

Morning Worship

July 12, 2015

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Chorus # 177 "There's Something About That Name" Tim/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Chorus # 178 "He Is Lord" Tim/People

Offering Prayer Bill Schottel

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music Sharon Waters

Hymn # 333 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" Tim/People

Hymn # 412 "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place" Tim/People

Chorus # 256 "Father, I Adore You" Tim/People

“All I Have Is Christ”

Scripture Reading Allan/People

Message Allan Lane

Hymn # 288 "Where He Leads Me" Tim/People

Prayer Concerns

Chorus of # 571 "Let Others See Jesus in You" Tim/People

America's Exceptional Founders ...

Psalm 33:12 July 12, 2015

America is great, for the most part, because those who immigrated here and those who founded our nation honored the God of the Bible. There is ample evidence for our rich spiritual heritage and the deep Biblical faith of those who helped shape our nation and, under God, made America an exceptional nation.

Psalm 33:12 says that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." We began last Sunday with a question: Why is America great? Why is America so blessed as a nation? Is it because of our abundant natural resources? Other nations have natural

resources. Is it because our people are hard working? Other people are hard working. Is it because our people are smart? Other people are smart. Is it because our people are religious? Other people are religious. So why is America great? Why is this nation described in terms of "American Exceptionalism? Why have we become the most prosperous, the most technologically advanced, the most compassionate, most "free" nation on earth at this time in history? Consider the fact that we represent only 4.5% of the world's population but command nearly 40% of the world's wealth.

America is the birthplace of inventions like the telegraph, the telephone, the light bulb, the airplane, the Internet, the Global Positioning System. We have freed more people from tyranny, helped more people rebuild from the ravages of war, delivered more humanitarian aid to those who are suffering than any other nation in the world. We are not a perfect nation, but America has been a force for good in the world and America is still the wonder of the world.

Last Sunday we examined our past, present, and projected future possibilities. We can easily argue that America is great because, for the most part, those who immigrated here and those who founded our nation honored the God of the Bible. That is why America is an exceptional nation. Even with all our current problems, we are still the most generous, prosperous, free, and God-blessed people on the face of the earth! So our mission this morning is to uncover the ample evidence for our rich spiritual heritage and the deep Biblical faith of those who helped shape our nation and, under God, made America an exceptional nation. May I propose to you today the possibility that the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence are simply victims of modern day identity theft?

Now don't get me wrong. None of these men were perfect. Some were rich, some owned slaves, but man didn't. In fact, most were opposed to slavery. But were they deists? Did they believe in a detached deity? That God wound up the world like a watch and let it spin and He no longer intervenes in the affairs of men. No need to pray to that god. That's what Deism is. Today, let's look at some of the things they wrote and did and you can judge for yourselves.

The painting by John Trumbull of the signing of the Declaration that took place on August 2, 1776 is a popular one. Most Americans recognize it. Not all the men in the picture actually signed the document. For example, Robert Livingston from NY was on the Committee to draft the Declaration, but had to go back and take office in NY and didn't stay to sign.

{Many of the ideas of this sermon came from Dr. Kenyn Cureton, who currently serves as Vice President for Church Ministries with the Family Research Council in Washington, DC.}

I. They Referenced the Bible.

The men who voted on and later signed that document were not only declaring their Independence from England, they were declaring their dependence upon Almighty God. How do we know that? It is because the Declaration of Independence appeals to God no less than four times.

"[T]he Laws of Nature and of Nature's God..."

"[A]ll Men are created equal, they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. . ."

"[A]ppealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions . . ."

"[W]ith a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and Sacred Honor- - ."

Who were they talking about? Where did the concept come from that there is a God who rules the universe according to law, that God created all human beings equal with inherent rights? That God is the Supreme Judge of the World, and that God providentially intervenes on behalf of His people? Not from the European Enlightenment. Not from French philosophes like Voltaire and Rousseau. Those concepts come from the Bible.

A study conducted at the University of Houston by Dr. Donald S. Lutz and Dr. Charles S. Hyneman shows that 34% of the quotations from sources found in publications in the Founding Era came from the Bible, over 4 times more than the next most cited source.

Okay, so the Declaration references God a few times. Again, there are politicians today who bring God into the conversation, including the current President. Does that really prove anything about the Founding Fathers having a Biblical faith? Possibly not, but what they did and said as a group and as individuals does.

II. They Upheld the Bible.

For starters, this group and their successors over the course of the 8 year war, issued no less than 15 nationwide calls to prayer for thanksgiving or repentance. Not exactly something that atheist, agnostics or Deists would do. They also appointed paid chaplains for themselves and allocated money for military chaplains (\$20 per month, same as a captain).

And what of Thomas Jefferson, famous for his letter proclaiming a "Wall of Separation between Church and State," which Courts have used to say we need to separate God from government, Christ from culture, and Faith from public life? Well Jefferson was raised as an Episcopalian, but later in life he didn't believe in the divinity of Christ. Yet he faithfully supported Christianity. In fact, here are some of his actions as an elected official:

As a public official in Virginia, Jefferson introduced several bills in the state legislature supporting religious activities, and as Governor, he issued a: day of "Thanksgiving and Prayer.

As President, Jefferson agreed with legislation providing \$300 to "assist the said Kaskaskia tribe in the erection of a church" and to provide "annually for seven years \$100 towards the support of a Catholic Priest" in 1803.

III. They Published the Bible.

The Secretary of the Congress, Charles Thomson produced an American edition of the Bible from the Greek. He began by translating the Greek version of the Hebrew OT (called the Septuagint) into English. Took him 19 years and was considered by British biblical scholars to represent the best in American scholarship. When he finished the OT, he started translating the Greek NT, the first American translation, which took him another year, and completed an entire Bible. So he spent 20 years of his life translating God's word.

Congressional chaplains (William White and George Duffield) review a Bible produced by Robert Aitken, a Philadelphia printer, who described it as a "Neat edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use of schools." Then Congress acted on September 12, 1782: "Whereupon, Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled... highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interest of religion . . . in this country, and . . . they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper."

So Congress recommended a printing of the Bible to the American people! There are some who might say they were simply pandering to their base. What about them as individuals?

IV. They Honored the Bible.

President of the Congress, **John Hancock**, who reportedly signed his name so bold and big because he wanted King George to see it without his spectacles, was the son of a preacher and he preached on occasion. On the anniversary of the Boston Massacre, March 5, 1774, Hancock spoke from the pulpit of the Old South Church: "I have the most animating confidence that the present noble struggle for liberty will terminate gloriously for America. And let us play the man for our GOD, and for the cities of our GOD; while we are using the means in our power, let us humbly commit our righteous cause to the great LORD of the universe, who loveth righteousness and hateth inequity." (Psalm 45:7)

He also declared days of prayer as Governor of Massachusetts. Hancock's proclamation on March 4, 1793, called people to a "day of FASTING, HUMILIATION, and PRAYER... that with true conviction of Heart we may confess our sins, resolve to forsake them, and implore the Divine forgiveness, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior."

What about **the Committee of Five** who were charged with drafting the Declaration? That committee consisted of Benjamin Franklin and John Adams (who served as Co-Chairs), Thomas Jefferson who was nominated to write the first draft, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston.

Two of the least orthodox Christian Founding Fathers were **Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin**. If we had to put a religious designation on them, it wouldn't be deist, but more likely Unitarian. In other words, both believed in a God who was providentially active in human affairs, but they didn't adhere to the divinity of Jesus. Yet both promoted Biblical Christianity for the success of a new nation.

What about **Benjamin Franklin**? In July of 1776, Benjamin Franklin was appointed to the committee to draft a national seal. He proposed a rendering of "Moses lifting up his wand, and dividing the red sea, and pharaoh in his chariot overwhelmed with the waters," and having this motto: "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." Wow! Would that seal work in today's United States?

Franklin also stood in the midst of the contentious Constitutional Convention and called those assembled to return to God in prayer lest they be like the builders of Babel, and quoting Psalm 127:1: "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."

Jefferson also faithfully attended church services in the United States Capitol, allowed his Marine Corps Band to play for worship services, and when the church outgrew the old House Chamber, church services were established at the Treasury and at the War Departments, which were under Jefferson's supervision. Later, church services were held in the Senate Chamber, Supreme Court Chamber, and other parts of the Capitol. So in a sense, **Thomas Jefferson** began the "multi-site church" movement in America.

The Court's misinterpretation of Jefferson's "Wall of Separation between Church and State" is the biggest lie to be treated as law in this nation's history. He meant for the Wall to protect the church from the state, and that is what the First Amendment does.

Well, so much for the least biblically orthodox members of the Declaration committee. What about the other members? Well **John Adams** you've heard of. He was baptized by John Hancock's father. He became the nation's Second President and

yet he is also referred to as a deist or even an agnostic or atheist. However, as a young man, John Adams made the following entry in his diary (2/22/1756): "Suppose a nation in some distant Region should take the Bible for their only law Book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! ...What a Utopia, what a Paradise would this region be."

Did he still believe it later in life? Consider his letter to Thomas Jefferson, written some 40 years after helping him draft and then sign the Declaration. John Adams stated in that letter: "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were... the general principles of Christianity" John Adams doesn't sound much like a deist, atheist, or agnostic to me.

What about **Roger Sherman**? He was distinguished as the only Founding Father to sign all four major founding documents: The Articles of Association, 1774; The Declaration of Independence, 1776; The Articles of Confederation, 1777; and The Constitution of the United States, 1787 and helped shape the First Amendment in the First Federal Congress. As a member of the White Haven Congregational Church, Roger Sherman was asked to use his expertise in revising the wording of their statement of faith, and preached on occasion. One of his sermons was titled: "A Short Sermon on the Duty of Self-Examination Preparatory to Receiving the Lord's Supper." Sherman also faithfully served as a deacon, as well as church clerk and treasurer.

There was one more on the Declaration Committee: **Robert Livingston**. A graduate of King's College (now Columbia University), Livingston helped draft but was unable to be present for the signing of the Declaration. Yet he is described as a "sincere and devoted Christian." As Chancellor of New York, he administered the oath of office to the first president, George Washington. So the Committee that drafted the Declaration at the very least had a Biblical world-view, and promoted Christianity in public life.

There were so many other Godly signers of the Declaration, such as **Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon**, a Presbyterian Pastor and immigrant from Scotland, who came to America to assume the presidency of the New Jersey College, which later became Princeton. Dr. Witherspoon became the only ordained minister to sign the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps Dr. Witherspoon's greatest achievement was as an educator and mentor to many of our Founding Fathers and early leaders. Witherspoon graduated 478 students who directly shaped America, including: James Madison, who was a U.S. President; Aaron Burr, Jr., who was a U.S. Vice-President; three U.S. Supreme Court justices, 37 judges; 10 Cabinet members; 13 Governors; 21 U.S. Senators; 39 U.S. Representatives; and 114 Pastors. He trained nine of the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Consequently, Witherspoon's Biblical views were reflected in our Constitution through his students, especially regarding how the fallen nature of man necessitates checks and balances in government.

Another of the lesser known but important signers is **Dr. Benjamin Rush**. In 1791, this signer of the Declaration founded The First Day Society, which grew into today's Sunday Schools. He also helped start America's first Bible society. Dr. Rush also openly declared his faith in Jesus Christ: "My only hope of salvation is in the infinite transcendent love of God manifested to the world by the death of His Son upon the Cross. Nothing but His blood will wash away my sins. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!"

Another signer, **Francis Hopkinson** was a church music director and choir leader, and the coeditor of a 1767 hymnal - one of the first purely American hymnals. His work took the 150 Psalms and set them all to music so that we could sing the Psalms, much as King David had done thousands of years before.

Conclusion

So these Founding Fathers are victims of identity theft. By their own words and deeds we find that they were not Deists, agnostics, and atheists, but we could make the case that 53 of 56 were orthodox Christians. Even the remaining three had something of a Biblical worldview and publicly supported the Christian faith. One was a pastor, and several others were lay-ministers or were active in Christian service. About half of the Signers were educated in schools established for the purpose of training ministers for the Gospel. What were half these founders doing by getting degrees in universities that were founded as seminaries? Opposition research?

Now you know the true identities of some of the men who declared their independence from Britain, but also declared their dependence on Almighty God. Their identities are a lost episode in American history. They are some of the reasons why America is a great nation. The people who led in the founding of our government honored the God of the Bible.

... Are Victims of Identity Theft! It's Just the Beginning

If you think the recent Supreme Court decision regarding same-sex marriage is cause for deep concern about the future of our country, you're not alone. The Court ruling stripped all Americans of the freedom to debate and decide marriage policy through the democratic process. Instead of interpreting and applying the law — which is its proper role in our system of government — the Court invented a new constitutional right.

In redefining marriage, the Supreme Court has overridden the considered judgment of tens of millions of voters of every race, religion, and ethnic background. This casting aside of the views of people who support marriage is only the beginning of what will come. Emboldened by the Supreme Court's decision, activists are now working to pressure government at every level to intrude on your right to peacefully live out your religious beliefs.

The goal is not simply tolerance. Their goal is to silence and intimidate people who stand for marriage. Based on recent actions, we can expect that activists will:

- Demand that people who affirm traditional marriage should lose their government jobs.
- Seek to strip the tax-exempt status from churches, religious ministries, religious charities, and schools that stand for God's design for marriage.
- Attempt to drive out of business private faith-based child-welfare agencies that stand for Biblical marriage.
- Try to penalize business owners — including florists, photographers, and cake decorators — if they decline to help celebrate what their consciences tell them is morally wrong.
- Call for Christian colleges to lose accreditation because of their support for Biblical marriage.

As activists pursue these efforts, they will publicize their cases in order to send a chilling message to people of faith. This could happen to all of us if we continue to live consistently with our Biblical beliefs about marriage.

But we must not lose hope. We must not stop fighting. The battle for our right to freely live out our faith and beliefs about marriage is entering a new phase. We must remain committed to promoting the truth that only marriage as the union of a man and a woman produces human flourishing. That Godly understanding of marriage ensures that more children will know and be raised by their mother and their father — something that every child deserves — and a proper view of marriage helps pull the economically disadvantaged out of poverty, giving hope to the marginalized and downtrodden. Efforts to redefine marriage not only distort God's plan for marriage, they also threaten religious freedom. (Adapted from an *Alliance Defending Freedom* letter.)

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, July 12, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

No Evening Worship6:30 pm

Sunday July 12 to Wednesday July 15 —

Vacation Bible School!

Monday, July 13

VBS.....6:00 to 8:30 pm

Tuesday, July 14

VBS.....6:00 to 8:30 pm

Wednesday, July 15

VBS6:00 to 8:30 pm

No Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

No Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 16

O Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, July 18

Ladies Bible Study.....9:00 am

Sunday, July 19, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: George Ferbert, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Luncheon and Business Meeting.....Noon

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Monday, July 20 — Friday, July 24

SJBA Adult and Youth Mission Trip to Omaha

Wednesday, July 22

Youth Study6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 23

W Team.....6:30 pm

Friday, July 24

Mission Team Returns Home

Up-Coming Events.....

July 12-15 — Vacation Bible School 6 pm to 8:30 pm

July 12 — Collect for Food Pantry

July 16 —Food Pantry day

July 19 — Luncheon and Business Meeting at Noon

July 20-24 St. Joseph Baptist Association Mission Trip

July 26 — Diversicare (Saxton Woods) Worship at 2:30 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will not have evening service tonight. Please be in prayer for Vacation Bible School.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will not be meeting Wednesday, July 15 due to Vacation Bible School. We will be back July 22. Prayer and Bible Study matter!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Tonight, Sunday, July 12 through
Wednesday, July 15, 2015
6 pm-8:30 pm**

Thank You, Shirley!

Shirley Wilson has announced that she will be stepping down from being the "church cleaner." Please be praying for her replacement.

**Luncheon and — Business Meeting
Sunday, July 19, at Noon**

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we share a meal and also conduct the business of the church.

Associational Youth and Adult Mission Trip

July 20-24, 2015

God has opened the door for us to minister in Omaha, Nebraska. Please be praying for the team as they serve.

Grant Schottel would love to get mail! He will be graduating in a couple of weeks so don't miss this opportunity to send him a note of encouragement.

AB Grant Schottel R 401
323 TRS/FLT-Dorm 2A2
1320 True M Ter St
Unit 369544

Lackland AFB, TX 78236-6407

Welcome New Members:

Vicki Long

Birthdate: May 3

1306 North 26th

Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506

816-364-6191

Addison Liechti

Birthdate: December 16

For the Record-

Attendance: July 5, 2015

Sunday School.....	44
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	45
Contacts Made.....	10
Morning Worship.....	52
Children's Worship	N/A
Sunday Night	11
Wednesday Night	24

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 2,558.02

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

July Counting Team:

Fred Kerns and Jordan Lane

July Van Driver:

George Burgess

Call 232-3747 before 8 am

July Member Birthdays:

02... Mary Sharp
05... Kathryn Beavers
07... Kelsey Lane
10... Tina Hoover
15... Bill Schottel
17... Betty Anslinger
20... Dorothy Post
23... Flora McKahan
24... Allan Lane
26... Jack Conard
26... Annette Schottel
30... Bill Haskins

July Anniversaries

Don and Mary Sharp

July 3, 1970

Gary and Sharon Yarbrough

July 8, 1978

Don and Marcia Hart

July 15, 1973

Larry and Flora McKahan

July 29, 1966

Prayer Requests ...

Clyde Elder—recovery and strength
Nellie Reynolds—pain comfort
Grant Schottel—basic training
Sharon Yarbrough—back to work
Leona Reynolds — recovery & strength
June Fritchle—decisions for her future
Maxine and George Ferbert

Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Bob Barquist—cancer
Jim Winans—recovery at home
Jozy Winans—rehabilitation
Bill and Juanita Haskins—family
Ellen Blanton—Elvera Crow's daughter
Louanne Laurence—Joyce's Mother
Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers
Margaret Dotson Dorothy Post
Kevin Duty Opal Roberts
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Lois Pace Susan Patten
Debbie Sands Sue Higgins
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Larry and Flora McKahan's grandsons

-T C Thompson (CP issues)

-Keon McKahan

Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
