

Declaration of Dependence

In the year 1776 the leaders of the American colonies from Great Britain drafted the Declaration of Independence. This document is the foundation stone of the American nation known as the United States of America. What our national forefathers did in this declaration was to declare the causes for the American revolution and set up a free and independent nation. Here are the opening words:

“The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America, when in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

The tyranny of an unjust tax system, inadequate representation in the Parliament plus the continuing harassments of the citizens of the American colonies led to this act. By it the representatives of the Thirteen colonies declared themselves free from all allegiance to the British Crown. They also declared themselves a nation in their own right. Here are words they penned which not only inspired the people to throw off the yoke of King George but also led to the formation of a unique form of government among mankind.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

In God's providence this free nation was born and for the past 245 years it has maintained its existence.

The scriptures tell us that the rise and fall of nations are not just accidents of history but are under the direction of the all-wise and all sovereign God who is working out his purposes among men and nations. Listen to these verses.

Acts 17:26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

Daniel 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.

*Daniel 4:17 The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that *the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.*'*

Daniel 4:32 ...until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."

Now America is not ancient Israel and we do not have a claim to all the rights and responsibilities of God's ancient national people. But because of God's churches America is a nation blessed of God, raised up by his providential guidance, and blessed with his own strength. It is from these shores the church has sent forth many missionaries and literature for the increase of the knowledge of God and the betterment of mankind. The spiritual health of God's people especially in the churches is crucial for God's continued blessing.

Our nation is blessed with great favor both external and internal. But as Thomas Jefferson said "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Accordingly, we must remember that the cost of negligence is slavery. Paul wrote some appropriate words to Christians who were enjoying their freedom in Christ: Galatians 5:13 *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use*

your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything.

And Peter writes, *Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.* 1 Peter 2:16

What is directly applied to believers can also function as a warning to the society. People can become too free, that is, in the throwing off of restraints, and by so doing can become the slaves of their own evil and even of other nations. No nation can be truly free and remain so without engaging in the restraint of evil and the fostering of a dependence upon the providence of God. Surely this insight applies to our need as a nation for a strong national defense and for a reversal of governmental encroachment on our homes, schools, and our churches.

There is one thing needful for the nation to remain free and experience the religious revival it must have to survive. Non-Christians cannot do it unless they cast down their weapons of rebellion against God and come in repentance to the cross of Jesus Christ. It really rests, to a large extent in Christian hands.

What we need, in fact, what we must have, is a “declaration of dependence” upon the living God revealed in Jesus Christ. He alone can cause us to stand when all else is falling; he alone can reverse the tides of immorality and crime and the erosion of national defense and internal freedoms.

You see, to be truly free we must be totally but gloriously enslaved to the great God. Jesus said, *“If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.”*

How do we declare our dependence upon God, the author of liberty? We cling to his moral law as the foundation of a strong society. Furthermore, while others may trust in missiles and bombs, oil, industrial might, and technology we will remember the Lord our God. Though we need a strong economic society and adequate military might, our greatest need is to depend upon the God of all armies. Our calling as members of Christ’s church in this society as salt and light is to humble ourselves in the sight of

God and seek his face in repentance and prayer. We need to trust in the might of his strong arm to restore to us spiritual and moral strength.

Let us declare our dependance upon the God of heaven and earth and trust he will bless us with many years of national independence and personal liberty.

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