

## July 4, 2026 - America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Nation Under God

### The Spiritual Meaning of a National Anniversary is More than Celebration:

- It is remembrance.
- It is gratitude.
- It is accepting responsibility.

As we mark 250 years since 1776, we need to thank God for freedom, ask for healing where needed, and pray for wisdom for the generations ahead.

### Blessed is the Nation Whose God is the Lord –

- **God blesses the nation that acknowledges Him - Psalm 33:10–12**

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the Lord, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.”

- **Biblical citizenship honors both God and government – Matthew 22:15–22**

And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

### Render Unto Caesar, Stand Firm in the Evil Day Freedom Requires:

- **Spiritual courage and moral conviction – Ephesians 6:10–18**
- **Faith that builds nations, true faith, transforms families, communities, and generations – Hebrews 11:1–16**

***America's blessings are not accidental; they are the fruit of dependence on God.***

***From the Pilgrims' covenant to our founders' prayers, our history is marked by moments when God's people sought His favor and guidance.***

### Mayflower Compact (1620):

**IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.** We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King *James*, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, King, *Defender of the Faith*, &c. **Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia;** Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet

and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. **IN WITNESS** whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at *Cape-Cod* the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *James*, of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, the eighteenth, and of *Scotland* the fifty-fourth, *Anno Domini*; 1620.

**Before America was a nation, it was a mission field consecrated to God.**



**April 1607 First Landing at Cape Henry – Declaration by Reverend Robert Hunt establishing the Virginia Colony:**

**“We do hereby dedicate this Land, and ourselves, to reach the People within these shores with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to raise up Godly generations after us, and with these generations take the Kingdom of God to all the earth. May this Covenant of Dedication remain to all generations, as long as this earth remains and may this land, along with England, be evangelists to the world. May all who see this cross remember what we have done here and may those who come here to inhabit join us in this Covenant and this most noble work, that the Holy Scriptures may be fulfilled. From these very shores the gospel shall go forth, not only to this new world, but the entire world.”**

### **Key Themes of the Prayer**

- **Dedication of the Land:** Hunt expressed a desire to dedicate the land to God, aiming to reach the people with the Gospel.
- **Generational Legacy:** He prayed for the establishment of godly generations that would continue to honor God and spread His message.
- **Seeking Guidance:** The prayer emphasized the need for God's guidance and mercy as the settlers embarked on their new venture.

## **Significance**

This prayer not only represented the settlers' spiritual commitment but also set a tone for their mission in the New World. It highlighted the importance of faith in their efforts to establish a successful colony. The act of prayer was a foundational moment, reflecting their reliance on God amidst the uncertainties they faced.

## **National renewal begins with personal revival. The blessings of liberty endure only where the Lord is honored.**

“It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God.”  
— George Washington, 1789

This is not Christian Nationalism as an attempt by men to set up a theocracy (God government), but a sincere thankfulness and stewardship of the property and opportunity given by the Lord to honor Him and establish godly righteousness among fellow citizens. The Lord Jesus Christ will one day set up His government on earth and rule all nations.

**Daniel 7:13-14** – “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And **to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.**”

**Revelation 21:1-3** – Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

## **Definition of Christian Nationalism:**

Christian nationalism is an ideology that merges Christian identity with national identity. It advocates for the government to promote Christian values within a nation. Proponents believe that a country should be defined by its Christian heritage and seek to influence public policy to reflect this belief.

## **Key Characteristics**

- **Fusion of Identities:** emphasizes the integration of Christian beliefs into the national identity.
- **Government Role:** advocates for the government to actively support and promote Christian values, often seeking to establish laws that align with these beliefs.
- **Cultural Influence:** aims to shape cultural and social norms based on Christian principles, often viewing these as essential to the nation's identity.

### **1. We are required by Jesus Himself to render to Caesar (government) what belongs to Caesar, but to render to God what belongs to God.**

- **Biblical citizenship honors both God and government.**

**Matthew 22:16-21** – “Teacher, we know that You are true and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, *you* hypocrites? Show Me the tax money.” So they brought Him a denarius. He said to them, “Whose image and inscription *is* this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

***It was a trick question.*** If Jesus answered, “No,” the Herodians would charge Him with treason against Rome. If He said, “Yes,” the Pharisees would accuse Him of disloyalty to the Jewish nation, and He would lose the support of the crowds. To pay taxes or not to pay taxes? The question was designed as a Catch-22.

- **He was drawing a sharp distinction between two kingdoms.**

There is a kingdom of this world, and Caesar holds power over it. But there is another kingdom, not of this world, and Jesus is King of that.

**John 18:36** – Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

- **Christians are part of both kingdoms, at least temporarily.**

- Under Caesar (government), we have certain obligations that involve material things. Under Christ, we have other obligations that involve things eternal.
- If Caesar demands money, give it to him – it’s only mammon. But make sure you also give God what He demands.

**John 17:15-17** – “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

As thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”

We are expected by our Lord Jesus, who defeated the god of this world – satan – to make the Kingdom of God known and advance God’s gracious purposes for mankind to be saved and live godly lives in this present world.

**Titus 2:12-14 (MEV)** – teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live soberly, righteously, and in godliness in this present world, as we await the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Himself a special people, zealous of good works.

## **2. Freedom requires spiritual courage and moral conviction.**

**Ephesians 6:10-18** – Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (vv. 10-11)

### **Faith of Our Founding Fathers:**

#### **1. George Washington: A Man of Prayer and Providence**

Washington was no theologian, but his faith in God’s providence was unwavering. “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

— *Attributed to Washington*

As commander of the Continental Army, Washington regularly ordered days of prayer and fasting, carried a personal prayer book, and attended worship weekly. He often spoke of God’s hand guiding the American cause.

He also insisted in his Farewell Address that religion and morality were the “indispensable supports” of political prosperity.

#### **2. James Madison: Architect of Religious Liberty**

Madison was a key author of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and a strong advocate for **freedom of religion**. Madison believed that **religion should never be coerced**, but he also recognized its vital social role.

“We have staked the whole future of American civilization... upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.” — *Attributed to Madison*

Though his personal beliefs leaned toward a rational Christianity, Madison saw **biblical ethics as a necessity for national stability**.

### 3. Benjamin Franklin: A Reasonable but Reverent Believer

Often mislabeled a pure deist, Franklin frequently referenced Scripture and divine providence.

“God governs in the affairs of men.” — *Franklin, at the Constitutional Convention* called the convention to prayer when it was stalled, reminding his fellow delegates that **“if a sparrow cannot fall without God’s notice, a nation cannot rise without His aid.”**

He supported churches, read the Bible, and respected Christian values even if he questioned theological dogma. He became a business partner with Rev. George Whitefield, publishing & distributing his sermons, sparking the Great American Revolution.

### 4. John Adams: Believed the Constitution Needs Morality

A committed Christian who read the Bible daily, Adams warned that **“liberty could not survive without religion and virtue.”**

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” — John Adams

He believed the Christian faith instilled the self-control, humility, and sense of justice necessary for a republic to function.

### 5. John Witherspoon: Pastor, Patriot, Signer of the Declaration of Independence

One of the few ordained ministers to sign the Declaration of Independence, Witherspoon trained many Founding Fathers – including Madison.

He preached that civil liberty and Christian virtue go hand in hand, and he believed America’s destiny rested on its spiritual health.

“A republic once equally poised must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty.”  
— Witherspoon

### Not Perfect Men, But Principled Believers

The Founders were not all orthodox Christians. Some wrestled with doctrine. Others leaned toward Enlightenment rationalism. But most held to these common convictions:

- God exists and governs human affairs.
- The Bible teaches timeless moral truths.
- Freedom requires virtue, and virtue requires faith.
- Religious liberty is essential—but religion itself is foundational.

## **Why This Still Matters**

We often separate church and state so sharply that we forget the **spiritual soul of the Constitution.**

Today, we need what the Founders knew:

**Faith Shapes Freedom!  
Lose One, And You'll Lose the Other.**



American must unite and pray for the U. S. to return to the principles of Christianity

## **How to Pray for the Nation Effectively**

- 1. Begin with gratitude for history and freedom.**
- 2. Confess areas where growth is needed.**
- 3. Pray specifically for leaders and communities.**
- 4. Pray for and determine to live in unity and spiritual renewal.**
- 5. Believe, hope, and trust in God's sovereignty.**

## **Prayer for the Lord's help to restore the nation to Him:**

**“O God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and of all who have gone before us on this earth, we give thanks for your faithfulness from generation to generation, and we ask Your forgiveness that we live as if we were Your only concern and our time were the only time there is.**

**Grant that as we seek to serve You, we may understand our times, we may see our time in the light of all times and of eternity; and we may understand Your purposes in our generation.**

**May no challenge or crisis daunt us, no enemy or attack unnerve us, and no failure or setback cause us to take our hands off the plow or let the sword slip from our hand.**

**Grant then that we may rise to the challenges of our times as the great heroes of the faith did to theirs so that together with them we may be the servant agents of Your kingdom and worthy of Your high calling.**

**In the name of Jesus – Amen.**