

120.1 Washington's Farewell Address

A famous German philosopher (**Friedrich Nietzsche**) once said, "Basic to the human personality is the will to power." The SCOTUS proved it in 1963 when they decided they would no longer allow God in our schools. This little band of power-crazed oligarchs decided they knew more than God and our forefathers who set up their court. Congress and Americans should have rejected their opinion because the SCOTUS has no power in and of itself. It makes us ask, "Who's in Charge here?"

Dr. Gene Howard drew a parallel between "kicking God out of School" and many of society's problems in his 1999 poem, "Kicked Out of School"©. This is the last stanza of the poem:

"Remember when we had prayer, and God's commandments were read,/ and chewing gum and being tardy was the worst problem that we had./ Now murder, drugs, assault, teen pregnancy, and survival of the fittest rule, /but guns and knives were never a problem, till we kicked God out of school."¹

Perhaps you've seen the bumper sticker asking, "How can God Bless America when we kicked HIM out of our Schools?"²

God is Sovereign and in control! He has power and authority, not the SCOTUS, not Congress, not even "we the people." Paul wrote, ⁷**Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen**³

Jeremiah also said God is Sovereign. He declared:

**But the LORD is the true God;
He is the living God and the everlasting King.
At His wrath the earth will tremble,
And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.**⁴

You may be among the new breed of Americans who find fault with people and, therefore, cannot see the good. Please take a good look at General and President **George Washington**. Americans held him up for generations as an example of patriotism, character, and piety. In Washington's eulogy, **Richard Henry Lee** said he was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

George Washington had the same monumental decision to make twice in his life. The first time, after leading the American troops to victory, he had to decide whether to use his newly acquired power to rule the fledgling nation or resign his commission and go back to Mt. Vernon to farm. As General Washington faced that decision, King George III said, "If he does that [resigns to farm], he will be the greatest man in the world." We know he did that and that he was a great man.

The second time he had to decide if he would continue as President after his second administration. He could have had an undetermined number of years as POTUS but decided to step down from the high position after two four-year terms. He again wanted to return to his farm and live his life as a private citizen.

¹ <http://www.genehoward.com/poem-kos.htm>

² <http://www.christianbumpersticker.org/>

³ 1 Timothy 1:17

⁴ Jeremiah 10:10 (NKJV)

Before he left office, Washington issued his “**Farewell Address**” to the people of the United States on September 19, 1796. It is an important speech because he was our first President and because of his insights. Here is the most famous part of that speech.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion, and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. . . . And let us with caution, indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

Washington also spoke about his concern regarding political parties in America. He opposed them because of the divisive nature they display. We see he was correct when said:

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but, in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy.

President Washington told the American people the most important thoughts in his Farewell. Such an address is like celebrities’ famous last words as they die. There is a biblical precedent for this. Moses gave his farewell address and delivered the book of Deuteronomy to the new generation of Hebrews entering the Promised Land before he died. He urged their faithfulness to God and warned them of the consequences of disobedience. Likewise, Jesus gave his farewell address and final instructions to the disciples when He said, “**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”⁵

The world stood in awe as Washington delivered his Farewell Address, passed the baton of Presidential power, and returned to Mt. Vernon. President **John Adams**, his successor, would call him back into brief military service when needed. In many ways, George Washington seemed indispensable to America. In other ways, he personifies our nation as the quintessential American.

I always like to have an application to our podcast rather than merely giving facts or telling a story. George Washington showed us that an American Patriot is a person of faith and morality. Being a citizen of the US is more than flag-waving or even outwardly following the Constitution. Our citizenship reflects belief and trust in God at its core. We have lost that sense and must regain it. The divisive party spirit in our country will not heal without God’s presence.

Keep The Light of *Faring Well with God* Burning!

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⁵ Acts 1:8 (NKJV)