

II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

A Ministry of Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois - 217-285-5230

Pastor Randy Love

Leonard Dice, Editor

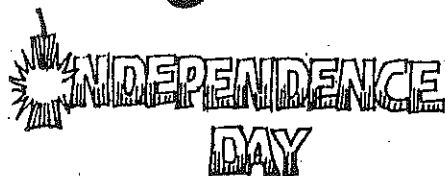
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"INDEPENDENCE DAY"

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July 4th



247
YEARS
OF
FREEDOM



Declaration of Independence

"One Nation Under God"



What Our Nation Needs

A leader like Moses, who refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but was willing to go with God.

Army generals like Joshua, who knew God and could pray and shout things to pass rather than blow them to pieces with atomic energy.

A food administrator like Joseph who knew God and had the answer to famine.

Preachers like Peter, who would not be afraid to look people in the eye and say, "Repent or perish," and denounce their personal as well as national sins.

Mothers like Hannah, who would pray for a child that she might give him to God, rather than women who are delinquent mothers of delinquent children.

Children like Samuel, who would talk to God in the night hours.

Physicians like Luke, who could care for physical needs and introduce their patients to Jesus Christ who is a specialist in spiritual trouble.

A God like Israel's instead of the dollar god, the entertainment god and the auto god.

A Saviour like Jesus, who could and would save from the uttermost to the uttermost.

“Why is it that, next to the birthday of the Savior of the world, your most joyous and most venerated festival returns on this day? . . . Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?”

John Quincy Adams, July 4, 1837, when he delivered a Fourth of July speech at Newburyport, MA

The Bible, the Nation's Guide

I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Good Book and the Spirit of the Saviour have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses....Whether we look to the first Charter of Virginia...or to the Charter of New England...or to the Charter of Massachusetts Bay...or to the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut...the same objective is present: a Christian land governed by Christian principles....

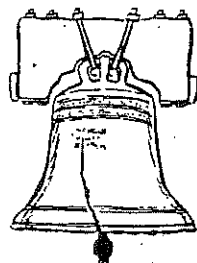
I believe the entire Bill of

Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it. Freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition; the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under law and the reservation of powers to the people....I like to believe we are living today in the spirit of the Christian religion. I like also to believe that as long as we do so, no great harm can come to our country.

Prayer for Liberty

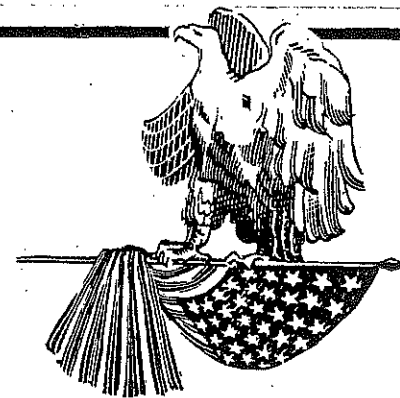
Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth, and the life, hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make men free.

Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived.



Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Make us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall, before the U. S. Senate



A NATION'S STRENGTH

What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?
What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold: Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;
The blood has turned their stones
to rust,
Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright
crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down
In ashes at His feet.

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others
sleep,
Who dare while others fly—
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

America's Message to the World

I am the United States. I was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal in the sight of God. I am the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. I am freedom for all men. The blood of the world runs in my veins.

I am over three hundred million living people, and the voice of other millions who have died for the freedom for which I stand and which I still make possible.

I am sleepy rustic villages and surging, roaring cities, fruitful vines and fertile fields, magnificent mountains and dry, dusty deserts. I am three and one-half million square miles, with farms, small businesses, schools, colleges and churches.

I am Paul Revere's, "The British are coming!" I am Patrick Henry's, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

I am Washington in prayer at Valley Forge, Lincoln in sorrow at Gettysburg, MacArthur in return to Manila.

I am the Defender of Free-

dom. In answer to its call, I left my heroic dead in Flanders Field, Pearl Harbor, Okinawa, Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East.

I am the voice of freedom, and freedom is my breath and my blood. Without it I'd die! And God willing and helping, may I always possess the integrity and inner strength of unity to keep myself unshackled and to remain forever the citadel of freedom, a beacon of hope to all men everywhere!

I am the American flag with thirteen stripes to remind all of my humble beginning and fifty white stars on a field of blue showing the strength of unity with integrity as captured in those immortal words of Lincoln, "The Union—at any price!"

If you have ever known the feeling of seeing me unfurled over a stronghold of evil, stormed in the cause of right or waving proudly in the breeze in a foreign land to the stirring sound of "Retreat" or "Taps," then you know why men are willing to follow me and die for the freedom for which I stand.