

If We Had No Savior

I remember watching the 1946 movie “It’s a Wonderful Life” as a teenager. I am unsure how I missed it until then, but I did. At the movie’s end, I got emotional at the outpouring of support for Jimmy Stewart’s character, George Bailey.

In the story, George Bailey had a severe business trauma and thought he was going to lose his company. He had felt like a failure for his whole adult life and unable to live up to his potential. With this tragedy, he believed everyone would have been better off if he had not been born. God granted him a glimpse into what life in Bedford Falls would have been like without him. He saw that he had been successful and that one person could make a difference in people’s lives.

God regretted that He created mankind in Genesis 6:6 (NKJV), “And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” In the days of Noah, people lived and breathed wickedness. Yet, Noah found grace or favor with God (Genesis 6:8). God destroyed the earth with the flood and started over with Noah and his family. We wouldn’t be here if one man, Noah, had given up on God.

We live in an evil world. The vilest sins are bubbling up into the open. Who would have believed that we would have professional educators advocating against parental rights and in favor of Drag Queens provocatively dancing in front of our children, calling it normal? Who would have thought of our legislators promoting adults having sexual relations with children as acceptable behavior?

Christ came into the world to “save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15). We have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23) and deserve eternal condemnation (Romans 6:23). God in His mercy sent His Son to be the sin offering and satisfy His justice while extending grace. When that sinks in, and we trust Jesus for our salvation, with the help of the HS, we will “live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:12).

If Jesus had never come and redeemed us, we would be eternally lost in a world like Noah’s. Genesis 6:5 (NKJV) reads, “⁵Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.” We would have no standards of right and wrong. We would have no possibility of a new life. We would be weighed down with worry. But He did come.

Our forefathers and mothers knew they needed God in their personal, national, and family lives. They declared Him by their words and deeds. They signed the Declaration of Independence “with a firm reliance on Providence.” They had no misgivings about declaring their allegiance to and dependence on Him. God was not some unknown power to them. He was authentic and involved in their day-to-day lives.

Many of our ancestors used the reading of their legal wills as an opportunity to declare their faith in Christ and encourage their families (and us) to follow Him. Listen to these final faith declarations.

- In his Will, which he wrote on November 20, 1798, Patrick Henry stated:
“I have now disposed of all my property to my family; there is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion. If they had that, and I had not given them one shilling, they would be rich, and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor. This is all the inheritance I give to my dear family. The religion of Christ will give them one which will make them rich indeed.”
- John Jay, our first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, wrote in his will:

"Unto Him who is the author and giver of all good, I render sincere and humble thanks for His merciful and unmerited blessings, and especially for our redemption and salvation by his beloved Son."

- In his will, attested December 9, 1790, Samuel Adams wrote:
"I... [rely] upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins."

Between their initial and final testimonies of faith in Christ, these men and women lived out what God put into them. Their religion was not limited to a Sunday morning church service but incorporated the presence of Christ and a biblical worldview that touched every facet of life, including civic affairs.

In the last few weeks, the MSM fake news has been distressed because Christian Patriots (whom they now call Christian Nationalists and Terrorists) say we get our rights from God, not the government. They are persecuting Christians as a threat to their democracy. They deny our history and God and live as if Christ did not come. His influence touched the very foundations of America and our government. Listen again to these familiar quotations. Most of our modern leaders will not affirm these words.

- John Jay (in addition to being America's first Supreme Court Chief Justice, he was a Co-Author of the Federalist Papers) stated on October 12, 1816:
"Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."
- On February 22, 1812, Francis Scott Key, author of our National Anthem, said:
"The patriot who feels himself in the service of God, who acknowledges Him in all his ways, has the promise of Almighty direction, and will find His Word in his greatest darkness, a lantern to his feet and a lamp unto his paths.' He will therefore seek to establish for his country in the eyes of the world, such a character as shall make her not unworthy of the name of a Christian nation...."
- Patrick Henry
"Being a Christian... is a character which I prize far above all this world has or can boast."
"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

Our world would be a miserable place if Christ had not come. Without His death, burial, and resurrection, we would have no hope, joy, or peace, only a dog-eat-dog world of survival. Because we live in His presence now, we have a better life and look forward to eternity. Our trust in Christ now is the start of eternal life. The apostle John wrote, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13, NKJV).

In a few days, the world's population will exceed 8.1 billion. If we commit to being salt and light, God can improve the world, one person at a time. He can give us hope now and for the world to come.

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