

"America 2012"



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Good Laws or Good Men ~ Politicians or Statesmen? **By: Robert Buckner – July 2011**

America was birthed by those who came here for the freedom to worship God as they believed. Consequently, the *morality-at-large* in early America was exceptional and comparatively concentrated. Of the more than 250 recognized Founding Fathers, *all* but a very few were professed Christians and devoted believers in Jesus Christ.

As was later observed by French historian, **Alex de Tocqueville**, who came to America to try to determine why this young nation had been so very successful; He later wrote that, "*America was 'Great' because America was good!*"

The importance and verifiable impact of America's Founders being deeply steeped in their Christian faith became evident in the, "**Declaration of Independence**," the "**Constitution**," and ultimately in the form of government they established for America.

*Compared to other nation's (before or since) our Founding Fathers needed only very few words in total to write the Constitution! At their core, because the Founders were good and moral men, they did not need page-after-page of language to define and control the behavior of government. America's Representative Republic would be a government, "*Of the People, By the People and For the People*" - ...and the *People* were **good!**

They knew America's success would not rest on "*Good or Bad laws*," they may write, but rather, if Men were good! Consider the following quote from Founding Father, **William Penn**:

"Governments, like clocks, go from the motion that men give them.

Therefore, governments rather depend upon men, than men upon governments.

Let the men be good, and then the government cannot be bad. If the men be bad, then government will never be good.

I know some say let us have good laws and no matter for the people who execute them.

But let them consider that though good laws do well, good men do better.

For good laws may lack good men, but good men will never lack good laws nor allow bad ones." - William Penn in 1681

History can either be a model for the future or a reason for change! If we can observe the success that our Founding Fathers initiated – would we not be wise to desire to *re-learn* it and replicate *their* wisdom and spiritual fortitude manifesting in their standards and values which did incorporate them into governing America?

Founding Father, **John Jay**, was America's first Supreme Court Chief Justice and also co-authored the Federalist Papers. Jay's influence upon the founding generation was immense. Jay is credited with saying: ***"Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."***

We know that God does bless good men and America was founded by good men. Consequently, America was blessed. If we believe that America may not be as richly blessed today as it had been in the past – what might "We the People" logically conclude from that?

Good laws are governed by morality. Bad laws only attempt to govern morality.

One may seek to elevate the individual through the inequality that liberty offers; the other will degrade the individual to its lowest common denominator that equality promises.

One may be empowered by a Nation and the other will empower the State.

One focuses on the means over the end and the other will focus on the end over the means.

One promises nothing except the opportunity to succeed and the other promises everything and is doomed to failure. One is absolute while the other is relative.

Abide by one, and a person recognizes the allowance of failure once established as a way of life. Abide by the other, and a person will only recognize the promise of success once established as a way of life.

We either choose to abide by one or the other. There is no compromise.

Founding Father, **Daniel Webster:**

"...There is no nation on earth powerful enough to accomplish our overthrow. ... Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their carelessness and negligence, I must confess that I do apprehend some danger. I fear that they may place too implicit a confidence in their public servants, and fail properly to scrutinize their conduct; that in this way they may be made the dupes of designing men, and become the instruments of their own undoing." -- Daniel Webster, June 1, 1837

Amazing! Considering our current *state-of-affairs*, Daniel Webster could have written that yesterday! Where is that wisdom today? Can we name a "Statesman" that can espouse that same wisdom?

If we can look at history and see what worked – what must we do in order to reestablish it?

Are there no Statesmen in America today? Are there no leaders? Is there no wisdom? Has honesty, truth, fidelity and integrity been completely vanquished from America and her People and government?

The Constitution has not failed. The fundamental construction of government has not failed. What *is* different from the era of our Founding Fathers and America 2012 is, **"We the People!"**

"We the People" still do have the ability to elect those whom we choose to rule over us! If we have "Bad" leaders it is only because we chose them!

What can we do to lead us back to a "Great America?"

Consider once more the wisdom of Founding Father, **John Jay**:

"Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."



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