

Christ The Rock Church

Sunday, November 24, 2024



Providence

The care, guardianship,
and control exercised by
a deity; **divine direction.**

Acts 17:26

and He made from one man **every nation of mankind** to live on all the face of the earth, having **determined their appointed times and the boundaries** of their habitation,

Psalm 31:14-15

But I trusted in thee, O LORD:

I said, Thou *art* my God.

My times *are* in thy hand:

The role persecution plays
in God's providence?

John 16:33 -- “These things have
I spoken unto you, that in me
ye might have peace: in the **world**
ye shall have affliction, but be of
good comfort:
I have overcome the world.

Hebrews 11:32-40

Persecution

- Acts 4 – Peter & John in prison
- Acts 7 – Deacon Stephen (Church spread)
- Persecution of Roman Empire
- **Nero** (64 AD.)
- **Diocletian** (303–312 CE)
- Emperor **Constantine** - 325 A.D.

Persecution

- Persecution of Holy Roman Empire
- 1000 Years of the Dark Ages
(500-1500 AD): Inquisition, political control
- Reformation (Translation of Bible to English)
- William Tyndale (1494-1536)

William Tyndale (1494-1536)

- first person to translate the Bible into English from its original Greek and Hebrew and the first to print the Bible in English, which he did in exile.

William Tyndale (1494-1536)

Last words before Tyndale's death:

***“Oh Lord, open the eyes
of the King of England
that he might see”***

Persecution

- Henry VIII – England (1509-1547)
- Married to Catherine of Aragon (daughter of Ferdinand & Isabella who sponsored Columbus' journey to the new world).

Anglican Church

- King Henry the head of the church
- Severed ties with Rome
- Produce the Bible in English (the good)

Tyndale's prayer was answered

The 'Great Bible' (1539)

Henry provided the Church of England's parishes with some of the first bibles translated into English. This was a radical change; previously, almost all bibles had been written in Latin so were unreadable for ordinary people.

The Great Bible (1539)

- Weighed about 50 pounds
- Cost three years wages to purchase
- Usually only one Bible in each town and it was chained to the pulpit of the local church

Geneva Bible (1560) — Textus Receptus

The Geneva Bible preceded the **King James Version** by 51 years. It was the primary Bible of 16th century English Protestantism and was used by William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, John Knox, John Donne

Geneva Bible (1560) — Textus Receptus

The English reformers, **Puritans**, **separatists**, and even some Bishops, all used the **Geneva Bible** in their sermons. The false doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church were clearly exposed in the margin notes.

Anglican Church

- Baptized into the local parish
- Mandatory member of Church of England
- Mandatory attendance – illegal to home fellowship or attend another church
- Mandatory tithes

Tyranny

In establishing any tyranny,
the government must control
your mind if it is to control
your body (indoctrination)

God or Man

Acts 5:29 -- Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said,
We ought to obey God rather than men.

For example . . .

Tyrannical government says there is no
Creator God who exercises Divine
providence and provides for your needs.

rather,

The government is the supreme authority and
is that which will provide for your needs –

Dependence equals obedience!

God or Man

- Forsake fellowship – a virus
- Two genders vs. 100 plus genders
- Individual blessing of God vs. Marxism
 - Revelation 13:8 – The Beast

Private property, personal autonomy,
individual wealth are all **DANGEROUS!**

First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an **establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof**; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

After Henry VIII - Bloody Mary

- Devoted Roman Catholic
- Attempt to restore Catholicism in England
- Persecution/executions for heresy
- After Mary's death in 1558, her re-establishment of Roman Catholicism was reversed by her younger half-sister and successor, Elizabeth I.

God's Plot Thickens

After Queen Elizabeth comes
King James (1603-1625)

In 1606, a group of separatists started an illegal house church in Strooby, England in the home of William Brewster.



Presentation title

The Foundations - A New Nation

- Anglicans: Members of church of England (Henry VIII)
- Puritans: desired to reform (purify) the Anglican Church
- Separatists: Broke (separated) from the Anglican church
- Community Church of Scrooby, England

Puritan, Pilgrims and Separatists

Separatists

‘Separate’ from
Church of
England

-Pilgrims

Puritans

‘Purify’ the
church.

- Mistreated those
who disagreed
with them.

God's Plot Thickens

- Met on different days,
- Gathered at odd times,
- would not arrive together
- Watched and reported on by neighbors, friends - even family



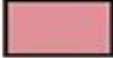

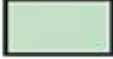


Dramatic Decisions

Strooby congregation to leave for
Holland.

12 Year truce – Catholic Spain &
Holland. Either recant or fight.

PREDOMINANT RELIGIONS IN EUROPE mid-16th century

Dominant religion

-  Roman Catholic
-  Lutheran
-  Calvinist
-  Church of England
-  Eastern Orthodox
-  Muslim
-  Mixed Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Calvinist

Minority religion

-  Calvinist
-  Muslim



The History - The Pilgrim's Voyage

A church relocation project.

Having the Bible in English for the first time, “Separatists” took issue with the Church of England not following clear Biblical teaching.

The History

1. They would not Compromise Biblical Values
2. They sought God's Favor Continually
3. They were taught Not to Offend One another and Not to be easily Offended
4. They were Grateful

The History

102 passengers PLUS the crew set sail on the Mayflower from Plymouth, England. Not all were Separatists. Some Anglicans were asked to join them because of their skill sets and their desire to come to the new world (Ex: Miles Standish was security, John Alden was a cooper, etc.)

The History

After 66 days at sea, they arrived at the tip of Cape Cod (Provincetown) on November 9, 1621.

All 102 Pilgrims survived the voyage.





Pastor John Robinson's Farewell letter

Be sin-confessed (1 John 1:9)

First, we are daily to renew our repentance with God for our sins known, and generally for our unknown trespasses; When done so, sin being taken away by earnest repentance and the pardon thereof from the Lord, sealed up unto a man's conscience by His Spirit, great shall be his security and peace in all dangers, sweet his comforts in all distresses, with happy deliverance from all evil, whether in life or in death.

Pastor John Robinson's Farewell letter

Live in Unity (Eph. 4:1-3; 1 Cor. 1:10; Col. 3:12-15)

We are carefully to provide for peace with all men what in us lieth, especially with our associates. Watchfulness must be had that we neither at all in ourselves do **give nor easily take** offense being given by others

Pastor John Robinson's Farewell letter

Work Ethic (2 Thess. 3:10-11)

There is carefully to be provided for,
that with your common employments,
you join common affections truly bent
upon the general good.

Pastor John Robinson's Farewell letter

Government (Romans 13:1-7)

Lastly, whereas you are become a body politic, using amongst yourselves civil government, and are not furnished with any persons of special eminency above the rest, to be chosen by you into office of government;

Ephesians 4:1-3

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all **humility and gentleness**, with **patience**, showing **tolerance** for one another in love, being diligent to **preserve the unity** of the Spirit in the bond of **peace**.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **agree** and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be made complete in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**.

Colossians 3:12-15

So, as those who have been chosen of God,
holy and beloved, **put on** a heart of
compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness
and patience; bearing with one another,
and **forgiving** each other, whoever has a
complaint against **anyone**; just as the Lord
forgave you, so also should you.

Col. 3:12-15 – continued

Beyond all these things **put on love**,
which is **the perfect bond**
of **unity**. **Let the peace** of Christ rule in
your hearts, to which indeed you were
called in **one body**; and **be thankful**.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN A CHURCH

- Nice Building
- Comfortable Seating
- Convenient Parking
- A Nursery for my little ones
- A Recreational Program for My Kids
- Financial Assistance Program
- A 'Good' Music Program

What the Pilgrims Looked for in a Church

Teaching of the Bible in purity (doctrine)

Opportunities for Evangelism

Using their spiritual gifts to build one another up

No Government Interference in their worship



Future Boston

Patuxet
(Plymouth)

New England

1620 Border between Virginia and New England

Virginia

Future New York City

Intended Destination
Mouth of the Hudson River

Future Philadelphia

The History

Because they were not in their intended destination of northern Virginia, their patent from the king was non-binding.

They recognized the only chance to survive was unity, so they drafted the
Mayflower Compact.

The Magna Carta (1215)

Signed by King John of England guaranteeing

- The right of the church to be free from governmental interference
- The rights of all free citizens to own and inherit property.
 - Protection from excessive taxes

The History

On November 11, 1620, 41 men agreed to be bound by this rule of law they themselves had drafted. It is called the **Mayflower Compact**

The History

The Mayflower Compact was the first time a group of equal common people constituted a governmental agreement of, by and for themselves (self-governance).

Was the United States founded as a Christian nation?

The Mayflower Compact - 1620

This charter clearly stated that
their establishment was for

*“the glory of God and the
advancement of the
Christian faith.”*

New England historian John Palfrey,
“when the Pilgrims migrated, they searched
the Bible not only principles and rules but
for mandates – and, when he could find
none of these – searched for examples to
guide in the precise arrangements of public
administration, and in the minutest points of
personal conduct.”

THRU PROVIDENCE

Such as . . .

- 1) All men are created equal
- 2) Natural (common) Law
- 3) Definition of gender, marriage, family
- 4) Laws of morality
- 5) Personal ownership (private property)
- 6) Right to fair trial, no self-incrimination
- 7) Rule of law

Mayflower Compact

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign, King James, by the grace of God, having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by those present solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

The History: The site where they landed

- Four (4) freshwater springs
- Already cleared of trees and cultivated.
- Previously occupants wiped out by disease.
- No natives wanted that land (cursed ground).
- Had the Pilgrim's landed where they had planned, they would have been wiped out.

- They stayed on the ship at night for a month while teams explored the Cape. On December 16, 1620, they chose and began building at modern day Plymouth.
- **Forty-seven (47 of 102) died** of illness over the first winter, but when Captain Jones offered them FREE passage back to England not one returned. They were grateful toward God!

The History

Another miracle: A native wandered into their camp one day soon after the Mayflower returned to England. The man who befriended the Pilgrims spoke perfect English and loved Europeans. |His name was Squanto.

The History

Squanto saved their lives teaching them how to farm and hunt in the New World (the seeds they brought from Europe were not well-suited to the climate and soil). Squanto also served as translator in developing relationships with other tribes. It was the Fall of 1621 they celebrated the First Thanksgiving.

Pilgrims and Natives

The Pilgrims brought money **to purchase land** from the Natives, treat them fairly and seek to evangelize based on their example of good character. In March of 1621, they were able to agree to a Peace Treaty with the Natives which stated that each would abide by their own laws and aid each other if unjustly attacked. Though things were not always perfect, the basic Treaty was **kept for 54 years**.

7 Signs God's Providence was at Work

Miracle 1: 1588 Storm that Destroyed the Spanish Armada (consequently, New England was settled by Separatists and Puritans, rather than Catholic Spain)

Miracle 2: They were the first generation to have access to the Bible for themselves (from Latin to English)

Miracle 3: Having their trip delayed, they were blown off course by storms.

Miracle 4: They avoided certain death by landing in an ideal location.

Miracle 5: At their weakest point, an English-speaking native who liked Englishmen walked into their camp (Squanto).

7 Signs God's providence was at work

Miracle 6: Communism was tried and failed
(some were too lazy).

Miracle 7: The practice of church
Constitutions and elections laid the
foundation for American civil government
and a Constitutional Republic.

America wasn't planted...the Church was planted

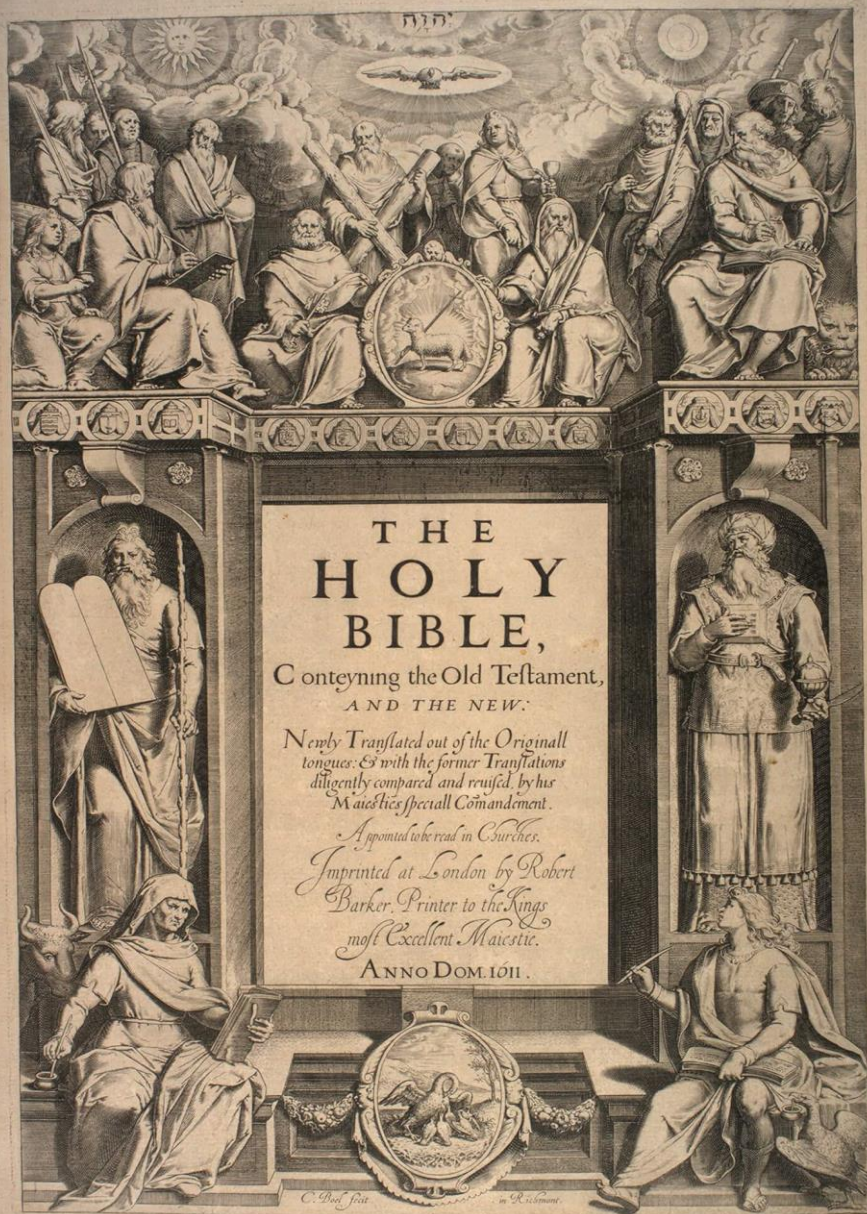


Squanto, on his deathbed, asked that Governor Bradford would pray that he might go to the Englishman's God in Heaven. After a lifetime of ministry to the transplanted church, God brought Squanto to glory!

Hobbamock was a great Wampanoag warrior who replaced Squanto as interpreter. He was also born again after a prayer meeting for rain in 1623. He built a village adjacent to Plymouth and they lived side by side in peace for decades.

Chief Massasoit had three
sons whom he all gave
Biblical names: The
youngest was Phillip.

John Eliot became a missionary to the American Indians who some called "the apostle to the Indians." He traveled to Boston in 1631 and translated the Bible into their native language, reaching them for Christ.



The Gospel Advances

The Gospel Advances

William Bradford

Became Plymouth governor in 1621
and led the colony for 30 years.

Signer of the Mayflower Compact,
helped organize the first Thanksgiving

William Bradford

“a great hope and inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way thereunto, for the propagating and advancing the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping-stones unto others for the performing of so great a work.”

The Gospel Advances

- Europe had forsaken the worship of God in spirit and in truth in favor of man-made religion.
 - God, thru His providence, used the Puritans/Separatists to establish a new home from which the gospel would continue to spread to the world.

The Gospel Advances

The fledgling church expressed their gratitude by celebrating God's providence and abundant mercy toward them after that first harvest in their new home

Numbers 14:26-29

And the Lord spake unto Moses and
unto Aaron, saying,

How long shall I bear with this evil
congregation, which **murmur**
against me?

Numbers 14:26-29

I have heard the **murmurings** of the children of Israel, which they **murmur** against me.

Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

Numbers 14:26-29

Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have **murmured** against me.

If all you possess this morning
was what you **specifically**
thanked God for yesterday –
what would you have?

The Pilgrims gave thanks despite their
circumstances – not because of them

**Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; his love
endures forever.**

–1 Chronicles 16:34



A 'Christian' Nation?

April 26, 2008 –

Whatever we once were, we
are no longer a Christian
nation

Former President Barack Obama

New England Confederation of 1643

This first American experiment in federation stated that the one single aim of the American colonies was “to advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel thereof in purities and peace....”

Delaware Constitution of 1776

Before entering upon the execution of his office, everyone shall take the following oath, or affirmation:

“I, _____, do profess faith in God the father, and in Jesus Christ his only son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore: and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.”

(Constitutions and Charters, page 566)

John Quincy Adams

The American Annual Register in his diary,
entry for April 9, 1830

The highest, the transcendent glory of the American Revolution was this — it connected, in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the precepts of Christianity.

Rev.
Alden's
Citizens
Manual

Written by a
pastor for
the public
school
system

ALDEN'S
CITIZEN'S MANUAL.

A TEXT-BOOK ON GOVERNMENT,

FOR

COMMON SCHOOLS.

BY

REV. JOSEPH ALDEN, D.D., LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, ALBANY, N. Y., AUTHOR OF
"ELEMENTS OF INTELLECTUAL PHILOSOPHY," "THE SCIENCE
OF GOVERNMENT," "CHRISTIAN ETHICS," ETC.

NEW YORK:
SHELDON AND COMPANY.
1870.

Question #23

Do laws which restrain a man from doing wrong infringe on his liberty?

NO!

No one has the right to do wrong (sin).

Pastors:

- addressed the military
- addressed Congress
- submitted curricula for the public-school systems
- called for days of prayer & fasting which the civil government observed

Church of the Holy Trinity Vs. The United States

In 1892, the Supreme Court completed a 10-year examination of all the documentation, which amounted to thousands of pages, concerning our founding. They came to a unanimous conclusion that *“These...add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation....”*

Was the United States founded as a Christian nation?

U.S. Supreme Court

*Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States,
143 U.S. 457 (1892)*

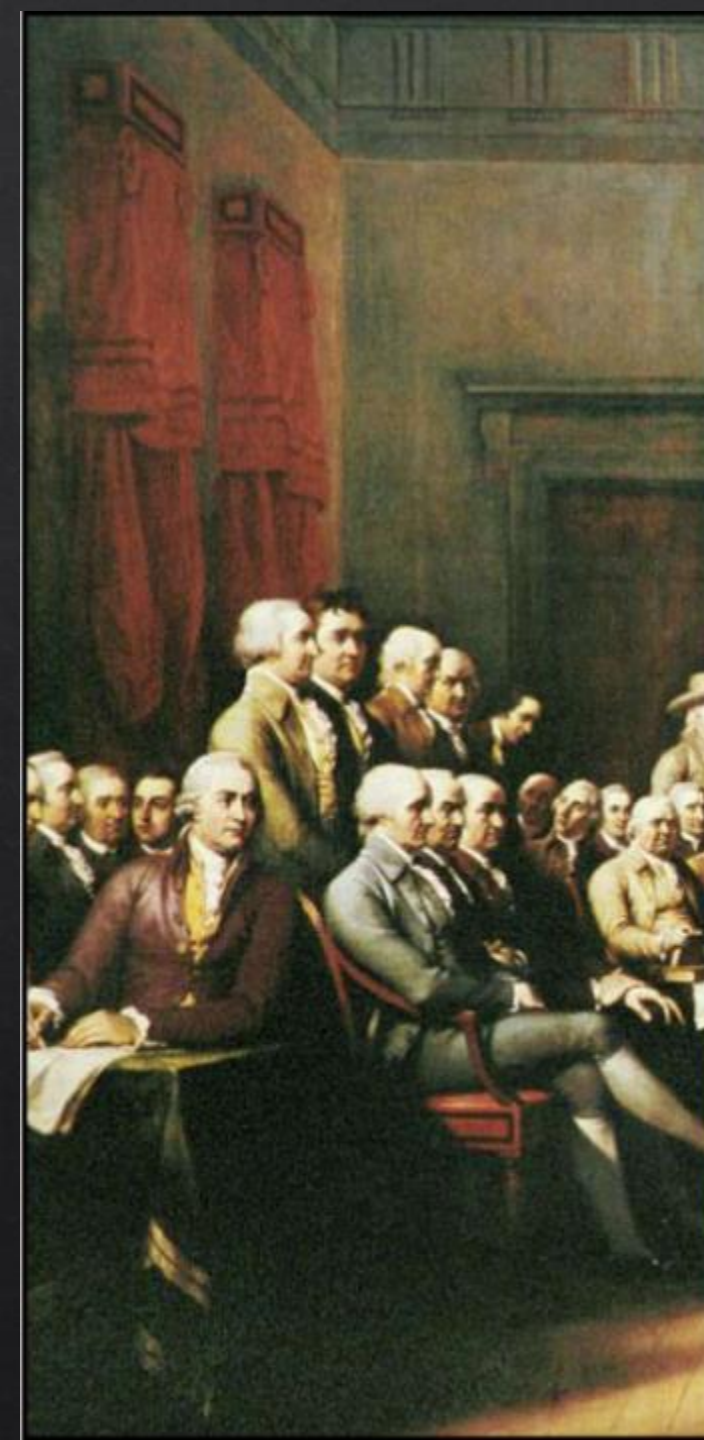
Supreme Court Justice David Brewer, in an opinion about a church that hired a clergyman from England, declared that the United States was a "Christian nation".

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

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 solemn appeal to the Supreme Judge of the world is requisite that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. 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, so that these ends may be best effected. That the Declaration of Independence is a solemn and important act, and one which will be remembered by posterity. That the Declaration of Independence is a solemn and important act, and one which will be remembered by posterity. That the Declaration of Independence is a solemn and important act, and one which will be remembered by posterity.

John Hancock
John Adams
Samuel Adams
George Washington
Thomas Jefferson
James Oglethorpe
Richard Henry Lee
John Jay
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Paine
John Dickinson
George Mason
James Madsen
George Wythe
Richard Bland
Thomas Mifflin
George Clymer
Thomas Fitzpatrick
James Smith
Robert M. Hanson
George Ross
Caleb Bingham
Thomas Hart
John Mifflin
George Taylor
James Wilson
George Ross
Caleb Bingham
Thomas Hart
John Mifflin
George Taylor
James Wilson
George Ross
Caleb Bingham
Thomas Hart
John Mifflin
George Taylor
James Wilson



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.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

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;

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

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 CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn(sic), that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government.

Christian Nation?

52 of our 54 signers of the Declaration were born-again Christians. Of the 54:

- 27 had a theological education,
- one translated and published a Bible, and
- another became the first president of the American Bible Society. The first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Jay, was also president of the American Bible Society.

Constitutional Republic

Went from 13 Colonies to 13 sovereign nations (states). Each state had its own state constitution and together had one U.S. (National) Constitution.

Don't Talk Politics???

Be Critical Thinkers (Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 14:15)
AND – attend to affairs of the 'Polis' (Phil. 1:27).

Pilgrims came to the new world to exercise religious freedom and propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ. They came from a church the size of Christ The Rock De Pere, pastored by William Brewster.

Don't Talk Politics ???

Phil. 1:27 "only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel" Phil. 1:27-30 forms one extended sentence in the Greek text. This is a present middle (deponent) imperative from the Greek root for city (polis cf. Phil. 3:20; Acts 23:1; Eph. 2:19). It is translated "you must continue to live as citizens" (cf. Phil. 3:20).

(politeuesthe). Old verb from politēs, citizen, and that from polis, city, to be a citizen, to manage a state's affairs, to live as a citizen.

Stand fast, strive, be not intimidated . . .

Be salt and light