

Celebrate Freedom

In a letter dated July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife:

"This will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for evermore."

The second President of the United States was right. Without question, our freedom should be celebrated! However, in order to celebrate properly, we must understand our freedom. Consider the spiritual truths as well.

Freedom comes at a high cost. The last line of the Declaration of Independence says: "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." Jesus Christ gave His life to secure our eternal freedom (Rom. 6:3-9; 8:1-4). You and I must choose to die to self and live for Christ in order to be truly free (Gal. 2:20).

Freedom must be maintained. Freedom can be lost. History has shown again and again that nations can be destroyed. Spiritual freedom can be lost as well (John 8:31-36; Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4).

Freedom can be dangerous. People with free will and free rein often make wicked choices. We all choose to serve someone or something (Rom. 6:16-18, 22).

Freedom must be loved. Fools take freedom for granted. The wise recognized that they've been blessed. "Live as people who are free...living as servants of God" (1 Pet. 2:16; cf. Gal. 5:1).

- Bart Warren, South Green Street church of Christ, Glasgow, KY (via *Bulletin Digest*) -

On this Fourth of July let us rededicate ourselves to the proposition that the people can be trusted to govern themselves. Let us resolve anew that this hallowed concept, bathed in the blood of heroic men and washed in the tears of courageous women, shall not perish by fault or default.

For democracy's success rests with the people: statehood on manhood, political self-government on personal self-government, national greatness on personal greatness, and liberty for all on restraint for each. Freedom's preservation truly lies in its true purpose: not the freedom to do wrong which hurts others, but the freedom to do right which helps all.

Liberty exists in proportion to wholesome restraint. - Daniel Webster

"Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

- Leroy Brownlow, *Today Is Mine* (1972),
via Warren Christian Apologetics Center -



"The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous."

- Frederick Douglass -

News & Notes

TODAY'S GUEST SPEAKER: Aaron Burch of the Hanoverton congregation.
CONGRATULATIONS: To Creston & Casandra Holava on the birth of a daughter, Jasmine on June 22nd. The grandmother is Cindy Miskimen, and the great grandparents are Andy & Linda Parkes. Best wishes to all.
COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY about Noon followed by our early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. (instead of 5:30 p.m.).
SUMMER YOUTH BIBLE CAMP: July 11-18, Tomlinson Run State Park Group Camp. Ages 8 through high school seniors. Information fliers and registration forms on the desk in the foyer.
PANTRY: Peanut butter & jelly.
SICK & SHUT-IN: *City Hospital:* Sam Burdine (Willard's brother). *The Orchards Rehab in East Liverpool:* Charlotte Mader (David Steff's sister). *At Home:* Janet Malcomson, Tim Martin, Becky McKitrick (Chemo treatments), Stan Williams, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Mark Vermillion (neighbor, brain mass surgery recovery), Cheryl Renfro Walker, Nicole Stoffer (aunt of Tamara Sprout), Lori Rowand (niece of John Sprout). *Weston, WV:* Rick Beck.

PRIDE REBUKED

The life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ are a standing rebuke of every form of pride.

- Pride of **birth:** "Is not this the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55).
- Pride of **wealth:** "The Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20).
- Pride of **personal appearance:** "He hath no form nor comeliness" (Isaiah 53:2).
- Pride of **reputation:** "Made himself of no reputation" (Philippians 2:7).
- Pride of **superiority:** "I am...as he that serveth" (Luke 22:27).
- Pride **ability:** "I can of mine own self do nothing" (John 5:30).
- Pride of **will:** "I seek not mine own will" (John 5:30).
- Pride of **resentment:** "Father, forgive them" Luke 23:34).

- Author Unknown -

Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL

Views of the Cross

(Luke 23:48)

The soldiers saw in Christ a criminal, with cruelty.

The women saw in Christ a benefactor, with sorrow.

His mother saw in Christ a Son, with anguish.

The disciples saw in Christ blighted hopes, with perplexity.

The first thief saw in Christ a malefactor, with hardness.

The second thief saw in Christ a King, with patience.

The centurion saw in Christ divinity, with conviction.

- Author Unknown -

(via Beacon,

Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL)

