

- Rev. Grant Mangold, www.RiversideChurchIowa.com

DEPENDENCE DAY ??

Independence Day in America rightly remains one of the most celebrated events in human history. In 1776, free men threatened by tyranny wrote a detailed statement of human rights and grievances. They then laid down their lives to secure those liberties, and extend them to the citizens of the new world. And like the framers of American independence, who derived the principles of liberty primarily from the Bible, **WE too do well to first acknowledge our complete daily dependence upon Almighty God.** And WE must make sure WE are living out HIS eternal principles, daily, for the good of the whole world.

JOHN HANCOCK - on April 15, 1775 said, *"God rules in the armies of Heaven, and without His whole blessing, the best human counsels are but foolishness."* He called for a day of fasting, humility and prayer: *"before God under the heavy judgments felt and feared, to confess the sins that have deserved them, to implore the Forgiveness of all our transgressions, and a spirit of repentance and reformation...and a Blessing on the...Union of the American Colonies in Defense of their Rights - for which hitherto we desire to thank Almighty God."*

JOHN ADAMS - in 1776 in "Thoughts on Government" wrote, *"It is the duty of all men in society, publicly, and at stated seasons, to worship the SUPREME BEING, the great Creator and Preserver of the universe. And no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained, in his person, liberty, or estate, for worshipping GOD in the manner most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience; or for his religious profession or sentiments; provided he doth not disturb the public peace, or obstruct others in their religious worship."*

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN - on June 28, 1787 made this Motion for Prayers in the Constitutional Convention: *"In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor...And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that **"except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it."** I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest. I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that Service."*

Our founders knew their Bibles. And its holy pages record many calls to prayer. Likewise, all who bear the name of Christ do well to heed His call to fall on their knees before Him. Isaiah 33:22 says, **"For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; He will save us."** 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, **"if My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place."** WHO will respond to this call to fall in dependence before God? Will YOU?

The answers to the world's problems are not found in the halls or courts of Washington or corridors of Wall Street or seats of the United Nations. The answers are found in the pages of God's Word. And they are written on the hearts and minds of men and women of all nations who have been SET FREE BY JESUS Christ, the Lord and Savior - who conquers sin and self. And He promises that all who are made free by Christ shall be FREE indeed. - **Is this true of YOU?** Declare your dependence on Him today!