

67.5 Constitution Day

Today's podcast is about "Constitution Day" and has excerpts from my book, "*Our U.S. Holidays: Faith, Hope, and Liberty*." I am currently working on a revision of that book and will let you know when you may purchase it. I have a few copies of the original left that you can purchase directly from me. Contact me at GodNAmerica@gmail.com. You may also purchase my devotional book entitled, "*Keep The Light Burning! Devotionals for Patriots*" at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

We know that the Constitution does not give us our rights, it guarantees them. God is the Giver of all of our inalienable rights, the Constitution protects them. **Patrick Henry** once said:

"The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it was an instrument for the people to restrain the government lest it come to dominate our lives and interests"

In 1940, Congress and the President passed a resolution creating "*I Am an American Day*," observed on the third Sunday in May. In 1952, Congress renamed the holiday "*Constitution Day*" and moved it to September 17, the day in 1787 when the Constitution was signed. More than 50 years later, in 2004, Congress again changed the name of the holiday to "*Constitution Day and Citizenship Day*."¹

The "*Constitutional Convention*," as we know it, began in May and lasted into September 1787. Originally it was called the "*Federal Convention*" or the "*Grand Convention*." The sitting Congress invited seventy-four delegates to Philadelphia to revise the *Articles of Confederation* that had united the colonies in our War for Independence. However, the fifty-five who showed up were determined to create a national Constitution.²

There was a great division among the delegates over State Sovereignty and Federal Rule. The delegates battled over determining equity between the states as the Convention went on. Imagine how little Rhode Island felt against vast Virginia or any other larger states. The delegates learned the art of compromise. To protect the small states, a Senate became part of the plan with two representatives from each state. The House of Representatives protected the larger states with Congressional Representatives based on population. The Federal government would only have powers enumerated by the States ("we the people").

Benjamin Franklin's wisdom enabled the Convention to keep going amid chaos and create our Constitution when on June 28, 1787, he suggested that the group pray together as they had during the War for Independence. Once the delegates prayed together, all of the pieces seemed to fall into place. Do you remember his Bible-laced speech that began:

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth--that God Governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?

Many of those present attributed the creation of the Constitution to the providential presence of God. **James Madison** wrote under the pseudonym of Publius in the Federalist Papers. He stated the following in **Federalist Papers #37**:

"The real wonder is that so many difficulties should have been surmounted, and surmounted with a unanimity almost as unprecedented as it must have been unexpected. It is impossible for any man of

¹ <https://nationaltoday.com/constitution-day/>

² Catherine Bowen, *Miracle at Philadelphia* (New York: Back Bay Books, 1966), p. 4.

candor to reflect on this circumstance without partaking of the astonishment. It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution.”

George Washington wrote a letter to his friend, Lafayette, with the same point of view.

“It appears to me, then, little short of a miracle, that the Delegates from so many different States (which States you know are different from each other) in their manners, circumstances, and prejudices, should unite in forming a system of national Government, so little liable to well-founded objections.”

Many believe that our Forefathers had a biblical worldview and patterned our government after the nation of Israel with a republic model based on **Exodus 18**. If we believe in the sovereignty and activity of God, we see His hand in all that goes on in this world, including our Constitution. **Isaiah 14:24** (NKJV) reads:

**The LORD of hosts has sworn, saying,
“Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass,
And as I have purposed, so it shall stand:**

The Statue of Liberty in New York City was a powerful emblem of our independence, and she holds the torch of freedom and the tablet of law. We cannot have Liberty without the rule of law, and we cannot have the rule of law without God. When we look at the Constitution, we observe that it contains biblical principles of God’s Law. On October 17, 1798, **President John Adams** wrote in a letter to the officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Massachusetts Militia:

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

God’s intention for the national government was for the good of its citizens. **Romans 13:1-4** (NKJV) reads:

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.⁴ For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Many of our Founders believed that when a government that gets its authority from God crosses from doing good into tyranny, that government forfeits its right to rule. The government’s job is not to dictate but to serve the people, especially protecting the populace. **William Penn** wrote:

“If we aren’t governed by God we will be ruled by tyrants.”

Our current government is not protecting the population. We have open borders with a massive influx of criminals into our country. It is obvious that tyranny has replaced God and that the current regime is ignoring the Constitution. It is vitally important for us to address our elected officials and demand a return to God and the Constitution or Liberty will merely be a memory.

Keep The Light of the Constitution Burning!