

Remnant Life Church
July 5, 2015
Separation of Church and State?
Psalm 44:1-3

1. Significant events that took place on the 4th of July
 - Three presidents died – John Adams, Thomas Jefferson (both on the same day 50 years after the signing) and James Monroe (kept alive for several days at his request to reach that date)
 - West Point Military Academy established and opened in 1802
 - 1829 - Cornerstone laid for the first US Mint in Philadelphia
 - 1831 – the song “America” (My Country Tis of Thee) is sung for the first time in Boston
 - 1863 – General Lee’s troops withdrew from Gettysburg
 - 1931 – first full public fireworks display is held in Cleveland
 - And in 1776 a document was delivered that guaranteed that all people had rights given to them, not by man, but by the creator of mankind
 - The Declaration of Independence contains only 1321 words
 - It takes only about 8 minutes to read
 - God is mentioned twice at the beginning and twice at the end
 - Those 56 who signed that document were declaring themselves to be criminals by rebelling against their British government
 - They ranged in age from 26 to 70
 - Averaged 6 children each; 11 of them had more than 10 with one fathering 16 and another 18
 - 24 lawyers; 9 merchants; 14 farmers; 4 doctors; and a preacher
 - They were not drifters, rebels, or criminals they were educated, civilized men who were willing to sacrifice everything for what they believed.
 - And many of them did just that
 - 239 years ago yesterday our founding fathers gave us our national birth certificate
 - We are the longest continuous constitutional republic in the history of man and in that time we were blessed by God and became prosperous, influential, and respected around the world
2. John Adams stated, “The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.”
 - He went on to say, “It (the 4th) ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.”
 - Woodrow Wilson said, “A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, or what it is trying to do.”
 - **Psalm 44:1** - *We have heard it with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago.*

- **What started the slide of this country, and what continues to plague us today, is that we have stopped listening to our fathers; listening as they told us who God was to this nation and what He did for them.**

3. From the Inaugural Addresses of the first three Presidents:

- George Washington: Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station; it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to the Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Councils of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States...
- John Adams: And may that Being who is supreme over all, the Patron of Order, the Fountain of Justice, and the Protector in all ages of the world of virtuous liberty, continue His blessing upon this nation and its Government and give it all possible success and duration consistent with the ends of His providence.
- Thomas Jefferson: I shall need, too, the favor of that Being in whose hands we are, who led our fathers, as Israel of old, from their native land and planted them in a country flowing with all the necessities and comforts of life; who has covered our infancy with His providence and our riper years with His wisdom and power, and to whose goodness I ask you to join in supplications with me that He will so enlighten the minds of your servants, guide their councils, and prosper their measures that whatsoever they do shall result in your good...
- Our leaders do not talk or even think this way anymore and we are suffering the consequences
- Our nation does not very much resemble what was originally intended
 - The first 3 universities founded in this country – Yale, Harvard, and Princeton were all church-based institutions with the primary purpose of training ministers to preach the Gospel
 - Who influenced our founding fathers? That would certainly be a clear indicator of our roots -
 - A Political Science professor at the U of Houston asked this research question – “Who did the founding fathers quote the most?”
 - a. Over 3000 documents were read and researched...finding 3 names as most prominent
 - b. Sir William Blackstone (English writer of law commentaries or textbooks in the mid-1700s), Montesquieu (French lawyer and political philosopher of the late 16 and early 1700s) and John Locke (English philosopher and progressive thinker of the mid 1600s)
 - c. But 16 times more than those was the Bible quoted
 - d. This was at the core, the heart of our beginning
- But we have, over the last 200 plus years, been progressively telling God that we don't need Him

4. The nail that the removal of God from our government hangs on is just 5 words – “separation between church and state”
 - This portion of a sentence was written by Thomas Jefferson on January 1, 1802 in response to a letter he had received from the Danbury Baptist Association because they had heard a rumor that the Congregationalist denomination was going to be named the official denomination of the United States
 - Jefferson responded to them and assured them that that was not the case because the legislation (First Amendment) has erected a wall of separation between church and state.
 - If taken in context and read in its entirety the intention is clear not that the government must be removed from Christianity but that no denomination would be singled out allowing freedom for all people within orthodox worship
 - But those 5 words were pulled out and held up as the “true” intention of the constitution – in reality nothing could be further from the truth
 - But the effort has been maintained to perpetrate this untruth – (If you tell a lie often enough people will come to believe that it is the truth)
 - In 1878 the case of Reynolds v the United States attempted to prove, using Jefferson’s words, that Christianity and government must be separate
 - But in response the court simply pulled Jefferson’s entire letter and showed that the author was writing to endorse inclusion of government and Christianity not separation
 - In 1947 a second case came up but this time the court also chose to pull a single sentence from the text and used it to justify and endorse the “high and impregnable wall”
 - From that time on the phrase “separation of church and state” has been used as the hammer that pushed God out of our government and in time, out of our everyday lives
5. We officially told God in 1962 that we did not want Him in our lives
 - A simple prayer that was recited in schools each day was at the center of the storm.
 - “Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country.”
 - On June 25, 1962, in the case of Engel v Vitale, the courts declared that prayer to be unconstitutional despite the fact that the Declaration itself acknowledges God four separate times, prayer was banned from our schools.
 - The ruling was made despite the fact that at the time polls showed that 97% of the country believed in God and religion while only 3% did not
 - Despite this the court ruled in favor of 3% of the population making their philosophy the binding law for 97% of the country
 - School prayer was the first to be removed followed, within 12 months, by Bible reading, religious classes, the 10 commandments and the beatitudes
 - *Hosea 8:7 – They sow the wind, they read the whirlwind.*
 - In those 53 years since that one decision was made what have we reaped?

6. The prayer contained 4 segments

- Youth
- Families
- Education
- Our nation
 - Each of these have been under attack since that time
 - That is not to say that there were no struggles prior to 1962 but since that time the moral fiber of our society has been virtually torn away
 - The 60's have always been identified as a turning point in our nation as the "end of innocence" and the "loss of Camelot"
 - It was neither of those - it was the removal of God from our everyday lives relegating Him to a one hour audience on Sunday mornings

7. Scripture clearly warns us of what will happen

- **I Sam 12:15** - *But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you...*
- **Deut 5:29** - *Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!*
- **Prov 18:1** - *A man who isolates himself, seeks his own desires: he rages against all wise judgement.*

On June 25, 1962 3% of our population robbed our nation of the presence of God in our daily lives and it is time that we take it back.

- Through prayer
- Through love
- Through demonstrating who Jesus is with everything that we say and everything that we do
- By performing our civic duty and casting a vote for a return to the foundation of our nation's birth
 - The complaint and reason for not participating is that there are no good candidates
 - But differences are pronounced
 - You will not agree 100% with a candidates views but what are the key, most important areas they support?
 - Do they agree or come against the Word of God?