

“Was America Really Founded as a Secular Country?”

Mondo Gonzales, Pastor

CrossRoads Community Church in New Lenox

www.ccc-nl.org

It has become more common recently for people to assert that our country was founded as a secular one in which it was intended for there to always be a separation of church and state. This is so far from the truth. It is crystal clear that most saw the founding of the country, the victory in the revolutionary war, and the outcome of the completion of the Constitution as acts of Divine Providence. In other words, they believed that God Himself was guiding and founding this country. Consider this quote from Benjamin Franklin who attended these meetings at the Constitutional Convention, “Mr. President, the small progress we have made after four or five weeks of close attendance & continual reasonings with each other- our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many no’s as yes’, is methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of Human Understanding. We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of government, and examined the different forms of those Republics, which, having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution, now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances. In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor. To that kind of providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground with His notice [Matt 10:29], is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that “except the Lord builds the House, they labor in vain who build it” [Ps 127:1]. I firmly believe this... I there beg to leave to move- that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven, and its blessing on deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service. (*America’s God and Country*, pp. 150-151).

After much prayer it is noted in the official records that “every unfriendly spirit had been expelled... and a spirit of conciliation was cultivated.” Are we really to believe that these same men who trusted in the providence of God from beginning to end would also not seek to have God included in the continuation of our nation’s conscience and laws? If they trusted the Lord to build the house (nation), surely they would encourage us to trust Him to keep it standing; anything less than this is a distortion of history. Have a blessed week!

Published July 8, 2010 New Lenox Patriot