

July 5, 2015



Declaration of Dependence

Proverbs 14:34

Edward

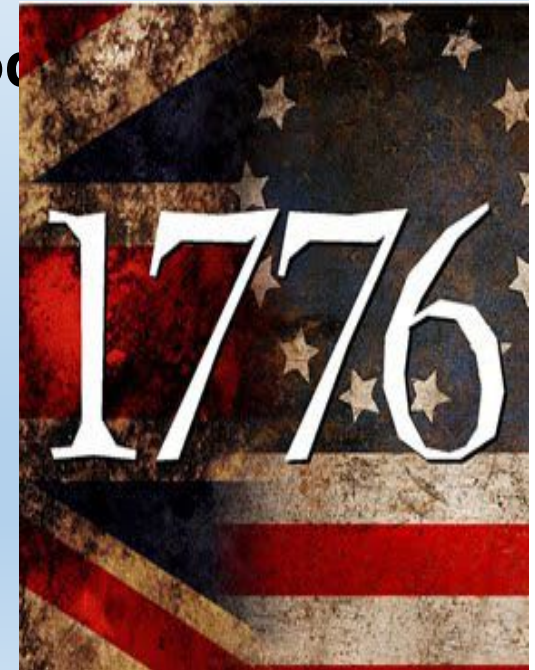
**When We Declared Our Independence from
England...**

...We Declared Our Dependence on God

Because the Great Task Ahead...

...Would Be Impossible Without

...A Greater Power Behind Us



After the Americans Declared Their Independence, they had to Win it by Force. The Task Proved Especially Difficult...

- **1/3 Indifferent-** Unconcerned-Supported Neither Side.
- **1/3 Sympathized** with Great Britain, they Called Themselves Loyalists
- **1/3 Patriots-** Victory Depended on Them

7,200 Americans were Killed in Battle During the War,

- **8,200** were wounded,
- **10,000** died from disease & exposure (3,000 died at valley Forge)
- **6,500** died in prison after being captured
- **1,400** soldiers were listed as missing

This Minority of Colonists Were Willing to Give it All...

...They Put Their Lives on the Line

...And Totally Depend on God

What about the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Did they pay a price for pledging their allegiance?

Their conviction resulted in untold sufferings for them /their families

They had to Place Total Dependence Upon God / Each Other

Of the 56 Men...

5 were captured by the British/ tortured before they died

12 had their homes ransacked/ burned

2 lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army

Another 2 sons were captured

9 of the 56 fought/ died from wounds of hardship of the war

Three American Presidents Died on the Fourth of July...

John Adams

Thomas Jefferson

James Monroe

Monroe was ready to die several days before but doctors kept him alive with drugs just long enough so that he could die on the fourth of July

Why Did They Do That?

Because the Fourth of July Meant Something

Proverbs 14:34

Explains How Our Forefathers Stood Against

- **Insurmountable Odds**
- **Untold Sufferings**
- **Tremendous Personal Cost**

Proverbs 14:34 (KJV)

*³⁴ Righteousness exalteth a nation,
but sin bringeth down people.*



Our Forefathers Depended on God

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."

- Patrick Henry

"Do not let anyone claim tribute of American patriotism if they even attempt to remove religion from politics." - **George Washington Farewell Address to Nation**

"The 1st amendment has created a wall of separation between church and state, but that wall is a one directional wall, it keeps the government from running the church, but it makes sure that Christian principles will always stay in government."

- President Thomas Jefferson in an address to Danbury Baptists.

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people... it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other..."

- John Adams

The Righteousness of a Nation

"Righteousness.."

It Implies...

•Sovereignty

- If there is righteousness, then **Someone Sovereign** must determine what it is.
- **Psa 71:19** *"Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!"*
- **Psa 98:2** *"The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen."*

•Standard

- Society today does not want a standard or even acknowledge that one exists.
- **Psa 119:142** *"Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness/ thy law is the truth"*
- The **Founding Fathers** held the Bible in **High Esteem**.

•Straightness

- It is one thing to admit that there is a standard, it is another to make it your own

The Reward of a Nation "...exalteth a nation..."

The Exalted Nation is...

- **Set-Apart-** One meaning of the word "exalt" is *"to be lifted up, to be made high."*
 - **Ps 46:10** *"Be still/ know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen..."*
 - **Ps 37:34** *"Wait on the LORD, / keep his way/ he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it."*
 - There is **No Nation** in History who has been lifted up/ exalted more than America!
- **Safe-** Another "exalt" is *"to raise high as inaccessible fortress, out of reach of danger"*
 - **Psalms 32:7** *"Thou art my hiding place;"* "preserve me from trouble; "compass me about with songs of deliverance."
 - **Ps 119:114** *"Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word."*
 - Many nations have been destroyed by their enemies or natural disasters.
 - What a Testament to **God's Protection and Preservation!**

The Reward of a Nation "...exalteth a nation..."

The Exalted Nation is...

- **Set-Apart**

- **Safe**

- **Strong.** Another shade of meaning of the word "exalt" is *"to triumph over enemies."*

- A mere glance at the history of America will reveal the hand of God's protection watching over us in war and in peace.
- Think of the odds of the colonies defeating the most powerful nation in the 18th century world, the British Empire.
- Yet, it happened. We take for granted our victory in the Revolutionary War.
- **Ps 144:1** *"Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:"*

The Revolt of a Nation "...but sin is a reproach..."

Sin is an...

- **Undisciplined Aim.** To sin is *"to miss the mark, as an archer misses his target."*
 - **Rom 6:23**, *"all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God"*
 - **It's Another Thing to Shake Your Fist in Defiance to God**
- **Disgraced.** One definition of **reproach** is *"to be brought low, to go from the heights to the depths."*
 - **Neh 1:3**, *"The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire."*
 - Israel's sin had caused them to go into captivity/ their capital stood in ruins.
 - **The Cycle is Happening Again...**
 - ...**God Raise up some Nehemiahs to lead us out!**

The Revolt of a Nation "...but sin is a reproach..."

Sin is an...

- **Undisciplined Aim**

- **Disgraced**

- **Dishonored.** Another definition of "reproach" is *"to be ridiculed, to rail on, to revile."*

- **1 Sam 17:26**, *"...What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine/ taketh away reproach from Israel? ..who is..uncircumcised Phil...defy armies"*

- Israel was powerless in the face of Goliath as he mocked the army of Israel

- **Muslim** nations, **China**, **Russia** have little respect for us

- **Defeated.** The final def. "reproach" = *"to pluck or strip away all that is good."*

- Our culture is in the process of doing just that.

- Our defeat has not come at the hands of foreign invader but our own hands.

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The Revolt of a Nation "...but sin is a reproach..."

The Answer

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ *If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;*

¹⁴ *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Dilemma- *my life dries up ...because..*

Detour- *my life driven by Self*

Dependence- *my life directed by God*

Deliverance- *my life delivered- Hear – Forgive - Heal*

- How many of you listen to Paul Harvey? I heard a Story some time back, a woman sent in an article for the obituary column about her husband who had recently died. 4 pages long – told her it would be 25cents a word. Angrily She said, "Then just put, John Doe died." They responded by saying, "There's a Minimum of 7 words. Again angrily, She thought about it and said, put "John Doe died, 88 Chevy for sale."

How quickly our allegiance can change. Does our country today even resemble what was intended?