

FREE TO BELIEVE

A HISTORICAL LOOK AT RIGHTS AND CHRISTIAN FAITH

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty..."

~ Galatians 5:13

1. Freedom and Faith

- a. 46% of Americans don't know why 250 years (Declaration of Independence)
- b. 56% fear losing our freedom in the next 50 years. (Then know where it comes from.)
- c. John Witherspoon, never in history civil liberty was lost, and religious liberty preserved
- d. Thomas Jefferson was not the first to describe "unalienable Rights". John Q.
- e. Civil liberties, rights, derived from true faith – self-evident from Christian faith.

2. An Apostle of Freedom

- a. Paul preached liberty by faith due to Christ – as a blessing for all nations.
- b. The apostle of grace preaches freedom/deliverance/independence (not from God)
- c. *"stand fast in liberty"* - Gal 5:1; *"brethren, ye have been called unto liberty"* - Gal 5:13
- d. All nations are blessed through the faith of Abraham - Gal 3:7-9, 14
- e. When faith came, we are no longer under the law - Gal 3:22-25, Rom 7:3
- f. Being "freed from sin" a result of being baptized into Christ Jesus - Rom 6:7, 3:20-21
- g. Noah Webster said Christian faith necessary to secure the rights of a free people.
- h. *What happens when men get faith wrong? The gospel wrong? Paul wrong?*

3. Separation of Church and State

- a. Separation of Church and State keeps the State out of Church not vice versa.
- b. Dispensational separation of church and state is between Israel and the Church.
- c. When Israel's doctrine infects the Church, freedom will be lost (and vice versa)
- d. Witherspoon, the best friend to liberty is he who best promotes true pure faith.
- e. 7th-11th – Paulicians/Waldensians separated from society to have freedom to believe.
- f. 14th c. Wycliffe (Lollards) – wanted free access to scripture for men to believe.
- g. 1517 Reformation – Men reading Paul, being made free to believe again (Rom 5:1)
- h. Charles I (post KJ), his relations with Catholicism caused men of faith to flee to America
- i. In every case, printing the Bible (getting faith into men's hands) prioritized.
- j. Called protestant, separatist, nonconformist, dissenter, rebel, wanton gospellers.
- k. You are called fundamentalist, hyperdispensational, divisive, heretic for right division.

4. Declaring What is Right

- a. 1689 English Bill of Rights Protestants guaranteed rights free speech, petition, arms
- b. John Wesley despised by his Anglican church for preaching faith freely to the people.
- c. George Mason -Virginia Declaration of Rights - *"duty of all to practice Christian charity"*
- d. After the Declaration, the KJ Bible could be printed in America (Aitken Bible)
- e. Mason refused to sign the Constitution without a bill of Rights (Madison conceded)
- f. The 18th century saw proliferation of Bibles, churches, Bible conferences (right division)
- g. True faith led to freedom, which led to propagation of proper understanding.
- h. The decline of freedom over 250 years is a direct result of turning away from true faith.
- i. Christ made us free to believe. In America, we still have that civil liberty. Gal 5:1, 13

2nd paragraph of the Declaration of Independence

"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."

"There is not a single instance in history in which civil liberty was lost, and religious liberty preserved" - John Witherspoon

"The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity."

John Quincy Adams, 6th president

"To the free and universal reading of the Bible... men [are] much indebted for right views of civil liberty." - Daniel Webster, secretary of State for 3 presidents

"He is the best friend to American liberty, who is most sincere and active in promoting true and undefiled religion..." May, 1776, John Witherspoon sermon.

"It is in the man of piety and inward principle, that we may expect to find the uncorrupted patriot, the useful citizen, and the invincible soldier."

Noah Webster said, " No truth is more evident than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people."

Virginia Declaration of Rights – George Mason (51 yrs)

Section 1. That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

Section 15. That no free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

Section 16 - That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practise Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other.

1st ammendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.