

19.5 Know the Constitution

I want to loosely tie this episode to **Psalm 119:11 (ESV)**:

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

I grew up going to public school. Homeschooling was unheard of in my youth. Unlike now, those public school days weren't all bad. Back then we still respected the Bible and the Constitution as well as American History in general. We were Patriotic. Today our public schools are propaganda factories for the Communists who have taken over America. The emphasis is on compliance not the "Three R's."

I have never been good at memory work. I especially had a hard time reciting from memory to the class. Even as an adult who has preached sermons and taught classes for over forty-five years I still don't like reciting from memory (and there's a story about that I will tell you some time). If you ever are present for one of my classes or sermons you will observe that I use notes for my presentations. I like to say that I am a "noted speaker" because I use notes.

Public school was helpful for me in doing memory work. In third grade I memorized Psalm 23, Psalm 100 and the Lord's Prayer, all in the King James Version, of course. Yes, that was in PUBLIC SCHOOL. Just try that now. In fifth grade I remember memorizing a lot of America's documents. We memorized and sang patriotic songs. Probably the best thing I learned was the Preamble to the Constitution. After all these years, I can still recite it (at least at home where no one else is watching). BTW, my favorite Andy Griffith episode is the one where Barney thinks he knows the Preamble and tries to recite it. It's on YouTube if you need a laugh.

The Preamble reminds me of the way the Ten Commandments introduce the Law of Moses and the way the Beatitudes introduce the Sermon on the Mount. It is sort of an outline of things to come. The Preamble sets us up for the "meat" of the Constitution. It's not a long statement, but it is powerful. Here it is (and yes, I am copying and pasting it):

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Notice some quick points:

- It starts with WE THE PEOPLE. Ours is not a top-down government, but goes from below to above.
- It was intended to form a MORE PERFECT UNION. The Framers made allowances for the Constitution to be amended. It was not the most perfect, it was merely more perfect than what we had.
- ESTABLISH JUSTICE – How do you feel about the injustices going on today?
- INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY – How do you feel about those states that refused to stop the summer riots? There was nothing peaceful about burning buildings and citizens had no tranquility.
- PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE – This is why we have a military; not for conquest but for defense.
- PROMOTE GENERAL WELFARE – it is to promote it, not provide it (See **Deuteronomy 24**).
- SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY – Liberty is not unbridled freedom, it is freedom with responsibility. BTW, that responsibility begins with our personal responsibility to God.

- TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY – It was not just for one generation, but for future ones as well.

The down side to my memorizing the Preamble is that I stopped there for years. I never read the entire Constitution until I was an adult. Have you read it? If you served in the military or in certain other positions where you swore to defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign AND domestic, did you know what you swore to defend? The Nuremburg trials outlawed, “*I was just following orders.*” We need to know what is lawful and what is not. Then act accordingly.

If you are like most Americans you know bits and pieces of the Constitution because you heard someone talk about such things as the First or Second Amendment. Most likely, though, you have never read it in its entirety. It does not take long, so read it. As you read, you will notice that the Constitution does not mention God as the Declaration of Independence did. Yet, His fingerprints are all over it, sort of like the Bible book of Esther.

One of the reasons we don’t read the Constitution is because we think we can’t understand it. After all, there are lawyers who specialize in the Constitution that debate issues that we laymen can hardly begin to grasp. That is the way a lot of people approach the Bible, isn’t it? Some think that Book is too difficult to understand so, instead of getting resources to aid in understanding they just set it aside.

What would happen if all Americans knew the Constitution as well as the stats of their favorite ball teams? What would happen if all Americans took the oath to defend the Constitution either formally or informally? Do you think the politicians would be so open and brazen as to ignore the Constitution as they are today?

For more information on understanding the Constitution, I would encourage you to check out Rick Green’s website that I have included in the notes: <https://rickgreen.com/constitution-tools/constitution-classes/> We are not related, Rick spells his name correctly, without a final “e.”

Keep The Light of our Bible-based Constitution Burning!