

# One Nation Under God

By Pastor Gordon

**Introduction:** Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and it is a time set aside for us to celebrate our independence from the tyrannical rules of King George III of Great Britain. This is an exciting day to celebrate God's grace for having kept our nation safe, strong, prosperous, and relevant through the years. We can continue to count on God's protective hand so long as our nation remains humble before Almighty God, seek His face, and turn from wickedness. Our nation has thrived and survived through dangerous times because we rely on Almighty God for support, defense, and protection. All of our currency has inscribed on it "In God We Trust" as a public message that we are a Christian nation who worship and serve the Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Pledge of Allegiance denotes that we are conscious of the Lord's intervention in the affairs of this nation when we recite the line, "One Nation under God" which is contained in the pledge of allegiance. As we step back into history, it will be increasingly clear that the founding fathers of this nation had a deep conviction and belief in the divine authority of God to guide our country. America has had a rich spiritual heritage from the very beginning since our founding fathers believed and depended on God. Interestingly enough, many of the presidents of the Ivy League universities were seminary trained preachers of the gospel when those institutions were first founded. Harvard University, for example, had written in its statement of purpose, "Christ is the foundation of all learning." Yale had a similar statement which said, "God is the source of all wisdom", while Princeton wrote in its statement of purpose, "Cursed is all learning contrary to the cause of Christ." The Lord has truly blessed America, but with that blessing comes the

responsibility to acknowledge the providence of God in helping to shape our nation to be so great and powerful. Today's message is intended to show you why 56 men of great prominence, education, and wealth were willing to jeopardize everything to pursue the cause of freedom for this country. You will see clearly that those 56 patriots were men of faith whose clear intent was never to separate God from the affairs of this nation.

**Sermon text:** Psalm 33:12-22, *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth- he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.”*

**Message:** Our founding fathers believed in biblical truths. As they were writing the Declaration of Independence, they wanted to make that point clear which is the reason they wrote that all people “are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Those heroic men took a significant risk in signing the declaration of independence since Great Britain considered that as an act of treason. All those men were financially successful in their own individual career fields as judges, politicians, businessmen, doctors, farmers, professors, inventors, and ministers of the gospel. John Hancock was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Matthew Thornton was

the last to sign the document on November 4, 1776. Nine of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were immigrants instead of being native-born. Each of the signers knew they would become a target of the British government, but their courage, conviction, and patriotism led them to pledge their life, fortune, and sacred honor to ensure America's freedom from tyranny and unfair taxation. Of the 56 men who signed that sacred document, five were captured and tortured by the British before they died. Twelve had their homes looted and burned to the ground. Two lost their sons in the war. One of the signers had two sons that were captured by the British and became prisoners of war. One of the signers saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy and therefore, was forced to sell his home to pay his debts. He ended up dying in abject poverty. One signer was pursued by the British and therefore, was forced to move his family constantly to keep them safe. He ended up serving in Congress without pay and eventually died penniless. Another signer's home was confiscated by the British and converted into a command post. He urged General Washington to open fire on that command post and ended up losing his home and his fortune. He also died penniless. Another signer was forced to leave his dying wife, his 13 children fled for their lives, his fields were destroyed, and he was forced to live in the forest to survive. When he eventually returned home, his children were missing, his wife had passed away and his property was destroyed. He died shortly thereafter from exhaustion and a broken heart.

**CONCLUSION:** Our founding fathers paid a heavy price when they signed the Declaration of Independence. Those Extreme sacrifices that cost them their freedom, fortune, family, and honor were made to secure our freedom. Those men of faith honored God by opening each session of Congress with prayer. Eleven out of the 13 original colonies required that anyone running for a

political office be a professing Christian. Even the Supreme Court started each session with the phrase, “God save the United States and this honorable court.” There is no doubt that the founders of this great nation understood how important it was to serve the Lord and depend on His grace. God was the one who made it possible for America to have its independence from England. In order for us to continue to maintain that liberty and have peace on our land, we must continue to pray for our national leaders to include the President, members of Congress, senators, and the Supreme Court. Today, the Lord wants to give us independence from the law of sin and death. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed. We have been set free by the blood of the Lamb that was shed on Calvary. That is why we have a reason to celebrate because God had declared our independence from bondage. Now, we have the freedom to lift up our hands and praise the Lord for that awesome victory he won by snatching the keys away from death and hell. God has been good to us by writing our names in the Lamb’s Book of Life. That is why we can have a real celebration. As you feast on the barbeque, Filipino dishes, salad, and desert a few hours from now, please take time out to thank God for our nation as well as the eternal freedom He has given as a gift of love.

**ALTAR CALL:**