

Independence Day Special

July 2, 2017

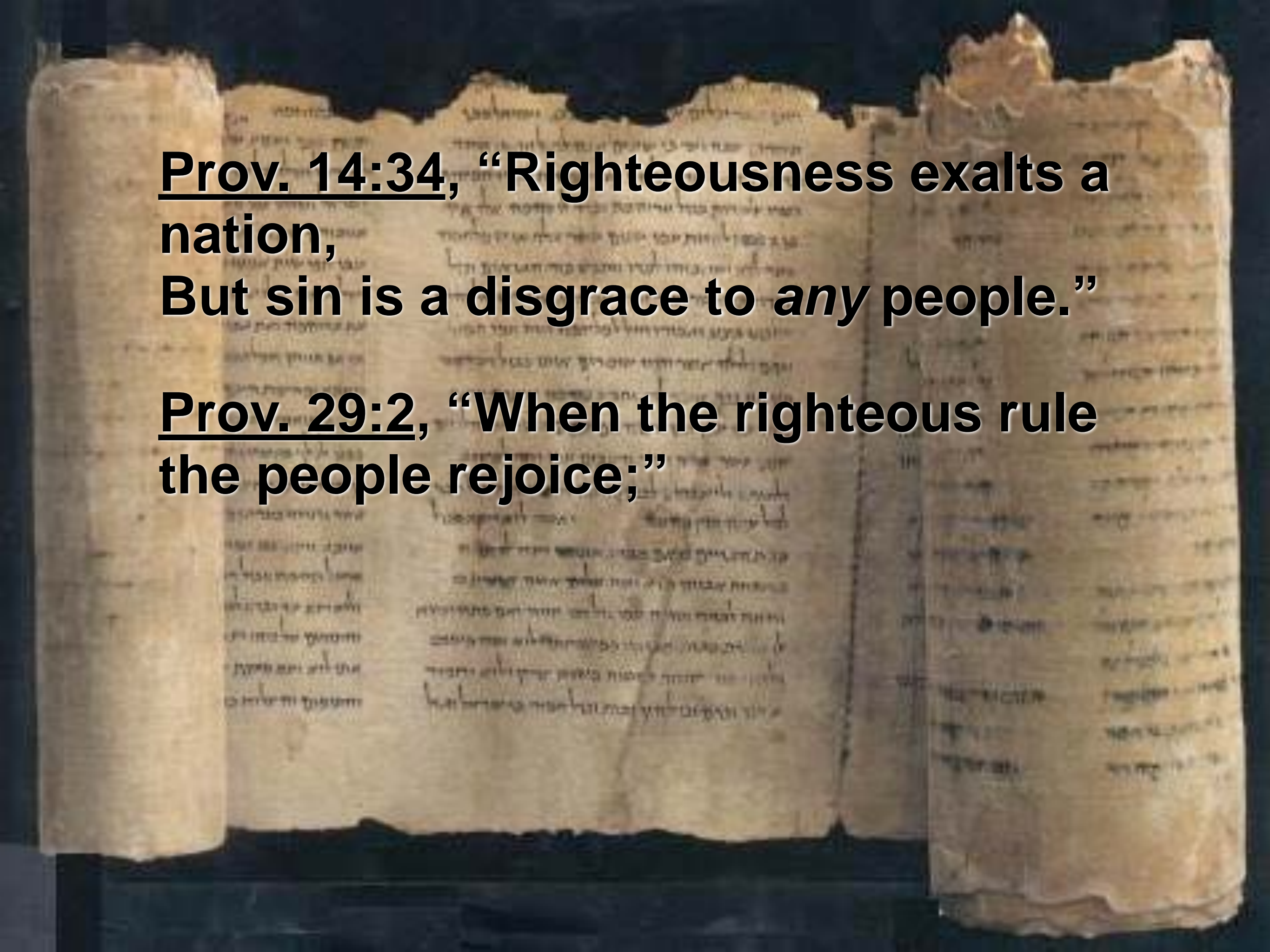
Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

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**The Declaration, The Creator,
and the Citizenship Responsibilities
of the Believer**



**Prov. 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a disgrace to *any* people.”**

**Prov. 29:2, “When the righteous rule
the people rejoice;”**

“Scriptures do hold forth a perfect rule for the direction and government of all men in all duties which they are to perform to God and men as well as in the government of families and commonwealth as in matters of the Church ... the Word of God shall be the only rule to be attended unto in organizing the affairs of government in this plantation.”

~John Davenport, First Assembly of New Haven, 1639

“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, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

~Declaration of Independence

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Foundational Beliefs of the Founding Fathers

- 1. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the Creator God of all mankind.**
- 2. All human beings have been corrupted by sin.**
- 3. There should be a liberty of religious belief; there should be no established state-supported church.**
- 4. Virtue is foundational to political integrity, and without it, the system will crumble.**
- 5. God controls the affairs of men and history.**

The Laws of Nature and of Nature's God

Claim: this phrase was used by Jefferson and the other founders and is an expression derived from Deism (through Locke) and is grounded on Enlightenment rationalism intentionally rejecting a Judeo-Christian theism.

True or False?

Reality

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the Creator God of all mankind who instilled in them a moral law known to all through general revelation. This moral law was described as the “law of nature” for over 500 years of Christian theological and legal history.

1764: James Otis protests the Stamp and Sugar Acts, British rights were founded “in the law of God and nature.”

Early 1600s William Ames, *The Marrow of Theology*, law of nature synonymous with the law of God written on the hearts of all men.

THE BIBLE

King Alfred the Great
“Book of Dooms (Laws)”
9th century AD

Rabbi Moses ben Maimon
“Maimonides”
Jewish commercial law
12th century AD

Church Canon Law
Lanfranc, Thomas a Becket,
John of Salisbury

Magna Carta
1215
English King is under the law;
King empowered by Barons

1689 English Bill of Rights

John Locke;
Sir William Blackstone
Judge
Oxford Law Professor
*Commentaries on the
Laws of England,*
1765–1769

**Declaration of
Independence;
US Constitution**

Rom. 2:14, “for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

Rom. 2:15, “who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them”

“Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his creator, for he is an entirely dependent being ... And consequently as man depends absolutely upon his maker for every thing, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his maker’s will. This will of his maker is called the law of nature.”

~Blackstone, *Commentaries*, emph added.

“The law of nature is that which God at the time of creation of the nature of man infused into his heart, for his preservation and direction; and this is *lex aeterna*, the moral law also called *the law of nature*.”

~Sir Edward Coke

“The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the holy Scriptures ... As then the moral precepts of this law are indeed of the same original with those of the *law of nature*.”

~Blackstone, *Commentaries*, emph added.

Psa. 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psa. 19:2, “Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

Psa. 19:3, “There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

Psa. 19:4, “Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,”

Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”

Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

The Influence of the Bible on the Founding Fathers

- 1. 1983: Dr. Donald Lutz, University of Houston. Ten-year project analyzed over 15,000 political documents from 1760–1805; 3,154 citations evaluated.**
- 2. The most often-quoted source for political ideas was the Bible, mostly the Old Testament, over 1/3rd of all direct quotes.**
- 3. The next most-quoted source is quoted 1/4th as frequently, John Locke.**
- 4. Another 60% of all references came from authors whose original source goes back to the Bible.**

“The holy Scripture is to me, and always will be, the constant guide of my belief, and I shall always hearken to it, as containing infallible truth relating to the things of the highest concernment.”

~John Locke

“Not that any to whom the gospel hath been preached shall be saved, without believing Jesus to be the Messiah; for all being sinners, and transgressors of the law, and so unjust, are all liable to condemnation unless they believe, and so through grace are justified by God for this faith, which shall be accounted to them for righteousness.”

~Locke, *Reasonableness of the Christian Faith*, 52, sec 227

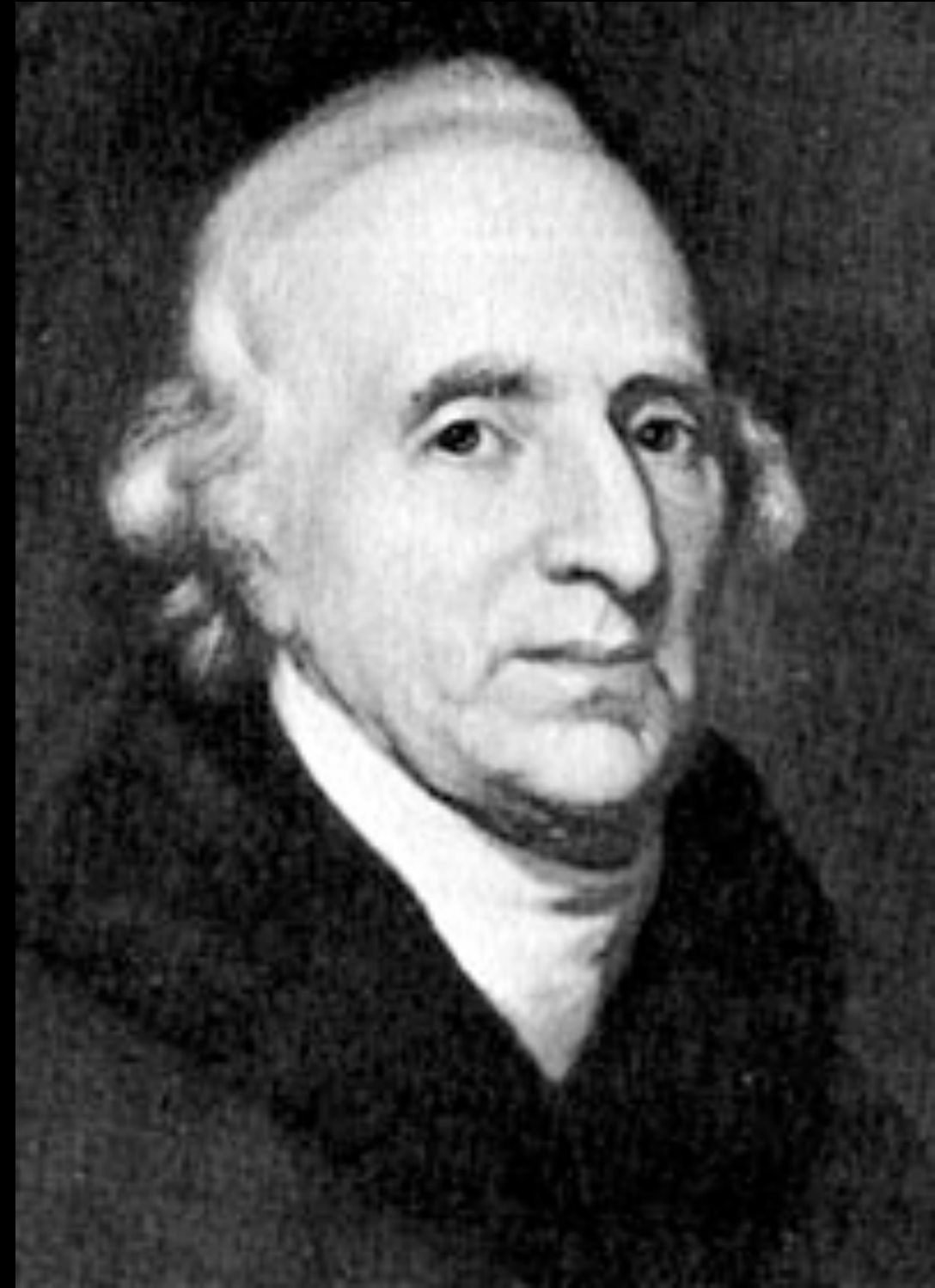
Charles Thomson (1729–1824)



- **Secretary of the Continental Congress.**
- **Translated and printed *Thomson's Bible*, the first Greek LXX-to-English translation, considered one of the very best. After 19 years, it was published in four volumes in 1808.**
- **He also translated the New Testament.**

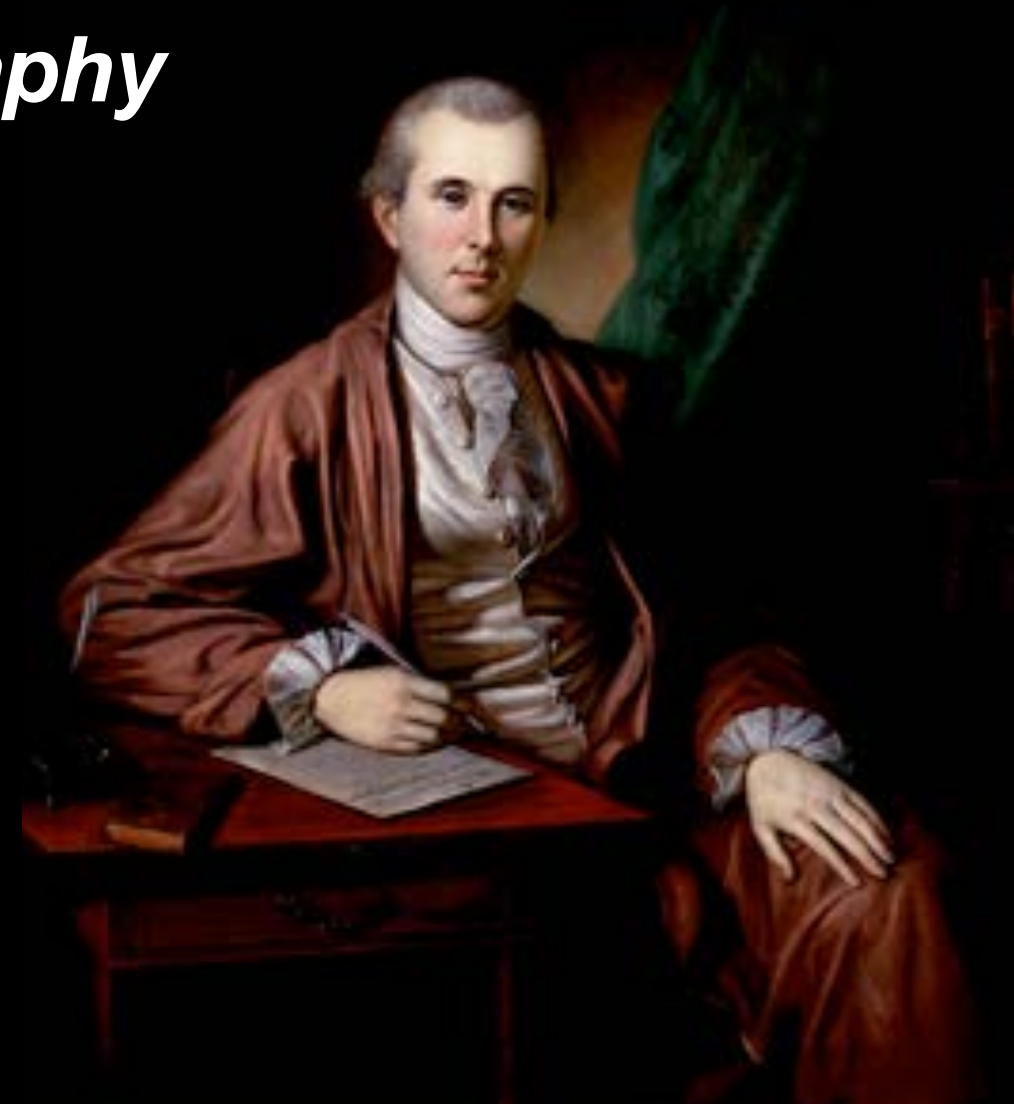
“On the mercy of my Redeemer I rely for salvation and on His merits; not on the works I have done in obedience to His precepts.”

~Letter from Charles Carroll to Charles W. Wharton, Esq.,
September 27, 1825



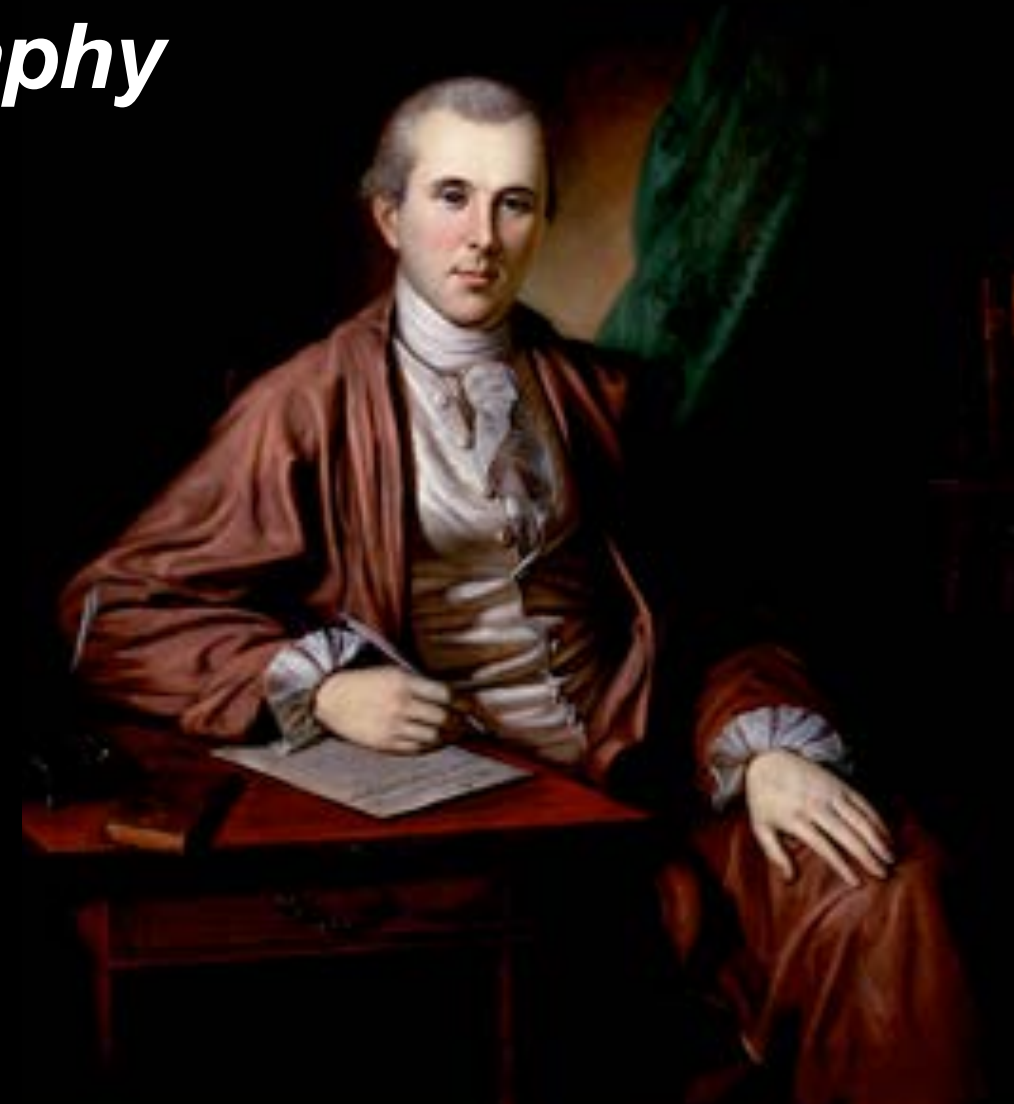
“My only hope of salvation is in the infinite, transcendent love of God manifested to the world by the death of His Son upon the cross. Nothing but His blood will wash away my sins. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!”

~Benjamin Rush, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush*



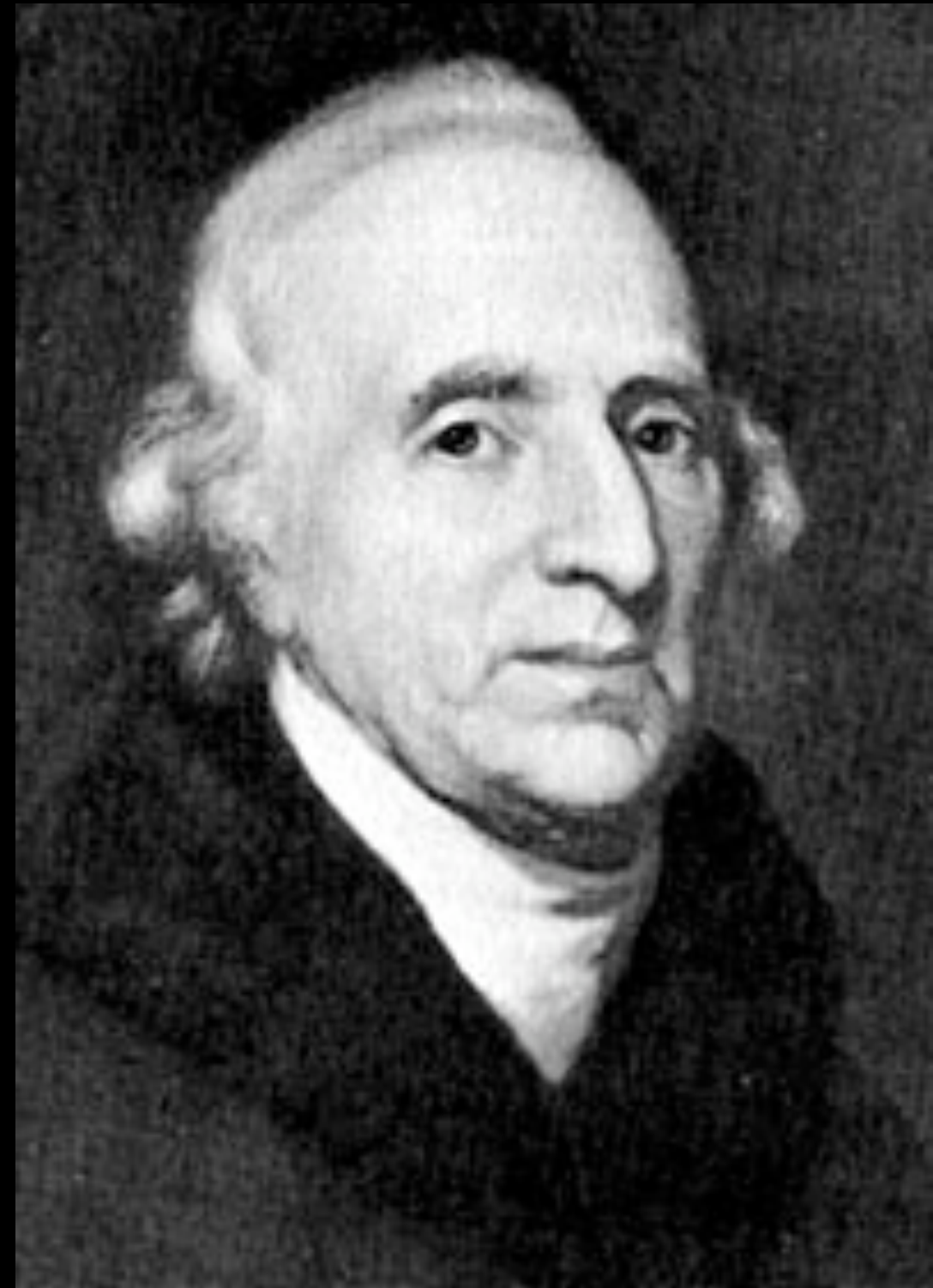
“The only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government is ... the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible.”

~Benjamin Rush, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush*



“Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure ... are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.”

~Charles Carroll, Signer of the Declaration of Independence
[Letter to James McHenry on November 4, 1800.]



“We’ve staked our future on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments with all of our heart. We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We’ve staked the future of all our political institutions upon our capacity ... to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

~James Madison, Fourth President of the USA
[1778 to the General Assembly of the State of Virginia]



“The safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgement of this truth is an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him.”

~John Adams

What Are Our Christian Responsibilities toward Government Leaders?

1. Pray

1 Tim. 2:1, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

1 Tim. 2:2, “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

1 Tim. 2:3, “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

1 Tim. 2:4, “who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

2. Train our children, grandchildren.

Eph. 6:4, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

Deut. 6:6, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deut. 6:7, “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,”

3. Respect and obey governing authorities and teach that respect to your children. Respect the office even when the person in the office is unworthy of respect.

4. Exercise our legal responsibilities and obligations as citizens.

Acts 16:37, “But Paul said to them, ‘They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.’ ”

Acts 22:25, “And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, ‘Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?’

Acts 22:26, “When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, ‘Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman.’ ”

5. Do all things to the glory of God

1 Cor. 10:31, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

6. Evangelize the unsaved, be a witness with your life and lips to the grace of God.

Matt. 28:19, “ ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matt. 28:20, “ ‘teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”