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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Bereans “received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.”

1

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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Corinthians 5:9-13
Lesson #18
Christian Nationalism?
10/05/2025

2

Hard Questions

**How can we make peace
in a divided culture?**

**Was America designed to
be a Christian nation?**



**To what extent do the moral
standards for the church
apply to modern America?**

3

Matthew 22:21
“Then **render to Caesar** the things that are Caesar’s **and to God** the things that are God’s.”

**Does the Biblical teaching of civil responsibility
apply to current American government in the same
way it did to the Roman empire of the 1st century?**

1 Peter 2:11
“Beloved, I urge you as **aliens and strangers**”

John 18:36
“**my kingdom is not of
this world.** If my kingdom
were of this world, then my
servants would be fighting,”

Romans 12:18
“If possible, so far
as it depends on
you, **be at peace
with all men.**”

4

**The Apostles viewed the faith community
as distinct from “outsiders”.**

1 Corinthians 5

“9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 **I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world,** or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then **you would have to go out of the world.** 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person,... 12 For **what have I to do with judging outsiders?** Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 **But those who are outside, God judges.**”

But was (and is) America an “outsider”?

**Are Christians aliens in America
as they were in ancient Rome?**

5

**Some say America
is expected to be
a Christian nation.**

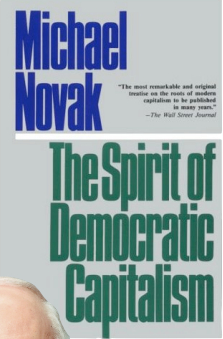
**Before the 1st
Amendment,
colonies and
states had official
Christian churches.**

**Full separation of
church and state
wasn’t enforced
until the 20th
century.**

State	Religion	Ended
Maryland	— General theism	1776
Pennsylvania	— Quaker theism	1776
New Jersey	— General theism	1776
Delaware	— General theism	1776
N. Carolina	— Anglican	1776
New York	— Anglican	1777
Virginia	— Anglican	1786
Georgia	— Anglican	1789
S. Carolina	— Anglican	1790
Connecticut	— Congregational	1818
New Hampshire	— Protestant	1819
Massachusetts	— Congregational	1833

6

The American System





7

“There is no significant example in history, before our time, of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion.”



Historian Will Durant

8

“American Caesar” is unique in that **WE are the government.**

American government is:

- OF, BY, and FOR the people.
- rooted in a “**Biblical ethical**” worldview.

But was America FOUNDED AS A Christian nation?



9

The Puritan’s Christian Nationalism maintained that:

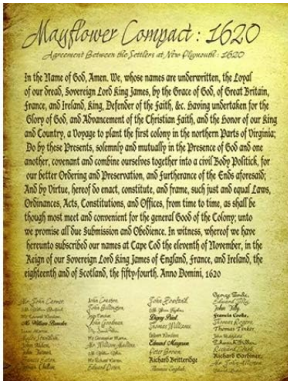
- Old Testament Israel is America’s story. (The O.T. is to be applied directly to our situation with our promised land, exodus, covenant, and Canaanites.)
- Political freedom is a part of the Gospel. (There was a need to justify a break from England.)
- Providence is assurance of God’s favor. (The success of the American Revolution is a sign of God’s sovereign hand on America.)

NOTE:

If this was true should we not (like ancient Israel) have a theocracy, not a democracy?

10

The Pilgrims’ Mayflower Compact was clearly Christian in its worldview.



Some (latter) believed that it was a prototype (style) of the **American Constitution.**

But it reaffirmed loyalty to the King of England and its **framers never intended to found an independent state.**



11

The language of the Bible is a part of the popular culture of the United States of America TO THIS DAY.



Armageddon

The Golden Rule

Adam & Eve

Born Again

Noah’s ark

David & Goliath

Judgment day

Gospel

“the truth shall set you free”

Jesus

“to whom much is given, much is expected.”

Apocalypse

“judge not lest ye be judged”

In God we trust

“a house divided against itself cannot stand.”

Messiah

Rapture

The second coming

12

"The United States is a nation with the soul of a church."

G.K. Chestert
1874-19

"Christian Nationalism"
is advocated by many conservatives.

John Winthrop R J Rushdoony David Barton D. James Kennedy Tim LaHaye Charlie Kirk

13

Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?

America was never founded constitutionally as a Christian nation.

Its "civil religion" was a general theistic moralism.

Christianity was the dominant religion and part of many state constitutions.

John Fea
Historian
Messiah College.

14

Up until the Civil War, America's **identification with Christianity** was widely accepted, (on the street, not officially), as a fact.

Christian Nation	Pluralistic (secular) state
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1776 1865 2025

That has changed over the last century and a half with implications for our responsibility as Christians.

15

Has the emerging American culture become the "God Within" cult of ethical therapeutic pantheism?

- ✓ Social - **Deinstitutionalization**
- ✓ Psychological - **Narcissism**
- ✓ Political - **Libertarianism**
- ✓ Religious - **Gnosticism**
- ✓ Ethical - **Relativism**

Has what was thought to be the **"New Jerusalem"** become the **"New Babylon"**?

16

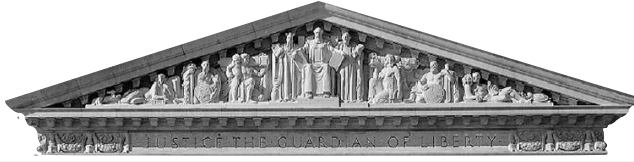
Many Evangelical Christians believe they are called to take back America in the name of Jesus?

17

On the doors (both inner and outer) of the Supreme Court and above the bench of the Chief Justice, are displayed the **Ten Commandments**.

18

The frieze on the nation's Supreme Court Building pictures **Moses** as the supreme lawgiver, along with several other historic **lawgivers**.



19

The Capital buildings are full of Biblical symbols.



In the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives



On the floor of the National Archives

But note that they are centered on MORAL CODE rather than the Gospel.

20

America's culture had roots that included:

Enlightenment
ideals of reason
and individual
freedom

Common,
Biblical, moral
values and
worldview

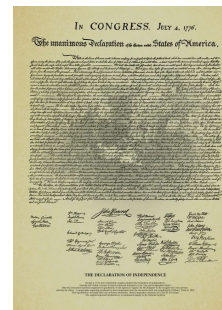


Classical
Representative
Government

European
religious war
memories

21

The Declaration of Independence (1776)



Thomas Jefferson wrote:

"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which **the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God** entitle them..."

This wording ground authority in **"general revelation"** apart from (but not contrary to) **"special revelation"**.

22

The Declaration of Independence

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, & the **Pursuit of Happiness**—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers **from the Consent of the governed**," **(general revelation)**

23

**Make disciples IN the state
through the church
not BY the state through
political control.**

"Senator, when you took your oath of office, you placed your hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. You didn't place your hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible."

Jamie Raskin
(Law professor, Congressman)



24

“American Civil Religion”

A common “sacred canopy” with LIMITS.

“We hold these Truths to be **self-evident**, that all Men are created equal, that they are **endowed by their Creator** with unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness;

Bellah argued in 1967 that many Americans embrace a **common, civil religion** with certain fundamental beliefs, values, symbols, holidays, and rituals in parallel to, or independent of, their chosen religion.



Robert Bellah
(Sociologist of religion)

25

20 GREATEST NAMES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Summary: **10 Masons, 3 probable Masons, 2 Advocates of Freemasonry,**
1 Humanist, 4 no record of connections with Freemasonry

- John Adams - Spoke favorably of
- Samuel Adams - Close associate of
- James Madison - Some evidence of
- Thomas Jefferson - Some evidence of
- Daniel Webster - Some evidence of
- Ethan Allen - Mason
- Edmund Burke - Mason
- John Claypoole - Mason
- William Dawes - Mason
- Benjamin Franklin - Mason
- John Hancock - Mason
- John Paul Jones - Mason
- Robert Livingston - Mason
- Paul Revere - Mason
- Colonel Benjamin Tupper - Mason

- Nathan Hale - No evidence
- Benjamin Harrison - No evidence
- Patrick Henry - No evidence
- Francis Scott Key - No evidence
- Thomas Paine - Humanist

Freemasonry
played a big role in the
early shaping of American
Civil Religion

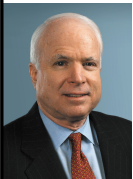


God (religion)
Gnosis (virtue)
Geometry (logic)

rational, moral, theism
- virtue, courage, loyalty,
prudence, truthfulness,
compassion, etc.

26

***We must be careful not to overstate
our “Christian” roots.***



John McCain
“the Constitution
established the United
States of America as a
Christian nation.”

**No
mention of
Christianity**



Mike Huckabee
“Most of the fifty-six men
who signed the Declaration
of Independence were
clergymen.”

**Only John
Witherspoon
was**

27

**In 1864 a Christian group in Xenia, Ohio
proposed the following amendment to the
U.S. CONSTITUTION:**

“We, the people of the United States,
**(recognizing the being and attributes of
Almighty God, the Divine authority of the
Holy Scriptures, the law of God as the
paramount rule, and Jesus, the Messiah,
the Savior and Lord of all)** in order to form a
more perfect union, . . .”

It was rejected.

John Fea, “Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?” p.23

28

So was (is) America a Christian nation?

Culturally YES & NO!

- 80% profess Christian faith and many of our core values have been shaped by **COMMON ETHICS, (which is not the same as orthodox Christianity).**

Constitutionally NO!

- the Christian faith is not mentioned while enlightenment ideas of freedom from external authority prevail.

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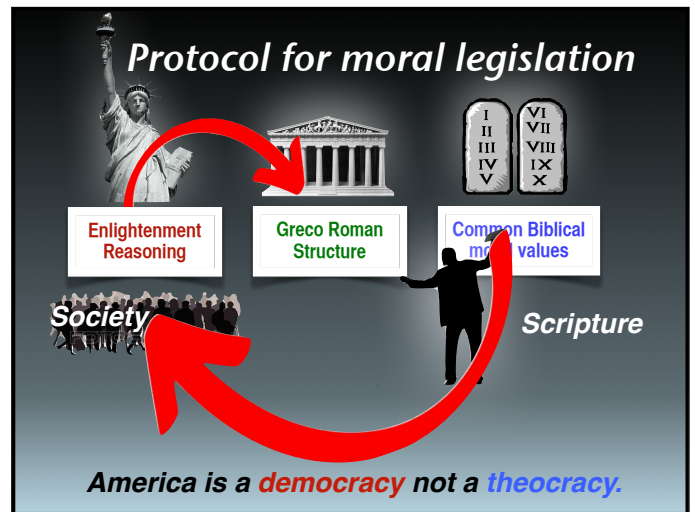
***If Jesus and his Apostles’ moral teaching is
centered on the culture of the faith community,
not the Roman government -***

1. Are we placing too much hope & passion in **political systems and power?**
2. Are we confusing God’s kingdom with **American Christian Nationalism?**
3. Should we be more **exclusive** than inclusive?
4. Are we failing to see the value of **our political diversity in a free society?**
5. Have we failed to learn from **church history?**

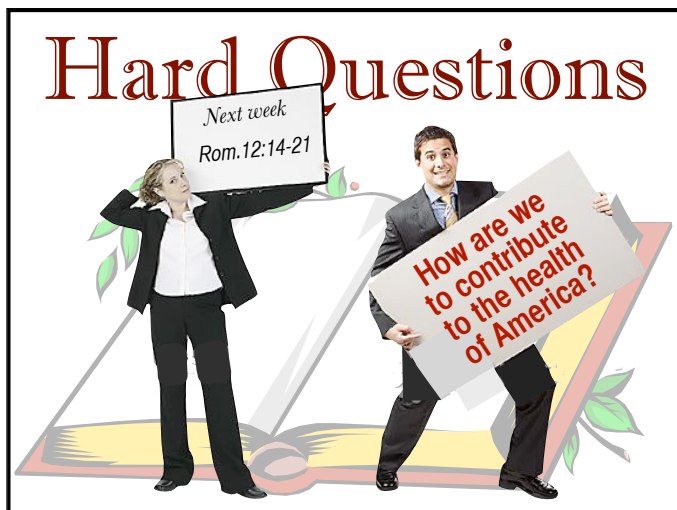
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31



32



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