

7-1-18 Message
SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENCE

Independence Day celebrates the birthday of the United States of America. Founded July 4th 1776 with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, America is celebrating it's 242th birthday this year.

There were 13 colonies, 9 voted yes, 2 voted no. Pennsylvania, and South Carolina, Delaware Undecided, New York abstained.

John Hancock was first to sign it. It is said that he signed his name "with a great flourish" so "King George can read that without spectacles!"

Wednesday we will celebrate Independence Day.

What is this day all about? it is a day of celebration where the colonists of this nation became free of what they considered to be the oppressions of the British Government.

Now this is what we celebrate, independence from tyranny abuse.

This morning we have a far greater enemy that we need to declare independence of, and yet the majority of Americans are not declaring independence from this oppressor.

THERE IS A SPIRITUAL ENEMY THAT SEEKS TO ENSLAVE US, TAKE US CAPTIVE AGAINST OUR OWN WILLS. Our Captor is Sin & Satan.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Romans 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Romans 6:20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

Romans 6:21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This morning I want to talk to you about spiritual independence day.

SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY.

Spiritual Independence day is the day that we declare our intention to be free from Satan and his oppression of sin. That is the day we declare Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

There was a motto that those early colonialist used to use when they fought the war against England. They would say we have no King but Jesus.

We have a greater cause than even the cause that our forefathers of this great nation had.

We have a greater oppressor.

We have a greater independence to fight for.

We have a greater King to serve.

Let us consider the parallel between our need for a Spiritual Declaration of Independence more so than our nation's resolve to have a national day of independence.

The reason that the forefathers of our nation declared independence was because they sensed they were being oppressed by the King of England.

I. WE WILL NEVER DESIRE TO BE FREE UNTIL WE SEE SIN AS OUR OPPRESSOR.

1. Most Times Men Do Not Seek To Be Set Free Until They Suffer Abuse.

Famous Grievances of abuses articulated in the declaration of Independence:

The history of the present King of Great Britain George III is a history of repeated injuries and usurpation's, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

A. THE LORD OF SIN IS SATAN, AND PEOPLE DO NOT DESIRE TO BE SET FREE UNTILL THEY SEE AND FEEL THE TYRANNY OF HIS REGIME.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Could we not list a long list of grievances to his reign over planet earth?

Did he not take Jesus to a high mountain?

MAT 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

MAT 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

MAT 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

King George was viewed as a tyrant, and this is why the colonies broke away from England.

King George's taxes, neglect of the original 13 colonies, and England's mercantilism policy played a major part in the fire and anger of the English colonists in America that led to the American Revolution of 1775 to 1783.

King George III of Britain was a tyrant by the standards of James Otis and other colonial rebels. He put taxes on the colonists' tea, paper, and many other items that they used frequently, if not daily. These taxes were called the Townsend Acts and King George did not give colonists any say or vote in Parliament in the taxes. Part of the money collected even went to the colonial governor's pocket! To free themselves from these tyrannic taxes, the colonists united and boycotted British products. These boycotts caused the English merchants to lose money and so they turned against King George for provoking the boycotts. Also, King George did not abide by the Magna Carta by taxing the British colonists. In the Magna Carta, it is clearly stated in Clause 12, "No . . . aid (taxes) shall be imposed . . . unless by common counsel of our kingdom." Nevertheless, King George III was unfair when the colonists pointed this out and said that since they were across an ocean, the Magna Carta did not apply to them.

The British colonists in America also wanted to break away from Britain because of its mercantilism policy with which they disagreed extremely. This policy said that with more money, a country has more power. Colonists lost hard-earned money to the king because of the mercantilism policy.

The king of England also felt that the colonies were there only to make the mother country rich. The colonists felt that King George did not care about them but instead their money. This did not pass by the colonists' tempers.

Quote the declaration of Independence.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE GRIEVANCES THAT THEY WROTE IN THAT DOCUMENT:

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And 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.

NOTE: Satan has done far worse and not till we see his oppressions and feel the affliction of his oppressions will we want to be set free.

NOTE: Could we not write an even greater list of grievances against the one who has taken captive this world system?

- A. Has he not brought to early grave all those who serve him? (Heb 2:14-15)
- B. Has he not impoverished the multitudes? John 10:10
- C. Has he not afflicted the world with grievous diseases and catastrophes? (Look at Job)
- D. Has he not splintered so many homes?
- E. Is he not a thief and a robber? John 10:10
- F. Has he not murdered and laid desolate nations and kingdoms? Isa 14:16-17

ISA 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

ISA 14:17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

- G. Is it not true that those who are furthest from the Gospel, these nations are the most afflicted and tormented by his hand?
- G. Has he not done all these things and then cause men to Blaspheme the name of Christ, accusing Him of the very things that he brings forth?
- I. How many more grievances could we not indite him with?

2. WHY DO MEN NOT SEEK SPIRITUAL FREEDOM FROM SUCH AN OPPRESSOR?

There are always Benedict Arnolds who defect.
The Judas Iscariots of this world.

The Bible Says That Sin Is Pleasurable For A Season:

And while a person is living in this pleasure they will not want to come to Christ.

Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Why did the people of Germany tolerate Hitler?

Hitler afflicted so many Jews, Christians, Gypsies, etc.

But the people tolerated him because he gave them property in Germany.

Niemöller was a Protestant pastor, one of the pillars of moral resistance to the Nazis, who imprisoned him for four years in solitary confinement.

'First they came for the Communists, but I was not a Communist, so I said nothing. Then they came for the Social Democrats, but I was not a Social Democrat, so I did nothing. Then came the trade unionists, but I was not a trade unionist. And then

they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew, so I did little. Then when they came for me, there was no one left to stand up for me.'

Italian Relatives Loved Mussolini.

They enjoyed the short time of prosperity.

Reasoning behind allowing gambling, give some benefit.

Same reason legalizing Marijuana. Are the benefits worth the harm?

How is it that lottery commercials say. "Play responsibly"?

Ever since the days of the garden, men have been enticed to sin because of the pleasures and supposed benefits it would bring them and could bring them.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Lust is the reason men do not seek to be set free of this bondage.

As Satan allows men to be drawn away of their lusts.

As men enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

They are like the frog that is swimming in the warm frying pan of water.

Worms and night crawlers after a rain storm crawl out on a sidewalk and then the heat comes and dries up the water, and they shrivel up.

Like the fly that is drawn by the warmth of the light and gets too close and fries.

The Loyalist party consisted mostly of older and wealthier men (Calhoun 237), who were quite content with their present status and would hardly risk to lose everything for ephemeral ideals of freedom.

So it is that spiritually those who enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season will not desire independence and freedom.

***3. By God's grace, God awakens some people to see their need to be saved.
They are repelled by Satans Kingdom and they see their need to come to Christ.***

SO THEY DECLARE THEIR INTENTION TO BE INDEPENDENT OF THIS WORLD SYSTEM.
THEY COME TO CHRIST FOR SALVATION.

So in the early days of our nation there were three types of people.

The patriots, who wanted independence and freedom.

The loyalists, who were loyal to the King.

The neutralists, these took neither side.

Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet called "COMMON SENSE" it is said that this pamphlet did more to sway those who were "ON THE FENCE" than anything else. The pamphlet was more of a sermon than a political battle cry. In it, he argued how God warned the people of Israel about the dangers of putting their allegiance to an earthly king. In it, he said, God wanted the people to look to him as being their king, and He appeals to Gideon who when the people of Israel said, rule over us, thou and thy sons, Gideon wisely said, "I will not rule over you."

In this pamphlet Tomas Paine appealed to Gideon and Samuel as reasons the colonists should reject rulership of King George III.

He wrote:

But where says some is the King of America? I'll tell you Friend, He reigns above, and doth not make havoc of mankind like the Royal Brute of Britain. Yet that we may not appear to be defective even in earthly honors, let a day be solemnly set apart for proclaiming the charter; let it be brought forth placed on the divine law, the word of God; let a crown be placed thereon, by which the world may know, that so far as we approve as monarchy, that in America THE LAW IS KING. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be King; and there ought to be no other. But lest any ill use should afterwards arise, let the crown at the conclusion of the ceremony be demolished, and scattered among the people whose right it is.

Sentiments like this is what promoted a desire of the colonists to be free of the tyranny of England.

Yet I say to you, a far greater tyranny is the tyranny we see so few rising up against.

CONSIDER ALSO:

II. WHEN A PERSON DECLARES HIS INTENTION TO BE FREE, THEN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE WILL BEGIN.

Parable of the Sower and the seed:

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Do you think that when the United States declared it's intention to be free of England that King George III said, oh that is all right.

No, when the US declared its intention to be free King George tried to tighten the reigns.

So it will be with us.

He will hit you somehow in three areas.

1. Some seed fell by the wayside.

The Devil will try to confuse you, take away the word out of your heart.

Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

There is an enemy that works on our minds.

Lady thought she heard me say one thing which I did not say.
Devil gets people to twist what is said.

2. Some seed falls on the Rocky Ground.

Matthew 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;
Matthew 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

3. Some Seed Falls Among the Thorns.

Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

4. Some Seed Falls On The Good Ground Of A Sincere Heart. These are the ones that will be fruitful for the Lord.

Matthew 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

There is an enemy and he is not going to stand by idle when you declare your intent to be free of sin!!

III. VICTORY WILL COME AS LONG AS WE DO NOT QUIT.

Think of the courage and faith it took for those men to sign the Declaration of Independence.

HERE IS WHAT THEY SAID:

And 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.

Five signers were captured by the British and brutally tortured as traitors.

Nine fought in the War for Independence and died from wounds or from hardships they suffered. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another two had sons captured. At least a dozen of the fifty-six had their homes pillaged and burned.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. One was a teacher, one a musician, and one a printer.

These were men of means and education, yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured.

Concerning the signers one man wrote:

Regardless of the accusations, speculation, and controversy of what actually happened to them, we should all keep in mind that at the moment they committed their name to the document, they knew it could mean their lives were forfeit. They were basically declaring war on what some would easily argue was at the time the greatest nation on the face of the planet throughout history. The sun did not set on the United Kingdom in the 1700s. At its peak, the UK was greater than the Roman Empire ever was, and the United States of America still has not achieved equal greatness to the UK at its height of success.

These fifty-six men were taking a slingshot like the shepherd David aiming at the giant warrior Goliath, when they signed this petition. At the time they had only their own accumulated resolve, and faith in their God, that what they did that day would mean something. Their names should be remembered.

Do you know that when we declare independence of the "god of this world". Satan, we are entering into the arena with a Spiritual Goliath.

Yet we have this promise that God will be with us.

And if God be for us who can be against us.

Read the book of acts, how from city to city Paul was persecuted.

So many think that if they get saved that life will be a bed of roses. No we will have enemies, but our Lord will be greater.

This is the battle that is set before us.

Let us fight it with patience.

CONCLUSION:

We have a great heritage in this country of ours. The founders of our nation were greatly influenced by the Bible, the stories, and the ethics of the Bible. But a far greater cause than the birth of this nation is your spiritual birth.

July 4th 1776 a group of representatives of the 13 colonies gathered and signed the Declaration of Independence. That started the birth of a new nation. A far greater declaration would be when a person pledges their allegiance to Jesus Christ. It is like the Exodus from Egypt. Probably the colonists would have never declared independence from England if they had not suffered the atrocities of their cruel task master. They never would have pursued freedom.

So it is the trials and heartaches of this life should lead us TO DESIRE SOMETHING BETTER.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Hebrews 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Hebrews 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Why will we not resist Satan as the oppressor of mankind?

How sad it is that so many try to play neutral in this endeavor.

Jesus said, he that is not for me is against me. It is dangerous to be on the fence. In fact, to be on the fence put you in jeopardy of being attacked one way or another.