

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2009

Pastor Bill Bowers

July 5, 2009

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the gospel of Jesus Christ." Patrick Henry (1736-1799)

"Do not let anyone claim tribute of American patriotism if they even attempt to remove religion from politics." George Washington (1732-1799)

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people...it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other..." (John Adams, Jr. (1736-1826)

"The 1st Amendment has created a wall of separation between church and state; but, that wall is a one directional wall. It keeps the government from running the church; but, it makes sure that Christian principles will always stay in government." Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

The Parallels Between Our Founding Fathers and Christ Followers Today

1. Like the Patriots, Christ Followers have also made a bold declaration - a pledge of allegiance to Jesus, the Christ!

Galatians 2:20 (MSG): "Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I am not going to go back on that."

See Also Joshua 24:14

2. Like the Patriots, Christ Followers have a price to pay

We are engaged in a "spiritual war;" and, we need to understand that wars are not won by those who only make declarations - they are won by those who "walk the talk!"

See Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5:8-9

3. Like the Patriots, Christ Followers are challenging an empire that is very powerful!

Ephesians 6:12

4. Like the Patriots, Christ Followers will reap a great reward!

John 8:31;36

Romans 8:1