

## Another Antichrist As President?

1 John 2:18-22 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Ah yes it's almost time for us to do our civic duty and go vote! Ever since the Primary got underway last year I thought about the men who served as our presidents and I began to wonder about their testimonies. I figured the whole lot of them were Christians. When I first started this project over a year ago, I thought I could count the true Christians on one hand, but through much research I want to give you a teachy preachy sermon today.

Be sure to pray before you vote and weigh God's Word against each candidate. Now I might warn you though about praying. Don't send it through the mail, God can hear you just fine.

See there was a little boy who wanted 100 dollars badly and prayed for two weeks but nothing happened. Then he decided to write a letter to the Lord requesting the money. When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to the Lord, they decided to send it to the President.

The President was so impressed, touched, and amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a 10 dollar bill. The President thought this would appear to be a lot of money to a little boy.

The little boy was delighted with the money and sat down to write a thank-you note to the Lord, which read: Dear Lord, Thank you very much for sending me the money. However, I noticed that for some reason you had to send it through Washington, and as usual, those jerks deducted 90%. Love, Johnny.

But seriously pray and vote folks. I think it matters who we vote for. As of today, there have been 44 Presidential Terms of Office but only 43 presidents of the US thanks to Grover Cleveland serving 2 non-consecutive terms and don't forget our 1 Confederate President, Jefferson Davis.

### 1. Believers Ought To Elect Believers

1. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 29:2 "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." So it is important that we choose Christians, Bible Believers to serve as our Presidents, Senators, Representatives, Judges, Governors and Sheriffs.

### 2. Believers Ought To Stand For God's Truth

1. Romans 13:1-6 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but

also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

2. So many have compromised their faith for political advancement.
  1. Proverbs 6:16-19 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.
  2. There are Democrats and Republicans who are FOR Abortion, Sodomite Marriage, Socialism, Evolutionary "Science"
3. Believers Ought To Reject All Antichrists
  1. 2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
  2. There are many who are RELIGIOUS
  3. There are many who are Mormons, Buddhists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslim, Hindi, Catholic, Jewish.
  4. Many of our Presidents were Antichrists – deceivers.
    1. What IS an antichrist?
    2. 1 John 2:18-22 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.
    3. Out of our Presidents 23 US and 1 CS were SAVED.
      1. NOTE: 1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart
    4. Review Points on Salvation in Historical Notes.
  5. Trump claims he is saved and is a Christian. Hillary says she's a Christian. Both have taken Communion. Trump's past has been terrible and filthy. Hillary's past has been crooked and wicked. Both claim though they are "better" now. Yet when I see Party Platforms I see the Republicans stand for Pro-Life and anti-Sodomite Values, while the Democrat platform stands for Murdering Babies and for allowing Sodomite marriage to continue.
    1. I wrote to both campaigns asking for specific answers concerning the faith of both candidates, but I have heard nothing in response yet.
  6. For myself, I have prayed and sought God's will and examined the views of both and their party platforms, while not perfect by any means, I myself will cast my ballot for the one whom I believe the Lord has pointed me to vote for.
4. Believers Ought To Share Jesus More Than Their Candidate
  1. I have seen how frustrating it is to not leave behind a 100% sure understanding as to your status with Jesus Christ. Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
5. Believers Ought To Be Ready To Defend Their Family, Rights and Liberty
  1. Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

## **Another Antichrist as President? Historical Notes Compiled By: Creighton Lovelace, D.D.**

Along with the Presidents' Names I have given a timeline consisting of their terms of office. Some Presidents were elected and served a short while until they Died In Office or were Assassinated. In those cases due to the Constitution, the Vice-President became President. Thus if the Vice-President were elected I have so indicated that he would serve that term in his own right.

Also, from Washington to Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Presidents were sworn in on March 4 in the year following the Election, hence while Elections are every 4 years in even years, Terms of Office are in Odd years, starting the year following the Election. Finally, the Confederate Constitution allowed the President to serve only 1 6-Year Term, while the US Constitution didn't set a Term Limit until the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was Ratified in 1951 which has limited the President to Two Terms of Office.

In the following notes, I present the evidence (if any) concerning the faith of those that have served as President of these United (or Confederate) States of America.

Most of the Presidents were affiliated with a Christian Denomination, yet that does not make one a Christian. If a President's Church affiliation is known, it will be listed.

Excellent sources I have consulted this year are: *The Complete Book of U.S. Presidents* [By: William A. DeGregorio (Updates by Sandra Lee Stuart), 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2009] and will be marked as: (CBUSP); and *God and the Oval Office* [By: John McCollister, 2005] which will be marked as: (GOO). *The American Presidents: Washington to Tyler* [By: Robert A. Nowlan, 2012] and *The American Presidents: Polk to Hayes* [By: Robert A. Nowlan, 2016], both of which will be marked as (AMPI or AMPII); and *The Religious Beliefs of Our Presidents From Washington to F.D.R.* [By Franklin Steiner, 1936, republished 1995] and will be marked as: (RBOOP) Any websites referenced will be given in my remarks.

### **George Washington 1789-1797 (2 Terms) *Episcopalian* Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

Washington rarely referred to God or Jesus. He did mention Providence. He fashioned his own moral code (maxims) and strictly adhered to it the rest of his life. (CBUSP pg. 3)

Washington was opposed to the...[Doctrine] that humans are sinners and must depend upon the grace of Almighty God for any hope of salvation. Instead, he firmly believed in the ultimate goodness of people that was “particularly necessary for advancing and confirming the happiness of our country.” 5/26/1789 (GOO pg. 5)

“You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are.” *The Writings of Washington*, John C. Fitzpatrick, editor (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1932), Vol. XV, p. 55, from his speech to the Delaware Indian Chiefs on May 12, 1779 as referenced: <http://www.wallbuilders.com/libissuesarticles.asp?id=8755>

One of the only positive references I have seen in connection with any confession of Faith is from Washington's service as a Vestryman during which he served for more than 15 years.

As an adult, Washington served as a member of the vestry (lay council) for his local parish. The Vestry in Virginia was the governing body of each church. Office-holding qualifications at all levels—

including the House of Burgesses, to which Washington was elected in 1758—required affiliation with the current state religion and an undertaking that one would neither express dissent nor do anything that did not conform to church doctrine.

At the library of the New-York Historical Society, some manuscripts containing a leaf from the church record of Pohick were available to Benson Lossing, an American historian, which he included in his *Field Book of the Revolution*; the leaf contained the following signed oath, required to qualify individuals as vestrymen: "I, A B, do declare that I will be conformable to the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of England, as by law established., 1765. 19th August.—Geo. Washington ..." Within the first 4 Articles one finds the Doctrines of the Trinity, Virgin Birth, Sinlessness of Christ, Death for Sinners and the Resurrection.

But, according to Franklin Steiner, we cannot use Washington's service as a vestryman as proof of his faith in Christ. "In Virginia, this office was also political. The vestry managed the civil affairs of the parish, among others, the assessment of taxes. Being the largest property holder in the parish, Washington could hardly afford not to be a vestryman, which office he would have to hold before he could become a member of the House of Burgesses. Thomas Jefferson, a pronounced unbeliever, was also a vestryman, and for the same reasons. General A. W. Gresley once said: It required no more religion to be a vestryman than it did to sail a ship." It is remarkable after the civil functions of the vestry were abolished in Virginia, in 1780 how few times Washington attended church." (RBOOP, pg 18-19)

We must remember that many stories and legends have been told about Washington that are unfounded such as him saying "I cannot tell a lie" and chopping down a cherry tree. But eyewitness accounts exist of Washington engaging in morning devotions. Jared Sparks recorded the following account from Washington's nephew George W. Lewis: "Mr. Lewis said he had accidentally witnessed [Washington's] private devotions in his library both morning and evening; that on those occasions he had seen him in a kneeling position with a Bible open before him and that he believed such to have been his daily practice."

Sparks also reports that Washington's adopted daughter, Nelly Custis-Lewis, in response to his request for information on Washington's religious views, wrote, "He attended the church at Alexandria when the weather and roads permitted a ride of ten miles (a one-way journey of 2–3 hours by horse or carriage). In New York and Philadelphia he never omitted attendance at church in the morning, unless detained by indisposition [sickness]." She continued by saying "No one in church attended to the services with more reverential respect." She added: "I should have thought it the greatest heresy to doubt his firm belief in Christianity. His life, his writings, prove that he was a Christian. He was not one of those who act or pray, that they may be seen of men." In closing, Nelly attempted to answer the question of whether General Washington was a Christian. She responded, "Is it necessary that any one should certify, 'General Washington avowed himself to me a believer in Christianity?' As well may we question his patriotism, his heroic, disinterested devotion to his country. His mottoes were, 'Deeds, not Words;' and, 'For God and my Country.'"

During the Revolutionary War, General Robert Porterfield stated he "found him on his knees, engaged in his morning's devotions." Alexander Hamilton corroborated Porterfield's account, stating "such was his most constant habit."

A French citizen who knew Washington well during the Revolutionary War and the presidency stated "Every day of the year, he rises at five in the morning; as soon as he is up, he dresses, then prays reverently to God." Indeed, Washington had purchased a prayer book "with the New Version of Psalms

& good plain Type" a few years before the Revolutionary War.

On February 1, 1800, a few weeks after Washington's death, Thomas Jefferson made the following entry in his journal, regarding an incident on the occasion of Washington's departure from office: "Dr. Rush tells me that he had it from Asa Green that when the clergy addressed Genl. Washington on his departure from the govmt, it was observed in their consultation that he had never on any occasion said a word to the public which showed a belief in the [Christian] religion and they thought they should so pen their address as to force him at length to declare publicly whether he was a Christian or not. They did so. However he observed the old fox was too cunning for them. He answered every article of their address particularly except that, which he passed over without notice. Rush observes he never did say a word on the subject in any of his public papers except in his valedictory letter to the Governors of the states when he resigned his commission in the army, wherein he speaks of the benign influence of the Christian religion.

Yet Jefferson also said that "I know that Gouverneur Morris, who pretended to be in his secrets & believed himself to be so, has often told me that Genl. Washington believed no more of that system than he himself did." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious\\_views\\_of\\_George\\_Washington#Private\\_writings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_views_of_George_Washington#Private_writings)

Furthermore, when one examines Washington's diaries, we see that there is an unbroken writing - save the Presidential years (1789-1797) which are incomplete – but from 1768 to 1799 (his death) we see that his attendance goes down the older he got:

“We find in 1768 that he went to church 15 times, in 1769, 10 times, in 1770, nine times, in 1771, six times, and the same number in 1772. In 1773, he went five times, while in 1774 he went 18 times, his banner year outside of the Presidency. During this year he was two months at the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia, where he was in church six times, three times to the Episcopal, once to Romish high mass, once to a Quaker meeting and once to a Presbyterian. In 1784, after the Revolution, he was in the West a long time looking after his land interests, so we will omit this year. In 1785 he attended church just once, but spent many of his Sundays in wholly "secular" pursuits. In 1786 he went once. In 1787 he went three times. In 1788, he attended church once. In 1797 he attended four times, in 1798, once, and in 1799, the year of his death, twice.” Summary: 1768 – 15x, 1769 – 10x, 1770 – 9x, 1771 – 6x, 1772 – 6x, 1773 – 5x, 1774 – 18x 1785 – 1x, 1786 – 1x, 1787 – 3x, 1788 – 1x 1797 – 4x, 1798 – 1x, 1799 – 2x (RBOOP pg 17)

Yet even here we know that Salvation is not dependent upon Church attendance, but Christians ought to seek out and attend the House of God (Heb. 10:25). But while Washington was at Church when he found that the time had arrived to partake of the Lord's Supper he did something that bothered many – he always left and never took of the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Abercrombie: "With respect to the inquiry you make, I can only state the following facts: that as pastor of the Episcopal Church, observing that, on sacramental Sundays George Washington, immediately after the desk and pulpit services... -- always leaving Mrs. Washington with the other communicants -- she invariably being one -- I considered it my duty, in a sermon on public worship, to state the unhappy tendency of example, particularly of those in elevated stations, who uniformly-turned their backs on the Lord's Supper. I acknowledge the remark was intended for the President; and as such he received it. A few days after, in conversation, I believe, with a Senator of the United States, he told me he had dined the day before with the President, who, in the course of conversation at the table, said that, on the previous Sunday, he had received a very just rebuke from the pulpit for always leaving the church before the administration of the sacrament; that he honored the preacher for his integrity and

candor; ... and that, as he had never been a communicant, were he to become one then, it would be imputed to an ostentatious display of religious zeal, ... Accordingly, he never afterwards came on the morning of sacrament Sunday, though at other times he was a constant attendant in the morning." (RBOOP pg 25-26)

Steiner states: "I have cited four churches which Washington attended. The ministers of two of them say emphatically that he did not commune. One of them says just as emphatically that he was not a believer, only a Deist. The other says he had no evidence of his Christian belief other than that he attended church, which is no evidence at all. In the other two, in both of which he was a vestryman, no evidence could be found that he ever stood at the Lord's table." (RBOOP pg. 29)

Yet it is in a letter Washington wrote to the Marquis de Lafayette, on August 15, 1787, that to me shows his beliefs. The future president wrote: "I am not less ardent in my wish that you may succeed in your plan of toleration in religious matters. Being no bigot myself, I am disposed to indulge the professors of Christianity in the church that road to heaven which to them shall seem the most direct, plainest, easiest and least liable to exception." (RBOOP pg 34)

Again what do we see? Plainly, George Washington said there are many roads to heaven and that each man must see which one will seem to him as the most direct and plainest. Yet Jesus Christ clearly stated in John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

In conclusion, I must state that Jesus says in Matthew 7:16 "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" so what I see in our first President is a man of tremendous *caution* and *discernment*. Washington knew he was in the complete scrutiny of the eye of the public. I see Washington believing in a "god" and that there were many ways to Heaven. Thus he may have produced religious and moral fruit in man's eyes, but in God's eyes, in the end that would not and cannot gain Heaven's shores for no-one, not even the estimable Father of our Country.

### **John Adams 1797-1801 (1 Term) Unitarian**

#### **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

Adams said "My religion is founded on the love of God and my neighbor." While Adams believed that Christ was a great and good man whose example of piety, love and universal brotherhood was the ideal that all people and nations should emulate, he was after all still a human being and not the Son of God, not God in the flesh and not the Word made flesh. (CBUSP pg. 22) Yet Adams believed in God and looked for an afterlife, he reflected as he neared his death "on the hope of pardon for my offenses; upon contrition; upon the duty as well as necessity of supporting with patience the inevitable evils of life; in the duty of doing no wrong, but all the good I can." (CUBUSP pg. 22) Thus Adams was hoping in a works salvation in that his "good" works would outweigh and overwhelm his "bad."

Adams said: "I have examined all religions, and the result is that the Bible is the best book in the world." and again he said: "The Christian religion is, above all the religions that ever prevailed or existed in ancient or modern times, the religion of wisdom, virtue, equity and humanity."  
<https://www.usa.church/us-history-quotes-about-god-and-the-bible/>

Though Adams claimed the Christian religion as the "best" and that the Bible was the "best" book, he denied several of the basic fundamentals of the Faith. He said (to Thomas Jefferson) "[In regard to the Trinity] "Tom, had you and I been 40 days with Moses, and beheld the great God, and even if God himself had tried to tell us that three was one . . . and one equals three, you and I would never have believed it. We would never fall victims to such lies." From <http://articles.exchristian.net/2002/03/john->

[adams-quotes.php](http://adams-quotes.php) Yet, it was Samuel Adams, John Adams cousin, who said: "I ... [rely] upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins."

While the Unitarians of that day confessed Christ as the Lord I find it sad that Sam Adams is usually only known as a brand of Beer and yet he confessed Christ and his Unitarian Cousin John who confessed the Bible was the best failed to heed its revelation concerning his vain trust in his works to save him, as Jesus said in Matthew 7:23 "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

### **Thomas Jefferson 1801-1809 (2 Terms) *Diest*** **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

There have been attempts by many believers to classify Thomas Jefferson as a Christian. Some look to his statement: "I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus." (CBUSP pg. 40) But such classification is to throw away the host of his other statements. Jefferson did however believe in a Creator. So one cannot go to the extreme and label him as an Atheist as was wont of his political detractors during the Campaign of 1800.

Although Jefferson believed in a Creator, his concept of it resembled that of the god of deism (the term "Nature's God" used by deists of the time). Jefferson stated in a letter in 1819, "You say you are a Calvinist. I am not. I am of a sect by myself, as far as I know." He also rejected the idea of the divinity of Christ, but as he writes to William Short on October 31, 1819, he was convinced that the fragmentary teachings of Jesus constituted the "outlines of a system of the most sublime morality which has ever fallen from the lips of man."

On one hand Jefferson affirmed, "We all agree in the obligation of the moral precepts of Jesus, and nowhere will they be found delivered in greater purity than in his discourses", and that he was "sincerely attached to His doctrines in preference to all others", and that "the doctrines of Jesus are simple, and tend all to the happiness of man". However, Jefferson considered much of the New Testament of the Bible to be false. In a letter to William Short in 1820, he expressed that his intent was to "place the character of Jesus in its true and high light, as no imposter himself", but that he was not with Jesus "in all his doctrines", Jefferson described many passages as "so much untruth, charlatanism and imposture". In the same letter Jefferson states he is separating "the gold from the dross", and describes the "roguery of others of His disciples", calling this group a "band of dupes and impostors", who wrote "palpable interpolations and falsifications", with Paul being the "first corrupter of the doctrines of Jesus".

Jefferson also denied the divine inspiration of the Book of Revelation, describing it to Alexander Smyth in 1825 as "merely the ravings of a maniac, no more worthy nor capable of explanation than the incoherences of our own nightly dreams". From his study of the Bible, Jefferson concluded that Jesus never claimed to be God.

In 1803 Jefferson composed a "Syllabus of an Estimate of the Merit of the Doctrines of Jesus" of the comparative merits of Christianity, after having read the pamphlet "Socrates and Jesus Compared" by the Unitarian minister, Dr. Joseph Priestley. In this brief work Jefferson affirms Jesus' "moral doctrines, relating to kindred & friends, were more pure & perfect than those of the most correct of the philosophers, and greatly more so than those of the Jews", but asserts that "fragments only of what he did deliver have come to us mutilated, misstated, & often unintelligible", and that "the question of his being a member of the Godhead, or in direct communication with it, claimed for him by some of his followers, and denied by others is foreign to the present view, which is merely an estimate of the

intrinsic merit of his doctrines". He let only a few see it, including Benjamin Rush in 1803 and William Short in 1820. When Rush died in 1813, Jefferson asked the family to return the document to him.

Also while living in the White House, Jefferson began to piece together his own version of the Gospels, with the first draft being "The Philosophy of Jesus of Nazareth...Being an Abridgement of the New Testament for the Use of the Indians, Unembarrassed [uncomplicated] with Matters of Fact or Faith beyond the Level of their Comprehensions". This was followed by a compilation titled, *The LIFE AND MORALS OF JESUS OF NAZARETH: Extracted Textually from the Gospels Greek, Latin, French, and English, from which he omitted the virgin birth of Jesus, miracles attributed to Jesus, divinity, and the resurrection of Jesus – among many other teachings and events. He retained primarily Jesus' moral philosophy, of which he approved, and also included the Second Coming, a future judgment, Heaven, Hell, and a few other supernatural events. This compilation was completed about 1820, but Jefferson did not make these works public, acknowledging "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth" existence only to a few friends. This work was published after his death and became known as the Jefferson Bible. Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious\\_views\\_of\\_Thomas\\_Jefferson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_views_of_Thomas_Jefferson)*

### **James Madison 1809-1817 (2 Terms) *Episcopalian***

#### **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

This Virginian has been hailed as the Father of the Constitution. He was a strong advocate for the separation of Church and State as can be seen in his address to the Virginia Legislature. Yet that did not mean a total absence of Faith or Religion from the public square, but rather that the government could not set up a State-run Church and that the government would not dictate to the Church what it could and could not do. While he was raised as an Episcopalian and it is said he “professed the basic tenants of his faith, but was not zealous. He believed in a divine creator but doubted men's ability to know him.” (CBUSP pg. 57)

A major concern, to me, is that some Christians in their zeal to “prove” that all of America's founding fathers were Christians, have attributed some of the words of James Madison, an Episcopal Bishop of the Archdiocese of Virginia and 8<sup>th</sup> President of William & Mary College to his cousin, President James Madison.

In the end the only notes I have found in regards to President Madison's personal attitude towards Jesus Christ is the following letter dated November 9, 1772 to William Bradford, “A watchful eye must be kept on ourselves lest, while we are building ideal monuments of renown and bliss here, we neglect to have our names enrolled in the Annals of Heaven.” and a second letter is dated September 25, 1773, that says: “I have sometimes thought there could not be a stronger testimony in favor of religion or against temporal enjoyments, even the most rational and manly, than for men who occupy the most honorable and gainful departments and are rising in reputation and wealth, publicly to declare their unsatisfactoriness by becoming fervent advocates in the cause of Christ; & I wish you may give in your evidence in this way.”

But even here, this evidence is unsatisfactory. Because we cannot presume that having “our names enrolled in the Annals of Heaven” refers to them being penned down by Faith into the Lamb's Book of Life – unless he said so and the reference to “the cause of Christ” may or may not refer to the spreading of the Gospel.

Again, for such an one to be so meticulous in regarding to the specific delegated powers of the Federal government and then to be so vague and ambiguous regarding his view of Christ, to me, is very sad.



### **James Monroe 1817-1825 (2 Terms) *Episcopalian***

#### **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

In the Complete Book on the Presidents, when you arrive at James Monroe it sadly says: “His writings do not reveal the extent of his faith.” (CBUSP pg. 75)

When I look at writings, I am seeing the physical manifestation of the invisible – the soul. While looking for Monroe's Faith, I came across an online article that shows the emptiness of soul of our 5<sup>th</sup> President: “When his only son, James Spence Monroe, died at the age of 16 months in 1800, Monroe was clearly crushed. The funeral service and burial were at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, the family church when Monroe was governor. But the letters Monroe wrote to others about his little son’s death include no references to the consolation of religion. When his wife Elizabeth died in 1830, Monroe wrote to a number of their friends saying how devastating her death was, but failed to mention any religious beliefs that may have proved comforting. In contrast, when Adams and Jefferson exchanged letters upon the death of Abigail Adams, both spoke of the consolations of a future state where they would meet loved ones again. As his Episcopal marriage, wedding, and funeral indicate, James Monroe maintained a life-long affiliation with the church in which he was raised. The Episcopal Church ministered to the Monroe family and claimed them as its own. But the surviving evidence indicates that Monroe was not a Christian in the traditional sense. Neither his private nor his public writings suggest that he ever experienced a sense of the mystery or awe that is at the heart of orthodox Christianity. No evidence exists to show that he was an active or emotionally engaged Christian.”  
<http://www.vqronline.org/essay/religion-james-monroe>

Due to such abysmal evidence, Episcopalian Priest, Bill Wilson, preached a sermon in October 1831 in which he said the following: “...the founders of our nation were nearly all Infidels, and that of the presidents who had thus far been elected {George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, and Andrew Jackson}, not a one had professed a belief in Christianity... When the war was over and the victory over our enemies won, and the blessings and happiness of liberty and peace were secured, the Constitution was framed and God was neglected. He was not merely forgotten. He was absolutely voted out of the Constitution. The proceedings, as published by Thompson, the secretary, and the history of the day, show that the question was gravely debated whether God should be in the Constitution or not, and after a solemn debate he was deliberately voted out of it.... There is not only in the theory of our government no recognition of God's laws and sovereignty, but its practical operation, its administration, has been conformable to its theory. Those who have been called to administer the government have not been men making any public profession of Christianity...Washington was a man of valor and wisdom. He was esteemed by the whole world as a great and good man; but he was not a professing Christian...”  
<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/james-monroe>

### **John Quincy Adams 1825-1829 (1 Term) *Unitarian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

1/3/1817 in a letter to his father, John Quincy wrote: “My hopes of a future life are all founded upon the Gospel of Christ and I cannot cavil or quibble away . . . the whole tenor of His conduct by which He sometimes positively asserted and at others countenances His disciples in asserting that He was God.”

September 1811 from St. Petersburg, Russia to his son, George, he wrote: “Let us, then, search the Scriptures; and, in order to pursue our inquiries with methodical order, let us consider the various sources of information, that we may draw from in this study. The Bible contains the revelation of the will of God. It contains the history of the creation of the world, and of mankind; and afterward the

history of one peculiar nation, certainly the most extraordinary nation that has ever appeared upon the earth. It contains a system of religion, and of morality, which we may examine upon its own merits, independent of the sanction it receives from being the Word of God; and it contains a numerous collection of books, written at different ages of the world, by different authors, which we may survey as curious monuments of antiquity, and as literary compositions. In what light soever we regard it, whether with reference to revelation, to literature, to history, or to morality — it is an invaluable and inexhaustible mine of knowledge and virtue.”

He also said that he was a believer “in the divine mission of the Crucified Savior, proclaiming immortal life and preaching peace on earth.” (CBUSP pg. 93)

He also served as one of several Vice-Presidents of the American Bible Society. In 1830 he wrote them stating: “The distribution of Bibles, if the simplest, is not the least efficacious of the means of extending the blessings of the Gospel to the remotest corners of the earth; for the Comforter is in the sacred volume: and among the receivers of that million of copies distributed by the Society, who shall number the multitudes awakened thereby, with good will to man in their hearts, and with the song of the Lamb upon their lips?

The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the divine inspiration of the holy Scriptures, must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth. Never since the foundation of the world have the prospects of mankind been more encouraging to that hope than they appear to be at the present time. And may the associated distribution of the Bible proceed and prosper, till the Lord shall have made “bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” [http://providencefoundation.com/?page\\_id=2536](http://providencefoundation.com/?page_id=2536)

He stated “I venerate Jesus Christ as my Redeemer...” (*The American Presidents: Washington to Tyler* by Nowlan, pg. 226) Thus to me, it is unmistakable without a doubt, that John Quincy Adams can be viewed as our FIRST bonafide Christian president. Washington MAY have been, but here is a Confessing Christian.

After he became President, he joined the Unitarian denomination, but, Unitarianism at that time was much different than it is today. For one, it was firmly rooted in the Bible. Adams believed in the divine nature of the Holy Scriptures and the assertion that Christ was God. Unitarians were described in the Theological Dictionary of 1823 in these words: In common with other Christians, they confess that He [Jesus] is the Christ, the Son of the Living God; and in one word, they believe all that the writers of the New Testament, particularly the four Evangelists, have stated concerning him.

### **Andrew Jackson 1829-1837 (2 Terms) *Presbyterian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

Jackson was born into a Presbyterian family and raised as a Presbyterian, although he did not "officially" join the Presbyterian Church until after his presidency.

Old Hickory was better known for his attendance at duels than at church, but on a particular Monday in October of 1818, he decided to visit a revival service in Nashville where the controversial Peter Cartwright was scheduled to speak. As it happened, the General entered as the preacher was reading his text, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36) With all the seats already occupied, the famous Indian fighter and war hero was content to stand, gracefully leaning on the middle post. At the sight of his stately appearance, the host pastor, a certain "Brother Mac," became nervous in the extreme. Seated on the platform directly behind the pulpit, he

tugged on Cartwright's jacket, whispering, "General Jackson has come in; General Jackson has come in." Cartwright was aghast at the pastor's double standard: I felt a flash of indignation run all over me like an electric shock, and facing about to my congregation, and purposely speaking out audibly, I said, "Who is General Jackson? If he don't get his soul converted, God will damn him as quick as he would a Guinea negro." The preacher tucked his head down, and squatted low, and would, no doubt, have been thankful for leave of absence. The congregation, General Jackson and all, smiled or laughed right out, all at the preacher's expense.

When the congregation was dismissed, my city-stationed preacher stepped up to me, and very sternly said to me: "You are the strangest man I ever saw, and General Jackson will chastise you for your insolence before you leave the city." "Very clear of it," said I, "for General Jackson, I have no doubt, will applaud my course; and if he should undertake to chastise me... there is two as can play that game."

Next morning, very early, my city preacher went down to the hotel to make an apology to General Jackson for my conduct in the pulpit the night before. Shortly after he had left I passed by the hotel, and I met the General on the pavement; and before I approached him by several steps he smiled, and reached out his hand and said: "Mr. Cartwright, you are a man after my own heart. I am very surprised at Mr. Mac, to think that I would be offended at you. No, sir; I told him that I highly approved of your independence; that a minister of Jesus Christ ought to love every body and fear no mortal man. I told Mr. Mac that if I had a few thousand such independent, fearless officers as you were, and a well drilled army, I could take Old England."

Acknowledging that Jackson was "no doubt in his prime of life, a very wicked man," Cartwright relates the following story to illustrate the General's "great respect for the Christian religion, and the feelings of religious people, especially ministers of the Gospel":

I had preached one Sabbath near the Hermitage, and, in company with several gentlemen and ladies, went, by special invitation, to dine with the General. Among this company there was a young sprig of a lawyer from Nashville, of very ordinary intellect, and he was trying hard to make an infidel of himself. As I was the only preacher present, this young lawyer kept pushing his conversation on me, in order to get into an argument. I tried to evade an argument, in the first place considering it a breach of good manners to interrupt the social conversation of the company. In the second place I plainly saw that his head was much softer than his heart, and that there were no laurels to be won by vanquishing or demolishing such a combatant, and I persisted in evading an argument.

This seemed to inspire the young man with more confidence in himself; for my evasiveness he construed into fear. I saw General Jackson's eye strike fire, as he sat by and heard the thrusts he made at the Christian religion. At length the young lawyer asked me this question: "Mr. Cartwright, do you really believe there is any such place as hell, as a place of torment?" I answered promptly, "Yes, I do." To which he responded, "Well, I thank God I have too much good sense to believe any such thing."

I was pondering in my mind whether I would answer him or not, when General Jackson for the first time broke into the conversation, and directing his words to the young man, said with great earnestness: "Well, sir, I thank God that there is such a place of torment as hell." This sudden answer, made with great earnestness, seemed to astonish the youngster, and he exclaimed: "Why, General Jackson, what do you want with such a place of torment as hell?" To which the General replied, as quick as lightning, "To put such [expletive] rascals as you are in, that oppose and vilify the Christian religion."

However, Jackson's greatest triumph came on the eve of his greatest personal tragedy. Before the new president could be sworn into office, his beloved wife succumbed to a massive heart attack. On Christmas Eve, 1828, Rachel Jackson [click here to read a biographical sketch] was laid to rest in her garden. A friend of the widower related, "I never pitied any person more in my life. .. I shall never forget his look of grief."

Retirement years brought on seasons of serious reflection. The seed sown by Peter Cartwright was finally ready to bear fruit as God's Word was not about to return void:

The evening of his stormy life had come. The remains of his much loved wife were resting in the humble graveyard near the house. At last thoughts of eternity were forced upon him. After attending a series of religious meetings Jackson became greatly convicted of his sin. He passed the night walking in his chamber in anguish and prayer. In the morning he announced to his family his full conviction that he had repented of his sins, and, through faith in Jesus Christ, had obtained forgiveness. Family prayer was immediately established... he was privileged to read through the Bible twice.

On May 29, 1845, only a few weeks before his death, Jackson declared: Sir, I am in the hands of a merciful God. I have full confidence in his goodness and mercy... The Bible is true... Upon that sacred volume I rest my hope for eternal salvation, through the merits and blood of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Before he died, Andrew Jackson made a last appeal for America to build her future on the blessed Word of God. "That book, Sir, is the Rock upon which our republic rests."

Finally, on June 8, 1845, just moments before he sailed into eternity, Jackson reassured everyone with these words: My dear children, do not grieve for me; it is true, I am going to leave you; I am well aware of my situation. I have suffered much bodily pain, but my sufferings are as nothing compared with that which our blessed Redeemer endured upon the accursed Cross, that all might be saved who put their trust in Him... God will take care of you for me. I am my God's. I belong to Him. I go but a short time before you, and... I hope and trust to meet you all in Heaven, both white and black." <https://www.biblebelievers.com/Grady1.html> WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT by: Grady.

On a final note, Andrew Jackson's Will stated: I bequeath my body to the dust whence it comes, and my soul to God who gave it, hoping for a happy immortality through the atoning merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. (*Wills of the US Presidents*, by Collins, 1976, pg. 66)

### **Martin Van Buren 1837-1841 (1 Term) *Reformed Dutch***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

In the Book: *The American Presidents: What They Did, What They Said...* by Robert Nowlan we find two statements made by Martin Van Buren prior to his death in 1862. During his final illness he said: "The atonement of Jesus Christ is the only remedy and rest for my soul." (pg. 330) and then as he was dying he said: "There is but one reliance, that is upon Christ, the mediator of us all." (pg. 332)

It has been said that when he sang at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. He would drown out the voices of those around him. (CBUSP, Pg. 125)

### **William Henry Harrison 1841 *Episcopalian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

(March 4 – April 4, Died in Office)

Inaugural address (3/4/1841): "The tendencies of all such governments in their decline is to monarchy, and the antagonist principle to liberty there is the spirit of faction--a spirit which assumes the character and in times of great excitement imposes itself upon the people as the genuine spirit of freedom, and,

like the false Christs whose coming was foretold by the **Savior**, seeks to, and were it possible would, impose upon the true and most faithful disciples of liberty.”  
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=25813&st=savior&st1=>

It is said he was a devout Christian and Church attender. He read the Bible each day and the last item he purchased before his death, was a new Bible. Harrison said: “At first, reading it [the Bible] was a duty. Now it's a pleasure.” (GOO pg. 46) We seem to conclude by his mention of false Christs that there is a True Christ and then instead of calling Him the Christ he uses a personal reference – Savior. Based on that and his fruit I would classify President William Henry Harrison as a believer.

### **John Tyler 1841-1845 *Episcopalian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

(served 4/4/41-3/4/45 to fill Harrison's Term, not elected to Term)

John Tyler, the 10<sup>th</sup> President who had 14 children and TODAY there are TWO of his Grandsons William and Lyon Tyler are STILL living!! After his service as President, he came back into politics in the Confederate States of America. First as a member of the Provisional Congress and then in Nov. 1861, he was elected to serve as a Congressman in the Confederate States House of Representatives set to convene in February 1862 but died on Jan. 18, 1862 before he could serve. Since he was involved in what Lincoln called “the Rebellion” Tyler did not then nor has he ever had a State Funeral.

Before his death he said: “My life has always been illuminated by a bright faith in the Christian Religion.” Also in his will he stated: “in the year of our Lord AND SAVIOR” [indicating faith in Christ] and then the will also says: “...there to repose until the day of Resurrection.” Again, without faith in Christ there is no hope of Resurrection, thus pointing to faith in Christ. (*The Wills of the Presidents* By: Collins, pg. 87)

Following his death, a close friend, VA Governor and Confederate General Henry A. Wise said, "He was a firm believer in the atonement of the son of God, and in the efficacy of his blood to wash away every stain of mortal sin. ... He was by faith and heirship a member of the Episcopal Church and never doubted divine revelation." However, no pastor came to his home to administer the last sacrament, and in her account of his last illness, Tyler's wife wrote nothing of faith, hope, Christ or eternity. <http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/god-in-the-white-house/>

### **James K. Polk 1845-1849 (1 Term) *Methodist***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

In the book: *James K. Polk: A Biographical Companion* by Mark Byrnes, 2001 we read on page 181 that “he regularly attended Church services. In his first speech in Congress he stated that he had been taught that man was “depraved, frail and impure.” Thus Polk says he believed we are sinners.

In 1833 he attended a Revival where Methodist John B. McFerrin was preaching. Polk's sisters had converted to Methodism and so did Polk, in his heart. He attended the Presbyterian church as a courtesy for his wife Sarah. Not until his deathbed would Polk summon McFerrin in 1849 to be baptized into the Methodist Denomination. One June 14, 1849 the day before his death, Polk remarked to his brother William, that he had intended to be baptized: “but in the hurry of the business of life and the political affairs of the country, I postponed it till now. But I go forward in the name of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who I hope and believe has pardoned all my sins and washed me from all my iniquities.”

### **Zachary Taylor 1849-1850 (Died in Office) *Episcopalian***

#### **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

We are told that “although Taylor worshiped at Episcopal services, he never formally joined the church.” (CBUSP pg.177) But this does not mean he was a heathen. One of the things General Taylor is known for, is not being sworn in on Sunday – the Christian Sabbath – for that is when March 4, 1849 fell. This has led many to say that David Rice Atchison, the President *pro tempore* of the US Senate was the interim president for 24 hours until March 5, 1849 when General Taylor was sworn in as President. But that isn't true for one thing Atchison didn't take the oath of office and later when asked about that day he said he slept most of it. Later Atchison would serve as a Confederate General.

Now, in regards to him being saved I can only find that Taylor was an avid Bible reader and held the Word of God in high regards as said: “The Bible is the best of books, and I wish it were in the hands of everyone. It is indispensable to the safety and permanence of our institutions...Especially should the Bible be placed in the hands of the young. It is the best school book in the world...I would that all of our people were brought up under the influence of that Holy Book.”

Finally, it was from George Barker Little's *Eulogy On Zachary Taylor* delivered on July 19, 1850 where we find an excerpt from an earlier speech that Taylor had made prior to becoming president. In it, Taylor said: “To prevent injustice to men whose philanthropy is vitalized and regulated by piety towards God it may not be amiss to say that by the Reformers alluded to such men were intended as Garrison and his lunatic crew [among whom I] would include also such a man as Theodore Parker who ... does so wretchedly not to say wickedly [a] mistake by stirring up men to a crusade against the Cross and the Holy Scriptures. In short let any and all he included who think it less important that the confidence of men in the genuineness and authority of the Bible he undermined the Sabbath abolished and Jesus Christ degraded to the rank of Plato....” (See Google Books: Zachary Taylor Eulogy)

To me if he thinks Jesus Christ could be degraded to a mere philosopher, then he must have held Him in higher esteem. But of an actual statement of Faith in Christ, I cannot find one, not even in his will. Thus for all intents and purposes I cannot label him saved.

### **Millard Fillmore 1850-1853 *Unitarian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

(served 7/9/50-3/4/53 to fill Taylor's Term, not elected to Term)

In his will he made no mention of God or Christ. He rarely made any mention of Bible verses in his speeches, let alone God or Christ. He was a charter member of Buffalo's Unitarian Church in 1831. As a matter of fact, the only reference I found that led me to find out what his thoughts were concerning Jesus was in a letter dated June 17, 1852 in which President Fillmore thanked the Presbyterian Rev. Septimus Justin for "a beautiful picture of 'ancient Jerusalem,' executed... by the Messrs. Wunderlichs..." No locality possesses so much interest for the Christian community, Fillmore remarks, “as this little spot where **our Saviour** performed many of his most extraordinary works and was finally crucified.” Thus with that possessive statement of our Saviour, I must conclude that Fillmore was saved.

### **Franklin Pierce 1853-1857 (1 Term) *Episcopalian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

In my quest to discover President Pierce's belief in Christ I came across the statement often but could not find the documents mentioned in my limited methods of searching on the internet thus I include the quote from Steiner's *Religious Beliefs of Our Presidents* wherein he says: “in my researches I discovered that President Pierce was always orthodox in his belief, even while in college, but that he did not join a Church until a few years before his death ...[at] St. Paul's Episcopal Church, of Concord.

While I was looking for definite information, I was informed that Professor Roy F. Nichols, of the Department of History, in the University of Pennsylvania, was engaged in writing a life of Pierce. [NOTE: This book by Professor Nichols was published in 1932.] I applied to him for information, and he responded in a private letter, as follows:

"Pierce expressed himself in writing at least twice on the subject of religion, once in a manuscript fragment written in later life describing his beliefs in college which show them to be decidedly orthodox. The other was a letter he wrote to his law partner in the early 1840's still expressing belief in orthodoxy but showing no vivid religious experience. He was a constant attendant at church. In Concord he attended the South Congregational Church and while President in Washington he attended Presbyterian churches,...[and] later life, during the Civil War, he was baptized, confirmed and became a regular communicant in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Concord."

In my other searches concerning President Pierce I found some references to his college days: " Zenas Caldwell, whom Pierce described as "one of the most consistent followers of the Blessed Redeemer" that he ever knew. Caldwell and Pierce prayed together every night on their knees; however. Pierce never made any open or inward confession of faith. He confessed after graduation that he had not been reborn although he thought of religion a great deal. His failure to do so seemed to haunt him."

In 1839, Pierce was serving as US Senator, he wrote to Asa Fowler, his law partner: "I have dwelt somewhat more this winter upon the truths of divine revelation than usual and perhaps have struggled somewhat harder to think and act in conformity with the precepts and demands of the New Testament than ever before.—but with indifferent success as every man must who is not a humble and devoted Christian, to which character I can, I regret to say, make no pretension." Strain as he would, could attain no comforting conviction of his own salvation.

In 1853, speaking of the Bible, Pierce said in his Inaugural address: "We can place no secure reliance upon any apparent progress if it be not sustained by national integrity, resting upon the great truths affirmed and illustrated by Divine Revelation."

He was Baptized on December 3, 1865 and afterwards he wrote to a friend: "I can repeat with more or less comfort, Thou art my God. My time is in Thy hand."

So, based on what little snippets I have been able to cobble together, it seems that he was a man whose soul was conflicted, especially after he and his wife were involved in a train wreck on January 6, 1853 when his only surviving 11 year old son "Bennie" was crushed to death right before his eyes. This led to a later dependence on alcohol to fight his depression. After his wife died in 1863, no longer having her steadfast Christian faith to help him, he found comfort in Church and finally got baptized.

So when I see his words of "Divine Revelation" I see he believed the Bible as the Word of God. Seeing from other testimonies that he prayed and read the Bible and a devotional every day I can see a man who sincerely desired to follow the Lord and have peace. When he told a friend of his college days and he refers to Jesus Christ as "the Blessed Redeemer" I find myself mostly satisfied that he finally found peace for his soul.

### **James Buchanan 1857-1861 (1 Term) *Presbyterian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

Often said to be our worst president for allowing the South to secede and then touted by some to be the nation's first "gay" president of which there is no solid truth. James Buchanan stated that if he joined a

church prior to entering the white house folks would be calling him a hypocrite, pandering for votes. In 1832 while serving as minister to Russia, he wrote his brother, who was a preacher: "...and sometimes almost persuade myself that I am a Christian; but I am often haunted by the spirit of skepticism and doubt. My true feeling upon many occasions is Lord, I would believe; help Thou mine unbelief." (CBUSP, pg. 213)

In August 1860 he met for over 2 hours with Rev. William Paxton, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in New York City. After he was satisfied about all his doubtings, he felt he could finally of good conscience join a church. He read the Bible daily and shut down the white house on Sundays to observe the Christian Sabbath.

In Sept. 1865, he was finally able to unite with the Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA. His brother stated that James finally publicly professed that which he had believed in private. (*American Presidents*, pgs. 226-228)

In my quest to find his profession, I found it in his Last Will and Testament: "I, James Buchanan, late President of the United States, in the humble hope of salvation through the merits and atonement of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ..."

**Abraham Lincoln 1861-1865 *No Faith or Denomination***  
**(2 Terms [2<sup>nd</sup> Term lasted March 4-April. 15, 1865], Assassinated)**  
**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

The usual top rated president is Abraham Lincoln who was supposedly conceived (and/or born) out of wedlock in Rutherford County by Nancy Hanks and Abraham Enloe. The State of Kentucky who claims to be the true State of his birth and the State of Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, where he lived until his presidency lay claim to him. Well in this Unreconstructed Southerner's humble opinion they can have him! I don't want my county or my State stained with him, for we have been stained enough by the blood of Confederate Patriots who answered the Confederacy and States' calls to defend our God given rights against the Lincolnite Invaders who likewise shed their blood upon Dixie's sacred soil.

The fact that the Tyrant Lincoln also became the first US President to be assassinated, elevated him to a martyr's status so that today most see him as the "saviour" of the Union and the "Emancipator" of the slaves. To know the *real* Lincoln is another story indeed wherein one peels back the hero-worship of the Great Lincoln one sees the ugly truth that this man was a slick politician and a avowed racist.

I have looked in Lincoln's speeches for references to a personal Saviour. Yet what I find is the common 19<sup>th</sup> century reference – out of respect for Christ – in that He is called the Saviour, which normally in English would indicate that this is the one and only, yet looking at each usage one must also see the character of the person who wields the usage of the word. Thus Lincoln's goal later in life is political power and as he desires such, he will use "religious speech" and thus on Dec. 26, 1839 he states the following: "We further say, that with however much care selections may be made, there will be some unfaithful and dishonest in both classes. The experience of the whole world, in all by-gone times, proves this true. The Saviour of the world chose twelve disciples, and even one of that small number, selected by superhuman wisdom, turned out a traitor and a devil. And, it may not be improper here to add, that Judas carried the bag---was the Sub-Treasurer of the Saviour and his disciples."

Next on April 6, 1858 he uses references from the Bible to illustrate points and connect with the common man: "The language of the Saviour ``Two women shall be grinding at the mill &c" indicates that, even in the populous city of Jerusalem, at that day, mills were operated by hand---having, as yet



had no other than human power applied to them.”

Then in the First Lincoln-Douglas debate on August 21, 1858 he stated: "I know that the Judge may readily enough agree with me that the maxim which was put forth by the Saviour is true, but he may allege that I misapply it;"

Then on July 4, 1864 he received a bible from the Loyal Coloured people of Baltimore, Maryland. They requested a reply indicating he received the book. He replied on September 7, 1864 and in the letter said: "All the good the Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this book."

All of the quotes are taken from the Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln at: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln?type=simple&rgn=full+text&q1=Saviour&cite1=&cite1restrict=author&cite2=&cite2restrict=author&singlegenre=All&Submit=Search>

To be fair, just because he was the enemy who led the marauding armies against my ancestors, does not cause me to wish he were damned to Hell, but I searched and searched to find where he stated that he got saved. While Lincoln loved to read the Bible, he was never a Christian.

In his younger days he was described by friends and associates as either an infidel or an atheist, but as he grew older his views moderated, and he came to believe in a providential God. However, even in his later years, he almost never made reference to Jesus or Christ, and never in such a way as to indicate a belief in the divinity of Jesus.

Lincoln had a chance to tell the world he was a Christian in a handbill "Replying to Charges of Infidelity" on July 31, 1846, but instead he showed his shrewd political savvy in that he wished to appeal to folks as a religious person and no intentional scoffer of Christianity. He said: "A charge having got into circulation in some of the neighborhoods of this District, in substance that I am an open scoffer at Christianity, I have by the advice of some friends concluded to notice the subject in this form. That I am not a member of any Christian Church, is true; but I have never denied the truth of the Scriptures; and I have never spoken with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or any denomination of Christians in particular. It is true that in early life I was inclined to believe in what I understand is called the "Doctrine of Necessity" -- that is, that the human mind is impelled to action, or held in rest by some power, over which the mind itself has no control; and I have sometimes (with one, two or three, but never publicly) tried to maintain this opinion in argument. The habit of arguing thus however, I have, entirely left off for more than five years. And I add here, I have always understood this same opinion to be held by several of the Christian denominations. The foregoing, is the whole truth, briefly stated, in relation to myself, upon this subject.

"I do not think I could myself, be brought to support a man for office, whom I knew to be an open enemy of, and scoffer at, religion. Leaving the higher matter of eternal consequences, between him and his Maker, I still do not think any man has the right thus to insult the feelings, and injure the morals, or the community in which he may live. If, then, I was guilty of such conduct, I should blame no man who should condemn me for it; but I do blame those, whoever they may be, who falsely put such a charge in circulation against me."

Some attest that Lincoln was saved because they claim he said the following: "But when I consider the law of justice, and expiation in the death of the Just, the divine Son of Mary, on the mountain of Calvary, I remain mute in my adoration. The spectacle of the crucified one which is before my eyes, is

more than sublime, it is divine! Moses died for his people's sake, but Christ died for the whole world's sake! . . . Now, would it not be the greatest of honors and privileges bestowed upon me, if God in his infinite love, mercy, and wisdom would put me between His faithful servant, Moses, and his eternal Son, Jesus, that I might die as they did, for my nation's sake!" But this quotation has been proven to have been written by Charles Chiniquy, who falsely attributed it to Lincoln.

So great has been the need to make Lincoln into a Saint (let alone into a demigod, have you not seen the Lincoln memorial? It is styled after the Temple of Zeus with Lincoln as "god" seated upon his throne) that at least 5 preachers claimed to have witnessed to Lincoln and led him to the Lord. Others have testified that he converted. Among those who have testified in support of the claim that Lincoln was a Christian, ten admit that during a part of his life he was a disbeliever in Christianity, while not one of the remaining ten disputes the fact. If he never changed his belief then he died an unbeliever. Did he change his belief and become a convert to Christianity? It devolves upon those who affirm that he did to prove it. Have they done this? They have not. Their attempts have been in every instance pitiable failures. The unreasonable and conflicting character of the testimony adduced refutes itself. When was he converted? No less than five different dates have been assigned. One witness states that it was in 1848; one, that it was in 1858; another, that it was in 1862; another, that it was in July, 1863; and still another, that it was in November, 1863. If we were to call these as witnesses upon the witness stand and ask where did it take place: some claim it was in Illinois, others say in Washington D.C., others say Gettysburg. Thus not only do we have conflicts of dates but also places and in a court of law such "evidence" would be dismissed.

All of these things are thus attributed. But Lincoln did say during the last years of his life that he held substantially the same theological opinions held by Theodore Parker. His own words are, referring to Parker: "I think that I stand about where that man stands." Where did Theodore Parker stand? The following extracts from his writings will show:

"To obtain a knowledge of duty, a man is not sent away, outside of himself, to ancient documents; for the only rule of faith and practice, the Word, is very nigh him, even in his heart, and by this Word he is to try all documents."

"There is no intercessor, angel, mediator, between man and God; for man can speak and God hear, each for himself. He requires no advocates to plead for men."

"Manly, natural religion -- it is not joining the church; it is not to believe in a creed, Hebrew, Christian, Catholic, Protestant, Trinitarian, Unitarian, Nothingarian. It is not to keep Sunday idle; to attend meeting; to be wet with water; to read the Bible; to offer prayers in words; to take bread and wine in the meeting-house; love a scapegoat Jesus, or any other theological claptrap."

Furthermore the significance of the following facts cannot be overlooked: 1. Notwithstanding the strong temptation to credit Lincoln to the popular faith, a majority of his biographers have either declared that he was not a Christian, or have refrained from affirming that he was. 2. The secular press, fearing to offend the church, has generally been silent regarding the question. When it has ventured to express an opinion, however, it has been to concede his un-belief. 3. The leading encyclopedias, such as the Britannica, Chambers', New American, etc., have either admitted that he was a Freethinker, or have made no reference to his religious belief, 4. In the "Lincoln Memorial Album" appear two hundred tributes to Lincoln, the greater portion of them from the pens of Christians. In but two of these two hundred tributes is it claimed that Lincoln was a believer in Christianity. 5. The "Reminiscences of Lincoln" contain thirty-three articles on Lincoln, written by as many distinguished men who were acquainted with him. In not a single instance in this work, is it asserted that he was a Christian. 6. In none of the leading eulogies pronounced upon his character, at the time of his demise, is it affirmed that he accepted Christ. [http://infidels.org/library/historical/john\\_remsburg/six\\_historic\\_americans/chapter\\_5.html#15.6](http://infidels.org/library/historical/john_remsburg/six_historic_americans/chapter_5.html#15.6)

Anyone with an open mind, as I have done, will conclude sadly, Lincoln was no believer in Christ, and that his being called one (as well as Washington being called one) is another of the great deceptions perpetrated upon the Christian faithful in America today. Now we have looked at the heathen Invader of our homes and firesides, let us look at his counterpart, who was also born in Kentucky 100 miles away and a few years prior to Lincoln.

### **Jefferson Davis 1862-1865 (1 Term) *Episcopalian***

**(1861-1862 Provisional, Appointed); Term ended 5/10/65, Term supposed to end March 4, 1868)**

**Conclusion: Saved!**

Jefferson Davis to many people sprang up out of nowhere to become the “rebel” or “other” president during the US “civil war” or the War for Southern Independence.

He was born June 3, 1808 and during his life, he identified with and attended the Episcopal Church. He attended West Point Military Academy and would serve first in the US House of Representatives from 1845-1846 at which point he resigned to raise a company of soldiers in Mississippi to serve during the Mexican-American War from 1846-1848. He became the Colonel of the 155<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Regiment and was wounded during the Battle of Buena Vista during which he also became a National Hero. President Polk offered to promote him to Brigadier General but Davis declined citing that it was the prerogative of State governors to do so. He was appointed as US Senator to fill the term of a Senator who died in office in Dec. 1848. He served until he resigned in 1851 to run for Governor of Mississippi. Having lost he continued to be an active voice in Mississippi politics until 1853, when due to his prominence after the War, he was appointed as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce and served from 1853-1857. He then was elected as US Senator and served from 1857-1861 when he resigned on Jan.21, 1861 due to Mississippi's Secession.

He was appointed as Major General of the Army of Mississippi on Jan. 23, 1861 during which he served until he was appointed as Provisional President of the Confederate States on February 9, 1861 and then formally inaugurated on February 18, 1861 in Montgomery. On March 11, 1861 a Permanent Constitution was adopted and the time was then set to elect a Congress and President thus on November 6, 1861 Davis was reelected without opposition as President. He was sworn in to his regular term on February 22, 1862 wherein he would serve for a term of 6 years.

Many remember Abraham Lincoln's son Willie who died in 1862 and some recall Lincoln had another son Edward who at the age of 3 died in 1850. Well, Jefferson Davis had 6 children and he lost his firstborn, Samuel at the age of 2 in 1854 and then Joseph (age 5) who fell from the balcony at the Confederate White House and died in 1864.

In 1854, “during this time of extreme anguish, no record indicates [he] turned to religion for special comfort and consolation. Davis identified himself as a Christian and he certainly knew his Bible, alluding to it often appearing in his speeches. Which was something many did in that day. Yet, no evidence suggests at that point that Christianity was central to his life.

He was raised in a Baptist home, educated initially in a Roman Catholic academy, and then married Sarah Knox Taylor – the daughter of US President and former General Zachary Taylor – but she died 3 months after their marriage. He re-married in 1845 to Varina Banks Howell who was by his side until his death in 1889. Both women were staunch Episcopalians.

While he spoke of God in a positive way he made no move to make the Christian faith or the Episcopal denomination his own until May 6, 1862 when he was confirmed and baptized at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA. Varina stated after he made his public profession of faith that “a peace which

passed understanding seemed to settle his heart.” (*Jefferson Davis, American* By: Cooper, 2000)

President Davis and the Southern Confederacy would ultimately be defeated by 1865 by a numerically superior and better equipped enemy. Davis left Richmond the Confederate Capital since May 1861 and entered Danville, VA in early April 1865 he then left and fled south to Charlotte and eventually wound up near Irwinsville, GA. He and his entourage were captured on May 10, 1865. On May 19, 1865 President Davis was imprisoned in Fortress Monroe, VA to await a trial for treason that would never come. During the course of the war his Christian faith had deepened, and in prison it provided enormous comfort. He was released on May 13, 1867 and President Andrew Johnson pardoned him and all Confederates on Dec. 25, 1868.

During his imprisonment he wrote many letters to family, friends and supporters. References to the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and his own prayers formed a substantial part of every letter. Discussing his Christian conviction, Davis concentrated on two topics. First, he repeatedly praised the goodness and mercy of God, who through Jesus Christ would always watch over his flock, no matter its predicament. In one letter to Varina dated Monday, Nov. 27, 1865, he said: “The day blessed by Our Saviour has passed, and the busy world has again gone to its weekly mail, and may the Lord Whose precious blood was shed to atone for the sins of man inspire all to labour for each other's betterment.” On Dec. 3, 1865 he told his wife that Sunday commemorated the Resurrection for it was on that “Glorious day when gave the last proof of the Redeemer's divinity and the first guarantee of man's justification and mediatorial protection.” Dec. 30, 1865 he said: “...for the atoning mediator is the way, His hand upholds me.” On Dec. 12, 1866 he wrote to Margaret O. Eaton: “For comfort you know where to look. Our Heavenly Father judges not as man judgeth, to Him our hearts are open, our motives known unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid and from him we receive credit for pure intention and mercy for the infirmities of our nature. The expiating power of the blood of the Lamb which was shed for us, and the words of the faithful promiser forbids us to sorrow as those no who have no hope...”

Thus we see the spiritual life of Confederate President Jefferson F. Davis in that he expressed his belief in the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ. So even though the South lost, many of our brave soldiers and our President were not!

**Andrew Johnson 1865-1869 *No Church Membership***  
**(served 4/15/65-3/4/69 to fill Lincoln's 2<sup>nd</sup> Term, not elected to Term)**

**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

To some it might appear that Andrew Johnson was not a believer due to the wording of the following Proclamation (4/29/1865): “Whereas by my proclamation of the 25th instant Thursday, the 25th day of next month, was recommended as a day for special humiliation and prayer in consequence of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States; but Whereas my attention has since been called to the fact that the day aforesaid is sacred to large numbers of Christians as one of rejoicing for the ascension of the Savior:” <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=72245&st=savior&stl=>

Andrew Johnson is a classic example of what some in the South might call “white trash” that left the “trailer park” and made something of himself. He first made himself a tailor, by trade, he learned to read while working in a shop. After his marriage, his wife taught him to write. He began at the bottom of the ladder politically, serving as alderman, mayor., member of the legislature of Tennessee, a member of Congress, Senator, and finally President. [http://infidels.org/library/historical/franklin\\_steiner/presidents.html#5.2](http://infidels.org/library/historical/franklin_steiner/presidents.html#5.2)

Andrew Johnson was not a Methodist, nor was he a member of any other Church, though he always

claimed to be a religious man. At one time William G. ("Parson") Brownlow accused him of being an "Infidel." This is usually a term of reproach. Mr. Johnson replied, "As for my religion, it is the doctrine of the Bible, as taught and practiced by Jesus Christ." (See *The Age of Hate*, by G.F. Minton, p. 80.)

Mrs. Eliza Johnson was a Methodist, and, like a loyal husband, Johnson would sometimes accompany her to services. We will now give the facts as told by Winston. (*Life of Andrew Johnson*, p. 101):

"I have stated that the influence of Mrs. Johnson over her husband was unbounded, and yet into one place he would not follow her, the organized Church. She might find satisfaction in such a Church, but he could not. Like Lincoln, if he could have found an organization based on the personality of Christ, without creed or dogmas, without class distinctions or the exaltation and deification of money, he was willing to join it 'with all his soul.' But so far as he could make out, there was no such Church. Believing in a rule of right and in a revealed religion, he took Christ as a model, yet he feared that the Christians of his day were further away from the simplicity, the charity and the love of their fellows, which Christ enjoined, than many a heathen was."

Andrew Johnson (Abraham Lincoln's choice for Vice-President) said "I do believe in Almighty God! And I believe also in the Bible...Let us look forward to the time when we can take the flag of our country and nail it below the Cross, and there let it wave as it waved in the olden times, and let us gather around it and inscribed for our motto: "Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever," and exclaim, Christ first, our country next!" John Savage, "The Life and Public Services of Andrew Johnson" pp. 247, 274

Johnson seemed to like Christ but not the Churches full of "hypocrites." Thus he said before his death: "I have performed my duty to my God, my country, and my family. I have nothing to fear in approaching death. To me it is the mere shadow of God's protecting wing . . . Here I will rest in quiet and peace beyond the reach of calumny's poisoned shaft, the influence of envy and jealous enemies, where treason and traitors or State backsliders and hypocrites in church can have no peace." -- written shortly before his death, July 1875. <http://www.god-and-country.info/AJohnson.html>

Now to me it sounds like Johnson viewed Christianity more as action and deeds than faith. But I could be wrong. He has been labeled as the least religious of all our presidents. Aside from his unfaithfulness to his native State of North Carolina and his adopted State of Tennessee I see no statements saying that he believed in Jesus Christ personally as his Saviour.

### **Ulysses S. Grant 1869-1877 (2 Terms) *Methodist***

#### **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

Grant is said to have been baptized by Rev. John Phillip Newman, but his family denied this. Grant said that he tolerated Newman's visits and bedside prayers only because they comforted Mrs. Grant and he did not wish to be rude to the minister. Indeed, Grant had little use for organized religion. However he many times expressed belief in God, the Bible and an afterlife. Grant did say of the Bible: "Hold fast to the Bible. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization and to this we must look as our guide in the future." (See: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/u/ulyssessg402264.html>)

Yet, a man can read the Bible and believe in God but he must put his faith in Christ. It seems Grant was near the Truth, but never laid hold of it. The so-called "savior of the Union" didn't meet the Saviour of men's souls. For the morning following his death, the *New York World* stated: General Grant, as it would appear, had no settled conviction of religion .... Having been interrogated during his illness on the question of religion, he replied that he had not given it any deep study and was unprepared to express an opinion. He intimated that he saw no use in devoting any special thought to theology at so late a day and was prepared to take his chances with the millions of people who went before him." (The

American Presidents by Nowlan, pgs. 460-461) That being the case I think it is sad, even for the man who defeated my 8<sup>th</sup> Cousin, General Robert E. Lee, to have been so kind in victory and then to suffer eternity in Hell and then in the Lake of Fire.

**Rutherford B. Hayes 1877-1881 (1 Term) *No Church Membership***

**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

Hayes had no formal religious affiliation, although he was baptized at the Presbyterian Meeting House in 1823. His lack of affiliation with a church and professed doubts -- "the gloomy theology of the orthodox -- the Calvinists -- I do not, I cannot believe" -- did not keep him from searching for religious truth: "I by an oversight missed the Bible meeting in the Episcopal church last night. I am sorry. I wanted especially to attend. The religion of the Bible is the best in the world. I see the infinite value of religion. Let it be always encouraged. A world of superstition and folly have grown up around its forms and ceremonies. But the truth in it is one of the deep sentiments in human nature."

Though his wife, Lucy, is often described as a strict Methodist, she, too, seems to have believed that Christian actions were more important than adherence to specific doctrines. Hayes recalled a conversation Lucy had with a friend. She said: "All I can say is, I do want to do to others as I would wish them to do to me. This I always mean -- I always try to do. I think of it always." Hayes noted, "This was her religion -- treating all others according to the Golden Rule."

He told his son to attend church: "While the habit [church-going] does not Christianize, it generally civilizes." (GOO pg 99)

In a diary entry, a few years before his death, Hayes wrote: "I am not a subscriber to any creed. I belong to no Church. But in a sense satisfactory to myself, and believed by me to be important, I try to be a Christian and to help do Christian work." Three years later, he confided to his diary: "I am a Christian according to my conscience in belief, not of course in character and conduct, but in purpose and wish;— not of course by the orthodox standard, But I am content and have a feeling of trust and safety." (AMP II pg. ??)

**James A. Garfield 1881 (March 4 – Sept. 19, Assassinated)**

**Conclusion: Saved!**

James Garfield was a preacher. He was a lay minister in the Disciples of Christ denomination. Someone who heard him preach, remarked: "He transports a body to heaven with his very voice." Thought some of Garfield's views changed over the years, he said in one of his sermons: "I've come tonight to speak with this poor tongue about Jesus. I've come to ask you to do what I did when I was eighteen years old, to choose the undying Jesus as your friend and helper, because the hopes of the world are false and the Christian never dies!" (GOO pg. 103) He believed in a literal interpretation of the scriptures, providence, and life after death. (CBUSP pg. 296)

**Chester A. Arthur 1881-1885 *Episcopalian***

**(served 9/19/81-3/4/85 to fill Garfield's Term, not elected to Term)**

**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

Little is known about Arthur's religious life. His father, a Baptist minister, and his mother urged him to accept Christianity, but his biographer, Thomas Reeves, writes that Arthur and his brother's "hostility to the faith" caused a rift with his parents. Arthur's wife, who died before he became president, was an Episcopalian, and while Arthur attended St. John's Episcopal Church, the church closest to the White House, there is no evidence that he considered himself a communicant or was interested in church membership there. <http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/god-in-the-white-house/>

He did donate a window to St. John's Episcopal Church also called, the Presidents' Church, in memory of his late wife. Therefore having nothing else wherewith to see how he viewed Christ or what he believed about Christ I can only conclude he died without believing in Jesus Christ thus showing that even preachers' children can rebel against the faith so much that they leave it.

### **Grover Cleveland 1885-1889 (1 Term) & 1893-1897 (1 Term) *Presbyterian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

The son of a Presbyterian minister, Cleveland attended Sunday school and multiple services in his father's church each Sunday. He would remain a member of the Presbyterian Church his entire life.

There is little evidence that Cleveland attended church with any frequency while living in Buffalo, N.Y., as a young man; he reportedly preferred to frequent the city's saloons and inns. But his private correspondence indicates that he maintained his faith and that his religious upbringing remained important to him even though he may not have felt compelled to attend church.

In a letter accepting his nomination to run for president in 1884, Cleveland promised to rely "upon the favor and support of the Supreme Being Who, I believe, will always bless honest human endeavor in the conscientious discharge of public duty." He became more visibly religious while in the White House and attended the First Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., throughout his time as president.

Following the death of his daughter Ruth in 1904, Cleveland questioned the existence of heaven: "I had a season of great trouble in keeping out of my mind the idea that Ruth was in the cold, cheerless grave instead of in the arms of her Savior." His questioning eventually led him back to God. He wrote in his diary on Jan. 15, 1904, "God has come to my help and I am able to adjust my thought to dear Ruth's death with as much comfort as selfish humanity will permit." <http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/god-in-the-white-house/>

In my research I kept seeing websites state that Grover Cleveland was the only president who mentioned Jesus Christ in a Thanksgiving proclamation. After searching for what seemed like hours, I finally stumbled across the reference. In 1896, President Cleveland issued Proclamation 388 on Nov. 4 declaring Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> to be the date set aside for the observance of Thanksgiving. In this proclamation he said: "And let us, through the mediation of Him who has taught us how to pray, implore the forgiveness of our sins and a continuation of heavenly favor." Now, that statement alludes to the famous Lord's Prayer and to 1 Timothy 2:5 "For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" and while most Christians may not have paid much attention to the reference, the Jews of the land noticed it and they denounced it and Cleveland. Rabbi Mochal stated that President Cleveland "exceeded the prerogatives of his office and all precedent by making reference to a mediating influence in religious affairs," because it is contrary to one of the "principle tenets of the Jewish faith." The Rabbi stated that "the Jews recognize no mediator between man and God." Some may claim that telling thus about the Rabbi sounds anti-Semitic then consider the footnoted source: NO MEDIATOR, SAYS THE RABBI.; A Protest Against the President's Thanksgiving Proclamation, New York Times, November 19, 1896, available at: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9A02E5DD1331E033A2575AC1A9679D94679 ED7CF> it comes from the NY Times and is the Rabbi's words himself wherein he denies Jesus Christ. The reference to the Proclamation comes from <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=70794&st=thanksgiving&st1=>

So I state here and forthwith that I see clearly that Grover Cleveland acknowledged his Saviour Who taught US how to pray and was and is and always shall be the One who paid for our sins being the one mediator between God and men.

**Benjamin Harrison 1889-1893 (1 Term) *Presbyterian***  
**Conclusion: Saved!**

Benjamin Harrison is to date the only Grandson of a president (William Henry Harrison) who became president. He was born into a devout Presbyterian family and from a very young age observed the Sabbath without fail every Sunday. He officially became a member of the Presbyterian Church while attending Miami University in the early 1850s, and he would remain a devout church member his entire life. Upon moving to Indianapolis in 1854, Harrison joined the First Presbyterian Church, and, according to a church memorial: "He was constant in his attendance on church meetings; his voice was heard in prayer meetings. ... And in whatever way opened, whether public or private, he gave testimony for his faith and the lordship of his Master."

Harrison taught Sunday school and later became a church elder, a position he would maintain for 40 years. According to a soldier who fought with the future president during the Civil War, Harrison held nightly prayers in his tent and was well liked for his "earnest religious nature." In a letter written to his wife, Harrison implored her to ask God "for me in prayer ... first that He will enable me to bear myself as a good soldier of Jesus Christ; second, that He will give me valor and skill to conduct myself so as to honor my country and my friends."

Before his election to the White House, Harrison wrote to his son Russell on August 8, 1887 "I hope you will renew your Christian faith and duties. It is a great comfort to trust God -- even if His providence is unfavorable. Prayer steadies one when he is walking in slippery places -- even if things asked for are not given." Indeed, Harrison believed his victory in the 1888 presidential election was the result of divine Providence, and in his inaugural address he called upon God to bestow on him "wisdom, strength, and fidelity." Harrison continued his tradition of daily prayer while serving in the White House; a firsthand account of his presidency recorded that "No morning is passed in the White House and no day's duties or pleasures are begun without the brief family prayer."

Harrison's speeches are full of religious rhetoric, and on several occasions he issued proclamations recommending Americans of all faiths to observe days of prayer. In a June 7, 1889, directive, Harrison urged the Army and Navy to limit activities on the Sabbath.

**William McKinley 1897-1901 *Methodist***  
**(2 Terms [2<sup>nd</sup> Term lasted March 4-Sept. 14, 1901], Assassinated)**  
**Conclusion: Saved!**

One of the most devout presidents, McKinley found Methodism at a camp meeting revival when he was 10 years old. He became a member of the church six years later and remained steadfast in the Methodist Episcopal Church throughout his life. A biographer described McKinley's faith: "His devout Methodism did not lead him to concern himself with dogma or denominational differences. The loving-kindness of God was McKinley's religion, and the source of his inner serenity."

McKinley himself beseeched God's help and mercy publicly in his Thanksgiving proclamations and inaugural addresses. In his first inaugural, he referred to the nation's founders: "Our faith teaches that there is no safer reliance than upon the God of our fathers, who has so singularly favored the American people in every national trial, and who will not forsake us so long as we obey His commandments and walk humbly in his footsteps."

In 1899, McKinley spoke to the General Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the White House and described his decision-making process in intervening in the Philippines: "I walked



the floor of the White House night after night until midnight, and I am not ashamed to tell you, gentlemen, that I went down on my knees and prayed to Almighty God for light and guidance more than one night. And one night it came to me this way -- I don't know how it was, but it came -- (1) that we could not give them back to Spain -- that would be cowardly and dishonest ... (4) there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them, and by God's grace to do the very best we could by them, as our fellow-men for whom Christ also died. And then I went to bed, and went to sleep, and slept soundly."

McKinley was shot in 1901. He publicly forgave his assassin before dying eight days later. It is the clear and unashamed confession of Christ that strikes me about President McKinley, he said the following on paper bearing the letterhead of the Executive Mansion in Washington, D.C. On May 25, 1899. He said: My belief embraces the Divinity of Christ and a recognition of Christianity as the mightiest factor in the world's civilization." (Quoted in The Christian Herald, June 14, 1899.)

**Theodore Roosevelt 1901-1909 *Dutch Reformed***  
**(1 Elected Term 1905-1909, served 9/14/01-3/4/05 to fill McKinley's 2<sup>nd</sup> Term)**  
**Conclusion: Saved!**

Roosevelt joined the Dutch Reformed Church as a teenager in New York and wrote of his beliefs: "I know not how philosophers may ultimately define religion, but from Micah to James it has been defined as service to one's fellowmen rendered by following the great rule of justice and mercy, of wisdom and righteousness."

This emphasis on religion as service led Roosevelt to equate patriotism and religion. In his book *Fear God and Take Your Own Part*, he observed, "Unless we are thorough-going Americans and unless our patriotism is part of the very fiber of our being, we can neither serve God nor take our own part." He applied his understanding of Christianity to domestic and foreign policy: "We must demand honesty, justice, mercy, truthfulness, in our dealings with one another within our own borders. Outside of our own borders we must treat other nations as we would wish to be treated in return, judging each in any given crisis as we ourselves ought to be judged...."

Roosevelt attended church regularly and issued nine Thanksgiving proclamations. "For the very reason that in material well-being we have thus abounded, we owe it to the Almighty to show equal progress in moral and spiritual things," he urged fellow citizens. "Let us, therefore, as a people set our faces resolutely against evil, and with broad charity, with kindness and good-will toward all men, but with unflinching determination to smite down wrong, strive with all the strength that is given us for righteousness in public and in private life. ... I recommend that the people ... meet devoutly to thank the Almighty for the many and great blessings they have received in the past, and to pray that they may be given the strength so to order their lives as to deserve a continuation of these blessings in the future."

President Roosevelt loved the Bible as did many of our Presidents. He said: "A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." and "It is necessary for the welfare of the nation that men's lives be based on the principles of the Bible. No man, educated or uneducated, can afford to be ignorant of the Bible." <http://lajuett.com/patriotic-religious-quotes.html>

He did believe in Evolution in his life and yet never rejected the Creation of the Earth and life upon it. He said to those who professed faith, yet discounted evolution: "The establishment of the doctrine of evolution in our time offers no ... justification for upsetting religious beliefs. ...Christianity, the greatest of the religious creations which humanity has seen, rests upon what Christ himself teaches." (*Colonel Roosevelt* By Morris, 2010 pg 155 and 157)

We find reference made in the *Dutch Reformed Review* that after attending a Church service, Roosevelt said: "The services this morning were enjoyable. The sermon was good and I agreed with him in the points he made.

The Holy Holy Lord God Almighty is one of the grandest of hymns after a week spent on perplexing problems and in heated contests it does so rest my soul to come into the house of the Lord and worship and to sing and mean it the Holy Holy Lord God Almighty and to know that He is my Father and He takes me up into His life and plans and to commune personally with Christ who died for me.

I am sure I get a wisdom not my own and a superhuman strength in fighting the moral evils I am called to confront!

The President showed his profoundly religious nature to a missionary's father: "I have told you so many times that I consider the Christian ministry as the highest calling in the world... the most exalted life and service here and destiny beyond. I consider it my greatest joy and glory that occupying a most exalted position in the nation I am enabled simply and sincerely to preach the practical moralities of the Bible to my fellow countrymen and to hold up Christ as the hope and Savior of the world.

I believe down deep in my soul as you know my friend that I have preached the same gospel that you are called to preach. <https://books.google.com/books?id=uHoQAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA104&lpg=PA104&dq>

So we are safe to conclude from Roosevelt's words that he was a believer in Jesus Christ. What else could sustain a man on Valentine's Day 1884 who lost his Mother and then several hours later, his wife?

### **William Howard Taft 1909-1913 (1 Term) Unitarian**

#### **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

Raised Unitarian, Taft described his religious beliefs: "I am a Unitarian. I believe in God. I do not believe in the divinity of Christ, and there are many other of the postulates of the orthodox creed to which I cannot subscribe. I am not, however, a scoffer at religion but on the contrary recognize, in the fullest manner, the elevating influence that it has had and always will have in the history of mankind."

Despite regular attendance at All Souls Church, Taft was accused of being an infidel or atheist during his presidential bid in the 1908 campaign. Taft responded: "To go into a dogmatic discussion of creed I will not do whether I am defeated or not. If the American electorate is so narrow as not to elect a Unitarian, well and good. I can stand it."

As president, Taft acknowledged "Almighty God" and called on citizens to recognize and thank God for the blessings bestowed upon the nation. In 1917 he delivered a speech called "The Religious Convictions of an American Citizen," which many supporters wished he had given during his election campaign: "Unitarians believe that Jesus Christ founded a new religion and a new religious philosophy on the love of God for man, and of men for one another, and for God, and taught it by his life and practice, with such Heaven-given sincerity, sweetness, simplicity, and all-compelling force that it lived after him in the souls of men, and became the basis for a civilization struggling toward the highest ideals," he explained. "[Unitarians] feel the life of Jesus as a man to be more helpful to them, as a religious inspiration, than if he is to be regarded as God in human form."

He went on to (as of now) serve as the only ex-president to serve on the Supreme Court and even served as Chief Justice (1921-1930) whereby he is also the only ex-president to swear in two presidents Calvin Coolidge for his first elected term in 1925 (called his second term) and Herbert Hoover in 1929.

But when this Chief Justice of the Supreme Court died on March 8, 1930 he met the Supreme Judge and due to his unbelief in Jesus Christ wound up in Hell where he is now, wishing he could appeal the justly decreed sentence upon his unbelieving soul!

**Woodrow Wilson 1913-1921 (2 Terms) *Presbyterian***  
**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

Regarded as one of the most theological presidents, Wilson publicly joined the Presbyterian Church in 1873. Both his father and uncle were Presbyterian ministers. His father was active in establishing the Confederate States Bible Society and served as an Evangelist to Confederate troops during the War Between the States. Wilson, even recalled seeing President Jefferson Davis after he was captured. Wilson's uncle was removed from the ministry after preaching evolution. As president, Wilson responded to a letter questioning his belief in evolution, writing: "Of course, like every other man of education and intelligence I do believe in organic evolution. It surprises me that at this late date such questions should be raised."

Wilson's father had assured him that faith was more important than doctrinal details, saying: "My son, don't you worry about doctrinal problems. Ask yourself this question: Do I love and want to serve the Lord Jesus Christ? If you can answer that in the affirmative, you need not worry."

He made up for his lack of a theology degree by adhering to a daily practice of Bible study before bed and embarking on a lifelong study of Christian history and belief. In 1911, he spoke of his personal views on the Bible: "[The Bible is] a book which reveals men unto themselves, not as creatures in bondage, not as men under human authority, not as those bidden to take counsel and command of any human source. It reveals every man to himself as a distinct moral agent, responsible not to men, not even to those men whom he has put over him in authority, but responsible through his own conscience to his Lord and Maker. Whenever a man sees this vision he stands up a free man, whatever may be the government under which he lives, if he sees beyond the circumstances of his own life." He also stated: "When you have read the Bible, you know it is the word of God, because it is the key to your heart, your own happiness, and your own duty." <http://www.why-the-bible.com/bible.htm>

Elected president in 1912, Wilson served two terms. In 1915, he spoke with a friend about his faith: "My life would not be worth living if it were not for the driving power of religion, for faith, pure and simple. I have seen all my life the arguments against it without ever having been moved by them. ... [N]ever for a moment have I had one doubt about my religious beliefs. There are people who believe only so far as they understand -- that seems to me presumptuous and sets their understanding as the standard of the Universe. ... I am sorry for such people."

Yet in 1914 he spoke at a YMCA conference: "I am not fond of thinking of Christianity as the means of saving *individual* souls. I have always been very impatient of processes and institutions which said that their purpose was to put every man in the way of developing his character. My advice is: Do not think about your character. If you will think about what you ought to do for other people, your character will take care of itself. The only way your powers can become great is by exerting them outside the circle of your own narrow, special, selfish interests. And that is the reason of Christianity. Christ came into the world to save others, not to save himself; and no man is a true Christian who does not think constantly of how he can lift his brother, how he can assist his friend, how he can enlighten mankind, how he can make virtue the rule of conduct in the circle in which he lives." <http://www.wallbuilders.com/libissuesarticles.asp?id=19484>

For all his raising and his intellect, Wilson missed I think the thrust of the Gospel. He loved morality and saw the Bible as a tool for that, rather than the power whereby we must be saved!

## **Warren G. Harding 1921-1923 (Died In Office) *Baptist***

### **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

"It is my conviction that the fundamental trouble with the people of the United States is that they have gotten too far away from the Almighty God," Harding famously said. Harding's God was a unifying force, his Jesus a role model on how to make the world a better place. In one of his last public appearances, Harding said: "We need less of sectarianism, less of denominationalism, less of fanatical zeal and its exactions, and more of the Christ spirit, more of the Christ practice, and a new and abiding consecration and reverence of God. ... Christ was the Prince of Peace, and we who seek to render His name glorious must move in the ways of peace and brotherhood and loving service."

Harding was raised a Methodist and later joined the Baptist Church, though scholars debate whether he was baptized Methodist. While attending Ohio Central College he doubted Divine Creation and briefly flirted with atheism because of Darwinian Evolution being taught. Though Harding remained a member of the Baptist Church throughout his life, his family later became Seventh-day Adventists, and he himself joined the Masons and the Elks. He attended church regularly, but he did not reveal much about his personal faith or views. He did not take communion, finding himself unworthy of the honor.

In his inaugural address he said: "I have taken the solemn oath of office on that passage of Holy Writ wherein it is asked: "What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" This I plight to God and country."

Again I can find no reference to him being saved. Religious yes, but of President Harding making or showing a personal belief in Christ as his Saviour, I can find no reference.

## **Calvin Coolidge 1923-1929 *Congregationalist***

**(1 Elected Term 1925-1929, served 8/2/23-3/4/25 to fill Harding's Term)**

### **Conclusion: Saved!**

He was known as Silent Cal. Once a woman attended a party and told the president that she had taken a bet that she could get him to say more than two words. The President said: "You lose" and walked away smiling. The country smiled while he was in office, for he cut taxes and shrunk the size and over-reaching power of the Federal Government.

After his presidency was over, in his retirement, Silent Cal published his autobiography! Always a man of few words - his will consisted of one sentence! - he wrote a rather wordy manuscript of 246 pages (Coolidge, 1919) where on pages 63 to 70 he speaks of Charles E. Garman, a professor of philosophy who made an impact upon him and his other classmates. He stated that Garman was "...a follower of the truth, a disciple of the Cross, who bore the infirmities of us all."

Later the President recounts the following: "Among other things, I had some fear as to my ability to set that example which I always felt ought to denote the life of a church member. I am inclined to think now that this was a counsel of darkness. This first service happened to come on communion day. Our pastor, Dr. Pierce, invited all those who believed in the Christian faith, whether church members or not, to join in partaking of the communion. For the first time I accepted this invitation, which I later learned he had observed, and in a few days without any intimation to me that it was to be done, considering this to be a sufficient public profession of my faith, the church voted me into its membership. This declaration of their belief in me was a great satisfaction. Had I been approached in the usual way to join the church after I became President, I should have feared that such action might appear to be a pose, and should have hesitated to accept."

He was simple in his faith. He felt preaching should be limited to the standard themes: "salvation by grace," "a change of heart," or "the power of prayer." He became highly suspicious of clergymen who spoke in support of the budding "social gospel." He said: "I wouldn't for a minute be critical of the church and its work, but I think most of the clergy today are preaching socialism!"

So here we see Silent Cal's actions speak louder than his words at times but I think I see herein a quiet man of a loud faith who was not a hearer only but a doer of his faith.

**Herbert Hoover 1929-1933 (1 Term) *Quaker***

**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

I found that Hoover said the following in 1922: "Our individualism insists upon the divine in each human being. It rests upon the divine in each human being. It rests upon the firm faith that the divine spark can be awakened in every heart. It was the refusal to compromise these things that led to the migration of those religious groups who so largely composed our forefathers. Our diversified religious faiths are the apotheosis of spiritual individualism." This isn't part of Orthodox Christianity.

He was called by some the greatest humanitarian since Jesus Christ, which is sad for he did indeed help millions but doing those good deeds would not be enough to save his soul.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933-1945 *Episcopalian*  
(4 Terms [4<sup>th</sup> Term lasted 1/20/45-4/12/45], Died In Office)**

**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

The president was not a regular churchgoer, nor does the historical record disclose much about his convictions. "He had a strong religious feeling and his religion was a very personal one," Eleanor wrote in *This I Remember*. "I think he actually felt he could ask God for guidance and receive it . . . . He never talked about his religion or his beliefs and never seemed to have any intellectual difficulties about what he believed." His beliefs, as she rather condescendingly concluded, were those "of a child grown to manhood under certain simple influences." <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2010/05/god-and-mrs-roosevelt>

...he believed in God and divine guidance but had little patience for complex dogma. He was well versed in the Bible. (CBUSP pg.483 -484). But being moral and versed in the Bible is no good unless one believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. The president who touched so many lives and steered the nation through the Great Depression and the Second World War seemed to have never been touched by the nail-scarred hand of Christ.

**Harry S. Truman 1945-1953 *Baptist*  
(1 Elected Term 1949-1953, served 4/12/45-1/20/49 to fill Roosevelt's 4<sup>th</sup> Term)**

**Conclusion: Saved!**

Truman was born into a Baptist family in Lamar, Mo., on May 8, 1884, and attended church from a young age. He later claimed to have read the entire Bible twice through before starting school. He was baptized at age 18, becoming a member of the First Baptist Church in Grandview, Mo. He would remain a member of the church his entire life, though his attendance at Sunday services became increasingly rare as he grew older.

As president, Truman made frequent references to religion and Christianity in his public speeches. On April 16, 1945, in a statement before a joint session of Congress, Truman asked God for guidance, saying, "I ask only to be a good and faithful servant of my Lord and my people." Truman repeatedly referred to America as a "Christian nation" and declared that it "was established by men who believed in God. You will see that our Founding Fathers believed that God created this nation ...I believe it, too."

But Truman also believed in the importance of religious freedom and displayed respect for all faiths. In a letter written after his time as president, he stated: "Jews, Mohammedans, Buddhists and Confucians worship the same God as the Christians say they do. He is all seeing, all hearing and all knowing. Nothing, not even the sparrow or the smallest bug escapes His notice."

There of course Harry was absolutely wrong! Truman viewed the Cold War, which escalated in intensity throughout his time as president, as essentially a moral conflict. He believed that communism was "a tyranny led by a small group who have abandoned their faith in God. These tyrants have forsaken ethical and moral beliefs." Truman saw religion as instrumental in combating communism's spread, and so he attempted to start a global "Campaign of Truth."

In a 1947 letter to his wife, Truman explained his plans: "We are talking to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop at the head of the Lutheran Church, the Metropolitan of the Greek Church at Istanbul, and the pope. I may send him to see the top Buddhist and the Grand Lama of Tibet. If I can mobilize the people who believe in a moral world against the Bolshevik materialists, who believe as Henry Wallace does 'that the end justifies the means' -- we can win this fight."

Privately, Truman's views on religion were somewhat idiosyncratic. In a 1911 letter to his wife, he wrote that Baptists "do not want a person to go to shows or dance or do anything for a good time. Well, I like to do all those things and play cards besides. So you see I am not very strong as a Baptist. ... I believe in people living what they believe and talking afterwards." Truman once stated outright that he was "not a religious man."

On July 14, 1950 Truman met the 31 year old evangelist Billy Graham. In the book: *Billy Graham: A Life In Pictures* (By: Ken Garfield, 2013, pg 49) the evangelist recalled the meeting where he: "asked the president about his faith, and whether he believed in Christ and His death on the Cross. Graham recalled Truman fudging his answer by saying he tries to live by the Golden Rule and Jesus' Sermon on the mount, but that was about it. Graham [told the President] – it wasn't enough, he needed to surrender all to Christ [to which] after 20 minutes, Truman stood signaling an end to the meeting." Graham closed

in prayer.

<https://books.google.com/books?>

id=ITi4AQAABAJ&pg=PA49&lp=PA49&dq=faiht+in+Christ+and+His+death+on+the+Cross+truman&source=bl&ots=47U9IYIQOX&sig=ry08DUA5tRUpYp-m6QnqUhXw7JU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwixjOXWhZLQAhXojlQKHQfPCr0Q6AEIzAC#v=onepage&q=faiht%20in%20Christ%20and%20His%20death%20on%20the%20Cross%20truman&f=false

Truman seemed to remember having the evangelist in a negative light, for in 1960 he stated: "But now we've got just this one evangelist, this Billy Graham, and he's gone off the beam. He's...well, I hadn't ought to say this, but he's one of those counterfeits I was telling you about. He claims he's a friend of all the presidents, but he was never a friend of mine when I was President. I just don't go for people like that. All he's interested in is getting his name in the paper."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy\\_Graham#Pastor\\_to\\_presidents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Graham#Pastor_to_presidents) Graham did manage to meet with former President Truman in 1967 and the two made amends, but the only evidence I can find that Truman made amends with the Lord is a reference he specifically made on Dec. 24, 1952 in his Christmas address in which he said: "This is a wonderful story. Year after year it brings peace and tranquility to troubled hearts in a troubled world. And tonight the earth seems hushed, as we turn to the old, old story of how "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

But still Truman did not state this as a personal statement of faith. I can only hope that the seeds planted by Bible study, by the brash young evangelist Graham, at last took root and the Tell-Em-Like-It-Is Harry Truman got saved. It seems there is some evidence there and in his statement of "my Lord."

## **Dwight D. Eisenhower 1953-1960 (2 Terms) *Presbyterian***

### **Conclusion: Saved!**

Billy Graham stated: "Eisenhower was the first President that really asked my counsel in depth when he was sending troops into Little Rock," said Mr. Graham. Just before Eisenhower died, Billy was invited to see him at Walter Reed Hospital. After talking again about assurance of salvation, the two men prayed. Eisenhower then said he was ready to die." <https://billygraham.org/story/billy-graham-pastor-to-presidents-2/>

Eisenhower's parents were involved in the Jehovah's Witness Cult, but he never subscribed to their doctrines but did join the family in daily Bible reading. In 1953 he joined and was baptized into the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. He called on Congress to add "under God" to the pledge of allegiance and instituted the National Prayer Breakfast.

He stated in 1959: "It takes no brains to be an atheist. Any stupid person can deny the existence of a supernatural power because man's physical senses cannot detect it. But there cannot be ignored the influence of conscience, the respect we feel for the Moral Law, the mystery of first life ...or the marvelous order in which the universe moves about us on this earth. All these evidence the handiwork of the beneficent Deity. . . That Deity is the God of the Bible and Jesus Christ, His Son."

<https://books.google.com/books?id=vMJXDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT80&lpq=PT80&dq=Dwight+Eisenhower+Jesus+Christ&source=bl&ots=nJKD0NwPvk&sig=iYmtnChWs6n79L3vsNoNZXs4-OM&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiYnobg9ZLQAhXCYvQKHZvGAhM4ChDoAQgnMAI#v=onepage&q=Dwight%20Eisenhower%20Jesus%20Christ&f=false>

## **John F. Kennedy 1960-1963 (1 Term, Assassinated) *Catholic***

### **Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

In 1960, John F. Kennedy became the second Roman Catholic to run for the presidency. The first, New York Gov. Al Smith, ran in 1928 and was the target of anti-Catholic bigotry.

By 1960, nativist and anti-Catholic sentiments in America had tempered somewhat, though a special committee, the Fair Campaign Practices Committee, met to issue a "Special Statement on Religion in the 1960 Campaign." Chief among its recommendations was that "no candidate for public office should be opposed or supported because of his particular religious affiliation."

Kennedy agreed: "Whatever one's religion in his private life may be, for the officeholder nothing takes precedence over his oath to uphold the Constitution and all its parts -- including the First Amendment and the strict separation of church and state," he told *Look* magazine.

But the controversy swirling around his religion forced him to confront the issue head-on in a 1960 speech in Houston: "I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish -- where no public official either requests or accepts instructions on public policy from the Pope, the National Council of Churches or any other ecclesiastical source -- where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials -- and where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one church is treated as an act against all."

He continued: "If I should lose on the real issues, I shall return to my seat in the Senate, satisfied that I had tried my best and was fairly judged. But if this election is decided on the basis that 40 million Americans lost their chance of being president on the day they were baptized, then it is the whole nation that will be the loser, in the eyes of Catholics and non-Catholics around the world, in the eyes of history, and in the eyes of our own people."

As a Catholic, we note from Catholic Doctrine that theirs is a works-based salvation centered on sacraments and papal teachings. Works added to salvation equals no salvation.

**Lyndon B. Johnson 1963-1969 *Disciples of Christ***  
**(1 Elected Term 1965-1969, served 11/22/63-1/20/65 to fill Kennedy's Term)**

**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

After Kennedy's assassination, Johnson was sworn into office aboard Air Force One with his hand on Kennedy's copy of the Catholic Missal rather than a Bible. After being sworn in Johnson addressed the nation: "I will do my best. That is all I can do. I ask for your help -- and God's."

Johnson was born into a family that had deep Baptist roots on one side and a mixture of various beliefs on the other. Johnson chose to join the Disciples of Christ Church, which emphasized good works. The 1954 Johnson Amendment passed by Congress stated that non-profits (read: Christian churches and organizations) could not speak in favor of any political candidate. (Trump wants to overturn it.)

Though Johnson is not remembered for his personal piety, he made clear in his commitment to expanding civil rights and creating welfare programs that he believed that Christian duty required following Christ's message of compassion and mercy. In 1964, he said, "From our Jewish and Christian heritage, we draw the image of the God of all mankind, who will judge his children not by their prayers and by their pretensions, but by their mercy to the poor and their understanding of the weak. We cannot cancel that strain and then claim to speak as a Christian society."

**Richard M. Nixon 1969-1974 (2 Terms [2<sup>nd</sup> Term lasted 1/20/73-8/9/74], Resigned) *Quaker***

**Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

Nixon was born into a devoutly religious Quaker family in Yorba Linda, Calif. His family attended an evangelical Quaker meetinghouse every Sunday, prayed silently before each meal, and observed strict prohibitions on drinking, gambling and swearing. While in middle school, Nixon played piano for Sunday school services and sang in the church choir. He taught Sunday school services throughout the majority of his undergraduate years in college. According to Nixon, in his youth he accepted the "literal correctness of the Bible, the miracles, even the whale story."

In 1933, while an undergraduate at Whittier College, which was founded by Quakers at the turn of the 20th century, Nixon attended lectures on "The Philosophy of Christian Construction" by Dr. J. Herschel Coffin. The course -- and the death of Nixon's elder brother, Harold, that same year -- had a profound effect on the young man's religious beliefs. In a series of essays written for the class, he declared that many of his childhood religious ideas had been "destroyed but there are some which I cannot bring myself to drop. ... I still believe that God is the creator. ... I still believe that He lives today, in some form, directing the destinies of the cosmos. ... For the time being I shall accept the solution offered by Kant, that man can only go so far in his research and explanations; from that point on we must accept God." While Nixon professed that he no longer accepted as fact many of the miracles mentioned in the Bible, he still expressed admiration for Jesus' message and noted that it would be his purpose in life "to follow the religion of Jesus as well as I can."

While president, Nixon regularly attended Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church and reportedly told H.R. Haldeman, his chief of staff, that he prayed every night. Nixon also maintained a close relationship with the Rev. Billy Graham. He might have had such a relationship with Graham but seems not to have had such an one with the Saviour, for Jesus Christ usually only comes up as a swear word!

**Gerald Ford 1974-1977 (served 8/9/74-1/20/77 to fill Nixon's 2<sup>nd</sup> Term) *Episcopalian***

**Conclusion: Saved!**

Ford stated in 1977: "Nightly I seek the Lord's guidance by silently repeating Proverbs 3:5-6. Daily I seek to live by the example of Jesus Christ." Yet this is no profession of Faith in Christ. To find that one



must go back to the same year, 1977, when President Ford delivered a commencement address at his son's seminary, he said: "If the experience of the presidency itself led me to a greater reliance upon God, a greater appreciation of my religion, so did some of the critical events of those two and a half years in the White House. I remember particularly well when in September of 1974, just a few weeks after I had taken office, Betty had her bout with cancer. It was during that time that we came to a much deeper understanding of our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. At a time when human weakness and human frailty was such a real part of our lives, we were able to see clearly for the first time what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote that Christ's strength is made perfect in our weakness. Having been through that experience, we found that we were better able to give comfort and hope to others in their time of pain." <http://hotair.com/archives/2006/12/28/gerald-fords-christian-testimony/>

Jimmy Carter said on in 2007: Yesterday, on the flight here from Washington, Rosalynn and I were thrilled when one of [Gerald Ford's] sons came to tell us that the greatest gift he received from his father was his faith in Jesus Christ. It is true that Jerry and I shared a common commitment to our religious faith, not just in worshipping the same savior, but in attempting, in our own personal way, to achieve reconciliation within our respective denominations. We both felt that Episcopalians, Baptists and others should live together in harmony, within the adequate and common belief that we are saved by the grace of God through our faith in Jesus Christ, that we are saved by the grace of God through our faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Jimmy Carter 1977-1981 (1 Term) *Baptist***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

Describing his beliefs at the 1978 National Prayer Breakfast, Carter said, "For those of us who share the Christian faith, the words 'born again' have a very simple meaning -- that through a personal experience, we recommit our lives as humble children of God, which makes us in the realest possible sense brothers and sisters of one another."

As an 11-year-old growing up in Plains, Ga., Carter had accepted Christ as his savior and was baptized in the Baptist Church the following week. He later recalled that being born again was a process, not a moment: "Rather than a sudden flash of light or a sudden vision of God speaking, it involved a series of steps that have brought me steadily closer to Christ." He said he had a superficial faith until 1967 when he was led by his sister, Ruth Carter Stapleton, to the Lord and then became a true, born-again Christian.

When Carter's pastor preached a sermon in which he asked the congregation, "if you were arrested for being a Christian, ... would there be enough evidence to convict you?," Carter realized the answer would be no. Though he'd begun what would be a lifelong study of Christian theology after the death of his father, he felt he had drifted from his personal relationship with Christ. This sermon led him to recommit his life to Christ.

Following his presidency, Carter returned home to Georgia, resumed teaching Sunday school classes and wrote two books explaining his religious beliefs. When the Southern Baptist Convention, to which he belonged, came to espouse an increasingly conservative Christianity, Carter said, "I feel a threat in my own church from Baptist fundamentalists." He joined the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship when they broke away from the Southern Baptist Convention in 1993.

### **Ronald Reagan 1981-1989 (2 Terms) *Presbyterian***

#### **Conclusion: Saved!**

Once while serving as Governor of California, he sent Christmas greetings and said: "My greetings are

for those of all faiths, including those who believe Jesus was merely a great teacher and those who, like me believe he is the promised Messiah, the Son of God.”

Presidential aide Moomaw asked Reagan after his surgery on March 30, 1981 “...if that bullet had taken you, would have been okay with God? “Yes” answered the president without hesitation. “How do you know?” asked Moomaw. The president looked him square in the eye and said, “I have a Savior.”

**George H. W. Bush 1989-1993 (1 Term) *Episcopalian***

**Conclusion: Saved!**

During the presidential campaign of 1988, he told a reporter that he was “born again.” (GOO pg. 222)

**Bill Clinton 1993-2001 (2 Terms) *Baptist***

**Conclusion: Saved!**

By age 9, Clinton wrote, “I had absorbed enough of my church’s teachings to know that I was a sinner and to want Jesus to save me. So I came down the aisle at the end of Sunday service, professed my faith in Christ, and asked to be baptized.” The pastor, James Fitzgerald, “convinced me that I needed to acknowledge that I was a sinner” and “to accept Christ in my heart, and I did.” Attending church as a child, Clinton later explained, was very important to him. The church provided important moral instruction and helped him understand “what life was all about.”

[http://www.salon.com/2015/04/11/bill\\_clintons\\_surprising\\_faith\\_from\\_childhood\\_through\\_monica\\_lewinsky\\_the\\_real\\_story\\_of\\_the\\_presidents\\_belief\\_in\\_god/](http://www.salon.com/2015/04/11/bill_clintons_surprising_faith_from_childhood_through_monica_lewinsky_the_real_story_of_the_presidents_belief_in_god/)

He recalled attending one of the Rev. Billy Graham's revivals as a child and describes it as a turning point in the history of the American South: "So here we were with neighborhood after neighborhood after neighborhood in my state on the verge of violence, and yet tens of thousands of black and white Christians were there together in a football stadium. And when he issued the call at the end of this message, thousands came down holding hands, arm in arm, crying. It was the beginning of the end of the Old South in my home state. I will never forget it."

During the 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton elaborated on his beliefs: "My faith tells me that all of us are sinners, and each of us has gone in our own way and fallen short of the glory of God." Though some conservative Christians never forgave Clinton for his affair with Monica Lewinsky, he spoke the following year of the glory of Christian grace: "I have been profoundly moved, as few people have, by the pure power of grace, unmerited forgiveness through grace -- most of all to my wife and daughter, but to the people I work with, to the legions of American people and to the God in whom I believe. And I am very grateful to all of you who have had any role in that."

**George W. Bush 2001-2009 (2 Terms) *Methodist***

**Conclusion: Saved!**

Raised in an Episcopalian household, Bush attended both Episcopalian and Presbyterian churches with his family but did not at the time find his own faith. By 1984, he had a reputation as a frat-boy partier with a young wife, two daughters and a drinking problem. That year, he met an evangelist in Midland, Texas, and became a born-again Christian. But the conversion experience did not immediately change his life or solve his drinking problem.

In 1985, his parents asked the Rev. Billy Graham for help in guiding their son. Their conversations led Bush to rededicate his life to Christ, a pledge that led him to a Bible study class and eventually to give up alcohol entirely. Bush himself recalls: "There is only one reason that I am here in the Oval Office and not in a bar. I found faith. I found God. I am here because of the power of prayer."

When he ran for the presidency in 2000, Bush offered himself as a candidate who promised to restore

honor and Christian morality to the White House. He won the support of evangelical and conservative Christians with his openness and willingness to discuss his faith, including a memorable exchange during the Republican primaries. Candidates were asked to name their favorite philosopher, and Bush answered simply, "Christ, because he changed my heart." The moderator responded, "I think the viewer would like to know more on how he's changed your heart." Bush replied: "Well, if they don't know, it's going to be hard to explain. When you turn your heart and life over to Christ, when you accept Christ as a savior, it changes your heart and changes your life. And that's what happened to me."

In his first executive order, Bush created the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, saying, "When we see social needs in America, my administration will look first to faith-based programs and community groups." <http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica/god-in-the-white-house/>

According to the Complete Book of US Presidents Bush took a theological stand against his mother once when he "had a discussion with his mother about who gets into heaven, George W. maintained that non-Christians, according to the Bible, do not go to heaven. His mother disagreed and called up Billy Graham for some expert advice on the subject. Graham sided with the younger Bush, but added that one should not answer questions to which only God really knows the answers.

That is what I perceived as being said in his interview with Charlie Rose, except that he has the misguided understanding at this point that Muslims and Christians pray to the same God while Terrorists pray to a "false god" again showing me that Bush knows the One True God, but still has some doctrinal issues to iron out from the Bible.

**Barack H. Obama 2009-2017? (2 Terms) *United Church of Christ*  
Conclusion: Religious, But Not Saved!**

At the National Prayer Breakfast on February 3, 2011 Obama reiterated that 20 years ago that "I came to know Jesus Christ as myself and embrace Him as my Lord and Saviour."

For years he was a member of the Trinity United Church of Christ under the Black Liberation Pastor Jeremiah Wright. Obama's public professions of faith have been in near-perfect harmony with his church's teachings. The UCC, like many Mainline denominations, is scarcely Christian in any meaningful theological sense. Its roots lie in the Reformation, but its theology would be unrecognizable to any of the great reformers. Rather, it draws on selective Christian teachings and selective Christian traditions to provide general spiritual comfort and, specifically, to inspire its members to progressive social activism.

The UCC's statement of its own beliefs is remarkable for how little traditional, orthodox Christianity it contains. The church proudly declares, "The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love." The church emphasizes each person's "spiritual journey," the "power of peace," the "power of possibility," and the belief that each person is "unique and valuable." If you're looking for the Apostles' Creed, or any expression of beliefs remotely similar to the Apostles' Creed, you've come to the wrong place.

In 2004, Barack Obama gave perhaps his most candid interview about his personal beliefs, which clearly reflect UCC influence. Here's his basic expression of faith: "So, I'm rooted in the Christian tradition. I believe that there are many paths to the same place, and that is a belief that there is a higher power, a belief that we are connected as a people."

Obama noted that Jesus was a "wonderful teacher" and said, "Jesus is an historical figure for me, and

he's also a bridge between God and man, in the Christian faith, and one that I think is powerful precisely because he serves as that means of us reaching something higher." <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/415266/obama-really-christian-david-french>

Yet even though we hear him say he is a believer in Christ we find over and over that he has a high respect for Islam and has been silent about Christianity when it has been attacked and has even mocked the Bible yet touted the glories of what the "Holy Koran" says. This is because Obama is using words and theological "sound bites" as other presidents have done in the past. This is seen by Journalist Lisa Miller — in a 2008 profile of Obama's spiritual journey — who described the concept well: "Christ's gift of salvation was to the community of believers, not to individual people in isolation." Obama's expressed beliefs do not, of course, represent traditional Christian orthodoxy, but they do represent a kind of Mainline orthodoxy, which holds that religions are roughly equivalent (so long as they're not "distorted" into fundamentalism) and that Christ's death didn't represent an atoning sacrifice so much as an example of his love and commitment to nonviolence. <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/415266/obama-really-christian-david-french>

### **The Next President Who Will It Be?**

#### **Donald J. Trump *Presbyterian* 2016 Republican Candidate for President**

Cal Thomas Interviewed Mr. Trump on June 8, 2016 and he stated to Mr. Trump: You have confessed that you are a Christian ...

DT: And I have also won much evangelical support.

CT: Yes, I know that. You have said you never felt the need to ask for God's forgiveness, and yet repentance for one's sins is a precondition to salvation. I ask you the question Jesus asked of Peter: Who do you say He is?

DT: I will be asking for forgiveness, but hopefully I won't have to be asking for much forgiveness. As you know, I am Presbyterian and Protestant. I've had great relationships and developed even greater relationships with ministers. We have tremendous support from the clergy. I think I will be doing very well during the election with evangelicals and with Christians. In the Middle East — and this is prior to the migration — you had almost no chance of coming into the United States. Christians from Syria, of which there were many, many of their heads ... chopped off. If you were a Muslim from Syria, it was one of the easiest places to come in (to the U.S.). I thought that was deplorable. I'm going to treat my religion, which is Christian, with great respect and care.

CT: Who do you say Jesus is?

DT: Jesus to me is somebody I can think about for security and confidence. Somebody I can revere in terms of bravery and in terms of courage and, because I consider the Christian religion so important, somebody I can totally rely on in my own mind.

#### **Hillary R. Clinton *Methodist* 2016 Democratic Candidate for President**

"You know, my family and my faith taught me a simple credo — do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can," she said. "I'll always cherish the Methodist Church because it gave us the great gift of personal salvation, but the great obligation of social gospel, and for me, having faith, hope, and love in action was exactly what we were called to do," she said. <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/jun/24/donald-trump/what-do-we-know-about-hillary-clintons-religion-lo/>