



Bishop's Independence Day Letter, 4th July 2017, Anno Domini

THUS saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. (Jer 6:16-17)

BLESSED is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. (Psalm 33:12 (KJV))

Our nation has been most richly blessed of the Lord from the days of her primitive founding until today. No nation has enjoyed the security from invading armies, the abundance of crops and of mineral resources, or the blessings of liberty and freedom with which God has blessed this nation. But our liberty did not come by complacency of spirit or by lack of the shedding of patriotic blood. The legacy of European serfdom and oriental oppression compelled hearts that swelled with the fervor for freedom to depart those oppressive shores and risk all in a new land of promise – one in which men and women could worship God according to their consciences and to live in the Liberty of the Law of God.

Today, traitorous philosophies and political intrigue have begun to fashion the shackles of our former oppression to fit the arms and necks of our children. They are largely ignorant of the legacy of freedom bequeathed to them by the blood of Godly patriots spilled on a thousand battlefields from Boston to Columbia, and from Tripoli to Baghdad. They are ignorant of that Providential Hand that guided our Forefathers in the establishment of a new Nation, "*conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*" Our youth are not taught that Liberty is a gift of God – not government. The education of our youth has turned from its earlier foundation in biblical morality and has focused on a worldly and sensual model. No longer are our children taught that all legitimate law descends from the Supreme Law-Giver in Heaven.

I invite all readers of this letter to double their efforts of reviving the spirit of Liberty and Godly conduct in our forlorn nation. We must inspire our people once again to lay aside the forming traces of slavery to mammon and restore the pealing toll of freedom in our land. We are all, who are men and women of faith, watchmen on the walls to sound the trumpet of obedience to God and to stand as defenders of Liberty in America. If those whom we love hearken not to the call, then we shall have no shame at the Judgment Seat of God.

Let us remember the words of that grand old hymn of Liberty by Ralph Waldo Emerson:

*By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.
The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.*

*On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.*

*Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.*

This 4th of July, let us resolve to again hoist that shaft even higher in honor of our patriotic dead, and the futures of our children and our nation. God bless America.

Godspeed,



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