

The Declaration of Dependence

The Declaration of Independence

“...these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, ... and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved.”

They Also Declared their Dependence on God For...

- Their standing to govern themselves

The Declaration of Dependence

“... 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.”

They Also Declared their Dependence on God For...

- Their standing to govern themselves
- Their existence as human beings and the right to maintain it

The Declaration of Dependence

"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."

They Also Declared their Dependence on God For...

- Their standing to govern themselves
- Their existence as human beings and the right to maintain it
- Confirmation of their sincerity

The Declaration of Dependence

"appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world
for the rectitude of our intentions"

They Also Declared their Dependence on God For...

- Their standing to govern themselves
- Their existence as human beings and the right to maintain it
- Confirmation of their sincerity
- The success of their fledgling nation

The Declaration of Dependence

“For the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

Congress Calls for Prayer and Repentance

"In circumstances as dark as these, it becomes us, as Men and Christians, to reflect that whilst every prudent measure should be taken to ward off the impending judgments, ...at the same time all confidence must be withheld from the means we use; and reposed only on that God rules in the armies of Heaven, and without His whole blessing, the best human counsels are but foolishness..."

Congress Calls for Prayer and Repentance

"Resolved; ...Thursday the 11th of May...to humble themselves before God under the heavy judgments felt and feared, to confess the sins that have deserved them, to implore the Forgiveness of all our transgressions, and a spirit of repentance and reformation ...and a Blessing on the ... Union of the American Colonies in Defense of their Rights [for which hitherto we desire to thank Almighty God]...That the people of Great Britain and their rulers may have their eyes opened to discern the things that shall make for the peace of the nation...for the redress of America's many grievances, the restoration of all her invaded liberties, and their security to the latest generations."

President Lincoln Calls for Prayer and Repentance, 1863

"Whereas it is fit and becoming in all people, at all times, to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God; to bow in humble submission to his chastisements; to confess and deplore their sins and transgressions in the full conviction that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and to pray, with all fervency and contrition, for the pardon of their past offences, and for a blessing upon their present and prospective action..."

President Lincoln Calls for Prayer and Repentance, 1863

"[It] is peculiarly fit for us to recognize the hand of God in this terrible visitation, and in sorrowful remembrance of our own faults and crimes as a nation and as individuals, to humble ourselves before Him, and to pray for His mercy, -- to pray that we may be spared further punishment, though most justly deserved; that our arms may be blessed and made effectual for the re-establishment of law, order and peace, throughout the wide extent of our country; and that the inestimable boon of civil and religious liberty, earned under His guidance and blessing, by the labors and sufferings of our fathers, may be restored in all its original excellence..."

President Lincoln Calls for Prayer and Repentance, 1863

"Therefore, [I appoint] a day of humiliation, prayer and fasting for all the people of the nation. And I do earnestly recommend to all the People, and especially to all ministers and teachers of religion ..., and to all heads of families, to observe and keep that day according to their several creeds and modes of worship, in all humility and with all religious solemnity, to the end that the united prayer of the nation may ascend to the Throne of Grace and bring down plentiful blessings upon our Country."

We Have Come a Long Way... Down

- Five years ago, a Supreme Court nominee testified to the US Senate, “to be honest with you, I don't have a view of what are natural rights.”
- What happens when we put on the Supreme Court a Judge who does not acknowledge the Supreme Judge of the Earth as being the source of our life and liberty?

We Have Come a Long Way... Down

- Two years ago, this person, now a Supreme Court Justice, joined with four others to involve the federal government in extending benefits to same-sex couples
- Two weeks ago, they joined to impose same-sex marriage on every state in the nation

We Have Come a Long Way... Down

- Those who defend traditional marriage...
 - “seek to injure” their fellow-citizens
 - Manifest “a bare desire to harm” others
 - Are motivated by “an improper animus or purpose”
 - “Demean” same-sex couples and “humiliate” their children
- 2013 Decision

Our Nation Needs Us

- To know and proclaim the truth

The Truth: We Have a Choice

INDEPENDENCE FROM GOD

- Remove knowledge of God from our hearts and society

DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Romans 1:18–21 (ESV)

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The Truth: We Have a Choice

INDEPENDENCE FROM GOD

- Remove knowledge of God from our hearts and society
- Experience the natural consequences of God gives people up: societal degradation

DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Romans 1:24–27 (ESV)

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. **26** For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27** and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Romans 1:28–32 (ESV)

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29** They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31** foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32** Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

The Truth: We Have a Choice

INDEPENDENCE FROM GOD

- Remove knowledge of God from our hearts and society
- Experience the natural consequences of God gives people up: societal degradation
- Receive the natural punishment for rebellion against a powerful authority

DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Luke 14:31–32 (ESV)

31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

2 Thessalonians 1:7–8 (ESV)

7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

The Truth: We Have a Choice

INDEPENDENCE FROM GOD

- Remove knowledge of God from our hearts and society
- Experience the natural consequences of God gives people up: societal degradation
- Receive the natural punishment for rebellion against a powerful authority

DEPENDENCE ON GOD

- Accept our natural responsibilities as well as our natural rights
- Offer obedience and worship to God
- Maintain independence from sin and TOTAL DEPENDENCE on God!
- Receive God's abundant blessings

The Truth: We Have a Choice

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV) — **9** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Our Nation Needs Us

- To know and proclaim the truth
- To lovingly serve all

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- To know and proclaim the truth
- To lovingly serve all
- To pray for our nation and its leaders

2 Chronicles 7:13–14 (ESV)

13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, **14** if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Our Nation Needs Us

- To know and proclaim the truth
- To lovingly serve all
- To pray for our nation and its leaders
- To be willing to suffer as Christians

1 Peter 5:8–10 (ESV)

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. **10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

The Declaration of Dependence

Our Founding Fathers confessed their dependence on God for:

- Their standing to govern themselves
- Their existence as human beings and the right to maintain it
- Confirmation of their sincerity
- The success of their fledgling nation

Our Nation Needs Us

- To know and proclaim the truth
- To lovingly serve all
- To pray for our nation and its leaders
- To be willing to suffer as Christians