

The Forefathers Monument: Faith



This spring, a landmark documentary, *Monumental* will hit theaters across America. The film, starring Kirk Cameron, centers on the rediscovery of the matrix of liberty carved into a 180 ton granite monument. The Forefathers Monument stands on a forgotten hill in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The central figure of the Forefathers Monument is: Faith.

Faith is the heart of the monument. She is a large 36 ft., classically draped female standing with one foot on Plymouth Rock. Her right hand is pointing to heaven and her left hand holds a Geneva Bible, the Bible of the Pilgrims. This signifies that America's forefathers had faith in the God of the Bible which was the very core of their liberty. The star on Faith's forehead illustrates the divine light imparting biblical wisdom to every area of life. Faith was the precedent and inspiration for the Statue of Liberty.

Why is Faith so important in the struggle to restore liberty and prosperity to America? It is crucial because man is inescapably religious. All cultures are built upon some form of religious faith.

In comparison to biblical Christianity, what have other faiths produced throughout history? Is it true, as the multi-cultural advocates suggest that many religious faiths created the modern western world as we know it? Historian Rodney Stark gives us a realistic picture of what the world would be like if it were dominated by other religions such as the polytheistic gods of Greece or Rome, or the non-theistic gods of Hinduism, Taoism, and Buddhism. He says, "Christianity created Western Civilization...without a theology committed to reason, progress, and moral equality [Christianity], today the entire world would be about where non-European societies were in, say, 1800. A world with many astrologers and alchemists but no scientists. A world of despots, lacking universities, banks, factories, eyeglasses, chimneys, and pianos. A world where most infants do not live to the age of five and many women die in childbirth – a world truly living in the dark ages." A host of other brilliant historians agree.

This is why faith is so important. As the Bible teaches, our faith determines our eternal relationship with God. It also determines whether our life will bring liberty or tyranny to men and nations. Christianity was the primary source of all of our institutions. Author Dinesh D'Souza says, referring to Europe (and the roots of America), "Slowly and surely, Christianity took this backward continent and gave it learning and order, stability and dignity... Where there was once wasteland they produced hamlets, then towns, and eventually commonwealths and cities. Through the years the savage barbarian warrior

became a chivalric Christian knight, and new ideals of civility and manners and romance were formed that shape our society to this day...Christianity is responsible for the way our society is organized and for the way we currently live. So extensive is the Christian contribution to our laws, our economics, our politics, our arts, our calendar, our holidays, and our moral and cultural priorities that historian J. M. Roberts writes in *The Triumph of the West*, 'We could none of us today be what we are if a handful of Jews nearly two thousand years ago had not believed that they had known a great teacher, seen him crucified, dead, and buried, and then rise again.' "

The American people's daily choices determine their ultimate allegiance or faith. Will they choose the State as God, one of a panoply of non-Christian alternative gods, or will Americans galvanize to the right choice – the God of their ancestors, the biblical God, the only true God? That is the ultimate decision which determines the future of generations to come.

The above decisions cannot be forced. If the American people, for example, determine that they want to continue down the road of secular humanism or the worship of man, then they are free to do so and face the consequences. Friedrich Nietzsche, the founder of modern Nihilism and Atheism, states that if society rejects Christianity then that will mean the end of any hope of maintaining human equality and rights. Nietzsche said, "*Another Christian concept, no less crazy: the concept of equality of souls before God. This concept furnishes the prototype of all theories of equal rights.*" The civilizing influence of Christianity brings all men equal and accountable before a loving God.

Biblical Christianity is proven to be historically accurate. The Bible is inerrant. It is the only book in all of history that claims one true God. Its predictive history has been proven over thousands of years. The Bible's structure of the institutions of the family, the

church, and the state are incomparable. They bring liberty, stability, and charity like no other faith.

It must be proclaimed that Biblical Christianity has blessed the world with equal rights, free enterprise prosperity, scientific discovery, inventions, etc. Most importantly it saves us from eternal separation from God through the grace and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Stark says it well. "*The modern world arose only in Christian societies. Not in Islam. Not in Asia. Not in a "secular" society – there having been none. And all the modernization that has since occurred outside Christendom was imported from the West, often brought by colonizers and missionaries.*"

The above statements regarding the superiority of the Christian faith to all other religions are but a drop in the ocean of historical proof that rings down to us clearly through the ages. Faith in the God of the Bible brings liberty. Those who desire to be blessed personally and nationally must first bow in Faith, and accept the first proclamation of God to Moses on Mt. Sinai, "Thou shall have no other gods before me."

British historian Niall Ferguson documents the point that it is not our external enemies or the existential fears of our current malaise that are driving our culture into decline. He says. "...the real threat posed is not by the rise of China, Islam, or CO2 emissions, but *by our own loss of faith in the civilization we inherited from our ancestors.*"

If we desire to rediscover the strategy that produced the most prosperous and free civilization in all of human history, then we must first personally commit ourselves to the Faith of our ancestors as seen in the central figure in the Forefathers Monument. As we look to God and study His infallible Word, we can expect to be given wisdom for our present day and solutions to our growing national crisis.

- Marshall Foster