

### 39.4 Our National Motto

Several years ago, as I was paying for my lunch, I noticed a humorous sign by the cash register. The sign read, "*In God we trust. Everyone else pays cash.*"

After our horrific Civil War, Congress placed the motto, "In God We Trust," on our coins on March 3, 1865. This Congressional decree was the last action of Congress Abraham Lincoln signed before his death.<sup>1</sup> The fourth stanza of the "Star Spangled Banner" inspired Congress to take this action. The stanza reads:

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

When I read the words of our National Motto and our National Anthem, they remind me of our connection to God. Contrary to the disinformation of our Marxist education system, atheists or deists did not establish America. God-fearing and God-trusting Patriots willingly paid a tremendous price to launch our nation.

The evidence is overwhelming. Let me give you this quote from John Adams in a letter to Dr. Benjamin Rush on August 28, 1811:

Religion and virtue are the only foundations, not only of republicanism and of all free government, but of social felicity under all governments and In all the combinations of human society.<sup>2</sup>

Typically, when the Founders spoke of "religion," they seemed to be referring to Christianity, not just any religion. Christianity, for the most part, was their religion. Adams and other Founders understood God's role in our nation's history.

General George Washington exhibited trust as a prayerful warrior leading our Continental Army. In June of 1779, near his headquarters on the Hudson River, Washington's private prayer was recorded:

And now, Almighty Father, if it is Thy holy will that we shall obtain a place and name among the nations of the earth, grant that we may be enabled to show our gratitude for Thy goodness by our endeavors to fear and obey Thee.

Bless us with Thy wisdom in our counsels, success in battle, and let all our victories be tempered with humanity. Endow, also, our enemies with enlightened minds, that they become sensible of their injustice, and willing to restore our liberty and peace.

Grant the petition of Thy servant, for the sake of Him whom Thou hast called Thy beloved Son; nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done.

In a letter to Samuel Langdon on September 28, 1789, George Washington stated the debt of gratitude Americans owed God. He wrote:

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<sup>1</sup> Federer, William J. *American Minute*. St. Louis, Amerisearch, Inc., 2012, p. 69.

<sup>2</sup> Federer, William J. *American Quotations*. Amerisearch, 2013, p. 668.

“The Man must be bad indeed who can look upon the events of the American Revolution without feeling the warmest gratitude towards the great Author of the Universe whose divine interposition was so frequently manifested in our behalf.”

Our Forefathers had no one to whom they could turn, so they trusted God. They put all they had into His hands. I have wondered about my trust in God and ours as a nation. How do we trust Him?

Trusting God is an exercise in faith. David wrote in Psalm 9:10 (NKJV):

And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;  
For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

David strikes at some foundational aspects of trusting God. Trust begins by “*knowing God’s name*,” which is more than the recognition of a title we call Him. Knowing His name means we know His person and character. The primary way we know Him is through a close relationship with Him. We do not keep Him at arm’s length. We embrace Him. The closer we get to Him, the more we can trust Him. That trust plays out as Washington prayed by obeying Him.

Trusting God comes by “seeking him.” We know that God seeks us. He entered the garden looking for Adam and Eve after their sin, only to find them hiding from Him. Ultimately we know He seeks us by sending His Son to “*seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19:10).

There comes a time when we must turn and seek Him in repentance. God spoke through Jeremiah and said that after the captivity in Babylon, the people would again seek Him. Consider Jeremiah 29:12-13 (NKJV):

<sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

We can trust our idols and our substitutes for God. Many people trust in wealth, family, a political ideology, an education system, the medical system, our leaders, our military, and even churches. There is no substitute for trusting God. Listen to Psalm 20:7 (NKJV) and see if it might fit today.

Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

President John F. Kennedy stated, February 9, 1961:

“The guiding principle of This Nation has been, is now, and ever shall be IN GOD WE TRUST.”

Let us return to “In God We Trust.” Let us return to being “one nation under God.” There is none other on whom we may depend.

Keep The Light of *Trusting God* Burning!