

34.5 Christian Patriots

The term, “Christian Patriot” is an oxymoron to some people. One is either a Christian or a Patriot, not both. We smile at such expressions as, “Jumbo Shrimp;” “Bittersweet;” “Civil War;” “Student Teacher;” and “Working Vacation.” We understand what those expressions mean, but in the most stringent sense, they are contradictory terms.

When we stop and consider the issue we might ask, shouldn’t every Christian want the best for their country? Founding Father, **Dr. Benjamin Rush** affirmed this in 1773:

Patriotism is as much a virtue as justice and is as necessary for the support of societies as natural affection is for the support of families. The Amor Patriae is both a moral and a religious duty. It comprehends not only the love of our neighbors but of millions of our fellow creatures, not only of the present but of future generations. This virtue we find constitutes a part of the first characters in history. The holy men of old, in proportion as they possessed a religion, were endowed with a public spirit. What did not Moses forsake and suffer for his countrymen? What shining examples of Patriotism do we behold in Joshua, Samuel, Maccabeus, and all the illustrious princes, captains, and prophets amongst the Jews! St. Paul almost wishes himself accursed for his countrymen and kinsmen after the flesh. Even our Savior himself gives a sanction to this virtue. He confined his miracles and gospel at first to his own country.¹

God even told the Jewish people to be supportive of a country that was not theirs while they endured their seventy year exile in Babylon. **Jeremiah 29:7** (NKJV) reads:

⁷ And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

After all, what is it that makes a better country? What is it that sparks people to improve their lot in life? Is it not the presence and purpose of God?

The nations of Israel and later America, it seems, were blessed by God. The height of blessings seem to have occurred at the pinnacle of faithfulness to Him. When they embraced God, he blessed them with prosperity. When they rejected God, He brought them to the depths as He promised in **Deuteronomy 11:26-32**.

When we search the scriptures we find we have what our forefathers called “inalienable rights.” These rights are given to us by God, not governments. Among these rights are “Life, Liberty, and Property.” The Declaration of Independence reduced “property” to “pursuit of happiness” because of the issue of slavery. However, “pursuit of happiness,” not the guarantee of it is also given by God.

The majority of quotations in our founding documents came from the Bible. **Dr. Paul T. Criss** stated in his article, “*Worldview and the U.S. Constitution, Part 1*”²:

“Political science professors at the University of Houston collected representative writings out of the founding era (1760-1805) and analyzed who they quoted to find out where they got their ideas. They collected fifteen thousand writings and identified 3,154 direct quotes of the founders; it took them ten years, but they took every quote back to its original source and discovered the top one hundred sources. They published their findings in a book called, *The Origins of American Constitutionalism*. Out of all the writings that were out there – Rousseau, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Hume, Hobbes – the one that was quoted more than any other was Baron Charles

¹ Rev. Mark Creech, [Patriotism, War, Christianity and Memorial Day - Christian Action League](#)

² [Worldview and the U.S. Constitution, Part 1 – Adult, Graduate, & Online Studies \(belhaven.edu\)](#)

Montesquieu's *Spirit of the Laws* at 8.3% of the quotations. The next quoted source was Sir William Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Law* at 7.9%. The third most cited individual is John Locke's *Two Treatise's of Government* at 2.9%. These are the top three cited individuals, but the number one source cited was the Bible at 34%."

At one time America was considered a Christian Nation. It was a refuge for those seeking religious freedom. It was intended to be a place of "liberty and justice for all." And, it was founded by Christian Patriots who willingly sacrificed their "lives, fortunes and sacred honor" for the cause.³

Christian Patriots have one foot in heaven and one foot on earth do so with a "firm reliance on Providence" (God) as stated in the Declaration of Independence. To them, patriotism was more than flag-waving. It was about "advancing Christian faith" in the world, according to the Mayflower Compact. It was about self-government that began when men could fist govern themselves before God and then the nation together.

Christian Patriots know that true Christianity is a choice. No one is forced or coerced to follow God because He wants peoples' hearts, not merely their actions. **Joshua 24:15** (NKJV) said it like this:

⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Sometimes in our choice to walk with God, we need a nudge to keep making the right choice to follow Him. Sometimes we need a small spark to reignite our faith. We all have probably wavered in our spiritual energy. It happened to the prophet, Jeremiah but God stirred his soul. Notice **Jeremiah 20:9** (NKJV):

**⁹ Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him,
Nor speak anymore in His name."
But *His word* was in my heart like a burning fire
Shut up in my bones;
I was weary of holding *it* back,
And I could not.**

These "Devotionals for Patriots" are not meant to be theologically or historically deep. They are meant to inform a little and inspire a little by "telling His story in our History." They are nudges to our walk. They keep the fire going.

Keep The Light of Christian Patriotism Burning!

³ Declaration of Independence