

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

Were our Founding Fathers Christians with a fervent love for the *Gospel of Jesus Christ*?
Or were they primarily Deists—who acknowledged only the existence of a distant, impersonal god?



The United States
Supreme Court
says so:

“These and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.”

— *Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States*,
February 29, 1892, 143
US 457-458, 465-471, 36L
ed 226

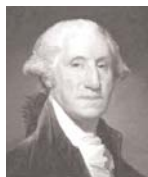
[This U.S. Supreme Court opinion also includes a lengthy and detailed record of the historic evidences of America's Christian Heritage.]

“... where the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is liberty.”

— 2 Corinthians 3:17b (NKJV)

George Washington (1732-1799)

— First President of the United States and chairman of the Constitutional Convention —



“O most Glorious God, in Jesus Christ my merciful and loving Father, I acknowledge and confess my guilt, in the weak and imperfect performance of the duties of this day.”

— from *Daily Sacrifice*, Washington's personal prayer book, written in his own handwriting, declaring continual faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

“Without making ostentatious professions of religion, he was a sincere believer in the Christian faith, and a truly devout man.”

— John Marshall, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1801-1835) who served with George Washington at Valley Forge, describing Washington in his *Life of George Washington* (1804-7), a biography written at the request of Washington's family.

John Adams (1735-1826)

— Second President of the United States and signer of the Declaration of Independence —

On March 6, 1799, President Adams proclaimed a national day of prayer and fasting so that America might “*call to mind our numerous offenses against the most high God, confess them before Him with the sincerest penitence, imploring his pardoning mercy, through the Great Mediator and Redeemer, for our past transgression, and that through the grace of His Holy Spirit, we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience.*”

— *National Proclamation for a Day of Fasting and Prayer*.

James Madison (1751-1836)

— Fourth President of the United States and member of the first U.S. Congress —

“Christ's Divinity appears by St. John, chapter xx, 2: ‘And Thomas answered and said unto Him, my Lord and my God!’ Resurrection testified to and witnessed by the Apostles, Acts iv, 33: ‘And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.’”

— written in the margin of Madison's Bible.





Resources:

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Federer, William J. *America's God and Country: Encyclopedia of Quotations*. Coppell, Texas: FAME Publishing, Inc., 1994.

Grant, George. *The Patriot's Handbook: A Citizenship Primer for a New Generation of Americans*. Elkton, Maryland: Highland Books, 1996.

Staver, Mathew D. *Faith and Freedom: A Complete Handbook for Defending Your Religious Rights*. Orlando: Liberty Counsel, 1998.

*"What our fathers with
so much difficulty
attained, do not basely
relinquish."*

— Incribed, in Latin, on
Governor William Bradford's gravestone,
Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1657.

John Jay (1745-1829)

— *First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1789-1795), President of the Continental Congress* —
"Unto Him who is the author and giver of all good, I render sincere and humble thanks for His manifold and unmerited blessings, and especially for our redemption and salvation by His beloved Son."
— *Last Will and Testament*, 1829.

Patrick Henry (1736-1799)

— *Patriot famed for his words "Give me Liberty or give me death."* —
"My heart is full. Perhaps I may never see you in this world. O may we meet in heaven, to which the merits of Jesus will carry those who love and serve Him."
— Letter to his sister, Ann Christian, upon the death of her husband, 1786.

George Mason (1725-1792)

— *Well-known for his insistence that Congress add the Bill of Rights to the Constitution* —
"My soul, I resign into the hands of my Almighty Creator, whose tender mercies are all over His works, who hateth nothing that He hath made and to the Justice and Wisdom of whose dispensation I willingly and cheerfully submit, humbly hoping from His unbounded mercy and benevolence, through the merits of my blessed Savior, a remission of my sins."
— *Last Will and Testament*, 1792.

What Did Congress Have to Say?

September 11, 1777

— The Continental Congress recommended and approved that the Committee of Commerce "*import 20,000 Bibles from Holland, Scotland, or elsewhere*," because of the great shortage of Bibles created by the Revolutionary War's interruption of trade with England.

September 25, 1789



— After months of discussion and debate, the Congress of the United States approved the language of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, the "Bill of Rights," including the First Amendment: "*Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*"

Also September 25, 1789 (after passing the First Amendment)

— Congress unanimously voted to ask President Washington to declare a national "*day of public thanksgiving and prayer.*"

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