

Occupy Till I Come

Your Responsibility

1. The way that a people views its own history, it will affect the way that people **behave**.

Israel had a purpose – or why God brought her into **existence**

- Israel – if she remembered her purpose, she behaved **differently** than when she forgot.

One of the stories is the story of Josiah.

- In this story – they were rebuilding the temple for the purpose of getting God back into the **life-flow** of the nation → this is a decision any nation should do.

In rebuilding the temple, they found an old scroll or a writing of a part of their history.

2. Seeing the scroll and their history produced a national **revival**.

So it is we have passages like:

- Isaiah 43
 - Romans 15:4
 - 1 Corinthians 10
 - Hebrews 11
 - Psalm 3 and Psalm 77
- All of them say: “recall the former days and remember the former times”

Stephen preaches and it takes two chapters to cover what he said.

Hear this what I'm about to say:

- Stephen doesn't give a long doctrinal dissertation.

Stephen gives a **history** lesson – let me summarize what he said:

He said:

- Guys, don't you see what God is trying to do in us and thru us from the beginning of our nation?
- Stephen **revives** every generation (Isaac, Jacob, Abraham up to the day he spoke)

This is called a **providential** view of history.

- We used to do this in America, the purpose was to know what God was doing.
- We don't teach this anymore **today**.
- We don't even teach a **good** political view of history.

Last July, the United States of America turned **244** years old.

If you look at our textbooks and the explanation of why we became independent, the reason taught is taxation without representation → this is good and **part** of the reason.

- The Declaration of Independence and Constitution gives **27** reasons why we became a nation.
- How different would we be if we studied the other **26** also?

Church family, there are hundreds of thousands of writings and documents that pre-date the Declaration preparing for our nation's independence – church history, black history, etc.

In 1761, a document is a charter of the very first **missionary** society ever started in America.

We thought it was a good idea, but King George III said you can't do that!

His reasoning was:

- We have an established Church and you don't need a missionary society – so he **vetoed** it
 - We basically were told **don't listen** to God; I'll tell you what your purpose is.
3. This is the very reason Charles Carroll and John Adams who were signers of the Declaration of Independence, said they got involved in the revolution – **religious** liberties, not taxation without representation
- These guys got involved so we can have:
 - **"Under God"** in our Pledge of Allegiance
 - We can have a **prayer** at a football game
 - We can post the **10 Commandments**

Let's talk about slavery: Moral Issues

- In 1773, first in Connecticut, then Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, they abolished slavery.
- In 1774, Pennsylvania also abolished slavery.
- Abolishing slavery began to pick up steam (King George III **vetoed** every one of those laws saying, you're part of the British empire, so you will have slavery)

Our founding fathers said – great, let's not be part of the British empire anymore.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin

Dr. Benjamin Rush

- They said that was the reason why they got involved because they wanted to **end** slavery.

You will find in 1776, when we separated from the British empire, more than half of the states **abolished** slavery → This was so important to Franklin and Rush, they founded the first abolition society to **end** slavery the moment King George III vetoed it.

We don't talk about these issues so out of 27 issues, we talk about **one**.

- Most issues in our Declaration are moral, spiritual, but we only educate in **one**.

We talk about **economics** – one issue – why is that?

- About 60-70 years ago, a group of people began to write textbooks in America.
 - Charles and Mary Beard
 - W. E. Woodward
 - Fairfax Downey and others
- They said: the only thing that motivates people or care about is **money**
- Why don't we teach history that way?

Since 1960, we call it the American view of economics history.

Because we only look at **economics** and not the spiritual and moral, we even changed the heroes we study.

200 years ago, when John Adams was asked who is behind America's independence:

- His answer was surprising: he named mostly **ministers** of the gospel and all were **Christians**.

Church family: we don't study our religious heroes.

We don't realize some of our heroes were African American.

- Richard Allen was a **slave**
- A Methodist preacher led Richard to the Lord
- Richard is so excited; he begins to **preach** to everyone.
- Richard heads across New England to **preach**
- He kept going and got to Philadelphia (**mega** city)
- He starts a mega church there of **2000** people (40,000 lived in Philadelphia)

Picture this with me: a black pastor with **2000** white congregants.

Lemuel Haynes: black preacher for 30 years

- He was one of the **minute** men in Lexington and Concord
- He fought in every major battle in the American **Revolution**
- He was a **patriot** and **hero**
- Every single year on George Washington's birthday, he had a special sermon about his commander in chief → he fought **side by side** with him

Question: Why did John Adams point these ministers out when asked the question who was behind our independence?

A. Christians were able to point out to the whole nation how **practical** the Word of God is.

- Church – the Word of God applies to **every** single thing in life.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Verse 17 tells us why God gave us the scripture:

4. Being equipped in the Word means you are equipped for every **good** work.

Did you know many of our founding fathers read through the Bible every year?

- John Quincy Adams
- Benjamin Rush
- Lyman Hall and others – what's my point?

5. So religion is important, but keep it in its **place**.

It is this way:

Faith = Education

Faith = Medicine

Faith = Economy

Faith = Morality

The founding of our country said the Word of God will always be a part of everything and it applies to everything.

- * America years back didn't matter what we were dealing with we looked at it through the lens of **scripture**.

How to choose your leaders and what to base it on

Folks: book called, "The Two treatises of Government" by John Locke in 1689, guidelines for our Declaration and Constitution → the book uses **1700** scriptures to solidify thought and content.

6. Maybe our success is founded on **scripture**

Where did all the wisdom come from:

- Collected **fifteen thousand** writings in the founding era
- **3154** direct quotes
- They found the source of the quotes
- The number one source used to quote was the **Bible**
- 34% of all quotes come out of the **Bible**
 - Separation of powers come from Jeremiah 17:9
 - 3 branches of government found in Isaiah 33:22
 - Tax exemption in the church 215 years ago in Ezra 7:24
- Out of 56 signers of the Declaration, **24** held seminary degrees:
 - Dr. John Witherspoon
 - Charles Thompson – Thompsons Bible (**first** translation of Greek to English)
 - Dr. Rush – 1791 started the society for **Sunday school**

September 6, 1774 was the first time all the signers got together

They prayed – notes of the meeting said they prayed for **three** hours

Atheists prayed for **three** hours and they studied **four** books of the bible together

Proverbs 29:2

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.

B. We are accountable for our rights and our rulers, so vote in accordance with the **Word**

* **Righteousness** exalts a nation and nothing else so steward it well