

60.5 America's Not-So-Secret Success

Greetings Patriots! This is Perry Greene with GNA. Throughout these devotional podcasts, I have tried to give you quotes from firsthand accounts of our Forefathers and their quest for independence from Great Britain. Today I want to consider some of the quotes from **Alexis de Tocqueville**, from his exploration trip to America. He, among others, was curious as to what made America an exceptional country. It's really no secret.¹

Alexis de Tocqueville was a French statesman, historian, and social philosopher born on July 29, 1805, and died on April 16, 1859. He arrived in New York, on May 11, 1831, with Gustave de Beaumont and began a nine-month tour of the country to observe the American prison system, the people, and the American institutions. His two-part work, published in 1835 and 1840, was titled *Democracy in America*. In that work, he stated:

Upon my arrival in the United States, the religious aspect of the country was the first thing that struck my attention; and the longer I stayed there, the more I perceived the great political consequences resulting from this new state of things, to which I was unaccustomed. In France, I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom marching in opposite directions. But in America, I found they were intimately united and that they reigned in common over the same country.

Marxists of all flavors have neutered American Christianity. Today American "Christians" have little influence on the national culture. Under a false sense of humility, Christians in America have stood by quietly as the government removed the Ten Commandments, Bible study, and prayer from our schools and the public square. In general, the American Church is little more than a socio-religious club today which does not want to be disturbed from its slumber. Preachers who challenge their congregations to confront the evils of our time are ignored or rejected and warned, "We do not engage in politics." That was not the practice of our Forefathers. Notice some additional observations regarding the Christian religion in America by **de Tocqueville** (emphasis added):

Religion in America...must be regarded as the foremost of the political institutions of that country; for if it does not impart a taste for freedom, it facilitates the use of it. Indeed, it is in this same point of view that the inhabitants of the United States themselves look upon religious belief.

I do not know whether all Americans have a sincere faith in their religion - for who can search the human heart? - But I am certain that they hold it to be indispensable to the maintenance of republican institutions. This opinion is not peculiar to a class of citizens or a party, but it belongs to the whole nation and to every rank of society.

In the United States, the sovereign authority is religious . . . There is no country in the whole world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America, and there can be no greater proof of its utility and of its conformity to human nature than that its influence is powerfully felt over the most enlightened and free nation of the earth

America is still the place where the Christian religion has kept the greatest real power over men's souls; and nothing better demonstrates how useful and natural it is to man, since the country where it now has the widest sway is both the most enlightened and the freest.

Family is the building block of a society. In recent years we have seen an all-out attack on the family, and family breakdowns. We have even become so enlightened that we have redefined marriage and rejected God's definition. When certain Pharisees questioned Jesus about divorce, He responded in **Matthew 19:4-6** (NKJV):

¹ Federer, William J. *American Quotations*. St. Louis, Amerisearch, 2013, pp. 1270-1273.

⁴And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Notice **de Tocqueville’s** observation about the families in America:

I do not question that the great austerity of manners that is observable in the United States arises, in the first instance, from religious faith...its influence over the mind of woman is supreme, and women are the protectors of morals. There is certainly no country in the world where the tie of marriage is more respected than in America or where conjugal happiness is more highly or worthily appreciated...

In the minds of Americans today, there is the sense that we can separate our Liberty from God. France tried it in their Revolution. They wanted Liberty in order to be as ungodly and immoral as they desired. Once they obtained their freedom, they crumbled. American Liberty stood the test of time – until we threw off the yoke of Christ and we became our standards of morality. Our attitude has been akin to the actions of the Hebrews in **Judges 21:25** (NKJV):

²⁵In those days *there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

De Tocqueville made this observation regarding the connection between faith and liberty.

The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other; and with them this conviction does not spring from that barren traditionary faith which seems to vegetate in the soul rather than to live.

Alexis’ view reminds us that liberty and faith are intertwined as Paul describes in **2 Corinthians 3:17** (NKJV):

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

A person’s word under oath is critical to the courts of justice in America. Our judicial system is taking a beating today as people, especially the elites, ignore the standards of right and wrong. Listen to **de Tocqueville’s** observations of a court case he observed in 1831 in Chester County, New York:

While I was in America, a witness, who happened to be called at the assizes of the county of Chester (state of New York), declared that he did not believe in the existence of God or in the immortality of the soul. The judge refused to admit his evidence, on the ground that the witness had destroyed beforehand all confidence of the court in what he was about to say. The newspapers related the fact without any further comment.

How “the mighty have fallen” (**2 Samuel 1:25**) in every area of **de Tocqueville’s** observations! There are many more quotes, but these suffice. Once again, we need to go back to our moorings and the fundamental principles that made America great. Even the outside observers saw and understood that we held high regard for God and the worship of God. One denomination did not dominate the others; each took its place in the nation and promoted morality and a biblical worldview in all areas of life.

We have the challenge to Keep The Light of *Biblical Standards* Burning!