

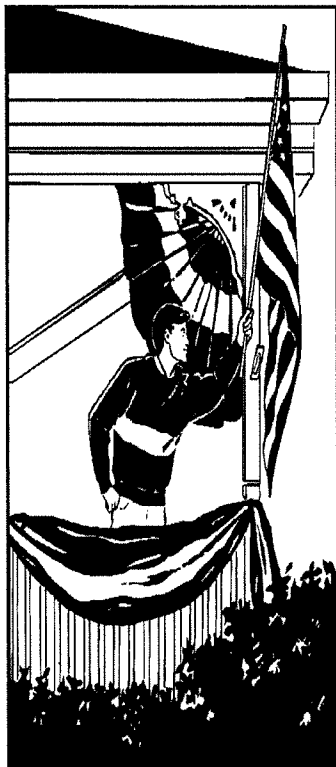
Berean Baptist Church

Berean Banner

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Pastor's Perspective: "Our God Given Heritage"

"Blessed with victory and peace, may this Heav'n-rescued land praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just and this be our motto: 'In God is our trust!' And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave." Concluding words—National Anthem.

great nation. Unlike the Greeks or Romans, America was founded with two unique ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence. First, this Declaration professes a faith in the "Creator" who governs the affairs of men and second, the idea that certain rights and laws are given by God and are "inalienable" or absolute, granted not by government, but by God.

1776. In 1787 when our Constitution was written and the Bill of Rights adopted, religious principles were incorporated into this document.

James Madison, considered the father of the Constitution wrote, "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future...to govern ourselves, to control ourselves to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." The Rebirth of America p. 129.

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As we just celebrated our nation's 244th birthday, it would do us to reconsider our religious heritage that made us a

The concept of a secular state was basically non-existent at the beginning of our nation in

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There has been concern about what Christians are allowed to do in worship services. In one respect, no one wants to defy authorities. Fidelity to God demands that we obey

God rather than man in regards to freedom of worship.

After several plagues, Moses went in to speak with Pharaoh. Several compromises were

offered by Pharaoh and rejected by Moses.

Consider these compromises: 1. Where they may serve, Exodus 8:25, "sacrifice to

Continued on page 2.

From The Pastor's Desk...

“Our God Given Heritage” ...continued from page one.

The misuse of the statement, “separation of church and state,” a phrase found nowhere in our Constitution was written by our third President, Thomas Jefferson, to a group of Baptist preachers in Danbury, Connecticut. They expressed concerns that the state of Connecticut was in the process of making the Congregational Church the state church.

What a difference from what our forefathers believed. Rather than limit religion, they sought to allow us the freedom to worship according to the dictate of our individual conscience. This is why in the midst of the American Revolution, Patrick Allison, Chaplain of Congress, requested that 20,000 copies of the Bible be imported from across the ocean from Holland, Scotland and anywhere they could be obtained, to be sent to the different states. Sensing the need, Robert Aitken, publisher of the Pennsylvania Magazine, petitioned Congress in 1781 to print

the Bibles needed. This request was approved by Congress. Congress saw no conflict because printing Bibles did not promote any particular denomination. Our country never was intended to be hostile to Christianity.

From the establishment of the colonies to our first schools and universities, Christianity continued to be the key part of the formation of our nation. Dated April 10, 1606, The Virginia charter begins, “We, greatly commending, and graciously accepting of, their Desires for the Furtherance of so noble a Work which may, by the Providence of Almighty God, hereafter tend to the propagating of Christian Religion to such People as yet live in Darkness...”

Perhaps this is why, when these Jamestown settlers and founders arrived in Cape Henry in April 1607 they erected a large wooden cross and held a prayer meeting.

The Pilgrims, who landed in Massachusetts in 1620 were given the New England Charter, signed by King James I who gave this as their goal, “...to advance the enlargement of Christian religion to the glory of God Almighty...”

The Rhode Island Charter of 1683 begins with these words, “We submit our person, lives, and estate unto our Lord Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and to all those perfect and most absolute laws of His given us in His Holy Word.

Consider also the schools founded in our country:

Harvard, 1638, was founded for the purpose of preparing people to serve God. In 1646, Harvard adopted “Rules and Precepts” which included the following goals:

“Every one shall consider the man’s end of his life and studies to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life.”

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The Pastor’s Desk Continued...

your God in the land”; 2.) Where they can go, Exodus 8:28, “ye shall not go very far away”; 3.) Who may worship, Exodus 10:11 “ye that are men and serve the Lord”; 4.) What you may bring to worship, Exodus

10:24 “only let your flocks and your herds be stayed”.

When a decree was issued by Nebuchadnezzar to worship his golden statue, three Hebrews refused and were cast into a fiery furnace. In spite of no promise of protection,

God delivered them. In Daniel 6, Darius signed a decree that no one could ask a petition of any man or god except him for thirty days. Daniel, knowing what the law was, and the punishment of being cast

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Poetry Corner

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Yale, 1701, was formed by Christians in the Connecticut area who thought that Harvard had drifted spiritually and too far away. It, too, stressed the Bible and living for God.

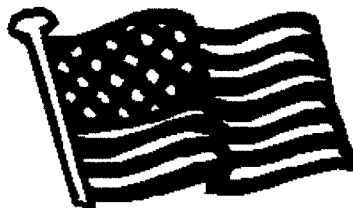
Princeton, 1746, was the result of the First Great Awakening, a spiritual revival which swept our nation. Many of its presidents and faculty were dedicated Christians into the early 1900's.

Dartmouth, 1754, charter was signed by King George III of England. It's purpose was to "reach Indian tribes with the Gospel" and "Christianize English youth."

To say as some that America was not founded upon Christian principles is to be willfully ignorant of American history.

Yet, America has drifted from its solid footing into the chaos of humanism and atheism. As we remember the fourth of July and the founding of our nation, there still

is hope. II Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." While this promise was made to the nation of Israel, its truths can be applied to believers today who love the Lord. Remember to pray for this nation, its leaders and ourselves for spiritual renewal of our country. We have a great religious and spiritual heritage. Let's not lose what so many sacrificed to give us.



June Finances

General Fund	\$4,333.39
Designated	\$ 539.00
Total	\$4,873.17

Designated Accounts

Miscellaneous	\$ 685.85
D.C. Trip	\$ 354.44

Memory Verse

Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

'I often say my prayers,
But do I ever pray?
And do the wishes of my heart
Go with the words I say?
I may as well kneel down
And worship gods of stone,
As offer to the living God
A prayer of words along.'

Praise God!

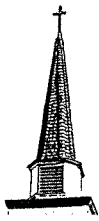
Continued from bottom of pg 3 into the den of lions for disobedience, continued to worship God. "he kneeled upon this knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks

before his God, as he did aforetime," V10.

In Acts 5, Peter was ordered by the Sanhedrin, the ruling Jewish body in Jerusalem, to cease preaching in Jesus' name, Peter responded, "We

ought to obey God rather than man," V29.

We should not try to provoke our leaders, but pray for them. However, in matters of faith and practice, God rather than man must be obeyed.



Berean Baptist Church

Pastor Art Zacher
1147 Broadway Street
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 428-4620

*Searching the Scriptures for
Life's Answers - Acts 17:11*

Address Label Here

We're on the Web!
www.BereanBaptistFairfieldca.com

Welcome To Our Church

Sunday Worship Services

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
Children's Church.....11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Services

Bible Study & Prayer.....7:00 p.m.
King's Kids.....7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Daytime Visitation Program10:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

The state has once again stopped indoor church services. So at this time we will be having a Sunday morning service at 9:00 a.m. to try and beat the heat. Take this opportunity to be in God's house. Don't let Satan have the victory and keep you out of church. We are doing our best to abide by what the state wants from us, but we need to be faithful to God's house when it is available to us.