

Countering the Practical Atheism Controlling America

Including Excerpts from the Booklet, *All Citizens Were Created by God and Are Responsible to Him*.

By Doug Anderson

It has often been said that ideas have consequences. More specifically, bad ideas have bad consequences; good ideas have good consequences: hence, the critical nature of understanding that every person's opinions, or ideas, reflect a worldview. Even nations reflect a worldview that dominates their culture. In Saudi Arabia, a Muslim worldview dominates the nation. In India, a Hindu worldview dominates and in China, a Marxist, atheistic worldview dominates.

A worldview is nothing complicated or complex. It is merely the perspective through which a person views the various aspects and issues of life. Like a lens in your eye, you will see things through the lens of your worldview, and how you see things, will determine what you think about them, and ultimately what kind of person you become. Proverbs 3:16 tells us that, "as a man thinketh, so is he." Individuals and nations can rise or fall based on the ideas they hold, or the worldview through which they view life's issues.

The United States was established to view life through the lens of God and Scripture. Every issue was filtered through a Biblical worldview. Aside from ancient Israel, the United States is unique to all other nations in that respect. As a result, life and liberty were cherished ideals to this nation from the very beginning because they are cherished by the God they

served. Those who came to these shores came to bring the truths of Scripture and the liberating influence of God and His word to this land. They came not as "invaders" or "oppressors" of the native people who already lived here, but as those bringing the light of Christ, a new worldview, that would liber-



The early settlers of America came to bring the truths of Scripture and the liberating influence of God and His word to this land.

ate people from spiritual bondage so they could better live in physical freedom.

Today America is Dominated by a Practical Atheism

Today, we live in a culture dominated by the physical realm, so we tend to see issues of life solely through a physical lens. It is a lens devoid of God and spiritual realities. So many Americans

ignore this spiritual intention of the English settlers and attribute a physical motive to conquer and seek material riches. As we have systematically removed prayer, Scripture, and even God from the public square, our institutions reflect a view of life that is without God. A majority of us may still call ourselves "Christian" but today that is merely a label, for we view issues and we live our lives as if God does not exist. We develop our opinions without searching the Scriptures or seeking what God might have to say about it. We write and read policy papers on important issues facing our nation, but are careful to exclude any idea that remotely suggests we are looking to God or Scripture for the answers. We spend our time at school or work being careful not to mention God, so as not to offend any non-believer, then sometimes go to church on Sunday and tell God how important He is in our life (at least our private life that no one can see, lest they be offended). It is a practical atheism that has developed from the womb of strict secularism and it offends God. Scripture tells us, in Luke 9:26, that if we are ashamed of God, then He will be ashamed of us. It also affects the direction our nation is taking, as the moral compass and rudder of God's word is ignored to follow our own path. Practical atheism, whether we call it "secularism," "Marxism," "humanism," or something else, is still a life followed as if God did not exist. Such a path will destroy

individuals as well as nations.

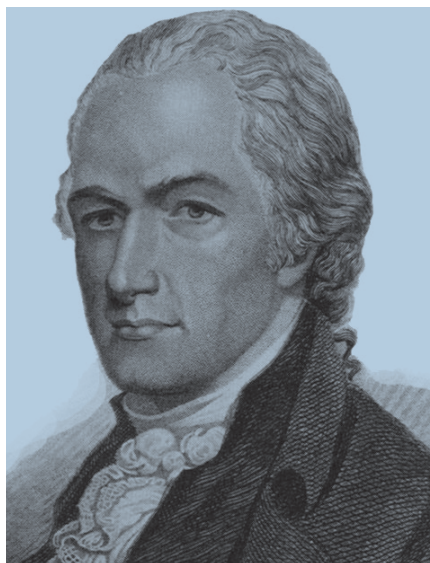
America Must Return to Her Founding Principles

The evidence is overwhelming that our Founders chose to cement the nation's building blocks of law, government, economics and every other pillar of the country upon the timeless principles of God's word found in Holy Scripture.

"Scripture reminds us that there is an 'old path' that is 'the good way.' It is based on the eternal standards of our Creator. That is the path we are called to seek. It is in our past, but it is full of the greatest wisdom mankind will ever find. The 'old path' and 'the good way' is the word of God found in the Bible. Contrary to what the evolutionists will tell you, things do not get better with the mere passage of time. Without God's standard of truth and righteousness, life inevitably deteriorates. Time is not a purifier, God's word is; time is not a wisdom-maker, God's word is; and the advancement of time is not where the answers to life's questions lie; God's word is. God, as the Creator of all life, has the blueprint for all of life. Our job, as His creations on earth, is to find His blueprint and apply it." (Excerpt from back cover of each booklet of *America's Founding Principles Series*.)

When we look at the principles that founded the United States, and we do so through the Biblical worldview or lens of Scripture, we see key elements or pillars that our nation rests upon. They are what our Founder's called "self-evident

truths" or timeless principles that will apply anywhere and any time. Truth applied always works, as it once did in this nation before being systematically removed. Below are a few of those "self-evident truths" seen through the eyes of a Biblical worldview. Each excerpt set forth below is taken from the first booklet in a series of booklets on these self-evident truths, entitled *America's Founding Principle Series*.



Alexander Hamilton said "that natural liberty is a gift of the beneficent Creator, to the whole human race; and that civil liberty is founded in that."

First Principle: *"All Citizens Were Created By God and are Responsible to Him."*

Presupposition: *Man is of divine origin created for a divine purpose.*

False Presupposition: *Man is a biological accident, the product of chance and purposeless evolution.*

"According to God, citizenship does not start with a rec-

ognition of an impersonal state entity we call a nation. Instead it starts with a recognition of a personal God who created us all. Herein lies the fundamental root of the great divide in our nation over nearly every debate regarding cultural issues and solutions: our beliefs about man's origin and purpose. There is no greater issue for any citizen to understand. Until a person is able to resolve this issue about man's origin and purpose, he is unable to understand who he is, how he fits into society, and what his purpose and destiny are, if any. This is not a religious issue to be pushed aside by those who have no use for religion. It is a citizenship issue that affects every nation and every person regardless of religious faith or background. The more the citizens of a nation understand this principle, the more that nation can walk in the liberty God intended." . . . (pp. 3-4)

"Fortunately for the citizens of the United States, this first principle was one of the 'self-evident truths' adhered to by those who founded and ruled the United States. Our Founding Fathers were not only predominantly orthodox Christians holding to orthodox Christian beliefs, they were also people who knew their Bible and knew it well. Their public and private communications were sprinkled liberally with references to Biblical accounts and quotations. As such, their founding documents overwhelmingly reflected these same Biblical principles." . . . (p. 5)

"How far we have wandered from the intentions and expres-



The men who gave us the Declaration believed in the self-evident truth that man is created in the image of God.

sions voiced by a unanimous Congress and from this document (the Declaration of Independence) that founded our nation. Today there are actually public high school teachers and separationist organizations who have declared it is an improper violation of the separation of church and state to have students study the Declaration of Independence. They further claim it is improper to refer to citizens being ‘created’ by God. . . . In fact, not only did our Founders not see any problem with government acknowledging God as our Creator, they actually felt it was such an important concept, that it needed to be referenced in our nation’s charter.”

“Again and again we see the Founders treating this concept of acknowledging God as a political or governmental necessity and not one to be viewed as merely *religious*. To our Founders, this was a citizenship issue. They understood its connection to a nation being able to more freely operate in liberty. They accepted as true the Biblical pronouncement that ‘where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.’ Indeed, it was Alexander Hamilton who noted ‘that natural liberty is a gift of the beneficent Creator, to the whole human race; and that civil liberty is founded in that.’ They believed it would therefore be a danger to liberty for a nation to take this principle, dub it *religious* and artificially confine it behind the walls of a church building. This concept (of publicly acknowledging God) needed to be in America’s charter political document and in the hearts and minds of its citizens.”

“This principle presents no threat to anyone’s freedom to worship as they please, to believe what they want or to attend the church of their choice. There is no gun being held to anyone’s head, no forced compulsion and no one is going to jail as they once did in the old European countries where a state religion was the enforced religion for everyone. Nor does this principle seek to allow any one church to dictate to the government what laws it should pass, or what foreign policy it should pursue as was formerly the case in Europe. There is no blurring of jurisdictional boundaries or responsibilities between the church and the state required by this principle. Instead, this principle merely recognizes a timeless “self-evident truth”: that citizens who understand they are Created by God and have a responsibility to give an account to their Creator for their actions are better able to produce and sustain a nation of liberty.” (pp. 8-9)

“It has only been in the last 60-70 years that a different viewpoint has taken over our nation: a viewpoint that seeks to remove God from the public arena. In America’s classrooms today, American citizens are paying their tax dollars to have its future citizens taught evolution as the only explanation for man’s origin. No longer can our students learn what our founder’s based our nation upon; that we are the creation of God, made in His image for a divine purpose, and accountable to Him. Instead they are taught that man is nothing more than a biological accident with no purpose and no divine value. . . . We

are merely a chance composition of chemicals and physical matter lacking a spirit or soul and that we have no eternal existence beyond this life. Such teaching removes mankind’s intrinsic value and life becomes devoid of purpose and meaning. Lofty ideas of liberty and freedom have no basis in a philosophy where man is nothing more than a freak accident and the survival of the fittest determines what is *right*. . . . (p. 11)

“Today America’s school system is mandatorily teaching principles that directly contradict and undermine our founding document of the Declaration of Independence. It is done without apology, and without accountability to the devastating consequences addressed later in this booklet. Recall the words of the Declaration: ‘[w]e hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal’ Creation is not a religious view, it is one of the governmental pillars of our nation! It is the reason why American government has taken such extreme measures, unlike any other nation on earth, to protect individual life and it is the basis for why Americans have always treasured individual liberty.”

“Ideas have consequences and the ideas of evolution are destroying America. Animals do not have a conscience or eternal soul as does man. Animals therefore seek only to survive as best they can and it is the strong that survive regardless of right or wrong. We constantly tell children that ‘might does not make right’ yet we insist on teaching them they are evolved and are no different than the animals around them to

which ‘might is right.’ Mankind can only function freely in a society that is based on higher principles of right and wrong regardless of might or strength. As such, only with a belief that mankind is above the animals as a specially created being can there exist the pursuit of freedom and liberty, protection of individual rights and a concern for due process. Evolution teaching undermines all of that, yet we continue to require it to be taught to the exclusion of all other explanations for mankind’s origin. Such teaching is contrary to our founding document, it is contrary to good citizenship, and it is contrary to free nations.” . . . (pp. 12-13)

“This first founding principle of America, that all citizens are created by God and are responsible to Him, is one that is critical for the health and liberty of a nation. It is not a principle we should artificially designate as *religious* and fight to censor from the public square. Indeed, it should not become a victim of the radical agenda to remove any and all vestiges of religious influence from our thinking about government. (p. 13)

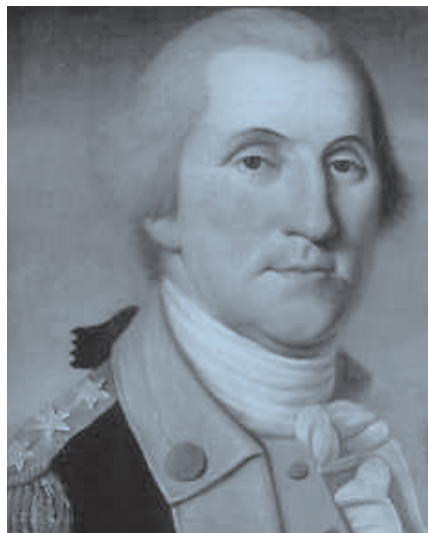
“In his *Farewell Address*, President George Washington reminded the citizens of this nation that which he saw as being critical to its continued success. His words once were routinely taught in America’s public schools and frequently memorized by former generations of students, yet today they have been largely ignored. They are worthy of reconsideration in this hour.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to politi-

cal prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.

In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens.

The mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them.



George Washington stated, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.”

A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. . .

And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. . . Tis substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government.

Our nation’s first president was saying that religious principles and the morality they entail, are essential supports to civil gov-

ernment and any effort to achieve such morality without those religious principles is foolishness. We have been following a pathway of foolishness for too long already. It is time to return to the pathway our nation was built upon and that our Founders pointed us toward.” (pg 18-19)^{PP}

Titles in the America’s Founding Principles Series:

1. *All Citizens Were Created by God and are Responsible to Him*
2. *God is the Ultimate Sovereign Over Every Nation*
3. *All Law is Ultimately Based Upon God’s Revealed Law Found in Scripture*
4. *Civil Government is Dependent Upon the Quality of Self-Government Amongst Its Citizens*
5. *Civil Government Power Must Be Limited to Its Proper Purpose and Jurisdiction*

To order copies of this booklet or any of the other five in the series order via mail or, contact America Reclaimed Ministries (ARM) at americareclaimed@msn.com. Booklets are \$4 each or \$18 for the entire 5-booklet set. Make checks payable to ARM, include \$1.50 shipping and handling and send to: America Reclaimed Ministries, P.O. Box 636, Dumfries, VA 22026

For more information on ARM, visit their website at www.americareclaimed.org. Doug Anderson is a retired US Air Force attorney and the co-founder of ARM. He is co-author of *Contending for the Constitution*, published by the Providence Foundation.

America Reclaimed Ministries: Birthed From Discipleship

By Doug Anderson

Most of you have never heard of America Reclaimed Ministries (ARM). That is understandable since it was only formed two years ago, has no paid staff, and only has two co-founders who are still learning the challenges of developing a fledgling organization with lots of faith but little money. However, for those of you who appreciate the Providence Foundation, it is fitting that you learn about this young and humble new ministry.

The Providence Foundation, as you know, is a Christian educational entity whose primary goal is to train and disciple others to spread the Biblical worldview reflected by our nation's founding principles. America Reclaimed Ministries is a direct byproduct of the discipling efforts of the Providence Foundation.

A Providential Meeting.

In May 1994 an Air Force officer and judge advocate by the name of Doug Anderson, was taking a class on "America's Christian History" while living in Colorado Springs, Colorado. As part of the class, the teacher referred to a book called *America's Providential History* with a painting of George Washington kneeling next to his horse in the snow in prayer. At the break, Doug approached the instructor and found out the book was published by the Providence Foundation in Charlottesville, Virginia. Coincidentally or providentially,

depending on your perspective, that officer already had military orders to go to Charlottesville to attend a master of law program. Immediately he made a decision to find the Providence Foundation when he moved there that summer.

Upon settling into their new home in Charlottesville, Doug and his family began looking for a new



Speakers at the conference held at Gunston Hall organized by America Reclaimed Ministries: David Vaughn, Peter Marshall, Doug Anderson, Dan Noel, and Stephen McDowell

church home and were prompted to visit Grace Covenant Church. Following the service, congregants were speaking with the new family when Doug asked one of the men if he knew anything about the Providence Foundation. That man was Stephen McDowell and the question brought an immediate smile to his face. Stephen proceeded to introduce Doug to the pastor they

had just heard preach, Mark Beliles. That led to an instant bonding of dreams and passions.

Through the years and various military assignments, Doug kept involved with the Providence Foundation reading and studying all he could get his hands on from Mark and Stephen's publications. Then in January, 2005, while seeking God in the remote parts of South Korea about whether to stay in the military or retire, Doug felt strongly prompted to retire and either join up with Providence or begin a similar ministry where his family lived in the DC area. Again coincidentally or providentially, on his very first Sunday back from a year assignment in Korea, Doug met a guest speaker and new church member, Dan Noel. Dan was speaking about many of the things God had already put on Doug's heart and it was clear Dan shared a very similar vision for restoring America. The two began to share their visions, and through much prayer and consideration, they felt God leading them to start a new ministry in the DC area called Center for America Reclaimed. By early 2007, they had incorporated as a non-profit ministry under their current name of America Reclaimed Ministries, but their true origin and birth can really be traced back to the faithful efforts of Mark Beliles and Stephen McDowell in properly discipling an energetic, but unknowledgeable volunteer.

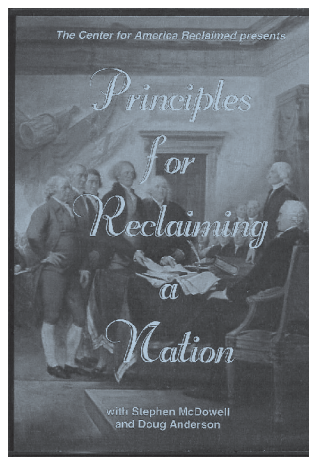
A Ministry Strongly Bonded to the Providence Foundation

Like the Providence Foundation, America Reclaimed Ministries is dedicated to teaching and spreading the Biblical principles that God has given us for law, government and nations, but the emphasis is less international in scope than the Providence Foundation. ARM seeks to take the “self-evident truths” that God gave our Founders that were used to establish such strong foundations for the United States, and bring them back to remembrance and application to a new generation of citizens.

As part of that effort, ARM has now hosted three annual conferences, having just completed another one this past September. In November 2005, ARM hosted its first conference entitled, “Principles for Reclaiming a Nation,” which featured Stephen McDowell as its main speaker and had 37 attendees. Out of that conference was produced a DVD set that is now available through Providence Foundation to train people in the Biblical principles for restoring nations. In September 2006, ARM hosted its second conference entitled “Taking a Stand for Liberty”, at Gunston Hall, home of founding father George Mason. It featured Peter Marshall as the main speaker, and included Stephen McDowell. That conference was roughly double the size of the first one; attended by 75 people. This past fall, ARM hosted its third conference on September 21-22, 2007 at Mount Vernon featuring Bishop Wellington Boone,

Stephen McDowell and Mark Beliles. Entitled “Inalienable Rights Still Matter,” it focused on restoring the true source of individual rights, God, and the importance of remembering that source as a nation.

This past June, ARM hosted “An Evening with Jefferson” in which Stephen McDowell played the role of Thomas Jefferson in costume. As part of the program, attendees were provided copies of the Danbury Baptist letter and President Jefferson’s response, which



Principles for Reclaiming a Nation is a five-session seminar on DVD organized by America Reclaimed Ministries. See page 7 to order a copy.

has become the basis for current Supreme Court jurisprudence in today’s church-state relations. Each of the conferences and programs hosted by America Reclaimed Ministries has had a strong connection to the Providence Foundation and the Providence Foundation deserves great credit in the outreach

efforts of its sister organization.

As part of its efforts to use America’s God-given Biblical heritage, America Reclaimed Ministries has produced a series of five booklets in what will eventually become a series of seven called, *America’s Founding Principles Series*. These are short, easy to read booklets that focus on the Biblical principles our Founders heavily relied on in establishing this nation, and which current citizens are largely unaware.

Concluding Thoughts

America Reclaimed Ministries, founded by Doug Anderson and Dan Noel, does not seek to compete against the efforts of the Providence Foundation, or to “steal their thunder” in anyway. That is the way of carnal, sinful man, but it is not God’s way to restore this nation or any other nation. There is plenty of work for all of us and God has called us to be united and work together for God’s good. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reminds us of the power of unity when it says, “. . . a three-fold cord is not quickly broken.” God is allowing the Providence Foundation to extend its influence through the efforts of America Reclaimed Ministries, reaching more directly citizens in the outskirts of our nation’s capital. It will be an effort of cooperation and strength, birthed through a providential meeting, and forged in the power of God’s grace. It is one more example of the power of teaching and training others that the Providence Foundation has done so well.^{PP}