

Providential Perspective

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Governmental Principles of America's Founders

This *Perspective* contains quotes from various founders of America revealing their understanding of fundamental principles that must form the foundation of our nation if we hope to remain free, prosperous, and just. (For a further definition of each of the foundational principles, see our book *Liberating the Nations*.) Those principles include, in the words of Patrick Henry, "virtue, morality, and religion," which make up "the armor...that renders us invincible.... If we lose these, we are conquered, fallen indeed."

7 Foundational Principles

1. Self-Government

a. "Governments like clocks, go from the motion men give them; and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men, than men upon governments... Let men be good, and the governments cannot be bad; if it will be ill, they will cure it... Some say, let us have good laws, and no matter for the men who execute them: but let them consider, that though good laws do well, good men do better..."

William Penn

Preface of *The Frame of Government of Pennsylvania*, 1682. Quoted in *Sources of Our Liberties*, edited by Richard L. Perry, Chicago: American Bar Foundation, 1978.

b. "...the reason why severe laws are necessary in France, is, that the people have not been educated republicans -- they do not know how to govern themselves [consequently, they] must be governed by severe laws and penalties, and a most rigid administration."

Noah Webster

"Political Fanaticism, No. III," *The American Minerva*, 21 September 1796.

c. "All societies of men must be governed in some way or other. The less they may have of stringent State Government, the more they must have of individual self-government. The less they rely on public law or physical force, the more they must rely on private moral restraint. Men, in word, must necessarily be controlled either by a power within them, or by a power without them; either by the Word of God, or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible or the bayonet."

Robert C. Winthrop

Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1847-1849. *Addresses and Speeches on Various Occasions*, Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1852, p. 172.

d. "There are two powers only which are sufficient to control men, and secure the rights of individuals and a peaceable administration; these are the combined force of religion and law, and the force or fear of the bayonet."

Noah Webster

Quoted in *A Christian History of the American Revolution*, compiled by Verna M. Hall, San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1976, p. 21.

e. "In the family are formed the elements of civil government; the family discipline is the model of all social order;... the respect for the law and the magistrate begins in the respect for parents... Families are the nurseries of good and bad citizens. The parent who neglects to restrain and govern his child, or who, by his example, corrupts him, is the enemy of the community to which he belongs; the parent who instructs his child in good principles, and subjects him to correct discipline, is the guardian angel of his child, and the best benefactor of society."

Noah Webster

A Manual of Useful Studies, New Haven: S. Babcock, 1839, pp.77-78.

f. "It is impossible to govern the universe without the aid of a Supreme Being."

George Washington

Quoted in *Life of Washington* by James K. Paulding, 1835.

2. Union (Covenant)

a. "...Having undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith, and the honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid..."

The Mayflower Compact, 1620

b. "...we the inhabitants... well knowing where a people are gathered together the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people there should be an orderly and decent government established according to God...; do therefore... enter into combination and confederation together, to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess..."

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, 1639

Old South Leaflets

c. "...considering with ourselves the holy will of God and our own necessity, that we should not live without wholesome

laws and civil government among us, of which we are altogether destitute, do, in the name of Christ and in the sight of God, combine ourselves together to erect and set up among us such government as shall be, to our best discerning, agreeable to the will of God..."

The Colonists of Exeter, New Hampshire, 1639

d. "Resolved, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people, are, and of a right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing Association, under the control of no power, other than that of our God and the General Government of the Congress; to the maintenance of which independence, we solemnly pledge to each other, our mutual cooperation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor."

The Mecklenburg County (NC) Declaration, May 20, 1775

America, Great Crises in Our History Told by Its Makers, A Library of Original Sources, Vol. III, Chicago: Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1925, pp. 184-185.

e. "The worke wee have in hand is by a mutuall consent, through a speciall overruling Providence... to seeke out a place of cohabitation and consortshipp under a due forme of government.... For this wee are entered into covenant with God; for this wee must be knitt together as one man, allways having before our eyes our commission as members of the same body. Soe shall wee keepe the unitie of the spirit in the bond of peace."

John Winthrop

A Model of Christian Charity, 1630

3. Individuality

a. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness..."

The Declaration of Independence, 1776

b. "In observing the United States, there is much to convince us, that an Almighty, Overruling Providence, designed from the first, to place here a great, united people."

Emma Willard, Educator

History of the United States or, Republic of America

c. "...the Supreme Being gave existence to man, together with the means of preserving and beautifying that existence. He endowed him with rational faculties, by the help of which to discern and pursue such things as were consistent with his duty and interest; and invested him with an inviolable right to personal liberty and personal safety."

Alexander Hamilton

The Farmer Refuted, February 1775

d. "Revelation assures us that 'Righteousness exalteth a nation' -- Communities are dealt with in this world by the wise and just Ruler of the Universe. He rewards or punishes them according to their general character. The diminution of public virtue is usually attended with that of public happiness, and the public liberty will not long survive the total extinction of morals."

Samuel Adams

Letter to John Scollay, April 30, 1776

4. Property - Conscience

a. "Property.... In the former sense, a man's land, or merchandise, or money, is called his property. In the latter sense, a man has a property in his opinions and the free communication of them. He has a property of peculiar value in his religious opinions, and in the profession and practice dictated by them.... He has an equal property in the free use of his faculties, and free choice of the objects on which to employ them. In a word, as a man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights."

James Madison

The Christian History of the Constitution of the United States, compiled by Verna Hall, p. 248A

b. "Well aware that Almighty God hath created the mind free; that all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burdens, or by civil incapacitations... are a departure from the plan of the Holy Author of our religion..."

Virginia Statute of Religious Liberty, January 16, 1786

c. "That religion, or the duty which we owe our Creator, and the manner of discharg-

ing it, can be directed only by reason and convictions, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other."

Virginia Bill of Rights, Sec. 16, First adopted June 12, 1776

d. "The liberty of the press, trial by jury, the Habeas Corpus writ, even Magna Charta itself, although justly deemed the palladia of freedom, are all inferior considerations, when compared with a general distribution of real property among every class of people. The power of entailing estates is more dangerous to liberty and republican government than all the constitutions that can be written on paper, or even than a standing army. Let the people have property and they will have power -- a power that will forever be exerted to prevent a restriction of the press, and abolition of trial by jury, or the abridgement of any other privilege...."

Noah Webster

Quoted in "Noah Webster, Founding Father of American Scholarship and Education," by Rosalie J. Slater, in Preface of reprint of An American Dictionary of the English Language (1828) by Noah Webster, San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1980, p. 14.

e. "...the production of genius and the imagination are if possible more really and exclusively property than houses and lands, and are equally entitled to legal security."

Noah Webster

Quoted in Slater essay.

f. "Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can.... The supreme power cannot justly take from any man any part of his property, without his consent in person or by his representative."

Samuel Adams, November, 1772

"Rights of the Colonists," in Life of Samuel Adams by W.V. Wells, 1865.

g. "The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God... anarchy and tyranny com-

mence. Property must be secured or liberty cannot exist."

John Adams

Quoted in *Our Ageless Constitution*, David Stedman and LaVaughn Lewis, editors. Asheboro, NC: W. David Stedman Associates, 1987.

h. "Government is instituted to protect property of every sort... This being the end of government, that is NOT a just government,... nor is property secure under it, where the property which a man has... is violated by arbitrary seizures of one class of citizens for the service of the rest."

James Madison

Our Ageless Constitution

i. "The liberty enjoyed by the people of these States, of worshipping Almighty God agreeably to their consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights."

George Washington

Letter to the Quakers at their annual meeting, October, 1789. *Old South Leaflets*.

5. Christian Education

a. "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

Thomas Jefferson

b. "A nation of well informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins."

Benjamin Franklin

c. "Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people."

John Adams

d. "I proceed, in the next place, to enquire what mode of education we shall adopt so as to secure to the state all the advantages that are to be derived from the proper instruction of youth; and here I beg leave to remark that the only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this, there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments."

Benjamin Rush

Thoughts Upon the Mode of Education Proper in a Republic, *Early American Imprints*, 1786.

e. "That... which makes a good constitution, must keep it, viz: men of wisdom and virtue, qualities, that because they descend not with worldly inheritances, must be carefully propagated by a virtuous education of youth."

William Penn

In Preface to *The Frame of Government of Pennsylvania*, 1682. *Sources of Our Liberties*.

f. "Let divines and philosophers, statesmen and patriots, unite their endeavors to renovate the age, by impressing the minds of men with the importance of educating their little boys and girls, of inculcating in the minds of youth the fear and love of the Deity and universal philanthropy, and, in subordination to these great principles, the love of their country; of instructing them in the art of self-government, without which they never can act a wise part in the government of societies, great or small; in short, of leading them in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system."

Samuel Adams, Boston, October 4, 1790

The Life and Public Services of Samuel Adams, by William V. Wells, Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1865, Vol. III, p. 301.

g. "Republican government loses half of its value, where the moral and social duties are imperfectly understood, or negligently practiced. To exterminate our popular vices is a work of far more importance to the character and happiness of our citizens, than any other improvements in our system of education."

Noah Webster

History of the United States, New Haven: Durrie & Peck, 1833, p. vi.

h. "Practical truths in religion, in morals, and in all civil and social concerns, ought to be among the first and most prominent objects of instruction. Without a competent knowledge of legal and social rights and duties, persons are often liable to suffer in property or reputation, by neglect or mistakes. Without religious and moral principles deeply impressed on the mind, and controlling the whole conduct, science and literature will not make men what the laws of God require them to be; and without both kinds of knowledge,

citizens can not enjoy the blessings which they seek, and which a strict conformity to rules of duty will enable them to obtain."

Noah Webster

A Manual of Useful Studies, New Haven: S. Babcock, 1839, p. vi.

i. "In contemplating the political institutions of the United States, I lament that we waste so much time and money in punishing crimes and take so little pains to prevent them. We profess to be republicans, and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government, that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of christianity by the means of the bible. For this Divine book, above all others, favors that equality among mankind, that respect for just laws, and those sober and frugal virtues, which constitute the soul of republicanism."

Benjamin Rush

Essays. *Literary, Moral and Philosophical*, Philadelphia: printed by Thomas and William Bradford, 1806, p. 113.

j. "Religion is the only solid basis of good morals; therefore, education should teach the precepts of religion, and the duties of man towards God."

Gouverneur Morris

The Life of Gouverneur Morris by Jared Sparks, Boston: Gray and Bowen, 1832, Vol. III, p. 483.

k. "The government of the United States is acknowledged by the wise and good of other nations, to be the most free, impartial, and righteous government of the world; but all agree, that for such a government to be sustained many years, the principles of truth and righteousness, taught in the Holy Scriptures, must be practiced. The rulers must govern in the fear of God, and the people obey the laws."

Emma Willard, 1843, Educator

Quoted in *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History* by Rosalie J. Slater, San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1980, p. 83.

l. "Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life, (John 17:3), and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge of Learning."

One of the Original Rules and Precepts of Harvard College

From *New England's First Fruits*, 1643, in *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History* by Rosalie Slater, San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1980, p. vii.

m. "The establishment of our institutions forms the most important epoch that history hath recorded.... To preserve and hand them down in their utmost purity to the remotest ages will require the existence and practice of the virtues and talents equal to those which were displayed in acquiring them."

James Monroe

B.F. Morris, *Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States*. Philadelphia: George W. Childs, 1864.

6. Morality, Virtue, Christian character

a. "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

Benjamin Franklin

The Writings of Benjamin Franklin, 10 vols., Albert Henry Smyth, ed., New York: Macmillan Co., 1905-7, 9:569.

b. "Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt."

Samuel Adams

The Life of Public Service of Samuel Adams, 3 vols., William V. Wells, Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1865, 1:22.

c. "...we have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

John Adams, President

"A letter To the Officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts, October 11, 1798." Reprinted in *The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States: with a Life of the Author, Notes, and Illustrations*, by his grandson, Charles Francis Adams, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1854, 9:228-229

d. "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.

In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness.... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

George Washington, "Farewell Address, September 17, 1796,"

A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, by James D. Richardson, Washington: Bureau of National Literature and Art, 1910, 1:205-216.

e. "[T]he most precious interests of the people of the United States are still held in jeopardy by... the dissemination among them of those principles, subversive of the foundations of all religious, moral, and social obligations, that have produced incalculable mischief and misery in other countries..."

John Adams, President

A Proclamation for a Day of Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer, March 6, 1799. Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1:274-276.

f. "...[M]orality and piety, rightly grounded on evangelical principles, will give the best and greatest security to government, and will lay in the hearts of men the strongest obligations to due subjection;... the knowledge of these, is most likely to be propagated through a society by the institution of the public worship of the DEITY, and of public instruction in morality and religion..."

Constitution of New Hampshire, June 2, 1784

Reprinted in *Sources of Our Liberties*, edited by Richard L. Perry, Chicago: American Bar Foundation, 1978, p. 382.

g. "A general Dissolution of Principles and Manners will more surely overthrow the Liberties of America than the whole Force of the Common Enemy. While the People are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their Liberties to the first external or internal invader.... If Virtue and Knowledge are diffused among the People, they will never be enslaved. This will be their great Security."

Samuel Adams

Rosalie Slater, *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History*, p. 251

h. "Whether this [America's independence] will prove a blessing or a curse will depend upon the use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed on us. If they are wise they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary character, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation. Reader, whosoever thou art, remember this; and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself, and encourage it in others."

Patrick Henry

Orators of the American Revolution, E.L. Magoon. New York: C. Scribner, 1857. Reprinted by Sightext Publications, El Segundo, CA, 1969, p. 253.

i. "I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection... that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation."

George Washington, June 8, 1783

Circular Letter Addressed to the Governors of all the States on Disbanding the Army, 1783. *Old South Leaflets*, No. 15

j. "Our Government depends for its being on the virtue of the people, -- on that virtue that has its foundation in the morality of the Christian religion; and that religion is the common and prevailing faith of the people."

Legislature of New York, 1838

B.F. Morris, *Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States*. Philadelphia: George W. Childs, 1864, p. 239.

k. "Great learning and superior abilities, should you ever possess them, will be of little value and small estimation, unless virtue, honor, truth and integrity are added to them."

Abigail Adams

To her son, John Quincy. Quoted in Rosalie J. Slater's essay, "The Education of James Madison," in *The Christian History of the American Revolution: Consider and Ponder*, compiled by Verna M. Hall. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1967, p. 607.

l. "My own deliberate opinion is, that the more of pure moral principles is carried into the policy and conduct of a Govern-

ment, the wiser and more profound that policy will be.”

John Quincy Adams

The Adams Family by James Truslow Adams, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1930, p. 182.

m. “...the happiness of a people, and the good order and preservation of civil government, essentially depend upon piety, religion, and morality...”

The Constitution of Massachusetts, 1780

The Constitutions of the Several Independent States of America. Published by order of Congress, U.S. Continental Congress, 1781, Philadelphia: Bailey, 1781. In Evans Collection, #17390.

n. “The virtue which is necessary to preserve a just administration and render a government stable, is Christian virtue, which consists in the uniform practice of moral and religious duties, in conformity with the laws both of God and man. This virtue must be based on a reverence for the authority of God, which shall counteract and control ambition and selfish views, and subject them to the precepts of divine authority. The effect of such a virtue would be, to bring the citizens of a state to vote and act for the good of the state, whether that should coincide with their private interest or not.”

Noah Webster

A Collection of Papers on Political, Literary and Moral Subjects, New York: Burt Franklin, 1843 (reprinted 1968), p. 270.

o. “...And, whilst I see the dangers that threaten ours from her [France’s] intrigues and her arms, I am not so much alarmed as at the apprehension of her destroying the great pillars of all government and of social life, -- I mean virtue, morality, and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone, that renders us invincible. These are the tactics we should study. If we lose these, we are conquered, fallen indeed...” (p. 365)

Patrick Henry, Letter to Archibald Blair, January 8, 1799

Patrick Henry by Moses Coit Tyler, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Co., 1893, p. 365.

p. “He therefore is the truest friend to the liberty of his country who tries most to promote its virtue, and who, so far as his power and influence extend, will not suffer a man to be chosen into any office of power and trust who is not a wise and

virtuous man.... The sum of all is, if we would most truly enjoy this gift of Heaven, let us become a virtuous people.”

Samuel Adams, 1750

Life of Samuel Adams, W.V. Wells, 1865.

q. “The Form of Government, which you admire, when its Principles are pure is admirable, indeed, it is productive of every Thing, which is great and excellent among Men. But its Principles are as easily destroyed, as human Nature is corrupted.... Private and public Virtue is the only Foundation of Republics.”

John Adams

The Christian History of the American Revolution, Consider and Ponder, Verna Hall, compiler, p. 615.

r. “...the moment of affliction is known to Him alone, whose divine providence exalts or depresses states and kingdoms. Not by the blind dictates of arbitrary will. Not by a tyrannous and despotic mandate. But in proportion to their obedience or disobedience of his just and holy laws. It is he who commands us that we abstain from wrong. It is he who tells you, ‘do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you.’”

Gouverneur Morris

“An Address on the Bank of North America.” Pennsylvania State Assembly, 1785; reprinted in Sparks, Life of Morris, III:465.

7. Faith

a. “The christian religion, in its purity, is the basis or rather the source of all genuine freedom in government.... I am persuaded that no civil government of a republican form can exist & be durable, in which the principles of that religion have not a controlling influence.”

Noah Webster to James Madison, 16 October 1829

Madison Papers, Series 2, Library of Congress.

b. “The brief exposition of the constitution of the United States, will unfold to young persons the principles of republican government; and it is the sincere desire of the writer that our citizens should early understand that the genuine source of correct republican principles is the Bible, particularly the New Testament or the Christian religion.”

Noah Webster

History of the United States, New Haven: Durrie & Peck, 1833, p. v.

c. “May the foundation of our infant State be laid in virtue and the fear of God, and the superstructure will rise glorious, and endure for ages.”

William Livingston

Inaugural address as Governor of New Jersey, September 1776

d. “Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

Northwest Ordinance, 1787 (1789)

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

Thomas Jefferson

The Writings of Thomas Jefferson, collected and edited by Paul Leicester Ford (New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, the Knickerbocker Press, 1894), 3:267.

f. “It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage, and such only, as he believes to be acceptable to Him. This duty is precedent both in order of time, and degree of obligation, to the claims of civil society. Before any man can be considered as a member of civil society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe... We maintain, therefore, that in matters of religion, no man’s right is abridged by the institution of civil society; and that religion is wholly exempt from its cognizance...”

James Madison

A Memorial and Remonstrance, 1785.

g. “I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that ‘except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it.’ I firmly believe this; and I also believe

that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel.”

Benjamin Franklin, Thursday, June 28, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention

Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787, reported by James Madison. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1987, pp. 209-210.

h. “That He would in mercy look down upon us, pardon all our sins, and receive us into His favour; and finally, that He would establish the independence of these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue, and support and protect them in the enjoyment of peace, liberty and safety.”

Thomas Jefferson, Governor of Virginia

Proclamation Appointing a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, November 11, 1779.

i. “The Bible is the cornerstone of liberty. A student’s perusal of the sacred volume will make him a better citizen, a better father, a better husband.”

Thomas Jefferson

Cited in A Christian History of the American Republic, by Walker Whitman, 1939.

j. “As the safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgment of this truth is not only an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him, but a duty whose natural influence is favorable to the promotion of that morality and piety without which social happiness can not exist nor the blessings of a free government be enjoyed...”

John Adams, President

A Proclamation for a Day of Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer, March 23, 1798. A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents by James D. Richardson, Washington: Bureau of National Literature and Art, 1910, 1:258-260.

k. “As no truth is more clearly taught in the Volume of Inspiration, nor any more fully demonstrated by the experience of all ages, than that a deep sense and due acknowledgment of the governing providence of a Supreme Being and of the accountableness of men to Him as the searcher of hearts and righteous distributor of rewards and punishments are conducive equally to the happiness and rectitude of individuals and to the well-

being of communities...”

John Adams, President

A Proclamation for a Day of Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer, March 6, 1799. Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1:274-276.

l. “The Bible is the rock on which our Republic rests.”

President Andrew Jackson, June 8, 1845.

m. “Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Saviour? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer’s mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity and gave to the world the first irrevocable pledge of the fulfillment of the prophecies announced directly from Heaven at the birth of the Saviour and predicted by the greatest of the Hebrew prophets 600 years before?”

John Quincy Adams, July 4, 1837

“An Oration Delivered Before the Inhabitants of the Town of Newburyport at their Request on the Sixty-First Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1837,” Newburyport: Charles Whipple, 1837, p. 5-6.

n. “...a most flourishing civil state may stand, and best be maintained,... with a full liberty in religious concerns, and that true piety, rightly grounded upon gospel principles, will give the best and greatest security to sovereignty, and will lay in the hearts of men the strongest obligations to true loyalty...”

Charter of Rhode Island

Granted by King Charles II in the 14th year of his reign. The Constitutions of the Several Independent States of America. Evans Collection, #17390.

o. “Almost all the civil liberty now enjoyed in the world owes its origin to the principles of the Christian religion... The religion which has introduced civil liberty, is the religion of Christ and his apostles, which enjoins humility, piety, and benevolence; which acknowledges in every person a brother, or a sister, and a citizen with equal rights. This is genuine Christianity, and to this we owe our free constitutions of government.”

Noah Webster

History of the United States, 1833, pp. 273-274.

p. “The Bible must be considered as the great source of all the truths by which men are to be guided in government, as well as in all social transactions.... the Bible [is] the instrument of all reformation in morals and religion.”

Noah Webster

Value of the Bible and Excellence of the Christian Religion, 1834. Republished by the Foundation for American Christian Education, San Francisco, 1988, p. 78.

q. “In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide.... It is alleged by men of loose principles, or defective views of the subject, that religion and morality are not necessary or important qualifications for political stations. But the Scriptures teach a different doctrine. They direct that rulers should be men ‘who rule in the fear of God, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness.’ ”

Noah Webster

Letters to a Young Gentleman Commencing His Education, New Haven: Howe & Spalding, 1823, pp. 18-19.

r. “When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for yourselves rulers, ‘just men who rule in the fear of God.’ The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty, and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good, so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded. If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws.”

Noah Webster

History of the United States, pp. 307-308.

s. “...moral evils constitute or produce most of the miseries of mankind and these may be prevented or avoided. Be it remembered then that disobedience to God’s law, or sin is the procuring cause of

almost all the sufferings of mankind. God has so formed the moral system of this world, that a conformity to his will by men produces peace, prosperity and happiness; and disobedience to his will or laws inevitably produces misery. If men are wretched, it is because they reject the government of God, and seek temporary good in that which certainly produces evil."

Noah Webster

Value of the Bible and Excellence of the Christian Religion, 1834, p. 78.

t. "Men may devise and adopt new forms of government; they may amend old forms, repair breaches, and punish violators of the constitution; but there is, there can be, no effectual remedy, but obedience to the divine law."

Noah Webster

Value of the Bible and Excellence of the Christian Religion, 1834, p. 78.

u. "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise. In this sense and to this extent, our civilizations and our institutions are emphatically Christian."

United States Supreme Court

Church of the Holy Trinity v. U.S.; 143 U.S. 457 (1892).

v. "[H]e is the best friend to American liberty, who is most sincere and active in promoting true and undefiled religion, and who sets himself with the greatest firmness to bear down on profanity and immorality of every kind. Whoever is an avowed enemy of God, I scruple not to call him an enemy to his country."

John Witherspoon

The Works of the Rev. John Witherspoon, Philadelphia: William W. Woodard, 1802, Vol. III, p. 46.

w. "Christianity is the only true and perfect religion, and that in proportion as mankind adopt its principles and obeys its precepts, they will be wise and happy."

Benjamin Rush

Essays, Literary, Moral and Philosophical, Philadelphia: printed by Thomas and William Bradford, 1806, p. 93.

x. "To the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom, and

political and social happiness which mankind now enjoys. In proportion as the genuine effects of Christianity are diminished in any nation, either through unbelief or the corruption of its doctrine, or the neglect of its institutions; in the same proportion will the people of that nation recede from the blessings of genuine freedom, and approximate the miseries of complete despotism. I hold this to be a truth confirmed by experience. If so, it follows, that all efforts made to destroy the foundations of our holy religion, ultimately tend to the subversion also of our political freedom and happiness. Whenever the pillars of Christianity shall be overthrown, our present republican forms of government, and all the blessings which flow from them, must fall with them."

Jedidiah Morse, "Father of American Geography"

Election Sermon given at Charleston, MA. on April 25, 1799.

y. "...the great vital and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and divine truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

U.S. House of Representatives, 1854

Cited in B.F. Morris, Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States, Philadelphia: George W. Childs, 1864, p. 328.

z. "...it is in the man of piety and inward principle that we may expect to find the uncorrupted patriot, the useful citizen, and the invincible soldier, -- God grant that in America true religion and civil liberty may be inseparable, and the unjust attempts to destroy the one may in the issue tend to the support and establishment of both."

John Witherspoon, May 17, 1776

"The Dominion of Providence Over the Affairs of Men," sermon in observance of a Day of Fasting and Prayer called for by Congress, in Teaching and Learning America's Christian History, p. 249.

aa. "...the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty... form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected."

North-West Ordinance, 1787 (1789)

bb. "Among the most inestimable of our blessings is that... of liberty to worship our Creator in the way we think most agree-

able in His will; a liberty deemed in other countries incompatible with good government and yet proved by our experience to be its best support."

Thomas Jefferson

cc. "If we and our posterity shall be true to the Christian religion, if we and they shall live always in the fear of God and shall respect His Commandments,... we may have the highest hopes of the future fortunes of our country;... But if we and our posterity neglect religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

Daniel Webster

B.F. Morris, Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States of America, p. 270.

dd. "... our system of dominion and civil polity would be imperfect without the true religion; or that from the diffusion of virtue among the people of any community would arise their greatest secular happiness: which will terminate in this conclusion, that holiness ought to be the end of all civil government. 'That thou mayest be a holy people unto the Lord thy God.'..."

Ezra Stiles, President of Yale College

"The United States elevated to Glory and Honor," an election sermon preached before the Governor and General Assembly of Connecticut, May 8, 1783. The Pulpit of the American Revolution, J. Wingate Thornton, Gould & Lincoln, 1860.

ee. "A patriot without religion in my estimation is as great a paradox as an honest Man without the fear of God. Is it possible that he whom no moral obligations bind can have any real Good Will towards Man, can he be a patriot who by an openly vicious conduct is undermining the very bonds of Society, corrupting the Morals of Youth and by his bad example injuring the very Country he professes to patronize more than he can possibly compensate by intrepidity, Generosity and honour? The Scriptures tell us righteousness exalteth a Nation."

Abigail Adams, Letter to Mercy Warren, November, 1775

Warren-Adams Letters, Vol. I, 1743-1777, Massachusetts Historical Society Collections - 72

ff. *"The only assurance of our nation's safety is to lay our foundation in morality and religion."*

Abraham Lincoln

America's Providential History, p. 179

gg. *"...let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers brought hither their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate... and diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political and literary."*

Daniel Webster, December 22, 1820

Oration Delivered at Plymouth, MA

hh. *"The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our prevalent notions of the character of God, the great moral governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions."*

William H. McGuffey, 1836

Forward to McGuffey's Reader.

ii. *"And let us remember that it is only religion, and morals, and knowledge, that can make men respectable and happy, under any form of government."*

Daniel Webster

Address on the Completion of Bunker Hill Monument, 1843.

jj. *"While just government protects all in their religious rights, true religion affords to government its surest support."*

George Washington

Letter to the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, October 1789. Old South Leaflets.

kk. *"Let a general reformation of manners take place - let universal charity, public spirit, and private virtue be inculcated, encouraged, and practiced. Unite in preparing for a vigorous defence of your country, as if all depended on your own exertions. And when you have done all things, then rely upon the good Providence of Almighty God for success, in full confidence that without his blessings, all our efforts will inevitably fail."*

John Jay

The Life of John Jay, with Selections from His Correspondence by William Jay, New York: Harper, 1833, l:55.

ll. *"Suppose a nation in some distant Region, should take the Bible for their only law Book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited.... What a Eutopa, what a Paradise would this region be."*

John Adams, February 22, 1756

The Earliest Diary of John Adams, ed. L.H. Butterfield. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1966, l:9.

mm. *"You do well to wish to learn our arts and way of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are."*

George Washington

Speech to Delaware Chiefs, May 12, 1779

nn. *"...the belief in a God All Powerful*

wise and good, is so essential to the moral order of the World and to the happiness of man."

James Madison

Letter to Frederick Beasley, November 20, 1825

oo. *"Religion and Morality are the essential pillars of Civil society."*

George Washington

Letter to the Clergy of Different Denominations Residing in and near the City of Philadelphia, March 3, 1797

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