

## Serving God Is Not Optional

I realize that God gives us a free choice so that we can serve Him or Satan. However, when we see the bottom line, there really is no other option but to “fear God and keep His commandments” (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**).

Patriots have their eyes open to the destruction of our republic. Even the people who are asleep or are not patriotic know something is wrong. Our forefathers knew that having God as the basis of our society was essential, not optional. They knew that when people know God, He blesses them and the works of their hands even when they have not achieved perfection. God blesses loyalty and faithfulness and works with those who choose Him. Listen to two quotes.

### **Daniel Webster:**

If we and our posterity shall be true to the Christian religion, if we and they shall live always in the fear of God and shall respect His commandments . . . we may have the highest hopes for the future fortunes of our country;. . . But if we and our posterity neglect religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with our injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity.<sup>1</sup>

### **Benjamin Franklin:**

He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world.<sup>2</sup>

These quotes indicate that our forefathers understood the need for a biblical worldview and, for the most part, tried to have God direct their paths. Many of their writings indicate that God’s providence preserved them and helped establish our nation. We have the best possible results when we invite God into our lives. Satan wants to ruin our lives; God wants to enhance them. Remember what Jesus said in **John 10:10** (NKJV):

**A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.**

We keep trying to improve on God’s plans but keep messing up. It reminds me of how we think that if the government handles an issue, it will be better than if they do not. **Ronald Reagan** laughingly said:

The most terrifying words in the English language are: “I’m from the government and I’m here to help.”

Reagan spoke the truth humorously, and we instinctively know that too much government intrusion is bad for us. Just look at the non-elected Department of Education. We did not have such a Federal branch until about 200 years after our Declaration of Independence. President Jimmy Carter did his part in taking America down by installing this education-overseeing organization.

Since the inception of the Federal DOE, our public schools have declined in effectiveness. Educationally, we are worse off than before we established this organization. This department is not constitutional, but we sleeping Americans did not raise an eyebrow to object.

Not only is our learning adversely affected, but the public schools have also become indoctrination centers for immorality and subversive activities to take down our country. There is no biblical worldview today for our schools and most of our churches.

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<sup>1</sup> Bellis, Mark, and Stephen McDowell. *America's Providential History*. Charlottesville, VA, Providence Foundation, 1989, p. 9.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

The French statesmen **Alexis de Tocqueville** and **Gustave de Beaumont** saw the impact of Religion in America during their tour of the nation in 1831-1832. Listen to a few of their observations:

- Religion in America is not only a moral institution but also a political institution. All of the American constitutions exhort the citizens to practice religious worship as a safeguard both to good morals and to public liberties. In the United States, the law is never atheistic...
- There is no political ceremony in America that does not begin with a pious invocation. I have seen a meeting of the Senate in Washington open with a prayer, and the anniversary festival of the Declaration of Independence consists, in the United States, of an entirely religious ceremony.
- It is a principle of the United States legislature that, to be a good citizen, it is necessary to be religious, and it is a no less well-established rule that, to fulfill one's duty toward God, it is necessary to be a good citizen.
- In the United States, the influence of religion is not confined to the manners, but it extends to the intelligence of the people.... Christianity, therefore reigns without obstacle, by universal consent; the consequence is, as I have before observed, that every principle of the moral world is fixed and determinate.

There is no question that the world, person by person, needs transformation and reformation. Such change does not happen through forced control but voluntary submission to the presence and will of God. Think of all the areas of life where we need God.

- Slavery is at an all-time high in the world. Millions are enslaved in various forms, from mining minerals for nonsensical electric vehicle batteries to child trafficking. At least a million children each year are at risk in over 127 participating countries, with the USA leading the pack. The innocent need liberty!
- Abortion is another immoral industry that we need to eliminate. More than 64,000,000 children have been murdered in the US since 1973. That is equivalent to the populations of Italy; California, and Florida.
- Our national debt is out of control and rising every second. If you want a nauseating experience, check out our national debt clock website at <https://www.usdebtclock.org/>.
- Violent crime is rising, and totalitarian regimes majoring in violence are likewise increasing. Communist governments have killed more than 130,000,000 since 1900. It makes one wonder why Americans, of all people, find Communism attractive. It comes back to not knowing God and history. Purportedly, **General George S. Patton**, upon taking control of Berlin in 1945, said, "We defeated the wrong enemy." He knew the dangers of Communism.
- Blatant and abominable immorality is rising before our eyes. The in-your-face LGBTQ+ agenda is pushing past tolerance to acceptance and praise. I am sure you have heard of the "***Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence***," who took over the LA Dodgers' Stadium on June 16, 2023. Their slogan is "Go sin some more," as they mock Jesus and Christianity. The Dodgers caved to the immoral pressures of this group, and it will cost them in a big way.

Our Forefathers and mothers knew the answers to the issues we face came from the pages of scripture. I hope by now you have turned off the MSM and are looking for alternative sources for news. Regardless of your source, the Bible is the foundation of all truth. Read your bible, learn the spiritual principles God employs, and apply them to the world in which we live. Do not wait for "Walter Cronkite," "Tom Brokaw," or even "Tucker Carlson" to tell you what to do. Act on the words of God.

Real liberty is with God, not apart from Him, as some suppose. Jesus came to liberate the enslaved. **Luke 4:18** (NKJV) reads:

**"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;**

**He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives  
And recovery of sight to *the* blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;**

Jesus came to relieve us from sin's oppression and tyrants' domination. He is the source of freedom!

Many Americans and Christian Americans have abdicated their responsibilities before God, thinking He is unconcerned with earthly issues, only with the spiritual. When Jesus taught us to pray, He said, "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (**Matthew 6:10**). God is concerned with the temporal and the eternal. He wants His will to be interjected into the affairs of this world and works through believers for His purposes. Heaven has no oppression, and God does not want it on Earth. He wants people to be free from oppression and slavery, whether by sin or man. Why would we neglect the process that brings about freedom with the presence of God and accept the abuse of men?

**Benjamin Franklin:**

"Those who would give up essential Liberty to purchase a little temporary Safety deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

We produce a principle of "sowing and reaping" or "cause and effect" by what we believe and practice. Listen to **Luke 6:43-45** (NKJV):

<sup>43</sup> **"For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>44</sup> For every tree is known by its own fruit. For *men* do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

The roots of the tree produce fruit. If we change the roots, we change the fruits. That is what happens when we Gentiles are grafted into the roots of the Israel olive tree in **Romans 11**. We change our roots and can bear good fruit. Paul wrote:

<sup>17</sup> **And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> do not boast against the branches. (Romans 11:17-18a, NKJV).**

I am sure you know that America was rooted in the word of God. Most public school students, however, do not. They have grown up with a "separation of church and state" our Founders never intended. Again, Alexis de Tocqueville saw everything in America revolving around religion, including politics—no more. The Marxist educators have made sure they cut us off from our roots. When we give up the Spirit of the Lord and the fruits of liberty He produces (**2 Corinthians 3:17**), we generate fruit from the branches of the "wild olive trees" that will be cut off and thrown into the fire.

**Jedidiah Morse** was a pioneer American educator and geographer. Called the "Father of American Geography," his son was **Samuel F.B. Morse**, the inventor of the telegraph and the Morse code. In an "*Election Sermon*" given at Charleston, Massachusetts, on April 25, 1799, Morse stated:

To the kindly influence of Christianity, we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness, which mankind now enjoys...Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government – and all blessings which flow from them – must fall with them."

Generations of Americans once experienced the providential hand of God in their lives and history. We need to relive these episodes in our time. The fifty-six men who signed the **Declaration of Independence** did so "*with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.*" After our War for Independence, **George Washington** proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day in 1789. He said:

It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor.

We need to know the history of and experience the providence of God. We can only do that by study and faith. **Pastor A. W. Foljambe** warned<sup>3</sup>:

The more thoroughly a nation deals with its history, the more decidedly will it recognize and own an overruling Providence therein, and the more religious a nation it will become, while the more superficially it deals with its history, seeing only secondary causes and human agencies, the more irreligious it will be.

All of our choices have consequences, some good and some bad. In one sense, serving God is optional. God gives us the freedom to choose whom we will serve. In another sense, there is no other option with promise and hope. We can serve the gods of this world and receive their end. Alternatively, we can serve the Living God and obtain His blessings for eternity.

Most republics last 200-250 years. America is in the final years of that lifespan and is at the lowest spiritual ebb in our history. Recent surveys estimate that less than fifty percent of Americans attend Sunday church services. We need GodN America again!

Regardless of the national outcome, we choose God. The familiar passage reads:

**<sup>15</sup>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” (Joshua 24:15, NKJV).**

Keep The Light of *Choosing God* Burning!

GodN America.com    [GodN America@gmail.com](mailto:GodN America@gmail.com)    405.361.3123

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 19.