

GOD: SOURCE AND PROTECTOR OF OUR LIBERTY

Judges 2:10

I. MY APPRECIATION FOR HERITAGE OF AMERICA.

- A. Arose generation that knew not Lord and what he did for Israel.
- B. Importance of history.
- C. Stones of remembrance.
- D. Verna Hall in intro to "Christian History of the American Revolution" - "American from the days of creation has been for God's glory and for His people and if His people will be willing to learn what He has done for them in the days past, repent, and ask God's forgiveness for forgetting what He has done in bringing America into being, God will deal with the enemies within and without."

II. CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

- A. Declaration of Independence from tyranny of King of England.
 - 1. Oppression of Pharaoh in Egypt.
 - 2. Rehoboam, son of Saul.
 - 3. Give us a king.
 - 4. Communist oppression.
- B. By what authority did our forefathers act?
- C. There is no authority except appointed by God - Rom 13:1 - *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."*
 - 1. King would remain in office as long as obeyed God and protected the unalienable rights of the people.
 - 2. John Calvin - "We are subject to men who rule over us, but subject only in the Lord. If they command anything against Him, let us not pay the least heed to it."
 - 3. Samuel to Saul - "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel?...but...you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king."
 - 4. Man's law is important, but it must reflect God's law to be truly valid.
 - a. When king failed to grant justice, appeal to higher authority.
 - b. Right and duty as citizens to judge the laws and the lawmakers of this nation by the laws of God and then to act.

III. APPEAL TO LAWS OF NATURE AND NATURE'S GOD.

- A. John Locke - "The law of nature stands as an eternal rule of all men, legislators as well as others. The rules that they make for other men's actions must...be conformable to the law of nature...i.e., to the will of God."

- B. Sir William Blackstone - "Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator, for he is entirely a dependent being...And, consequently, as man depends absolutely upon his Maker for everything, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his Maker's will. this will of his Maker, is called the law of nature."
- C. Blackstone - "Upon these two foundations, the law of Nature and the law of Revelation, depend all human law; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered to contradict these."

IV. WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT.

- A. Plain, widely recognized, and needing no further proof or explanation.
- B. All men are created equal (equal importance in the eyes of God).
- C. Endowed by creator with certain unalienable rights.
 - 1. Life - respect for life Biblical.
 - 2. Liberty
 - Whom the son has made free is free indeed.
 - Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.
 - "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants."
 - 1. Pursuit of happiness - "And also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor--it is the gift of God."

V. WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

- A. 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. Our founders were surrounded by ample evidence of divine providence.
 - William Bradford (Plymouth Rock) - "But these things did not dismay them (though they did sometimes trouble 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."
 - George Washington - "By the miraculous care of Providence, that protected me beyond all human expectations; I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, and yet escaped unhurt."
 - Thanksgiving Proclamation _ "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."

I. EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE (Benjamin Franklin).

- A. How has it happened, Sir, that we have not hither to once thought of humbly appealing to the father of lights to illuminate our understanding? 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 build it. I firmly believe this..."

GOD BLESS AMERICA.

Stand beside her, and guide her.

To the light, with the light from above.

Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Turning to God, and relying upon the Word of God is our only hope.

Remembering what He has done for us can bring us to national revival.