

# ONE NATION UNDER GOD



WORDS OF OUR HISTORIC NATION'S  
LEADERS DEMONSTRATING  
AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS

GREGORY TYREE

Copyright © 2013 Gregory Tyree  
All rights reserved  
ISBN 978-1484167779

All Scripture references are from the Holy Bible,  
King James Version

**ALSO BY GREG TYREE**

*My Own Life Focus*  
*How to Lead Someone to Christ*  
*30 Days to a Better Marriage*  
*The Master's Peace*  
*Discovering Your Next Pastor*  
*God Can Turn Your Church Around*

No part of this book may be reproduced, scanned, or distributed on any printed form or electronic form without permission. Please do not participate in or encourage piracy of copyrighted materials in violation of the author's rights.



# **ONE NATION UNDER GOD**



**Words of Our Historic Nation's  
Leaders Demonstrating America's  
Religious Foundations**



**Edited By**

**Dr. Gregory K. Tyree, PhD(c)**



**PREFACE**  
**2002 Edition**

As I begin this preface, I have been reading *Blinded by Might*, written by former Jerry Falwell colleagues, Cal Thomas (syndicated journalist) and Ed Dobson (pastor Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan). That book was written, much to the chagrin of Jerry Falwell and James Dobson (who loves to make it abundantly clear that he is no relation to Ed Dobson), to promote the thesis that political activism is not the answer to America's moral woes, and that the church's primary responsibility is to "preach the Gospel."

I believe that Dr. Falwell (Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA) and Dr. Dobson (Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO) are right: Christians need to get involved in America's political arena. I believe that Cal Thomas and Dr. Ed Dobson are right: only the Gospel of Jesus Christ will make a changing impact on our society. As I see it, Christians need to do four things:

- 1) Be "salt and light" in the world. We need to permeate society with the love of Jesus Christ!
- 2) Desire and strive for personal holiness. As Tony Evans says, "If you want a better world composed of better nations inhabited by better states filled with better counties made up of better cities comprised of better neighborhoods illuminated by better churches populated with better families, then you have to start

by becoming a better you.” (From the back cover of *What a Way to Live*.)

- 3) Be intentionally evangelistic. We need to confront the world with the Gospel of Christ. (See my book, *How to Lead Someone to Christ*.)
- 4) Be appropriately and scripturally politically active. Be informed of, vote for, and pray for the people who live the high standards that are necessary for the ruling of a righteous nation.

It seems evident that we will not stop abortion through political activism, nor, through the same, will we prevent the publishing of pornography or reestablish prayer and Bible-reading in the schools. Through a balanced approach, however, Christians can make a difference- and must! But first we must understand our Christian heritage.

This book emerges from a transition in my own life. I used to be one of the well meaning but ill-informed Christians who had acquiesced to the belief that America was not a nation founded by Christians. Previously, I reasoned that America was founded on Christian *principles*, but concluded that most of the founding fathers were not *genuine* Christians. I couldn't have been farther from the truth! While indeed some of the founders may have been non-Christians (in the Evangelical sense), practically all of them (if not all of them) held Christianity in great esteem and credited Christianity as the preeminent influence on the laws that would become our Constitution.

You may note that in the previous paragraph I did not state that America was founded as a “Christian Nation,” but rather that it was a “nation founded by Christians.” Calling America a “Christian Nation” is misleading, and implies that we established and maintained a state religion. Nor do I mean to imply that all early Americans were Christians, or that America was some kind of Theocracy. I do believe, however, that the preponderance of the Founding Fathers was Christians, and that their new ideal, philosophy, and dream of a nation were profoundly *Christian*.

That being said, we must not confuse the reasons for settling North America and forming the colonies with severing from England and founding a nation. While I am no history expert, it seems to me that a major reason (among many) for the early settlers and colonists to come to America was to escape religious oppression. England’s state religion (the Church of England, or “Anglicanism”) and England’s Kings were profoundly oppressive and intolerant of any view that contradicted them. On the other hand, it seems to me that a major catalyst of the founding of the new nation (which would become the “United States”) was heavy taxation and interference in American policy and commerce. While the language of the archives representing what the Founding Fathers said and wrote strongly supports the use of and value of religion in society and government, it just as strongly implies freedom of religion and tolerance, two values conspicuously missing in the mother land.

It is evident, however, that our Founding Fathers may have had a much different view of religious diversity than we do today. When they spoke of the freedom to worship, they stated this in a context of almost complete Christian-based faiths. In other words, by tolerance they meant that the various Christian sects should tolerate each other. It was a value that was born from reaction to the intolerance of various Christian sects by the state Church of England. One will not find allusions to Islam, Krishna, Hinduism, or Buddhism. While I imagine that our Founding Fathers intended for all religious beliefs to be tolerated, I doubt that they could have imagined or anticipated what that means in the twenty-first century context. Nevertheless, it is clear and right that freedom of religion was intended by our Founders, and that includes the right to not worship at all.

Even so, I have discovered that not only was the majority of the founders Christians, our system of government and Constitution are profoundly *Christian*. This will be evident as you read the direct quotations from our nation's archives in the pages of this book. I must say here at the beginning that the problem of compiling this book was not the lack of material to support my thesis (America is a Nation founded by Christians); the difficulty lay in sifting through the plethora of material and choosing which to leave out! The burden of proof concerning America's Christian heritage does not lie on the shoulders of Christians or those who accept this thesis; it lies on the collective shoulders of the skeptics who say we are and always have been a *secular* nation. *They* have yet to prove their thesis, nor will they ever prove it, because it simply is not true.

I have compiled this little work for the following reasons:

- 1) To educate people of the truth about our Christian heritage.
- 2) To call Christians to a recommitment to the virtues of our Founders.
- 3) To demonstrate that the degradation of our national values and worsening of our societal problems are in direct parallel to our deviation from the virtues and beliefs of our Founders.
- 4) To illicit an appreciation from all readers of the price that was and is paid for the invaluable peace and liberty we experience as a nation.
- 5) And above all, to glorify God who saw it fitting that this great nation be established on Judeo-Christian values.

Throughout this book I refer to the “Founding Fathers.” By this I mean those men who were instrumental in the formation and early development of our nation, many of whom were signers of the Declaration of Independence or contributors to the Constitution, etc., during the era of about 1760 to 1805 and shortly after that. My use of the term “Founding Fathers” is not meant to be interpreted in a

scholarly sense, and may differ slightly from a “technical” definition of the term.

I also include many quotes from notable leaders through the twentieth century. I have done this to demonstrate that the commitment to religious values and a collective belief in the God of the Christian scriptures persists two centuries after the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*.

I have included the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Constitution of the United States*, as well as some other archives, in the appendices. They may prove to be a blessing to you.

The format of this book is quite simple: it is merely a compilation of quotations from numerous Founders and others concerning America and her Christian heritage. You may want to read the entire volume in a single setting, or you may enjoy reading a little at a time. Regardless, you will want to return to it again and again, and perhaps share it with others.

May God bless you as you read this inspiring little volume, and may you rediscover the thrill of being a part of the greatest nation on earth! God bless America- One Nation Under God!

Dr. Greg Tyree

July 2002

## PREFACE TO THE CURRENT EDITION

A lot has happened since I compiled and edited this book over ten years ago. Dr. Jerry Falwell has passed on, and arguably so has the Christian Fundamentalist era he represented. Dr. James Dobson no longer leads Focus on the Family, and if I understand correctly, the tension between him and Ed Dobson has been resolved. Speaking of Ed Dobson, he is pastor emeritus of Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is consulting editor of *Leadership* magazine. He continues his journey with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease.

But one thing remains constant in our ever-changing and downward-spiraling American culture: religion's place in our every-day world is debated and evokes perpetual controversy.

Though originally composed in 1842, The Pledge of Allegiance did not include the words "under God" until 1954. Acting with the blessing of President Eisenhower, on February 8, 1954, Rep. Charles Oakman (R-Mich.), introduced a bill to amend the pledge with the added words. Congress passed the necessary legislation and Eisenhower signed the bill into law on Flag Day, June 14, 1954. Eisenhower stated, "From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty. ... In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly

strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war.”

Since then, the constitutionality of these words in our nation’s pledge has been challenged, all the way up to the Supreme Court, but so far these words remain in our most beloved patriotic mantra.

Whether or not America is, was, or ever has been a nation founded by Christians will continue to be debated. However, if the words and writings of our Founding Fathers, as well as our nation’s leaders through the twentieth century have any bearing on the debate, no open-minded person can maintain with integrity the belief that our nation was not founded on Christian values, theology, and principles.

This little volume presents ample evidence of our Christian heritage. May it be a blessing to believers, and a challenge to skeptics to lighten up; God is in control, and He loves us all.

Dr. Greg Tyree, PhD(c)

April 19, 2013

## INTRODUCTION

You might remember the controversy surrounding the phrase in our Pledge of Allegiance, “One nation under God,” in the early twenty-first century. This is especially intriguing since this controversy followed on the heels of the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, after which one could hardly walk a block, drive a mile, or watch TV for a minute without seeing or hearing the phrase, “God bless America!” We are a fickle people! As of this writing, over a decade later, the dust of the controversy as yet to settle, and “the jury is still out” as we wait for a verdict. It is my prayer that those who lead this nation will have enough integrity to see that to remove the phrase is to abandon the very principles on which this nation was founded.

This controversy is why I originally compiled and edited this book and entitled it “One Nation Under God.” It is my desire that people know the truth. It is my greater desire that they adhere to the truth once they know it!

The following excerpt is evidence that many do not know the truth about our Founding Fathers and the Christian basis of our government. This lengthy quote (which will appear in italics) is from a letter written by David Barton to the editors of a publication refuting America’s Christian heritage, and accusing many of our Founders of being deists:

*(We receive numerous requests from across the country to answer various editorials and letters-to-the-editor. The subject is usually the religious persuasions*

*of the Founding Fathers, and the standard assertion is that they were all deists. The following is but one of many possible replies to such accusations.)*

*I notice that your newspaper has an ongoing debate concerning the religious nature of the Founding Fathers. A recent letter claimed that most of the Founding Fathers were deists, and pointed to Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Paine, Hamilton, and Madison as proof. After making this charge, the writer acknowledged the "voluminous writings" of the Founders, but it appears that she has not read those writings herself. However, this is no surprise since the U. S. Department of Education claims that only 5 percent of high schools graduates know how to examine primary source documentation.*

*Interestingly, the claims in this recent letter to the editor are characteristic of similar claims appearing in hundreds of letters to the editor across the nation. The standard assertion is that the Founders were deists. Deists? What is a deist? In dictionaries like Webster's, Funk & Wagnall's, Century, and others, the terms "deist," "agnostic," and "atheist" appear as synonyms. Therefore, the range of a deist spans from those who believe there is no God, to those who believe in a distant, impersonal creator of the universe, to those who believe there is no way to know if God exists. Do the Founders fit any of these definitions?*

*None of the notable Founders fit this description. Thomas Paine, in his discourse on "The Study of God," forcefully asserts that it is "the error of schools" to teach sciences without "reference to the Being who is author of them: for all the principles of science are of Divine origin." He laments that "the evil that has resulted from the error of the schools in teaching [science without God] has been that of generating in the pupils a species of atheism." Paine not only believed in God, he believed in a reality beyond the visible world.*

*In Benjamin Franklin's 1749 plan of education for public schools in Pennsylvania, he insisted that schools teach "the necessity of a public religion . . . and the excellency of the Christian religion above all others, ancient or modern." Consider also the fact that Franklin proposed a Biblical inscription for the Seal of the United States; that he chose a New Testament verse for the motto of the Philadelphia Hospital; that he was one of the chief voices behind the establishment of a paid chaplain in Congress; and that when in 1787 when Franklin helped found the college which bore his name, it was dedicated as "a nursery of religion and learning" built "on Christ, the Corner-Stone." Franklin certainly doesn't fit the definition of a deist.*

*Nor does George Washington. He was an open promoter of Christianity. For example, in his speech on May 12, 1779, he claimed that what children needed to learn "above all" was the "religion of Jesus*

*Christ," and that to learn this would make them "greater and happier than they already are"; on May 2, 1778, he charged his soldiers at Valley Forge that "To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian"; and when he resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the military on June 8, 1783, he reminded the nation that "without a humble imitation" of "the Divine Author of our blessed religion" we "can never hope to be a happy nation." Washington's own adopted daughter declared of Washington that you might as well question his patriotism as to question his Christianity.*

*Alexander Hamilton was certainly no deist. For example, Hamilton began work with the Rev. James Bayard to form the Christian Constitutional Society to help spread over the world the two things which Hamilton said made America great: (1) Christianity, and (2) a Constitution formed under Christianity. Only Hamilton's death two months later thwarted his plan of starting a missionary society to promote Christian government. And at the time he did face his death in his duel with Aaron Burr, Hamilton met and prayed with the Rev. Mason and Bishop Moore, wherein he reaffirmed to him his readiness to face God should he die, having declared to them "a lively faith in God's mercy through Christ, with a thankful remembrance of the death of Christ." At that time, he also partook of Holy Communion with Bishop Moore.*

*The reader, as do many others, claimed that Jefferson omitted all miraculous events of Jesus from his "Bible." Rarely do those who make this claim let Jefferson speak for himself. Jefferson's own words explain that his intent for that book was not for it to be a "Bible," but rather for it to be a primer for the Indians on the teachings of Christ (which is why Jefferson titled that work, "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth"). What Jefferson did was to take the "red letter" portions of the New Testament and publish these teachings in order to introduce the Indians to Christian morality. And as President of the United States, Jefferson signed a treaty with the Kaskaskia tribe wherein he provided—at the government's expense—Christian missionaries to the Indians. In fact, Jefferson himself declared, "I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus." While many might question this claim, the fact remains that Jefferson called himself a Christian, not a deist.*

*James Madison trained for ministry with the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, and Madison's writings are replete with declarations of his faith in God and in Christ. In fact, for proof of this, one only need read his letter to Attorney General Bradford wherein Madison laments that public officials are not bold enough about their Christian faith in public and that public officials should be "fervent advocates in the cause of Christ." And while Madison did allude to a "wall of*

*separation," contemporary writers frequently refuse to allow Madison to provide his own definition of that "wall" was. According to Madison, the purpose of that "wall" was only to prevent Congress from passing a national law to establish a national religion.*

*None of the Founders mentioned fit the definition of a deist. And as is typical with those who make this claim, they name only a handful of Founders and then generalize the rest. This in itself is a mistake, for there are over two hundred Founders (fifty-five at the Constitutional Convention, ninety who framed the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights, and fifty-six who signed the Declaration) and any generalization of the Founders as deists is completely inaccurate.*

*The reason that such critics never mention any other Founders is evident. For example, consider what must be explained away if the following signers of the Constitution were to be mentioned: Charles Pinckney and John Langdon—founders of the American Bible Society; James McHenry—founder of the Baltimore Bible Society; Rufus King—helped found a Bible society for Anglicans; Abraham Baldwin—a chaplain in the Revolution and considered the youngest theologian in America; Roger Sherman, William Samuel Johnson, John Dickinson, and Jacob Broom—also theological writers; James Wilson and William Patterson—placed on the Supreme Court by President George Washington, they had prayer over juries in the U. S. Supreme Court room; and the list could go on.*

## One Nation Under God

*And this does not even include the huge number of thoroughly evangelical Christians who signed the Declaration or who helped frame the Bill of Rights.*

*Any portrayal of any handful of Founders as deists is inaccurate. (If this group had really wanted some irreligious Founders, they should have chosen Henry Dearborne, Charles Lee, or Ethan Allen). Perhaps critics should spend more time reading the writings of the Founders to discover their religious beliefs for themselves rather than making such sweeping accusations which are so easily disproven.*

*Thank You,*

*David Barton/WallBuilders*

I am optimistic about the controversy mentioned above. Even if our leaders deny us the phrase, “One Nation Under God,” it will still ring from every corner in the land—because people believe it!

I knew this when I stood with 88,000 others in Giant Stadium (fall of 2002) to say the *Pledge of Allegiance* before Notre Dame played Maryland. I waited nervously as we came to the paradoxically controversial phrase, only to hear the volume of the crowd increase tenfold as they deliberately and reverently shouted, “ONE NATION UNDER GOD!” It was awesome!

## One Nation Under God

If you already believe the thesis that America was and is “One Nation Under God,” read on for affirmation and blessing; if you are not sure, read on for education; if you are skeptical, read on for proof. Regardless, the truth speaks for itself.

*This is what  
the really  
said...*



## One Nation Under God

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 of the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances. (The First Amendment)

\*\*\*\*\*

In matters of religion I have considered that its free exercise is placed by the Constitution independent of the powers of the General Government. I have therefore undertaken on no occasion to prescribe the religious exercises suited to it, but have left them, as the Constitution found them, under the direction and discipline of the church or state authorities acknowledged by the several religious societies. ...that their duty is to remain as their Creator made them, ... I shall need, too, the favor of that Being in whose hands we are, who led our fathers, as Israel of old, from their native land and planted them in a country flowing with all the necessaries and comforts of life; who has covered our infancy with His providence and our riper years with His wisdom and power, and to whose goodness I ask you to join in supplications with me that He will so enlighten the minds of your servants, guide their councils, and prosper their measures that whatsoever they do shall result in your good, and shall secure to you the peace, friendship, and approbation of all nations. (Thomas Jefferson, from his Second Inaugural Address)

\*\*\*\*\*

Our fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements of their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, or literary. (Daniel Webster)

\*\*\*\*\*

John Eidsmoe comments on the contrast between the Founders' view of Christianity and the view held by a lot of modern secularists:

*Most of these founding fathers sincerely believed the tenets of orthodox Christianity. The few who had reservations about certain doctrines recognized the positive influence the Christian religion had on society. They all agreed that, in Washington's words, "national morality (cannot) prevail in exclusion of religious principle." They realized that the only way a free society can exist is among a highly religious and moral people.*

*The founding fathers who did not choose to be Christians expressed gratitude for Christianity's influence within their nation. If the founding fathers were to see the hostile contempt with which modern thinkers treat Christianity, I believe they would consider it strange, offensive, and self-destructive.*

(Christianity and the Constitution [Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1998], p. 342)

The following excerpts from the historian Benson J. Lossing's book *Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence* (Aledo, Texas: WallBuilders, 1995) are representative of the Christian beliefs of most of the Founders:

- Dr. Thornton was greatly beloved by all who knew him, and to the close of his long life he was a consistent and zealous Christian....
- The life of Mr. Hopkins exhibits a fine example of the rewards of honest, persevering industry....He was a sincere and consistent Christian, and the impress of his profession was upon all his deeds....
- Governor Huntington lived the life of the irreproachable and sincere Christian, and those who knew him most intimately, loved him the most affectionately....
- As a theological writer, Doctor Witherspoon had few superiors, and as a statesman he held the first rank. In him were centered the social elements of an upright citizen, a fond parent, a just tutor, and a humble Christian; and when, on the tenth of November, 1794, at the age of nearly seventy-three years, his useful life closed, it was widely felt that a "great man had fallen in Israel."...
- As a patriot, Doctor Rush was firm and inflexible; as a professional man he was skilful, candid, and honorable; as a thinker and writer, he was profound; as

a Christian, zealous and consistent; and in his domestic relations, he was the centre of a circle of love and true affection. Through life the Bible was a "lamp to his feet" - his guide in all things appertaining to his duty toward God and man. (pp. 21, 46, 55, 84, 103)

\*\*\*\*\*

The fact that America's Founding Fathers believed in God is so well established and so easily proven, that modern atheists, agnostics, and secularists don't deny it. Some argue, however, that while the Founding Fathers believed in God, they weren't Christians. Instead, they were deists or theists. They believed in God, but not specifically in the God of Christianity.

Why do some people, such as atheists and secularists, want to avoid acknowledging that the Founding Fathers were Christians? Because it's difficult to argue against the prosperity of America and its positive influence on the world. If that prosperity and positive influence can even partially be traced back to Christianity, then that's an argument in favor of the validity of the religion. As Alexis de Tocqueville observed:

There is no country in the whole world in which the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America and there can be no greater proof of its utility, and of its conformity to human nature, than that its [Christianity's] influence is most powerfully felt over the most enlightened and free nation on earth. (cited in David Barton, *The Myth of Separation* [Aledo, Texas: WallBuilder Press, 1992], p. 131)

Clearly, the Founders at least believed in a God who is active in human affairs. The Declaration of Independence rests upon and specifically asserts that belief. If deism can be ruled out, then, were the Founders closer to theism or Christianity? Though some Founders, such as Jefferson and Franklin, were not Christians, most of the Founders were professing Christians. Even among those who didn't profess belief in Christ, there was admiration for Christianity, and their worldview was largely shaped by it. Concerning Christianity's influence during America's founding era (1760-1805), Donald Lutz of the University of Houston writes in *The Origins of American Constitutionalism* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University Press, 1988):

*If we ask which book was most frequently cited in that literature [of the founding era], the answer is, the Bible. Biblical tradition accounted for roughly one-third of the citations. However, the sample includes about one-third of all significant secular publications, but only about one-tenth of the reprinted sermons. Even with this undercount, Saint Paul is cited about as frequently as Montesquieu and Blackstone, the two most-cited secular authors, and Deuteronomy is cited almost twice as often as all of Locke's writings put together. A strictly proportional sample with respect to secular and religious sources would have resulted in an abundance of religious references....*

*Approximately 80 percent of the political pamphlets published during the 1770s were reprinted sermons.*

## One Nation Under God

*When reading comprehensively in the political literature of the war years, one cannot but be struck by the extent to which biblical sources used by ministers and traditional Whigs undergirded the justification for the break with Britain, the rationale for continuing the war, and the basic principles of Americans' writing their own constitutions. (pp. 140, 142)*

\*\*\*\*\*

Amongst other strange things said of me, I hear it is said by the deists that I am one of the number; and, indeed, that some good people think I am no Christian. This thought gives me much more pain than the appellation of Tory; because I think religion of infinitely higher importance than politics; and I find much cause to reproach myself that I have lived so long, and have given no decided and public proofs of my being a Christian. But, indeed, my dear child, this is a character which I prize far above all this world has, or can boast. (Patrick Henry, from a letter to his daughter in 1796)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed. (Patrick Henry, Wirt Henry's, Life, vol. II, p. 621)

\*\*\*\*\*

Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers. And it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest, of a Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers. (John Jay, First Chief Justice of Supreme Court)

God's will be done; to him I resign--in him I confide. Do the like. Any other philosophy applicable to this occasion is delusive. Away with it. (John Jay, in a letter to his wife, Sally Jay, April 20, 1794)

\*\*\*\*\*

The American population is entirely Christian, and with us Christianity and Religion are identified. It would be strange indeed, if with such a people, our institutions did not presuppose Christianity, and did not often refer to it, and exhibit relations with it. (John Marshall, in a letter to Jasper Adams, May 9, 1833, JSAC, p. 139. Marshall was Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1801-1835.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Let the children...be carefully instructed in the principles and obligations of the Christian religion. This is the most essential part of education. The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effectual means of extirpating [removing] Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the Bible at schools. (Benjamin Rush)

\*\*\*\*\*

Christianity becomes not merely an auxiliary, but a guide, to the law of nature; establishing its conclusions, removing its doubts, and evaluating its precepts. (Joseph Story, "The Value

and Importance of Legal Studies," a lecture delivered August 25, 1829 at his inauguration as Dane Professor of Law in Harvard University, cited in James McClellan, Joseph Story and the American Constitution (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma, 1971), p. 66. Story served as Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1811-1845, and founded the Harvard Law School.)

\*\*\*\*\*

We've staked our future on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments with all our heart. (Samuel Adams)

\*\*\*\*\*

We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations, and will raise up friends for us. The battle is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave . . . Is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death! (Patrick Henry, in a speech on March 23, 1775)

\*\*\*\*\*

I have long been of opinion that the evidence of the truth of Christianity requires only to be carefully examined to produce conviction in candid mind. (John Jay)

\*\*\*\*\*

was this: I was at a large party, of which were several of that description. They spoke freely and contemptuously of religion. I took no part in the conversation. In the course of it, one of the masked me if I believed in Christ? I answered that I did, and that I thanked God that I did. (John Jay, in a letter to John Bristed, April 23, 1811)

\*\*\*\*\*

The same merciful Providence has also been pleased to cause every material event and occurrence respecting our Redeemer, together with the gospel he proclaimed, and the miracles and predictions to which it gave occasion, to be faithfully recorded and preserved for the information and benefit of all mankind. (John Jay, in an address to the American Bible Society, May 9, 1822)

\*\*\*\*\*

My own private judgment has long been (and every day's experience more and more confirms me in it) that government cannot long exist without an alliance with Religion to some extent, and that Christianity is indispensable to the true interests and solid foundation of all governments. . . . I know not, indeed, how any deep sense of moral obligation or accountableness can be expected to prevail in the community without a firm foundation of the great Christian truths. (Joseph Story, in a letter to Jasper Adams, May 14, 1833)

A general dissolution of Principles and Manners will more surely overthrow the Liberties of America than the whole

## One Nation Under God

Force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader . . . If virtue and knowledge are diffused among the people, they will never be enslaved. This will be their great security. (Samuel Adams)

\*\*\*\*\*

You can't have national morality apart from religious principle. (George Washington)

\*\*\*\*\*

The longer I live the more convinced I become that God governs in the affairs of men. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance. (Ben Franklin)

I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writings, that "except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. (Ben Franklin)

Some people acknowledge that the founders held a Christian worldview, but suggest that they instituted a secular

government. Secularists point out that the Constitution doesn't mention God, for example. Actually, the Constitution not only refers to God, but specifically mentions Jesus Christ, when it dates itself in the "Year of Our Lord, 1787". The Declaration of Independence repeatedly refers to God. And as John Eidsmoe explains on pages 355-377 of *Christianity and the Constitution* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1998), the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution contain all sorts of references to theistic and Biblical principles (that human nature is sinful, the concept of the "Law of Nations", the exemption of Sunday in observance of the Lord's Day in Section 7 of Article 1 of the Constitution, etc).

Christianity played a major role in shaping this nation. America is far from perfect, but the fact that it's come so much closer to perfection than other nations is largely attributable to the influence of Christianity. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalms 33:12).

\*\*\*\*\*

Whether this [new government] will prove a blessing or a curse will depend upon the use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed on us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary character, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation [Proverbs 14:34]. Reader! Whoever thou art, remember this, and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself and encourage it in others. (Patrick Henry, Written on the back of Henry's Stamp Act)

## One Nation Under God

\*\*\*\*\*

Our country was founded on the Gosple of Jesus Christ.  
(Patrick Henry)

\*\*\*\*\*

The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His Apostles.... This is genuine Christianity and to this we owe our free constitutions of government. (Noah Webster)

\*\*\*\*\*

The God who gave us life gave us liberty... Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction... That these liberties are the gift of God? The bible is the cornerstone for American liberty. (Thomas Jefferson)

\*\*\*\*\*

The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.  
(John Quincy Adams)

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God Governs in the

affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, it is probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that “except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that built it.” I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move—that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and in blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service. (Benjamin Franklin-The Constitutional Convention, June 28, 1787)

\*\*\*\*\*

And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever. (Thomas Jefferson)

Religion in America...must nevertheless be regarded as the foremost of the political institutions of that country...I do not

know whether all the Americans have a sincere faith in their religion; for who can search the human heart? But I am certain that they hold it to be indispensable to the maintenance of the republican institutions. This opinion is not peculiar to a class of citizens or to a party, but it belongs to the whole nation, and to every rank of society ...Christianity, therefore, reigns without any obstacle, by universal consent. (Alexis De Toqueville)

\*\*\*\*\*

This is a religious people. That is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation....These are not individual sayings, declarations of private persons: they are organic utterances; they speak the voice of the entire people....These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.

(U.S. Supreme Court- Church of the Holy Trinity v. U.S., 1892)

\*\*\*\*\*

No person who shall deny the being of God, or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and the safety of the State, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this State.

(North Caroline Constitution, 1876)

## One Nation Under God

\*\*\*\*\*

Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers. (John Jay- First Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court)

\*\*\*\*\*

No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency...We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained. (George Washington- Inaugural Speech to Congress, April 30, 1789)

\*\*\*\*\*

The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scripture ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws....All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible. (Noah Webster- 1833)

## One Nation Under God

\*\*\*\*\*

It is the duty of nations as well as men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history: that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. (Abraham Lincoln)

The Bible...is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God and spiritual nature and need of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation...America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture. (Woodrow Wilson)

\*\*\*\*\*

All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated through this Book; but for the Book we could not know right from wrong. All the things desirable to man are contained in it. (Abraham Lincoln)

Faith in the transcendent, sovereign God was in the public philosophy—the American consensus. America’s story opens with the first words of the Bible, “In the beginning God...” We are truthfully one nation “under God” and our institutions

“presuppose a Divine Being” wrote Associate Justice William O. Douglas in 1966. Only a nation founded on theistic pre-suppositions would adopt a first amendment to ensure the free exercise of all religions or of none. The government would be neutral among the many denominations and no one church would become “the state church”. But America and its institutions of government could not be neutral about God. (The Capitol: A Pictorial History- U.S. Government Printing Office, 1979)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed...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. (Noah Webster)

\*\*\*\*\*

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness...The mere politician...ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert?...And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be

## One Nation Under God

maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds...reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail, in exclusion of religious principle. (George Washington- Farewell Address, September 19, 1796)

\*\*\*\*\*

We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion...Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. (John Adams)

\*\*\*\*\*

We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being. (U.S. Supreme Court- *Zorach V. Clauson*, 1952)

\*\*\*\*\*

The real object of the First Amendment was not to countenance, much less to advance, Mohammedanism, or Judaism, or infidelity, by prostrating Christianity, but to exclude all rivalry among Christian sects, and to prevent any national ecclesiastical establishment which would give to an hierarchy the exclusive patronage of the national government. (Judge Joseph Story- Nineteenth-Century Supreme Court Justice)

## One Nation Under God

\*\*\*\*\*

Upon my arrival in the United States, the religious aspect of the country was the first thing that struck my attention; and the longer I stayed there, the more did I perceive the great political consequences resulting from this state of things, to which I was unaccustomed. In France I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom pursuing courses diametrically opposed to each other; but in America I found that they were intimately united, and that they reigned in common over the same country. (Alexis De Toqueville)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Bible, the Word of God, has made a unique contribution in shaping the United States as a distinctive and blessed nation....Deeply held convictions springing from the Holy Scriptures led to the early settlement of our Nation....Biblical teaching inspired concepts of civil government that are contained in our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. (United States Congress Public Law 97-280, 96 Stat. 1211, October 4, 1982)

\*\*\*\*\*

Had the people, during the Revolution, had a suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that Revolution would have been strangled in its cradle. At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, not any one sect (denomination). Any attempt to level and discard all

## One Nation Under God

religion would have been viewed with universal indignation.  
(House Judiciary Committee Report- March 27, 1854)

\*\*\*\*\*

No free government now exists in the world where Christianity is acknowledged and is the religion of the country....Its foundations are broad and strong, and deep...It is the purest system of morality, the firmest auxiliary, and only stable support of all human laws. (Supreme Court of Pennsylvania- Updegraph v. The Commonwealth, 1824)

\*\*\*\*\*

The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country. (Calvin Coolidge)

\*\*\*\*\*

We are not to attribute this prohibition of a national religious establishment (in the First Amendment) to an indifference to religion in general, and especially to Christianity, which none could hold in more reverence than the framers of the Constitution...Probably, at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, and of the Amendments to it...the general, if not the universal, sentiment in America was, that Christianity ought to receive encouragement from the State. (Justice Joseph Story- U.S. Supreme Court, 1833)

## One Nation Under God

\*\*\*\*\*

The Congress...desirous...to have people of all ranks and degrees duly impressed with a solemn sense of God's superintending providence, and of their duty, devoutly to rely...on his aid and direction...Do earnestly recommend...a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that we may, with united hearts, confess and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions, and, by a sincere repentance and amendment of life...and, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain his pardon and forgiveness. (Continental Congress- May 16, 1776)

\*\*\*\*\*

It yet remains a problem to be solved in human affairs, whether any free government can be permanent, where the public worship of God, and the support of religion, constitute no part of the policy or duty of the state in any assignable shape. (Justice Joseph Story- U.S. Supreme Court, 1833)

\*\*\*\*\*

When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted...If a republican government fails...it must be because the citizens neglect the

## One Nation Under God

divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws. (Noah Webster)

\*\*\*\*\*

Christianity, general Christianity, is and always has been a part of the common law...Thus this wise legislature framed this great body of laws, for a Christian county and Christian people...No society can tolerate a willful and spiteful attempt to subvert its religion, no more than it would to break down its law—a general, malicious and deliberate intent to overthrow Christianity, general Christianity. (Supreme Court of Pennsylvania- Updegraph V. The Commonwealth, 1824)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Church must take right ground in regard to politics...The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men, and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them...God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the Church will take right ground. Politics are a part of religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as a part of their duty to God. (Charles Finney- Nineteenth Century Minister and Lawyer)

All of us who engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor...And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or

## One Nation Under God

do we imagine we no longer need his assistance? (Benjamin Franklin- The Constitutional Convention, June 28, 1787)

\*\*\*\*\*

“If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I have intended to do for it.” (Jeremiah 18:7-10)

\*\*\*\*\*

The vigilant protection of the constitutional freedoms is nowhere more vital than in the community of American schools. The classroom is peculiarly the “marketplace of ideas.” The Nation’s future depends upon leaders trained through wide exposure to that robust exchange of ideas which discovers truth “out of a multitude of tongues,” (rather) than through any kind of authoritative selection. (Justice William Brennan, *Keyishian vs. Board of Regents*, 385 U.S. 589, 603 1967).

The Sacred Rights of Mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole of human nature, by the Hand of Divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by

mortal power. (Alexander Hamilton, Works, Volume II, 1851)

\*\*\*\*\*

James Kent remarked:

The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship may be considered as one of the absolute rights of individuals, recognized in our ...law. Civil and religious liberty generally go hand in hand, and the suppression of either one of them, for any length of time, will terminate the existence of the other.

\*\*\*\*\*

More recently, historian Roland Bainton has observed:

[A]ll freedoms hang together. Civil liberties scarcely thrive when religious liberties are disregarded, and the reverse is equally true. Beneath them all is a philosophy of liberty which assumes a measure of variety in human behavior, honors integrity, respects the dignity of man, and seeks to exemplify the compassion of God.

[U]ntutored devotion to the concept of neutrality can lead to invocation or approval of results which partake not simply of that noninterference and noninvolvement with the religious which the Constitution commands, but of a brooding and pervasive devotion to the secular and a passive, or even

active, hostility to the religious. Such results are not only not compelled by the constitution, but, it seems to me, are prohibited by it. (Justice Arthur Goldberg, *Abington School District vs. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203, 306, 1963).

\*\*\*\*\*

While lecturing at New York University in 1960, former Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black remarked:

Today most Americans seem to have forgotten the ancient evils which forced their ancestors to flee to this new country and to form a government stripped of old powers used to oppress them. But the Americans who supported the Revolution and the adoption of our constitution knew firsthand the dangers of tyrannical governments. They were familiar with the long-existing practice of English persecutions of people wholly because of their religious or political beliefs. They knew that many accused of such offenses had stood, helpless to defend themselves, before biased legislators and judges.

\*\*\*\*\*

When the state encourages religious instruction or cooperates with religious authorities by adjusting the schedule of public events to sectarian needs, it follows the best of our traditions. For it then respects the religious nature of our people and accommodates the public service to their spiritual needs. (Justice William O. Douglas, *Zorach vs. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 306, 313-14, 1952).

\*\*\*\*\*

Hugo Black, writing to the Supreme Court, noted:

This court has previously recognized that the provisions of the First Amendment, in the drafting and adoption of which Madison and Jefferson played such leading roles, had the same objective and were intended to provide the same protection against governmental intrusion on religious liberty as the Virginia statute.

\*\*\*\*\*

Judge Thomas Cooley wrote in his influential *Principles of Constitutional Law*:

It was never intended by the Constitution that the government should be prohibited from recognizing religion, or that religious worship should never be provided for in cases where a proper recognition of Divine Providence in the working of government might seem to require it, and where it might be done without drawing any invidious distinctions between different religious beliefs, organizations, or sects. The Christian religion was always recognized in the administration of the common law; and so far as that law continues to be the law of the land, the fundamental principles of that religion must continue to be recognized in the same cases and to the same extent as formerly.

\*\*\*\*\*

To support his argument, Cooley appealed to the practices of governmental sponsorship of congressional and military chaplains and criminal prosecution of blasphemy.

\*\*\*\*\*

After analyzing the genuine implications of Jefferson's "wall of separation" metaphor, one historian has stated:

To Jefferson, the "wall of separation" did not mean the complete and absolute separation of church and state such that no religion or religious influence was to be permitted in state-sponsored activities and laws. His chief aim was not the erection of an impenetrable wall of separation. Rather, it was the protection of free expression of one's religious beliefs and opinions. And if that goal was best achieved through statutory cooperation between church and state Jefferson appeared willing to endorse it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Justice Arthur Goldberg noted:

[U]ntutored devotion to the concept of neutrality can lead to invocation of approval of results which partake not simply of that noninterference and noninvolvement with the religious which the Constitution commands, but of a brooding and pervasive devotion to the secular and a passive, or even active, hostility to the religious. Such results are not only not compelled by the Constitution, but, it seems to me, are prohibited by it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Student maturity goes to whether the school should create an open forum in the first place. It cannot justify excluding religion from a forum that a school voluntarily creates. (Professor Douglas Laycock, *Equal Access and Moments of Silence: The Equal Status of Religious Speech by Private Speakers*, 81 *Northwestern University Law Review* 1, 52, 1986).

\*\*\*\*\*

When the state encourages the religious instruction or cooperates with religious authorities by adjusting the schedule of public events to sectarian needs, it follows the best of our traditions. (Justice William O. Douglas, *Zorach v. Clauson*, 343 U.S. 313-14, 1952)

\*\*\*\*\*

The holding of the Court today plainly does not foreclose teaching about the Holy Scriptures or about the differences between religious sects in classes in literature or history. Indeed, whether or not the Bible is involved, it would be impossible to teach meaningfully many subjects in the social sciences or the humanities without some mention of religion. To what extent, and at what points in the curriculum, religious materials should be cited are matters which the courts ought to entrust very largely to the experienced officials who superintend our Nation's public schools...Any attempt to impose rigid limits upon the mention of God or

references to the Bible in the classroom would be fraught with dangers. (Justice William Brennan, *Abington School District v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203, 300-01, 1963; Brennan, J., concurring).

\*\*\*\*\*

Any notion that these symbols pose a real danger of establishment of a state church is far-fetched indeed. (Chief Justice Warren Burger, *Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. 668, 686, 1984).

To invoke Divine guidance...is not...an “establishment” of religion or a step toward establishment; it is simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country. (Chief Justice Warren Burger, *Marsh vs. Chambers*, 463 U.S. 783, 792, 1983).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **APPENDIX ONE**

### **Resources**

Barton, David. *The Myth of Separation*. Aledo, Tex.: WallBuilder Press, 1992

Bauer, Gary L. *Our Journey Home*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1992.

Bennett, William J. *The De-Valuing of America*. Colorado Springs: Focus on the Family Publishing, 1992.

Colson, Charles W., with Ellen Santilli Vaughn. *The Body*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1992.

Colson, Charles W., with Nancy R. Pearcey. *A Dance with Deception*. William Morrow/Zondervan Publishing House, 1987.

DeMar, Gary. *America's Christian History*. Atlanta: American Vision, Inc., 1993.

DeMar, Gary. *You've Heard It Said*. Brentwood, Tenn.: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1991.

Federer, William J. *America's God and Country*. Coppell, Tex.: FAME Publishing, Inc., 1994.

Grant, George. *The Family Under Siege*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1994.

Grant, George and Peter J. Leithart. *In Defense of Greatness*. Fort Lauderdale: Coral Ridge Ministries, 1990.

Guinness, Os. *The American Hour*, New York: The Free Press, 1993.

Knott, Paul D. *Remaking America: The Values Revolution*. Denver: Colorado Family Services, 1993.

Leithart, Peter J. *The Kingdom and the Power*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1993.

Lutzer, Erwin W. *Where Do We Go From Here?* Chicago: Moody Press, 1993.

Marshall, Peter, and David Manuel. *The Light and the Glory*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1977.

Thomas, Cal and Ed Dobson. *Blinded By Might*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.

Whitehead, John W. *The Rights of Religious Persons in Public Education*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991.

## APPENDIX TWO

### **The Declaration of Independence: A Transcription**

---

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

#### **The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,**

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, 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. He has forbidden his

Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. 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 refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent

hither swarms of Officers to harrass 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. He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: 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 For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. 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 compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & 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 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.

---

*The 56 signatures on the Declaration appear in the positions indicated:*

Column 1

**Georgia:**

Button Gwinnett

Lyman Hall

George Walton

Column 2

**North Carolina:**

William Hooper

Joseph Hewes

John Penn

**South Carolina:**

Edward Rutledge

Thomas Heyward, Jr.

Thomas Lynch, Jr.

Arthur Middleton

Column 3

**Massachusetts:**

John Hancock

**Maryland:**

Samuel Chase

William Paca

Thomas Stone

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

**Virginia:**

George Wythe

Richard Henry Lee

Thomas Jefferson

Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Francis Lightfoot Lee

Carter Braxton

Column 4

**Pennsylvania:**

Robert Morris

Benjamin Rush

Benjamin Franklin

John Morton  
George Clymer  
James Smith  
George Taylor  
James Wilson  
George Ross

**Delaware:**

Caesar Rodney  
George Read  
Thomas McKean

Column 5

**New York:**

William Floyd  
Philip Livingston  
Francis Lewis  
Lewis Morris

**New Jersey:**

Richard Stockton  
John Witherspoon  
Francis Hopkinson  
John Hart  
Abraham Clark

Column 6

**New Hampshire:**

Josiah Bartlett  
William Whipple

**Massachusetts:**

Samuel Adams  
John Adams  
Robert Treat Paine  
Elbridge Gerry

**Rhode Island:**

Stephen Hopkins

William Ellery

**Connecticut:**

Roger Sherman

Samuel Huntington

William Williams

Oliver Wolcott

**New Hampshire:**

Matthew Thornton

**APPENDIX THREE**

**The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription**

**Note:** *The following text is a transcription of the Constitution in its **original** form.*

---

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

---

Article. I.

**Section. 1.**

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

**Section. 2.**

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three,

Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

### **Section. 3.**

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

#### **Section. 4.**

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any

time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

**Section. 5.**

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

**Section. 6.**

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

**Section. 7.**

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be

sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

**Section. 8.**

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

One Nation Under God

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;--And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

**Section. 9.**

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.  
No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another; nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of

any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

**Section. 10.**

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

---

Article. II.

**Section. 1.**

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote;

A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor

diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:--"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

**Section. 2.**

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as

they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

**Section. 3.**

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

**Section. 4.**

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

---

Article III.

**Section. 1.**

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

**Section. 2.**

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;--to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;--to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;--to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;--to Controversies between two or more States;-- between a State and Citizens of another State ;--between Citizens of different States;--between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the Supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

**Section. 3.**

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

---

Article. IV.

**Section. 1.**

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

**Section. 2.**

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

### **Section. 3.**

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

### **Section. 4.**

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature,

or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence.

---

Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

---

Article. VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

---

Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

The Word, "the," being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, the Word "Thirty" being partly written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words "is tried" being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Attest William Jackson Secretary

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,  
G<sup>o</sup>. Washington

*Presidt and deputy from Virginia*

**Delaware**

Geo: Read

Gunning Bedford jun

John Dickinson

Richard Bassett

Jaco: Broom

**Maryland**

James McHenry

Dan of St Thos. Jenifer

Danl. Carroll

**Virginia**

John Blair

James Madison Jr.

**North Carolina**

Wm. Blount

Richd. Dobbs Spaight

Hu Williamson

**South Carolina**

J. Rutledge

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney

Charles Pinckney

Pierce Butler

**Georgia**

William Few

Abr Baldwin

**New Hampshire**

John Langdon

Nicholas Gilman

**Massachusetts**

Nathaniel Gorham

Rufus King

**Connecticut**

Wm. Saml. Johnson

Roger Sherman

**New York**

Alexander Hamilton

**New Jersey**

Wil: Livingston

David Brearley

Wm. Paterson

Jona: Dayton

**Pennsylvania**

B Franklin

Thomas Mifflin

Robt. Morris

Geo. Clymer

Thos. FitzSimons

Jared Ingersoll

James Wilson

Gouv Morris

**APPENDIX FOUR**

**Constitutional Amendments 1-10: The Bill of Rights**

**Note:** The following text is a transcription of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

---

## The Preamble to The Bill of Rights

**Congress of the United States** begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

**THE** Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

**RESOLVED** by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

**ARTICLES** in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by

Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

---

#### Amendment I

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.

---

#### Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

---

#### Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

---

#### Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

---

#### Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

---

#### Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have

compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

---

#### Amendment VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

---

#### Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

---

#### Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

---

#### Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

## APPENDIX FIVE

### **The Constitution: Amendments 11-27**

Constitutional Amendments 1-10 make up what is known as The Bill of Rights. Amendments 11-27 are listed below.

---

#### AMENDMENT XI

*Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.*

**Note:** Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

---

#### AMENDMENT XII

*Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.*

**Note:** A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. --]\* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President,

shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

*\*Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

---

## AMENDMENT XIII

*Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.*

**Note:** A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

### **Section 1.**

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

### **Section 2.**

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

---

## AMENDMENT XIV

*Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.*

**Note:** Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

**Section 1.**

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

**Section 2.**

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,\* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

**Section 3.**

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

**Section 4.**

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

**Section 5.**

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

*\*Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

*Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.*

**Section 1.**

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

**Section 2.**

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

---

AMENDMENT XVI*Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.*

**Note:** Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

---

AMENDMENT XVII

*Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.*

**Note:** Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures. When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: *Provided*, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct. This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

---

## AMENDMENT XVIII

*Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.*

### **Section 1.**

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

### **Section 2.**

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**Section 3.**

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

---

AMENDMENT XIX

*Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.*

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

---

AMENDMENT XX

*Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.*

**Note:** Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

**Section 1.**

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

**Section 2.**

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

**Section 3.**

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

**Section 4.**

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any

of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

**Section 5.**

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

**Section 6.**

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

---

AMENDMENT XXI

*Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.*

**Section 1.**

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

**Section 2.**

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

**Section 3.**

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

---

## AMENDMENT XXII

*Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.*

### **Section 1.**

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

### **Section 2.**

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven

years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

---

AMENDMENT XXIII

*Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.*

**Section 1.**

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

**Section 2.**

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

---

AMENDMENT XXIV

*Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.*

**Section 1.**

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

**Section 2.**

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

---

AMENDMENT XXV

*Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.*

**Note:** Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

**Section 1.**

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

**Section 2.**

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

**Section 3.**

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

#### **Section 4.**

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the

latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

---

## AMENDMENT XXVI

*Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.*

**Note:** Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

### **Section 1.**

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

### **Section 2.**

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

---

## AMENDMENT XXVII

*Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.*

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Greg Tyree is founding Pastor of GracePointe Baptist Church in Madison Heights, Virginia, where he has served a dynamic congregation since 2005. He has also pastored in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He is the author of several books, including: *My Own Life Focus*; *30 Days to a Better Marriage*; *How to Lead Someone to Christ*; *God Can Turn Your Church Around*; and *Forward-Focused Coaching and Counseling*. He has also written field manuals, including *Operation: Ordination*; and *Discovering Your Next Pastor*, and other useful resources and assessment tools that contribute to organizational, personal, and church health and growth. As a coach, he has developed several unique tools for life-enrichment, including *My-Own-Life-Focus™* and *The FORWARD Coaching Model™*. He is available for a limited number of conferences and seminars. Greg has been married to the love of his life, Lois, since 1983. They have two beautiful children, Lauren and Stephen.

For copies of resources, or to schedule coaching, seminars, conferences, or consultations, contact Greg at:

112 Center Street  
Madison Heights, VA 24572  
GregoryKTyree@cs.com  
www.GregryKTyree.com  
434-227-6348

## One Nation Under God