

**A DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE
PSALM 33:1-22**

Today we celebrate "Independence Day." It all began 242 years ago, when on July 4th, 1776, the original 13 colonies declared their independence from British tyranny. 56 brave men signed "*The Declaration of Independence.*"

These 56 men and their families paid a great price for the cause of freedom:

- * Five were captured and tortured by the British before they died.
- * Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned to the ground.
- * Two lost their sons in the war.
- * One had two sons captured.
- * Nine fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the war.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in Congress without pay and he died a very poor man.

Thomas Nelson's home was seized by the British at the Battle of Yorktown and used as a command post. He urged General George Washington to open fire on it. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.

FREEDOM AND LIBERTY HAS ALWAYS EXACTED A PRICE.
That's what Independence Day is all about—remembering our beginnings!

However, this spirit of independence that we celebrate was **NOT meant to declare ourselves independent of God!**

During my lifetime, our nation has been mostly steadily moving away from the Lord as is evidenced in what we see in the public arena.

- * God has been kicked out of most public institutions on the pretext of pluralism.
- * Murder of the unborn has been legalized with abortion on demand and is even funded by our government.

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- * The legalization of previously illegal drugs is a growing reality in our country and gaining more and more support because our prisons are overrun with those incarcerated for drug charges.
- * Pornography is more accessible than ever before.
- * There is a vocal minority that continues to use bully tactics to eliminate all vestiges of God from the public arena and to try to silence those who would stand for God and right!

Nevertheless, there have been times in the history of America when certain men stood for God and changed the course of its destiny.

For example, at the first Constitutional Convention, the delegates were frustrated due to the burdens of the hour. They were burdened and harassed by tremendous crisis. They were so fragmented that they were just about to throw out the whole concept of a constitution completely. Just then Benjamin Franklin rose to his feet and said: "*Gentlemen, if it is true that not one single petal from any flower falls to the ground without escaping God's attention, will the distress of this nation go unheeded? Let us therefore determine to seek His face.*"

They promptly got down on their knees and when they arose from prayer, the slogan, *e pluribus unum* was born: "**OUT OF MANY, ONE.**"

Can you imagine what would happen today if all of Congress would get down on its knees and pray? REVIVAL would surely come to our land!

But, that's not likely to take place when one of our two major political parties is blatantly and adamantly Anti-God and Anti-Christ!

Our freedoms may have been forged by the Declaration of Independence, but today, as they did in that Constitutional Convention, we need a Declaration of our Dependence—dependence on God!

Verse 10 of our text says, "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...*"

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I. AMERICA IS A NATION THAT WAS BUILT UPON CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

Greece built a civilization on **culture** and it failed!
Rome built its civilization on **power** and it crumbled!

But our forefathers founded our nation on **godly principles** and America will live on as long as the Lord is her God! But in the days which we live, that has rapidly been slipping away!

Do you recall the picture of Washington at Valley Forge? His little army was almost starving and freezing to death. Everything that they held dear was at stake. They were fighting against seemingly insurmountable odds—but out in the snow George Washington was down on his knees, praying.

THAT IS THE SPIRIT THAT BUILT AMERICA!
"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"

II. AMERICA IS A NATION THAT HAS BEEN RICHLY BLESSED BY GOD.

- * Natural resources second to none
- * Natural beauty
- * Decent government not perfect, but still the best—no concentration camps, no secret police, no one-man rule.
- * Freedom of speech and the press. I can even speak against the government from this pulpit without fear of reprisal.
- * Religious freedom—no state church. A few people meeting in a little shack for prayer have the same rights as those meeting in a cathedral.
- * Place where everyone has a chance—men like Edison, Henry Ford who were born into poor families and yet became millionaires. Abraham Lincoln, born in a log cabin rose to the White House.

III. AMERICA IS A NATION IN NEED OF GOD.

It is because of that, that we support Church planting ministries in the U.S. as a part of our missions program!

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A certain family was riding down a highway one day and saw a sign with the word, *"Jesus Saves."*

A little girl in the back seat asked if it was a savings bank.

A 14-year-old boy was given a Gospel of John. *"What's that?"* he asked. When he was told it was a part of the Bible, he said, *"What's a Bible?"*

A child attending VBS went home and told her mother that her teacher was swearing. Because that's what she thought it was when the teacher used the name of Jesus.

A woman was invited to attend a neighborhood Bible class and declined, saying that she was a Democrat.

Conclusion

WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. The best thing we can do for America is to be a good Christian! Be the light and salt God intended for us to be! Bloom where God has planted you! God will see your life and will use it to bless our nation!
2. You can pray—for revival in your own personal life, in the lives of families, in the life of our Church, in our community, and in our nation! God is at work! Pay attention to where the candidates stand on the issues! Exercise your right to vote! Pray for our President! Pray for all that are in authority!
3. Depend on God as your true Source of liberty, courage, and spiritual power! Our country needs those who claim to be born again to declare themselves verbally and back it up with Godly lifestyles.

America needs Churches who will one day put away their commitment to change man by changing his environment and replace it with the emphasis upon the need for a changed heart!

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Our country needs Christians everywhere who will truly love each other and thereby demonstrate that they really are the children of God.

We need to pray that one day in our great nation our boys and girls will be allowed to pray in our public schools again.

We need to pray that one day America will cease killing unborn children at the rate of over a million each year.

We need to pray that the family unit will be restored to its proper place in society as the very foundation of our nation.

We need to pray that the Church will once again become the centerpiece of the community where people will look for comfort, inspiration and moral leadership.

We need to pray that the Churches of America will be packed every worship service and that a hunger for God's Word will arise across the land!

We need to pray that one day America will return to the faith of our Founding Fathers!

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord!"