

From the Family Room

Creekwood Church of Christ
Mobile, AL

2 July, 2017

Freedom!



“...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:32

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:6

"While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian." --*The Writings of Washington*, pp. 342-343.

George Washington, 1st U.S. President

"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! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God ... What a eutopia, what a paradise would this region be."

--*Diary and Autobiography of John Adams*, Vol. III, p. 9.

John Adams, 2nd U.S. President and Signer of the Declaration of Independence

This week most of us will celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. For most Americans that means fireworks, the American flag, gatherings of family and friends, and bar-b-que. Independence Day is a holiday on which we remember and celebrate a most profound document – The Declaration of Independence. The wording of this statement was drafted, debated, and revised and on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved.

We celebrate one day of what was really a 20 year struggle for the independence of our nation. This was a struggle that cost many lives and the fortunes of many of the founding fathers. It is a cliché but it is true that our freedom was not free in 1776, it is not free today, it will not be free in the future.

What can we do today to insure that the freedom of our country will endure the tests it faces now and will continue to face in the future? The quote by George Washington listed above tells us the answer. While it is important that we should be vigilant patriots, it is even more important that we remain diligent to build our Christian character. The presence of Christ in our lives based on faith is the greatest thing we can do for America. When we reach the point that we can honestly say, like Paul said, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me," then we will see a change in our country. It is then that we will humble ourselves, pray to God, seek Him, and change from living in ways that are contrary to His will. He will then heal our land. We will then be truly revolutionary. As was said about the Christians in Thessalonica, we will turn the world upside down. As John Adams said, our country would then become a "eutopia."

This coming Tuesday, July 4th is recognized as America's Independence Day. Humanity's universal true Independence Day was the day Jesus rose from the tomb and declared victory over death and sin. We should each ask ourselves "Have I shared in that victory and been freed from enslavement to sin?" We must all get to know the truth. It will set us free indeed. We pray that everybody has a great Independence Day celebration and appreciates the freedom we enjoy as followers of Christ in America.

RICKY