

FREEDOM: MOC June Message: (40 mins)

When almost anyone around the world is asked to think of ONE word to describe America, they almost always answer with the word “Freedom.” Many would say we live in the “freest” country in the world

Given we are just 27 days away from celebrating the 4th of July – the day our young country declared independence from England AND we are a year away from celebrating our Semiquincentennial or the 250th year of our independence, I thought we should better understand the source and definition of the word “FREEDOM” before we begin to hear it again and again in the coming year.

SLIDE: FLAG (EXCEPTIONAL AMERICA)

America is an EXCEPTIONAL country created by a ragtag remnant of persecuted Christians that sailed a perilous journey across the Atlantic ocean, to escape a tyrannical country and settle in an undeveloped world and 249 unlikely years later, America is still here. Though history shows us that the average length of a constitution is just 17 years, we ... the United States of America are still standing.

Abraham Lincoln said ... we were, “Conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” This is EXCEPTIONAL when you consider this concept had never before been manifest in a country throughout world history.

French author Alexis de Tocqueville offered some insight as to WHY we are EXCEPTIONAL when he said “America is still the place in the world where the Christian religion has most retained true power over souls; and nothing shows better how useful and natural religion is to men, since the country where today it exercises the most dominion is at the same time the most enlightened and the most free.”

President Ronald Reagan said, “There was some divine plan that placed this great continent between two oceans to be sought out by those who were possessed of an abiding love of freedom and a special kind of courage.” – He too, believed America to be an EXCEPTIONAL nation.

Let me share a few of the “exceptional” facts about our beloved country:

1) WE PROTECT OTHERS:

- America is the only country in the world that derives its legitimacy from natural rights (laws of God) and natural law (laws of nature's God).
- We have the strongest, best trained and well equipped military force on earth and we use it almost exclusively to deter evil and protect people in other parts of the world.

2) WE SHARE THE GOSPEL:

- 85% of every dollar used in global evangelism comes from the United States
- 240MM Americans identify as Christian followers of Jesus Christ (almost 70%)

3) WE FIX OUR MISTAKES:

- America was the first nation to sign a law to BAN slave trade (March 1807)
- America was the fourth nation to completely END slavery (1865)
- Though we have history of racism, today there is no other country in the world where mixed ethnicity people live together in the peace that we do (think Rwanda, Haiti's and Tootsie)

4) WE BLESS OTHERS:

- Americans invented: The telephone, the light bulb, GPS, the airplane, the internet, the mobile phone and we put men on the moon – no nation in the world has blessed OTHER nations in the way we have thru innovation and invention
- America represents just 4% of the world population: BUT ... the United States writes more books, plays, and symphonies, than the other 186 countries combined

5) WE ARE BLESSED:

- The entire wealth of the Russia, (2.1T) the largest nation on earth (larger than the next 3 countries combined) produces less GDP, than the single state of TEXAS (2.5T) here in the US
- The 26 combined Arab countries GDP (3.5T) is less than just the state of CA in the US (3.8T). Indonesia is the 4th largest country in the world and that nation of 300MM people produces less wealth (GDP of 1.3T) than the state of Florida – in other words, less than 25MM people who live in Florida, produce more value than the 300MM people in the country of Indonesia and .. by the way, Florida's GDP is HIGHER than the country of Spain.

6) WE SHARE OUR LAND:

- Worldwide, the United States is home to more immigrants than any other country, and more than the next four countries of —Germany, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and France COMBINED
- With just 4% of the global population, 17 percent of all migrants live in the United States.

Bob McEwen, former House Republican says “The United States is the standard for righteousness and stability in the world.”

Have you ever wondered “why?”

How did we become the standard for righteousness and stability?

Why are we the most blessed nation in world history?

Why we are so EXCEPTIONAL?

Let's go back to before the founding of America to discover “why America became the most exceptional and successful nation in history.”

SLIDE: PRAYING (LEANING ON GOD)

When the Puritans and the Pilgrims fled England for their freedom to worship as they chose, they brought with them the early American, and VERY CHRISTIAN character traits of complete alignment, complete reliance and total dependence on God.

It's one thing for me to say they depended on God, that they relied on Him for everything, but reading their own words and the words of their children's children provides the real evidence

You see, more than once our founding fathers put these thoughts in writing, and I want to highlight just 2 of those precious documents:

- Winthrop Sermon (1630)
- Declaration of Independence (1776)

WINTHROP SERMON: In 1630, John Winthrop, who went on to become Governor of Massachusetts, delivered a famous sermon titled, A Model of Christian Charity, to the Puritans while they were on their way to New England.

This speech arguably ranks with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution as one of the foundational documents of the American people. The Constitution is a written contract we have made among ourselves. But Winthrop's speech outlines a covenant made with God. The reason the first is still in force is because our founding fathers knew they needed to make the second. Did you catch that? I believe that the reason we still have a functioning America, supported by our Constitution is BECAUSE we covenanted with God!

Let's read just a few segments of Winthrop's speech AND let me remind all of us, these are the Puritans and the Pilgrims writing these words. These are the same people we have been talking about the past few minutes. These are the same brave souls that fled religious persecution of the English monarchy:

Winthrop begins by stating who is involved in this covenant/contract:

“Thus stands the cause between God and us: we are entered into covenant with Him for this work ... we have professed to enterprise these actions upon these [articles], and these ends; we have hereupon besought Him of favor and blessing.”

He sets the terms of the covenant. Stating that Americans will be a community united in Christian charity.

“For this end, we must be knit together in this work as one man. ... We must uphold a familiar commerce together in all meekness, gentleness, patience, and liberality.”

Then he spells out “mans” expectation that God himself will bless them, if his people behave this way

“The Lord will be our God and delight to dwell among us as His own people and will command a blessing upon us in all our ways, so that we shall see much more of His wisdom, power, goodness and truth than formerly we have been acquainted with. We shall find that the God of Israel is among us, when ten of us shall be able to resist a thousand of our enemies, when He shall make us a praise and glory, that men shall say of succeeding plantations, "the Lord make it like that of New England.””

You see, we are a covenant country. The infancy of America was marked by a covenant with God himself. So if “baby America” was part of a God covenant, then what did “toddler America” look like when the great grandsons of these early settlers began to form a new nation?

Not surprisingly – it looked the same. The very same recognition of and reliance on God.

Let's look at just one more document to understand how God was considered as the new nation soon to be called the United States of America was being formed. Let's consider the Declaration of Independ.

The Declaration of Independence was our message to England stating that we had had enough, we had tried all redress, but found no remedy and were now declaring ourselves to be “free and independent states.” It begins by making England (and the world) aware that God was above government – and that God grants us rights that NO ONE could take away. We declared these rights to be “unalienable” by any man, judge or country. In the declaration, we codified what John Winthrop had begun more than 100 years prior – we declared that we are in covenant with our creator to live in the land as free people.

The Declaration defines 4 key principals: that Truth is real, God gives us FREEDOM, Government comes from governed, and the Pursuit of happiness (free enterprise) are rights of all men. In case you ever wondered why this rag-tag bunch thought they could stand up to the most powerful army in the world. Let's read that last line of the same document ...

“... 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.”

You see, they were in covenant with God. They believed that if they served Him, He would have their backs AND more importantly bless them. They put it in writing, in a document that was considered a death sentence, not just for them but for the fledgling country it represented.

The core of the Declaration is a laundry list of all the grievances that we had against England at the time and how we had (again and again) attempted to find a peaceable solution. Nearing the end of the document we finally get to the point of what we are “declaring” – listen carefully because these words are the focus of our message today:

“ ... That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, ...”

There it is – finally ... the point of this inspired document: FREEDOM – we were declaring FREEDOM and INDEPENDENCE

- Why did they believe such a thing and how were they emboldened to take such a big step?
- What made them think that if they “served God,” they would be blessed in their efforts?
- What kind of freedom were they seeking?
- Let's look to the BIBLE to find those answers ...

SLIDE: BIBLICAL FREEDOM (THE CROSS)

A few Sunday's ago, Pastor Ken asked a question of the congregation, He said “What does the word redeemed mean?” I think it was John Ball's wife who answered – and did so correctly!

Redeemed: Means to be “bought back.”
To be clear, not “brought” but “bought” ... as in purchased.

When Pastor Ken, asked that question, I immediately asked myself another question ... BOUGHT BACK from WHAT? In other words, if we as Christians, are “redeemed” or purchased back (and we are), then what exactly are we redeemed FROM?

The answer is the slavery of sin that leads to death

Then this begs a follow up question that attempts to answer the opposite. If we are bought back from the slavery of sin, then what have we been “bought back TO?”

It's such an easy answer because the word is repeated again and again in the bible
FREEDOM
AND ... THAT'S TITLE OF MY MESSAGE TODAY

We've been bought back to FREEDOM
When we fell in the garden of Eden, we sold ourselves into slavery

Christ redeemed us from that slavery

- Christ's **Blood** was the price paid for our freedom
- The **Cross** that Jesus hung upon is the symbol of our freedom
- The **Life** of Jesus was the example of how to live AS free men
- The **Grace** of God the reason we have freedom
- The **Love** of God is the root of our freedom

It's from these biblical perspectives of freedom that the Pilgrims and the Puritans sailed to the new world. It's exactly because of the freedom offered by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that they left the persecution of the English monarchy. They knew the beauty and the simplicity of the gospel and wanted the freedom to worship God as He intended – free from the meddling hands of the Bishops, free from the barriers of the then popular “altar screens,” where priests transacted in secret with God in a way the bible never intended.

They sought the pure freedom offered by the gospel of Jesus Christ
They sought to BE free from the religious barriers enforced by the Anglican Church in England
You see, according to the bible, they could not remain in England under the thumb of King George and the Anglican Church.

Why?

Because they were already subject to another King– and they knew it.
Though freed from the slavery of sin, as Christians they had already accepted another master
Paul tells us about it in Corinthians 7:22-23 where he reminds the Church about the word we just discussed a moment ago - redeemed

1 Corinthians 7:22-23

22 For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ's slave.23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.

- We become free of the world when saved and a slave to our master – Jesus Christ
- The purchase price for OUR freedom was the life of the son of God.
- The life of Jesus here on earth is a perfect example of the most FREE man to ever live in history ... but even Jesus made his freedom available to His Father. Jesus HIMSELF was a slave to God the Father, by accepting and carrying out a mission that ONLY He could accomplish.
- Finally, in the last part of the verse Paul says we were “bought at a price” and warns us to not go back into slavery (the worldly kind) under the hands of men

The Puritans understood all of this, and at the heart of their desire to flee England was the FREEDOM offered in Jesus Christ. They had been purchased by His blood, and they were determined to live free from enslavement of the world around them, under their new master – Jesus Christ. They simply wanted to obey, to do the will of their master, to please Him and to give honor to the price He paid for that freedom. The Puritans did this because the bible is clear that when we live according to the example set by Jesus - we are blessed in return.

James 1:25

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom (*Faith in Jesus Christ – not the Mosaic law*), and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

- James says that living in the faith in Jesus Christ gives us FREEDOM and that BLESSINGS and success follow those who live freely in Christ

And I DO believe that God blessed them!

I DO believe that the place they fled to (America) was then given special grace to flourish and grow!

I DO believe that because they sought the very heart of God, He blessed our country beyond measure.

More importantly, I believe that THEY believed – I believe that THEY had deep faith and trust in God.

Nothing else can explain the staggering courage, commitment and faith it must have taken to settle in the wilderness that was America in the 17th century.

Imagine pulling up to the shore where Massachusetts is today, but the year is 1620. You're tired, wet, and probably sick from a painful months long voyage. You're hungry but there is no readily available food. No pubs to grab a sandwich, no house to find shelter, no bed to find rest. There were around 100 Pilgrims on the Mayflower that landed that same year and within the first 12 months, half had died.

BUT ... they did not give up. They persevered because they had faith that God would see them through AND they because they understood the “love thy neighbor” part of their bible. They worked together and eventually thrived. They used their newfound freedom to live bible centered Christian lives serving and helping one another just as Paul commanded in Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh ; rather, serve one another humbly in love. [Galatians 5:13]

- We are called to use our freedom to serve one another, not to stay in the world, but rather to stay in the spirit and, following our saviors example – help and love one another.

You see, once settled here in the new world, they and their great grandsons – in just 3 generations, built a God blessed and Godly society. They developed schools, codified laws, assembled courts and lived out social constructs that reflected that same Christ given freedom. When confronted by the blank canvas that was the new world, these men and women looked to God for everything and worked together as the body of Christ to lay the foundation of this nation.

The descendants of these same Puritans and Pilgrims then designed a government, our current representative republic - from scratch. The checks and balances built into our government come directly from the cornerstone biblical concept of original sin – the fact that all men are sinners and need control and oversight in order to function within a government.ⁱ

When it was finally presented and adopted in 1785, our form of government looked like none other in the history of the world -

WHY?

... because it was built on biblical thought and concepts, with laws structured around the 10 commandments in Exodus and biblically aligned family and social structures. As Charlie Kirk, from Turning Point put it,

“Deuteronomy talks about separation of powers, consent of the governed, an independent judiciary; [so here we find] a form of our government that is directly inspired from the bible.

Charlie drives his point home by pointing out that in Leviticus 25:10 the bible says to “Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof.” But few people know that these are the exact words inscribed on our very own “Liberty Bell” – words, that at the time were authorized by none other than the STATE of Pennsylvania in 1752. The mixing of Christianity and government was the NORM during the development of our young nation – not the exception.

AND if bible verses inscribed on our nations most cherished bells is not enough to convince you of the Christian influence within our government ... let me continue:

- 9 of 13 colonies constitutions REQUIRED you to be a Christian to serve in state government
- 13 of 13 original colonies REQUIRED a declaration of faith to be a government official
- Most state constitutions contained the words “I profess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior”
- 55 out of 56 of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were bible believing, church attending Christians

It is, a matter of fact, that our government was DESIGNED Christian, by Christians and FOR Christians – as John Adams once said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

In short, our forefathers built a country that had at its center, the FREEDOM given in Christ Jesus.

WHY WE WERE SET FREE

Now that we understand the biblical concept of “Freedom” and how the saving grace of Jesus Christ was both our example and reason for our FREEDOM, let’s shift gears and assess our performance as Christian Citizens in America.

How did we do?

Nearly 250 years after our God blessed and God protected country was founded ... How well have we exercised the FREEDOM granted by Jesus and then manifested within the US government founded by a VERY Christian people?

BUT before we answer that question, let’s look at Winthrops sermon again ... you see, I never finished reading you the part where he warns everyone what might happen if we breached the covenant contract with God. Here he warns of the doom associated with walking away from our covenant ...

“But if we shall neglect the observation of these articles, which are the ends we have propounded, and dissembling with our God shall fall to embrace this present world and prosecute our carnal intentions, seeking great things for ourselves and our posterity, the Lord will surely break out in wrath against us, be revenged of such a perjured people, and make us know the price of the breach of such a covenant.”

He said if we were to turn away from God, and embrace the world and its carnal intentions, AND if we were to seek to puff ourselves up with pride - that the Lord would eventually break out in wrath against us ...

Now let's look to modern America, to see how WE are holding up OUR end of Winthrop's covenant contract.

SLIDE: LIES (AMERICA IN TROUBLE)

So what does America look like today?

Spoiler alert ... it's not good news:

- 75% of college students and 41% of all Americans want to switch to socialism
 - BUT in 5,800 years of history, no nation has ever successfully switched to socialism
- 62% of public school grads cant name 3 branches of government (48% of elected officials)
- 54% of Christians express acceptance of homosexuality
- 50% of US Christians say that sex between unmarried, consenting adults is sometimes or always acceptable
- 62% of Americans say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases
- Only 32% of Christians say there is such a thing as absolute moral truth

Wow – so what happened? How did we go from depending on God, to turning away and mocking Him?

Just like in the Garden, we believed a lie. Against the backdrop of the warnings of Winthrop and the words of the bible, America thought the WORLD and all it had to offer meant freedom. We forgot that there is ONLY one way to be free and that is to be SEPARATE from the world, in the faith, allegiance and love of Jesus Christ. Peter warned us of this in 2 Peter 2:18-19

2 Peter 2:18-19

18For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them."

- Peter warns that worldly people can influence the Godly to take up worldly lives as slaves
- Our country was hijacked in this very fashion. Just as surely as a plane can be hijacked and the passengers declared as "hostages", as a nation, we too, sit in our assigned seats, unable to leave as free men because we have accepted the lies of the world as our master and turned away from the freedom offered in Christ.
- The list of accepted lies vs truth is long, but here are a few we now believe as a nation:
 - Abortion IS acceptable - we have buildings designed for it and laws that support it
 - Prayer in schools is NOT acceptable – we have fired coaches & teachers for doing it
 - Homosexuality IS acceptable – we celebrate a month of it and accept it in marriage
 - Many genders ARE acceptable – we have surgeons willing to operate and laws supporting a minors decision to change their gender
 - Pornography IS acceptable – more internet traffic goes to porn sites each year than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter COMBINED. Profits from the porn industry equal more than MLB, the NFL and the NBA COMBINEDⁱⁱ
 - Lying IS acceptable – some of our leaders have made it an art form

All of these lies, when accepted as truth, lead to death and that direction is ALWAYS 180 degrees away from God. Let's look at each one to see where they are taking us:

- If abortion is acceptable: Ending the life of the elderly or unfit is not far behind

- If prayer in schools is not acceptable: God’s spirit will leave the schools and THEN ungodly schools will have ungodly things happen in them like - rapes, murders, beatings and mass shootings.
- If homosexuality is acceptable: Churches will then accept Homosexual clergy. It naturally follows that the bible then begins to play a smaller and smaller role in that church – because it expressly forbids this behavior
- If pornography is acceptable: Then so too is adultery, because it’s not a big leap from looking to touching and in the process, families are torn apart forever
- If lying is acceptable: Then people soon believe that there is no truth, but what they make up in their own minds.

Author Peter Leithart writes in his book “The Ten Commandments,” that - “A community dominated by disrespect for parents, workaholicism, violence, envy, theft, and lies isn’t free”.ⁱⁱⁱ

Psalm 119:45 reminds us of this very concept ... that we are NOT free when we can do whatever we want, we are free when we are doing what we were MADE to do.

Let me share a simple example of “NOT FREE” ...

SLIDE: BIRTHPLACE (VISIT PHILLY PAGE)

The image you see is one I pulled from the official visitor website for Greater Philadelphia, called Visitphilly.com

As you might expect, the entire home page is dedicated to the coming 250th anniversary celebration that will happen in 2026. Philadelphia is, after all, the epicenter of our founding documents and the home of Independence Hall, the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution.

Philadelphia should burst with freedom, if Godly and biblically based freedom is to still be found in America, then Philadelphia should be the home of it’s remnant.

SLIDE: HOMOSEXUALITY (DOING WHAT WE WANT)

Sadly this is not the case. Scrolling down just a few photographs on that same webpage and right there for the world to see, is the OPPOSITE of freedom. Here we see exactly what Psalm 119:45 warns us about:

“We are not free when we can do whatever we want, we are free when we are doing what we were made to do ...”

Were we made to do this? It’s such a simple question, that even our biology screams the answer. NO! We were NOT made to do this. We were never “made to behave this way” and when we act like this, and celebrate it, we are ignoring what God desires for our lives and telling Him we know better.

SLIDE: REPENT (THE WAY BACK)

So now what? Nearly 250 years on we are still the most free and the most Christian nation on earth. But why are we still here? I attended a prophecy conference a few week ago, where Bill Cloud spoke.

His answer as to why we are still here is - “I propose that America has not been spared from gods wrath because we are a good nation, but because “we have a good remnant.”

Bills says the way back starts with the remnant church. We must stand unmoving for the truth. We must become the unbreakable wall standing between lies and the truth. We are warned that this would happen and given instructions by Paul about this attack on our FREEDOM, in Galatians 2:4-5

Galatians 2:4-5

4This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. 5We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

- We are called to KNOW that the world is part and parcel of the slave trade and to always be wary of it's pull toward slavery, lies and death.
- We know that OUR freedom is ONLY in Jesus Christ and Paul tells us the enemy will try to steal our FREEDOM
- Paul says stand firm – don't give in for a minute and lean on the truth of the Gospel to “preserve” you ... or to put it another way “save your freedom”

Donald Trump has it all wrong. Christians are not supposed to first make America “great” again – we are in the fight to make America “**RIGHTEOUS**” again, and in doing so – FREE again.

This fight begins with the men of God being salt and light, in order to represent Jesus, share His gospel and win souls for the Kingdom

AND, the cycle that leads to freedom always begins with repentance. We can read again and again in the old testament how Israel lost her freedom – it almost always began by turning away from God to idolatry. That idolatry (the “better than God” substitute) was quickly followed by the people of Israel moving into bondage (literal slavery).

When Israel took Her eyes off God, and substituted other Gods, interests, etc. – she ended up losing her country, her liberty and her home. It was the remnant men of God who always showed Israel the way home, the way back to God ... and it's no different today. MOC, we are called to live our lives to reflect the truth and freedom offered in Christ, that other men might repent and come alongside us

SLIDE: REVIVAL (back to God)

Repentance is then followed by revival, and revival is where we begin to make America righteous again. America's patriots fought for their freedom from a tyrant king. As remnant church men of God, we must too must fight – not for a nations liberty, but for our nations collective soul to be FREE.

The FREEDOM found in Christ was what drove our founding fathers to break the control of a “tyrant king.” They could no longer put up with the diametrically opposed rule of the King of England while attempting to live lives that reflected their personal king and savior in Jesus Christ.

FREEDOM in Christ was the ultimate goal of our founders, and for its sake, they were willing to lay down their lives. In the famous words of Patrick Henry, spoken at St, Johns Church in Richmond VA in 1775 - “Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”^{iv}

It's fascinating that Patrick Henry used the word "liberty" in this context. Did you know he was a committed Christian who valued his faith deeply? On his deathbed, he reaffirmed his faith, by calmly stating, "Doctor, I wish you to observe how real and beneficial the religion of Christ is to a man about to die." AND ... in his Last Will and Testament, he wrote, "This is all the Inheritance I can give to my dear family, The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed."

Henry's faith influenced his political views and guided his daily actions. Patrick Henry understood that biblical FREEDOM in Christ dictated how he would live – and die. Henry knew his bible and knew this verse in the book of James as well as any of our founding fathers:

It's James 2:12 "So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty."

- James asks us to talk like and walk like a Christian, because we will be judged by the one that we claim to follow. Patrick Henry knew that we are called to live lives that REFLECT our freedom – NOT worldly bondage and he was ready to accept death over peace in the land at the cost of slavery to England.

Even today - the "Patrick Henry" spirit of Liberty continues to inspire oppressed people around the world and it should inspire ALL of us fortunate enough to live here in America today. It should also remind us that our rights, liberty and FREEDOM come only from God.

If we are to continue in these blessings and if we are to continue to be that "city on a hill" that inspires the world, then we MUST come back to the FREEDOM offered in a life lived for Jesus Christ... and revival is the only sure way for us to ensure we get to celebrate 4th of July's for many years to come.

SLIDE: STAR SPANGLED BANNER

I'd like to close with a few words from what began as a poem.

Most of us know the first or second verses of our national anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner" Very few of us know ALL the words, but today, I'd like to take us all the way to the end. The part of Francis Scott Key's poem, that eventually became a song, that in 1931 became our national anthem. In the 4th and final verse he writes ...

Praise the Power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!

The letter "P" in the word "Power" is capitalized to represent God – and it's here that Francis Scott Key reveals America's divine protection and providence by saying that our nation was both MADE by God and PRESERVED by Him. This song and these lyrics represent the official National Anthem of the United States. NO matter what the God hating people say about our Christian heritage, we have, IN WRITING and embedded within the official song of America this simple but powerful concept – our nation was MADE by God and our nation is BLESSED by Him

He finishes the song ...

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.

Keye's poem reflects all we have discussed here today. He says that "IF" we continue to put our TRUST in God, ONLY THEN will we continue to be the land of the FREE

So we come full circle to the word we began with – FREEDOM.

- We were granted it by God's Son
- We ran after it in the new world with God's men
- We've defended it over the years by God's grace

And it was the FREEDOM found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that was on the minds, in the hearts and manifest in the lives of the men who created this nation.

Liberty from England was the reason for our fight, BUT the men that died founding this country did not do so for liberty – they died so that we might have FREEDOM.

SLIDE: JESUS CHRIST

The kind of freedom granted by the life, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Let's read Corinthians 7:22 and close ...

“For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord's FREED person; similarly, the one who was FREE when called is Christ's slave.” Corinthians 7:22

So what about “us”? What should men of God living in modern America do to promote FREEDOM? How does our faith drive us to action?

Men of Covenant ... we are called now, more than ever to live our lives like FREE men full of Christ. We are called now, more than ever, to pursue His perfect example of Holiness ...

- So other men will SEE what we have
- So other men will WANT what we've got
- So other men will ACCEPT what we've been given
- So other men will LIVE with a new mind and a changed heart
- So other men will KNOW the FREEDOM offered in Jesus Christ
- So other men will come to accept JESUS as their Lord and savior.

This is how we return FREEDOM to our nation. This is how we “Make America Righteous Again.” It's done one man at a time, one soul at a time, one miraculous gift of grace at a time. Revival in our land manifests when men turn away from the world and its offer of slavery and choose Jesus and His promise of FREEDOM.

Jesus was a willing participant in the single greatest FREEDOM event in world history. His crucifixion, death and resurrection, was a gift of FREEDOM to the entire world. It is THE original Independence Day for men's souls. It was the faithfulness of Jesus on the cross that set the table for our country's 4th of July

And, through faith in Jesus Christ, we became a BLESSED and FREE nation
Turn from Him – and we may have liberty for a time, but we will never be truly FREE

**For THIS FLAG to represent the “sweet land of LIBERTY”,
Our nation must first return to the FREEDOM offered only in the CROSS of Christ**

The bible says there is no man FREER than when a slave to Christ and I say there is no country with more liberty and more blessings than the country that chooses Him as it's Lord.

END

- i <https://www.faithfacts.org/christ-and-the-culture/the-bible-and-government>
- ii <https://medium.com/@TheSBT/how-big-is-the-porn-industry-fbc1ac78091b>
- iii ALEX KIRK - <https://www.williamtennent.org/blog-list/lawofliberty>
- iv Adapted from an article by Edwin J. Feulner, PhD from the Heritage Foundation