

### 80.3 One Greater Than Washington is Here

George Washington's death on December 14, 1799, sent shockwaves throughout the new nation. The former President, our most significant and admired American, died at age sixty-seven. Many viewed him as "bullet-proof" under the hand of Providence. He led our troops to defeat the greatest army on earth in our War of Independence from Great Britain. Washington presided over our Constitutional Convention and served as the first President of the United States. At his friend's funeral, Henry Lee said that George Washington was "*First in war, First in peace, First in the hearts of his countrymen.*"

Washington caught a cold while inspecting Mt. Vernon on horseback. His chill turned deadly, and despite his doctors' best efforts, he passed away. Among his final words are these<sup>1</sup>:

1. "*Doctor, I die hard, but I am not afraid to go. I should have been glad, had it pleased God, to die a little easier, but I doubt not it is for my good.*"
2. At about 11 PM, he said, "*Father of mercies, take me unto thyself.*"

His survivors engraved his tombstone with **John 11:25-26**:

**I am the Resurrection, and the Life, sayeth the Lord. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. <sup>26</sup> And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.**

Americans have admired George Washington over the years! He was America's servant! Even as a colonial ally with Great Britain against the French and Indians, he served the nation. At the Battle of Monongahela, he gained the "Bullet-Proof" moniker. Washington was a man of faith and prayer, as we know from Isaac Potts' observation of the General kneeling in prayer in the Valley Forge snow.

One of George Washington's great qualities, along with many of his contemporaries, was that he was teachable. Early in our Revolution, General Washington would not permit the enslaved to fight for our independence and liberty. After he met the black enslaved poet Phillis Wheatley, she changed his mind. He opened the ranks to slaves and former slaves to fight for their liberty. I read those black patriots made up 10% of the Continental Army. I bet no one ever taught you that.

I have also read that the Revolutions changed Washington's perspective on slavery, and he became a proponent of abolition. Virginia law prohibited him from freeing the Mount Vernon slaves. Nonetheless, he saw the impropriety of the chains of enslavement.

I see our Forefathers in a moral bind in the days of the Revolution. Enslaving people as we did in America was biblically wrong. From our vantage point, we can level accurate criticisms against them, and their issue seems to parallel one of ours. How can Christians, who know that abortion is a sin, vote for political leaders who favor abortion and will implement laws that butcher babies in the womb and now up to nine months after birth in some states? Christians who criticize George Washington are silent on and justify the abortion issue. We must be careful how we evaluate others because we will be judged similarly and rightly so.

We should honor George Washington and others who led in establishing our nation. I have read several books about the former Commander and President, some written by his contemporaries, showing he was exceptional. I wish I could have met him! Perhaps I will.

Our leaders fascinate us because they seem different than us commoners. Solomon may have been the greatest king of all time, but he was undoubtedly the wealthiest. Yet, in speaking of Himself, Jesus said He was the greater. Notice **Matthew 12:38-42** (NKJV):

<sup>38</sup> **Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."**

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<sup>1</sup> Federer, William J. *American Minute*. St. Louis, Amerisearch, Inc., 2012, p. 355.

**<sup>39</sup> But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.**

Jesus is more significant than Solomon, George Washington, and every other earthly leader to have lived – even Donald Trump! (Sorry, MAGA folks, but it is true, Trump admits it). Jesus is what some call “*the God-Man*.” He is 100% God and, at the same time, 100% man and lived among us as an ordinary person to show us how to live before God properly. He sacrificed Himself on the cross for us and then literally rose to greatness from the tomb of death and eventually into the glories of His Father in heaven.

We will soon celebrate the birth of the Messiah, even though it is doubtful to have occurred in December. Notice the prophet’s predictive descriptions of Him in **Isaiah 9:6** (NKJV):

**<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Did you notice that Isaiah includes government in the gamut of His functions as the servant of God and man? As much as Christians want to ignore government and political involvement, Jesus is the basis for it. Jesus lived out His purpose in serving.

George Washington wanted to return to Mount Vernon and farm at the end of the Revolution. America called him to the presidency, and as always, he obeyed the call, putting others ahead of himself. Washington could have had a life-long position as our President but did return to his home after eight years of Presidential service.

We give “**honor to whom honor is due**,” according to **Romans 13:7**. We honor our first President, but even more, we honor the Son of God, who is superior to all of us, but look at what He did for us in **Philippians 2:8-11** (NKJV):

**<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death, even the death of the cross.* <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

Keep The Light of *Honoring Our Humble Servants* Burning!