for."
6. MASSACHUSETTS, the 6th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1780 State Constitution, written by John Adams: "Any person ... before he ... execute the duties of his ... office ...[shall] subscribe ... 'I ... declare, that I believe the CHRISTIAN religion, and have a firm persuasion of its truth' ... The legislature shall ... authorize the support and maintenance of public PROTESTANT teachers of piety, religion and morality."
7. MARYLAND, the 7th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1776 State Constitution: "No other test ... ought to be required, on admission to any office ... than such oath of support and fidelity to this State ... and a declaration of a belief in the CHRISTIAN religion."
8. SOUTH CAROLINA, the 8th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1778 State Constitution: "No person shall be eligible to a seat...unless he be of the PROTESTANT religion ... The CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT religion shall be deemed ... the established religion of this state."
9. NEW HAMPSHIRE, the 9th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1784 State Constitution: "No person shall be capable of being elected ... who is not of the PROTESTANT religion."
10. VIRGINIA, the 10th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1776 State Constitution, Bill of Rights, written with the help of James

Madison and George Mason: "It is the mutual duty of all to practice CHRISTIAN forbearance, love, and charity towards each other."

11. NEW YORK, the 11th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1777 State Constitution: "The United American States ... declare ... 'Laws of nature and of NATURE'S GOD ... All men are created equal; that they are endowed by their CREATOR with certain unalienable rights ... Appealing to the SUPREME JUDGE of the world ... A firm reliance on the protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE' ... People of this State, ordain ... the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination ... Provided, That the liberty of conscience, hereby granted, all not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness
 12. NORTH CAROLINA, the 12th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, stated in its 1776 State Constitution: "No person, who shall deny the being of GOD or the truth of the PROTESTANT religion, or the Divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall be capable of holding ... office."
 13. RHODE ISLAND, the 13th State to ratify the U.S. Constitution, retained its 1663 Colonial Constitution till 1843, which stated: "By the blessing of God ... a full liberty in religious concernements ... rightly grounded upon GOSPEL principles, will give the best and greatest security ... in the true CHRISTIAN faith and worship of God ... They may ... defend themselves, in their just rights and liberties against all the enemies of the CHRISTIAN faith."
- B. The Journal of the U.S. House recorded that on March 27, 1854, the 33rd Congress voted unanimously to print Rep. James Meacham's report, which stated: "At the adoption of the Constitution, we believe every State -- certainly 10 of the 13 -- provided as regularly for the support of the Church as for the support of the Government ... Down to the Revolution, every

colony did sustain religion in some form. It was deemed peculiarly proper that the religion of liberty should be upheld by a free people ...

II. NEW HAMPSHIRE AND ITS RATIFYING CONVENTION

A. At first New Hampshire had disagreements about ratification.

1. They adjourned on February 22, 1788.
2. They finally reconvened in June 1788

B. New Hampshire delegates heard an address by Harvard president Rev. Samuel Langdon:

1. The message was titled; "The Republic of the Israelites an example to the American States"
2. The message was terse; "The Israelites may be considered as a pattern to the world in all ages ...Government ... on republican principles, required laws; without which it must have degenerated immediately into ... absolute monarchy ...Laws were founded on the plain immutable principles of reason, justice, and social virtue ...How unexampled was this quick progress of the Israelites, from abject slavery, ignorance, and almost total want of order, to a national establishment perfected in all its parts far beyond all other kingdoms and States! From a mere mob, to a well regulated nation, under a government and laws far superior to what any other nation could boast!" "It was a long time after the law of Moses was given before the rest of the world knew any thing of government by law ...it was six hundred years after Moses before ... Grecian republics received a very imperfect ... code of laws from Lycurgus. It was about five hundred years from the first founding of the celebrated Roman empire ... before the first laws of that empire ..."
3. The Portsmouth Daily Evening Times, January 1, 1891, acknowledged Rev. Samuel Langdon's influence : "by his voice and example he contributed more perhaps, than any other man to the favorable action of that body."