

From the Family Room

14 June, 2015

*Church of Christ at Creekwood
Mobile, AL*

Unity, Valor, Purity, Vigilance, Perseverance



“...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” John 17:21

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. I Corinthians 1:10

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
I Peter 5:8

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us Hebrews 12:1

On this day 238 years ago, June 14, 1777, The Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act. The purpose of this act was to establish an official flag of the United States. They decreed that “the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”

In the following years around the country June 14th was observed as “Flag Birthday” in several isolated places. This began in Fredonia, Wisconsin public schools in 1885. Many people around the country began to participate in patriotic programs after this date. National Flag Day was officially established by Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and began to be observed on June 14th every year after a resolution was signed by Harry Truman in 1949.

In 1924 in a speech during a Flag Day program, the Secretary of the Interior said the following words of the flag: “I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself.”

What are we to make of our flag? Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation.....one nation, under God, indivisible. From the first flag with thirteen stars, our flag today has changed to have 50 stars on a blue field. It still has thirteen stripes that alternate red and white. The colors of the flag are symbolic. Red symbolizes valor. White symbolizes purity. Blue represents vigilance and perseverance.

When we look at our flag and think about its intended meaning, we should also remember God’s word regarding our duty as His followers. As stated in the scriptures listed above, He wants us to be united, to live lives of valor and purity, to be ever vigilant, and to persevere until Christ returns. These are characteristics He commanded thousands of years ago that should make up the fabric of our lives as His children and citizens of His kingdom. These are characteristics that we cannot achieve by our efforts alone. These grow from whole hearted love for God. These grow from a deep faith in God and His power. These grow from dedication to Him and His purposes for my life.

Today and every day as we look at the flag of the United States, let’s remember those who sacrificed so much for our country. Let’s remember what our country stands for. Let’s also remember the One, Jesus, who sacrificed all for our freedom from sin. As His followers, let’s be inspired to grow spiritually so, with God’s power, we can live as one with other Christians in complete unity. Then the entire world will believe that God loves us and sent Jesus for our salvation as the only way to true, complete freedom.

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