

## ***Has the Constitution Failed?***

### ***From the Desk of Robert Buckner***

There are some - mostly residing within the *Statist Political-Left* - who believe (or, at least profess they believe) that the Constitution of the United States of America has failed. They think that they are *clever* in the way that they say it - such as - "*The Constitution is a "living" document and as such it needs to be constantly evolving and re-defining itself in order that it might remain contemporary.*"

That almost sounds flattering doesn't it? In fact it must - because there are many - who otherwise do not subscribe to the *Statist Liberal-Left* mentality - that seem to be seduced by that kind of empty, baseless and ignorant, rhetoric!

So, let us ask the question: "Has the Constitution ***failed The People;*** or, have *The People, Failed the Constitution?*"

We *can* know from history that our Founding Fathers were not all universally excited about implementing a "*Representative Republican*" form of government for America. In fact, it was only after much debate that they came to believe that it *might* possibly be able to work.

Consider what Founder, ***John Adams*** said: "*Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*"

Essentially, it really isn't the "*quality*" of a law that is to govern, but rather, it is the "*quality*" of those governed, that will ultimately cause a law to become effective or ineffective. (One may but consider God's Holy Word, and man's behavior while in possessing it, to confirm this truism.)

Because of the incredible measure of "*Individual Liberty and Freedom*" that our Constitution (exercised within the political framework of a, "*Representative Republican*" form of government) endowed upon the *American Citizen*, our Founding Fathers realized that the many common weaknesses within our human nature could easily cause us to move from a *Republic* to a *Democracy* - and ultimately - to *Tyranny!*

The key to the success for America then was not resting upon the “Quality” of our Constitution and our laws, but rather, it was resting wholly upon the “Quality” of those to be governed by it!

So, as John Adams so eloquently cautioned: ...” *Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*”

And so, while many are clamoring for a restoration of our *Constitution* and the *Judiciary* and the *Legislative* and *Executive* branches of our government; perhaps a more pertinent objective would be to seek a *Restoration* of Christianity - especially as it may specifically pertain to our ability to once again, become capable of administering such a wise and complete document by men today with a “Quality-of-Character” equal to the “Quality of the Wisdom and Character of those who wrote the Constitution!”

As a matter of important historic truth, we today cannot escape the brilliance and wisdom of those whom we correctly identify as our Founding Fathers and how truly incredible it was that they successfully established what they themselves referred to as: “*The American Experiment!*”

Even prior to my becoming a Christian, I was faced with – and did completely accept – the truism that our Founding Father’s wisdom and brilliance must be realized and embraced in whole – or, not at all - if we hope to perpetuate what they endeavored to establish!

This meant that I had to be capable of factoring into an understanding of “*How*” and “*why*” America (according to our Founder’s basis for **Law**, and **Government**) the reality that **God**, **Religion**, and the **Morality** - which came from their Christian faith and belief in the Living God - were essential in the success and ultimate fruition of their efforts!

As Benjamin Franklin was leaving the Continental Congress, he was asked: “*Dr. Franklin, what government have you given us?*” Franklin replied: “***A Republic; if you can keep it.***”

Within the contemporary wisdom of our Founding Fathers was the realization that there was no example in history of a republic which did

not ultimately collapse; first into *Democracy*, and then ultimately into, *Tyranny*. What then did cause our Founding Fathers to believe that it could work in America?

That which ultimately convinced them that a republic might possibly work in America was that America was almost exclusively – Christian – in religious practice and belief.

Our Founding Fathers (as Christians) knew that in order to *be* a Christian a man must first be able to **self-govern** his own individual wants, desires and actions. If he cannot – then he cannot successfully *be* a Christian.

The Founding Fathers believed that a society's culture which was comprised of such individuals (Christians) could also successfully *self-govern* the *Legislative, judicial and Political* aspects of a **Republican** form of government.

***"A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader."* – Samuel Adams**

**Note:** If you want to be able to drink-in a more complete understanding of who our Founding Fathers were and what they actually represented – by what they wrote and said – you must be able to understand *their* contemporary use of the English language. I would recommend a copy of the: **"American Dictionary of the English Language"** by, Noah Webster, 1828 Edition

***"Apart from religion, the only way for society to maintain order is through expansion of government power."* James McHenry, a signer of the U.S. Constitution, once explained that **"Public utility pleads most forcibly for the general distribution of the Holy Scriptures.... In vain, without the Bible, we increase penal laws and draw entrenchments around our institutions."****

Fearing an expansion of government's role in society, **Patrick Henry** proclaimed, **"It is when a people forget God, that tyrants forge their chains."** He clearly saw that weakened morals would affect the public conscience, and then freedom could not be sustained.

**Abraham Baldwin**, a signer of the U.S. Constitution, also authored the Charter for the College of Georgia. In this charter, he warned that

free governments, without the aid of religion and morality, would be plagued by "***Evils more horrid than the wild, uncultivated state of nature.***" He concluded, "***It should therefore be among the first objects of those who wish well to the national prosperity to encourage and support the principles of religion and morality....***"

Today, secularist and Libertarian (who are sometimes mistakenly viewed as *allies* to the *Conservative*) organizations are quick to dismiss the role of biblical morality in America. Instead, these organizations have branded unqualified "*tolerance*" as the pillar of modern morality. However, our society must be careful when dealing with notions of public virtue. In words that could have been spoken today, **Theodore Roosevelt** rightly warned over a century ago:

***"There are those who believe that a new modernity demands a new morality. What they fail to consider is the harsh reality that there is no such thing as a new morality. There is only one morality. All else is immorality. There is only true Christian ethics against which stands the whole of paganism...."***

There is much at stake in our choices for America. If our forefathers were right, America cannot survive apart from the influence of **religion** and **morality**. They were not giving flippant suggestions or off-hand remarks. Their counsel was given out of an earnest concern for the future security of our republic.

In his famous Farewell Address, **George Washington** stated his views bluntly. He boldly challenged the **patriotism** of any person who would work to suppress religion and morality. Washington declared:

***"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness."***

Our nation was established with the pillars of religion and morality supporting the structure of law and liberty. If we choose to exchange these for the *shifting sand* of secularism, we will suffer the gradual disintegration of our law and the eventual loss of our liberty. Our Founders knew that widespread religious conviction could not coexist alongside rampant immorality, and any attempts to satisfy both would lead to political chaos. They sought to promote the merits of religion in an attempt to suppress immorality.

Unfortunately, today we can cite many times where the *so-called* Christian has forfeited their *professed* spiritual-values and made *political, judicial, legislative and moral and spiritual* concessions and compromises with the *enemies* of God! And, if they have not in fact participated in making every concession and compromise – they have at the very least – remained silent!

A well-known commentary on, "*American Exceptionalism*" was written by French author: Alexis de Tocqueville: "***Democracy in America.***"

In *Democracy in America*, published in 1835, Tocqueville wrote of the New World and its burgeoning democratic order. Observing from the perspective of a detached social scientist, Tocqueville wrote of his travels through America in the early 19th Century when the market revolution, Western expansion, were radically transforming the fabric of American life. He saw democracy as an equation that balanced *liberty and equality*, concern for the individual as well as the community.

***"Moreover, almost all the sects of the United States are comprised within the great unity of Christianity, and Christian morality is everywhere the same. In the United States the sovereign authority is religious, and consequently hypocrisy must be common; but there is no country in the whole world in which the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America, and there can be no greater proof of its utility, and of its conformity to human nature, than that its influence is most powerfully felt over the most enlightened and free nation of the earth.***

***The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other; and with them this conviction does not spring from that barren traditional faith which seems to vegetate in the soul rather than to live.***

***There are certain populations in Europe whose unbelief is only equaled by their ignorance and their debasement, while in America one of the freest and most enlightened nations in the world fulfills all the outward duties of religion with fervor.***

***Upon my arrival in the United States, the religious aspect of the country was the first thing that struck my attention; and the longer I stayed there, the more did I perceive the great***

*political consequences resulting from this state of things, to which I was unaccustomed. In France I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom pursuing courses diametrically opposed to each other; but in America I found that they were intimately united, and that they reigned in common over the same country."*

I wonder if this same observation could or, *would* be made of America today.

We still have the brilliance and wisdom of that which our Founding Fathers did lay in the foundation of this nation. We have our Constitution and in addition, we have a wealth of historic evidence – documents, personal letters, laws and thoughts – as expressed by those men who actually have already done the *heavy-lifting!* ...All we must do is to attempt to accurately understand it and re-implement it as the basis from-which, all else flows!

There is however, one resource that is presently and sorely missing; and is, as we have noted by some of the quotes from our Founding Fathers, essential to the success for the **Liberty** and **Freedom** to be fully realized via our Constitution and Representative Republican form of government: there must be: a, **Religious** and **Moral** people!