

# “The Coping Christian in One Nation Under Satan”

by Doug Hamilton

## Introduction to the Series

Today we start a new and a much needed series of lessons for Christians in modern day America. Without a doubt, we live in a dark and decaying world. The United States is not an exception to the rule, but simply a recycled predicament of what has been around since the beginning civilization. Throughout history, nations have arisen and fallen, but God’s people have always been expected to overcome in those conditions. His people are called to unconditionally shine as lights no matter how dark and ugly the conditions begin (Philippians 15). We are to hold to the word of God. Jesus said in *Matthew 24:35* “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.*” This realm is temporary, but the words of our Savior are eternal.

This series, *The Coping Christian in One Nation Under Satan*, was put together for the purpose to stay faithful and functional in their faith while our nation falls into moral disrepair. Each lesson will focus on three areas: 1) To Educate Christians of their past history 2) To Encourage Christians for their present situation. 3) To Equip Christians in their future challenges.

## I) You Had a Great Beginning America! America’s Greatest Moment in History???

On June 26, 2015, President Obama walked out to the Rose Garden of the White House and proudly spoke. Here are some of his own words from that speech.

“Our nation was founded on a bedrock principle that we are all created equal [this is important and will be further discussed]...This morning, the Supreme Court recognized that the Constitution guarantees marriage equality...It is gratifying to see that principle enshrined into law by this decision...My administration has been guided by that idea...What an extraordinary achievement...”

The President was so excited that he ordered the White House to be lit up in rainbow colors to further celebrate. He continued by twittering #LOVEWINS to his followers. The article ended by summarizing he considered it one of America’s greatest moments in history.



## A Great Moment of Division

I do not write this to generate anger toward the President, for he is human just like all of us. Nor do I want anyone to fail to live up to their Christian responsibility to value and love every soul as precious, including those of the gay community. My intention for beginning with this current event is to show two conflicting views of the same story. To those from a worldly perspective this was a glorious day of American history. To most Bible-believing Christians, this was one of the saddest days of our country’s history. It brought some of the best and a lot of the worst out of both sides on the issue.

- Clergy and other Christians were spit upon and railed against while pride parades marched through the streets of many cities.
- Some in the religious community said things which were outright threatening and did not represent the God of the Bible well.

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- Those in the liberal media lambasted Christians who did not “celebrate” the moment as “out of touch” and outright “hateful”.
- Some Muslims in mosques celebrated on Twitter with ISIS members about throwing four gay men in Syria from the top of a high rise building.
- There were calls from radical activists to announce plans to impose their agenda on the faithful by forcing them to honor gay marriage through lawsuits and politically-correct intimidation.

How could there be such a clash over the same event? How could there be so much division in our country? It has not always been this way in America, for we started out as a great experiment of great unity. Let us go back to the greatest moment in American history, the bringing forth of the Declaration of Independence.

### The First Great Moment of American History

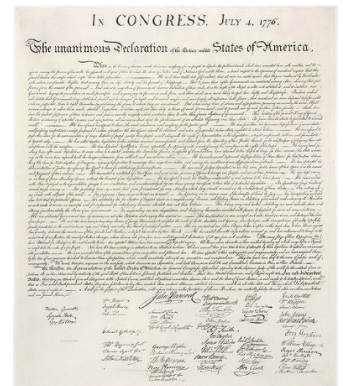
The thirteen original colonies of America had been at odds with the British government for many years over taxation and religious freedoms. In 1775, the colonies were already at war with King George and they sought to unify for their freedom. The fifty-six men of the Continental Congress were determined to gain their freedom by breaking away from Britain.

Our founding document, the *Declaration of Independence*, was drafted by three men, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. The colonies were staking their entire future against the most powerful, oppressive country in the world. They agreed on the wording at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA on July 4, 1776.

This was the birth of our nation and led to a long and successful fight for freedom from the greatest military power on the earth for that time. The British were finally defeated in Yorktown, VA in October 1781 and the Americans were free!

What was the amalgamating principle from which they were able to unite? A brief look at the document reveals what they felt was the basis for the rights they claimed.

- *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.*
- *And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.*



The Founding Fathers based their claim to independence from the monarch of England on the basis of two points: 1) There is a God and 2) He Created us with certain unalienable rights. They were very familiar with the Christian text of the Bible. They understood that if they based their rights from God and remained loyal to the same God, then they would have His divine protection of their nation.

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They knew that “*Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it...*” (Psalm 127:1). This same Creator “*makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away*” (Job 12:23). The Founding Fathers knew that this Creator determined the “*appointed times and the boundaries*” of “*every nation*” (Acts 17:26).

George Orwell wrote in his book *1984*, “He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.” Modern day secularists who control the media and classrooms are doing a great job re-writing the history of our nation. They proclaim the Founding Fathers did not believe in God, but were secular. They are hoping we will not fact check it.

Did the Founding Fathers believe in a Supreme Being from which their rights were bestowed? Let us see learn for ourselves. There were fifty-six Founding Fathers who signed the founding document of the nation. Did they believe in a Creator and that rights emanated from Him? A brief religious bio of every signer of the Declaration of Independence would be wise. We will do so colony by colony.

### The Signers of the Declaration of Independence

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Josiah Bartlett: “...*that the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be made known to all nations, pure and undefiled religion universally prevail, and the earth be fill with the glory of the Lord.*”
- William Whipple: He was a Congregationalist and a believer in the Creator.
- Matthew Thornton: “*We would therefore recommend to the Colony at large to cultivate that Christian Union, Harmony and tender affection which is the only foundation upon which our invaluable privileges can rest with any security...*”

#### MASSACHUSETTS

- John Hancock: “*He called on the entire state to pray “that universal happiness may be established in the world [and] that all may bow to the scepter of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the whole earth be filled with His glory.*”
- John Adams: “*The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.*”
- Samuel Adams: “*Religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness.*”
- Robert Paine: “*I am constrained to express my adoration of the Supreme Being, the Author of my existence, in full belief of His Providential goodness and His forgiving mercy revealed to the world through Jesus Christ, through whom I hope for never ending happiness in a future state.*”

#### RHODE ISLAND

- Elbridge Gerry: “*And deeply impressed with a scene of our unparalleled ingratitude, let us contemplate the blessings which have flowed from the unlimited grace and favor of offended Deity, that we are still permitted to enjoy the first of Heaven’s blessings: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*”
- Stephen Hopkins: He said in reflection of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, “*My hand trembles, but my heart does not.*”

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- William Ellery: He was a member of the Congregationalist church and a believer in a Creator.

### CONNECTICUT

- Roger Sherman: *“I believe that there is one only living and true God, existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are a revelation from God, and a complete rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him...”*
- Samuel Huntington: *“It becomes a people publicly to acknowledge the over-ruling hand of Divine Providence and their dependence upon the Supreme Being as their Creator and Merciful Preserver . . . and with becoming humility and sincere repentance to supplicate the pardon that we may obtain forgiveness through the merits and mediation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*
- William Williams: He was the son of a preacher and studied theology at Harvard.
- Oliver Wolcott: *“God’s Providence and support through the perilous perplexing labyrinths of human life will then forever excite our astonishment and love. May a happiness be granted to those I most tenderly love, which shall continue and increase through an endless existence.”*

### NEW YORK

- William Floyd: He was one of the least religious of the signers, but still attended the Presbyterian Church and believed in a Creator.
- Philip Livingston: It was quoted of him by Reverend Charles Goodrich, *“He was a firm believer in the great truths of the Christian system, and a sincere and humble follower of the divine Redeemer.”*
- Francis Lewis: He was the son of an Episcopalian preacher.
- Lewis Morris: He was a member of the Episcopalian church and a Creationist.

### NEW JERSEY

- Richard Stockton: *“I think it proper here not only to subscribe to the entire belief of the great and leading doctrines of the Christian religion, such as the being of God; the universal defection and depravity of human nature; the Divinity of the person and the completeness of the redemption purchased by the blessed Savior; the necessity of the operations of the Divine Spirit; of Divine faith accompanied with an habitual virtuous life...”*
- John Witherspoon: *“No man, whatever be his character or whatever be his hope, shall enter into rest unless he be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.”*
- Francis Hopkinson: He regularly attended the Episcopalian church and believed in a Creator.
- John Hart: *“Thanks be given unto Almighty God therefore, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die and after that the judgment (Hebrews 9:27)”*
- Abraham Clark: *“Our fates are in the hands of An Almighty God, to whom I can with pleasure confide my own; he can save us, or destroy us; his Councils are fixed and cannot be disappointed, and all his designs will be accomplished.”*

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### PENNSYLVANIA

- Robert Morris: Regularly attended the Episcopal Church where his brother-in-law preached.
- Benjamin Rush: *“The Gospel of Jesus Christ prescribes the wisest rules for just conduct in every situation of life. Happy they who are enabled to obey them in all situations! . . . 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 [Acts 22:16]. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly! [Revelation 22:20]”*
- Benjamin Franklin: *“As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and His religion as He left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is likely to see.”*
- John Morton: He was a faith Episcopalian who wrote in his will, *“...for the settling of such temporal estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life...”*
- George Clymer: He regularly attended the Quaker and Episcopalian church.
- James Smith: He was a faithful Presbyterian who was quite strict that nobody in his presence ever say a word of negativity against Christianity.
- George Taylor: Attended the Presbyterian church and was the son of a preacher.
- James Wilson: *“Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is Divine.”*
- George Ross: Was an Anglican Christian who believed in a Creator.

### DELAWARE

- Caesar Rodney: Was an Episcopalian Christian who worshipped a Creator.
- George Read: *“Everyone appointed to public office must say: ‘I do profess faith in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God & blessed forevermore. And I do acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be given by divine inspiration.’”*
- Thomas McKean: He was an active Presbyterian and a Creationists.

### MARYLAND

- Samuel Chase: *“By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed upon the same equal footing, and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty.”*
- Thomas Stone: He was an active Episcopalian who believed in a Creator.
- William Paca: He was an active Episcopalian.
- Charles Carroll: *“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.”*

### VIRGINIA

- George Wythe: *“You are further to declare that we hold sacred the rights of conscience, and may promise to the whole people, solemnly in our name, the free and undisturbed exercise of their religion. And...that all civil rights and the right to hold office were to be extended to persons of any Christian denomination.”*
- Richard Henry Lee: *“It is true, we are not disposed to differ much, at present, about religion; but when we are making a constitution, it is to be hoped, for ages and millions*

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*yet unborn, why not establish the free exercise of religion, as a part of the national compact.”*

- Thomas Jefferson: He was likely the least religious of the signers, but attended church regularly. He saw the deep value of a religious nation, saying, “*Christianity is the best friend of government because it is the only religion that deals with the heart.*”
- Benjamin Harrison: He was a faithful Episcopalian who professed the Christian religion was necessary to society.
- Thomas Nelson, Jr.: He was Episcopalian and believed in a Creator.
- Francis Lightfoot Lee: “*My experience through life has convinced me that, while moderation and temperance in all things are commendable and beneficial, abstinence from spirituous liquors is the best safeguard of morals and health.*”
- Carter Braxton: “*The happiness and dignity of man I admit consists in the practice of private virtues, and to this he is stimulated by the rewards promised to such conduct. In this he acts for himself, and with a view of promoting his own particular welfare.*”

### NORTH CAROLINA

- William Hooper: He was a Harvard-trained minister of God.
- Joseph Hewes: He was the son of a pious and well-to-do Quaker farmer and received a strict religious upbringing. He believed in a Creator.
- John Penn: He was a faithful member of the Episcopalian church.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

- Edward Rutledge: He was an Anglican Christian.
- Thomas Heyward Jr: He was Episcopalian.
- Thomas Lynch, Jr: Episcopalian.
- Arthur Middleton: Episcopalian.

### GEORGIA

- Button Gwinnett: He was of the Congregationalist church.
- Lyman Hall: He was a minister of the gospel of the Creator in Connecticut.
- George Walton: He was Episcopalian and a believer in a Creator.

There you have it. Every single one of them attended Christian congregations and believed in a Supreme Creator of the Universe. Christianity and the Bible played a very big part in most of their lives and it reflected in the very foundation of our document called the Declaration of Independence. When all fifty-six men signed this founding document of our nation, they confirmed their common unified belief in a Creator.

John Adams, who would eventually become the second President of the United States, later stated in reflection of that day, “*The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.*” Their argument was simple: Rights come from God and not government, a king or a dictator. One year prior, on April 18, 1775, a British soldier ordered John Hancock and some of the others members of the Continental Congress to “*disperse in the name of George the Sovereign King of England.*” Adams responded, “*We recognize no sovereign but God, and no king but Jesus!*”

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In one of two letters Adams wrote to his wife that day, he cautiously stated, “*This day will be the most memorable epic in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival.*” His concern was that it “*...ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.*” Adams primary concern was that commemoration of that day would be void of reverence for God.

### Application:

We have not kept the original intent of the Declaration of Independence. We hear a lot about our rights in this country, but very little about the source of these rights. What would happen if every Christian in America would take some time to recognize the source of our rights in our prayers, thoughts and conversations? What would happen if every time we hear someone proclaiming their rights that we proclaimed the source of these rights? If we are ever going to turn our national heart back to God, we must turn our citizens’ hearts back to the Creator of these rights. When that happens, then people might begin to take some personal responsibility for liberties the Creator might not be in approval of.