

## THE QUESTION FACING US

### Introduction:

1. ***Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance."***
2. Let's suppose that sometime this week you turned on the TV News & heard these 3 announcements:  
#1 - *"The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court issued this statement: 'Divine Providence (that's God) has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty... of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.'"*  
#2 - *"Inquiries by our reporters reveal that almost every state legislature has now passed a law requiring all elected officials to take this oath: 'I do profess faith in God the Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ His only Son and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old & New Testaments to be given by divine inspiration.'"*  
#3 - *"Legislation was passed today in Congress to affirm that, 'The Congress of the United States approves of and recommends ... the Holy Bible for use in the schools.'"*
3. What do you think the media will say?
4. But the amazing thing is this: Every one of these statements is historically accurate and factual.
5. It was John Jay, the very first Chief Justice & often called the *Father of the Supreme Court*, one of the primary writers of our Constitution, who wrote, *"It is the duty... of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."*
6. It was the state of Delaware (along with most of the others) that required officeholders to take an oath affirming their Christian faith before they could take office. And they had a very logical reason for that requirement.
7. And not only did Congress in 1782 approve the use of the Bible in our schools, but they also paid for them with tax dollars.
8. And, in 1844, when someone sued to remove them, the Supreme Court ruled: *"Why should not the Bible, and especially the New Testament, be read and taught as a divine revelation in the schools? Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly as from the New Testament?"*
9. Just think about this: If these people, who were so instrumental in establishing our nation, were here to say and do those things in our country today, they'd be considered right-wing radicals and a threat to our nation.
10. We've gone a long way away from our roots as Americans.
11. I have concluded that there is so much about our early history that most people who live in America just don't know.

12. Our school systems, colleges, and universities have become so secularized - so distanced from religion - that huge chunks of information about the spiritual roots of our nation are neglected, and unless you hear it from Christians, where will you hear it?
13. So, here are some things that are worth knowing about the roots of our nation, about what's right with America:

**America was settled by people who wanted religious freedom:**

1. Other nations, for the most part, came into existence by conquest for selfish and ambitious motives.
2. In the Mayflower Compact, which they signed in the cabin of their ship, they proclaimed that they had come to the new world for *"the glory of God & the advancement of the Christian faith."*
3. In 1643, as more people arrived on these shores, they joined together to form *"The New England Confederation."*
4. They wrote the first constitution written in the New World, and it began with these words: *"Whereas we all came into these parts with one & the same end and aim, namely to advance the kingdom of Our lord Jesus Christ, and to enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity & peace..."*

**Our Founders had a strong desire to be pleasing to God and do His will:**

1. Before I go any further, please remember that around 150 years passed from the time of the earliest settlers to the beginning of our nation
2. We are not very proud of some of the things that happened during those years.
3. As waves of immigrants arrived, many of them came for other reasons and with entirely different motives than those early settlers.
4. Churches were dying, and many of them that had once sought religious freedom for themselves were now being intolerant of others.
5. Some went off in strange spiritual directions – e.g. Salem Witch trials
6. The result was that by 1730, only about 10% of the people in the Colonies attended church at all.
7. But then something amazing happened!
8. Beginning in 1734, a handful of preachers – Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, Gilbert Tennant, John Wesley, and others – began to preach in the churches and in the streets and in the fields.
9. This era became known as *"The Great Awakening"*
10. Benjamin Franklin wrote, *"It was wonderful to see the change soon made in the manners of our inhabitants. From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if*

*all the world were growing religious, so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street."*

11. Openly devout Christians now made up 50% or more of the population
12. Our Founding Fathers, the signers of the Declaration of Independence, those who wrote our Constitution and the Bill of Rights, those who put their lives on the line, who fought and died that we might be free – all these grew up and came into leadership during the "Great Awakening"
13. In the personal diary of George Washington, he wrote "*Let my heart, gracious God, be so affected with Your glory and majesty that I may ... discharge those weighty duties which thou requirest of me ... Again, I have called on thee for pardon and forgiveness of sins ... for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ offered on the cross for me. Thou gavest thy Son to die for me; and hast given me assurance of my salvation.*"
14. Over 10 years, political-science professors at the University of Houston collected and cataloged 15,000 writings by the founding fathers.
15. Their goal was to determine the primary source of ideas behind the Constitution by identifying the sources quoted most often by them. The primary source was the Bible - 94% of the quotes of the founders of our nation were based upon the Bible.

#### **America was founded by men and women who acknowledged God's supreme rule over all**

1. They weren't all devout Christians, but they all acknowledged that God was the supreme ruler over man and nations.
2. Prologue of the Declaration of Independence: "*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, & the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*"
3. They end their Declaration with these words: "*And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence*" (that's God), "*we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes & our sacred honor.*"
4. One of them suggested they all get on their knees and ask God what should be done.
5. The drafters of the Declaration of Independence all went to their knees as one man & began to pray and seek the wisdom and guidance of God.
6. John Adams, he wrote to his wife, Abigail, about the meeting of the First Continental Congress, said, "*The most amazing thing occurred. Even the stern old Quakers had tears gushing down their cheeks.*"
7. Wouldn't it be wonderful today if our president, our congress, and our Supreme Court, if they would just get down on their knees like our forefathers did and ask, "*God, what do you want for this nation?*"

8. At the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Samuel Adams, often called the *"Father of the Revolution,"* declared: *"We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven, & from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His Kingdom come."*

### **America was Protected and Directed by God**

1. The ragtag assembly of volunteers, farmers, and tradesmen who composed the ranks of the Continental Army was out-manned, out-gunned, and out-financed.
2. The colonies had virtually no chance of winning a war against England, short of God's miraculous intervention.
3. And that intervention seems to have happened.
4. Both American and British observers recorded their conviction that God had sided with the colonies against the British Empire.
5. August 27, 1776 – Washington and 8,000 men were trapped
6. Another amazing *"coincidence"* took place at the end of the war. By that time, the French had become our allies, and an opportunity arose to trap British General Cornwallis in Virginia.
7. One historian wrote, *"The junction in Virginia had to be coordinated by two different national commands separated across an ocean without benefit of telephone, telegraph, or wireless. That this was carried out without a fault seems accountable only by a series of miracles."*

### **Our government is based on biblical principles**

1. We have an Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch that makes laws, and a Judicial Branch.
2. They were influenced by ***Isaiah 33:22***, which refers to God in those same 3 aspects. ***"For the Lord is our Judge [judicial], our Lawgiver [legislative], and our King [executive]. It is He who will save us."***

### **American law guarantees our religious freedom**

1. First Amendment of the American Constitution: *"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."*
2. The so-called *"wall of separation"* was never intended to insulate our government or our culture from Christian influence.
3. It was originally and always intended to protect the church from governmental influence and interference.
4. By the way, did you know that in 1892 the Supreme Court declared this about Christianity in America?

5. *"Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based on and must include the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It can't be otherwise. To this extent, our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian."*
6. Yet in recent years, the Supreme Court has totally repudiated that
7. And there are also many people who are determined to find some way to exercise their right to practice and proclaim their faith, regardless of how vocal and strident the opposition may be today.
8. Examples: Riverside County High School and Calvert County Maryland.
9. Cal Thomas, the journalist, had this to say about that event: *"Those Maryland parents and friends discovered an authority they had forgotten they had. Frustrated by the aimlessness of Washington and its inability to do anything except focus on self-preservation and survival of the politically unfit, this audience at the Calvert County graduation decided to practice what 'We the People' means. "When those Marylanders were told that they had no right to speak of God publicly, they chose to speak to God publicly. Whatever the Supreme Court says, they cannot stop us from practicing and proclaiming our faith wherever and whenever we choose."*

#### **Conclusion:**

1. Story from Soviet Union
2. Folks, I know that America is far from perfect, because none of us is perfect, but I do believe that it is the greatest nation on earth.
3. And the reason is that our forefathers acknowledged God and their dependence upon Him.
4. We must not lose sight of the heritage that they have entrusted to us.
5. Thomas Jefferson said, *"The God who gave us life, gave us liberty."*
6. Now the question: *"Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"*
7. I leave that question for you to decide
8. He that has ears to hear, let him hear