

# ERASING America's Christian Heritage

An Intercessors for America Special Report

## It began with God.

**"America began with a ringing acknowledgement of the existence and authority of God. It began with the assertion of unalienable rights derived from God's authority. It began with an effort to respect that authority by establishing government based on the premise that all legitimate government aims to secure those God-given unalienable rights and must therefore derive its powers from the free and deliberate consent of the governed. Thus, without reference to 'the laws of nature and of nature's God' the constitutional liberty of the American people cannot be understood or sustained.**

"In the Declaration of Independence, America's founders invoked 'the laws of nature and of nature's God.' After doing so, they acknowledged the Creator as the source of human-kind's unalienable rights. They appealed 'to the Supreme Judge of the world' as the arbiter of their intentions. They declared their 'firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.' By their example they passed to future generations of Americans tenets of faith that are among the greatest blessings God can bestow upon a nation. I believe the only greater blessings come to a nation through the transformation of individual hearts as they receive the grace of God through Jesus Christ."

*Contributor: Alan Keyes*

---

*"American's God-fearing beginning surely had much to do with its historic success, including its progress toward liberty and justice for all."*

*- Alan Keyes*

---



Painting by Trumbull: *The Signing of the Declaration of Independence*

## In This Issue

- The original intent.
- What is Natural Law?
- The communist and atheist agenda.
- Where God is erased.
- Who will stand firm for maintaining hope and godliness?



Like Michelangelo's portrayal of Adam receiving life from God, our Founding Fathers took their rights and laws directly from God.

## God's "Natural Law" was the foundation of our nation. What is it?

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which **the laws of nature and of nature's God** entitles them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

This first paragraph in the Declaration of Independence clearly outlines that we and our new government, as it was founded, are subject to the laws of nature and of nature's God. We may have read over that phrase and not given thought to its significance in the document. ***But what does that important phrase really mean, and why did they include it?***

Natural Law, as it is called, acknowledges that man is subject to the laws of his Creator. Sir William Blackstone, a lawyer in England at the time of the founding of our nation, wrote significant volumes about natural law—writings that echoed what the founders knew to be true about the place of God to man in our government. Here is an excerpt from Blackstone's writings: "Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator, for he is entirely a dependent being...And consequently, as man depends absolutely upon his Maker for everything, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his Maker's will. This will of his Maker is called the law of nature."

Alexander Hamilton said, "...This law of nature, being coeval (coexistent) with mankind and dictated by God Himself, is of course superior in obligation to any other. It is binding over all the globe, in all countries, and at all times; no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this."

*Continued on page 3*

## The Founders Say...

"The law...dictated by God Himself is, of course, superior in obligation to any other. It is binding over all the globe, in all countries, and at all times. No human laws are of any validity if contrary to this."

—**Alexander Hamilton**

"All (laws), however, may be arranged in two different classes. 1) Divine. 2) Human... But it should always be remembered that this law, natural or revealed, made for men or for nations, flows from the same Divine source: it is the law of God...Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is Divine."

—**James Wilson**, Original Signer and Supreme Court Justice



Early Supreme Court Justices relied on God's Natural Law to mete out justice and wisdom in ruling cases.

## Special Points for Prayer

Pray for **David Barton**, historian and founder of **WallBuilders**. Barton is



outspoken about the Christian heritage of our nation.

Pray for **Jay Sekulow**, founder of **American**



**Center for Law and Justice**, whose organization represents biblical values in court cases across the nation.

*Continued from page 2*

**David Barton** in his booklet, *The Spirit of the Revolution*, explains that, sadly, we have lost the concept of "...the laws of nature and of nature's God..."

*"Today, these eight words seem to carry no special significance (certainly not enough to justify a revolution), but in their day, that eight-word phrase described a complete philosophy of life.*

*"Yet, even in our era, we, too, have phrases more expressive than their literal wording. For example, the phrase 'secular humanism.' Secular humanism currently represents much more than just two words, it describes a philosophy which identifies a widespread movement which embraces specific beliefs and has a declared agenda."*

Recognizing the deep meaning embodied in the phrase "natural law" will give a crystal-clear understanding to anyone who sees what happened in 1860, when a Harvard University law study yielded a new way of thinking—case law. A court case could be decided using the results of a previously decided case, rather than the tenets of natural law. **This was a critical shift from the philosophy that government exists to legislate God's law to the new, faulty way of thinking that man creates his own laws, based on previous legal decisions.** The drastic swing occurred from governing by natural law (God's law) as intended in the Declaration, to governing by case law (man's decisions).

It is like the difference between making a pattern from the original or making a pattern of a copy of a copy of a copy. After a while, the pattern made from such copies will no longer resemble the original at all. The implementation of case law has made our legal system and governance processes veer away from the original intent of our founders, and away from our dependence and rightful relationship with our Creator. The created now makes the laws instead of the Creator, as was intended in the Declaration of Independence.

This shift reveals the intentional agenda to remove the mention of God from our schools, our governments, and our culture, and explains how our nation could justify abortion, legalize gay marriage, and allow other "laws" that are abominations to God.

America has turned away from recognizing God as our Creator and His laws, and is now executing a different philosophy from the one written in our nation's original documents—the original intent of the founders in establishing the United States. This is tragic!





## “Separation of Church and State” is not in the U. S. Constitution.

However, separation is found in the 1918 Constitution of the Soviet Union. *"In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the U.S.S.R. is separated from the State, and the school from the church"* (Article 124). In fact, the Soviets prohibited the teaching of any kind of religion to children under the age of 18. Separation of Church and State is a more recent notion, taken from the Communist belief system—the governmental system that attempts to eradicate Christianity and all religion from its culture.

It wasn't until the 1947 Supreme Court case *Everson v. Board of Education*, when Justice Hugo Black **declared a new, twisted meaning of the First Amendment, that this phrase even existed.** This ruling declares that *any aid or benefit* to religion from governmental actions is unconstitutional. Justice Black said: *"The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach."* This action by a majority of judges warped the original meaning of the First Amendment as written clearly by the Founders.

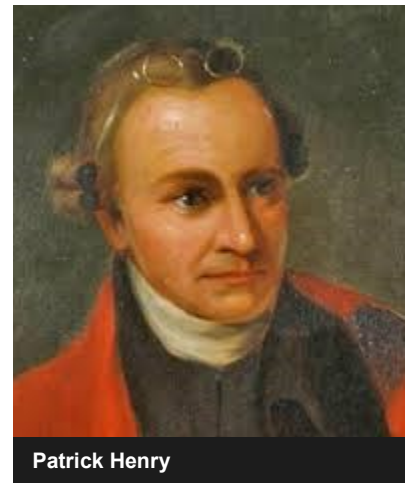
Not only is freedom of religious speech protected by our Constitutional law, but also the Constitution acknowledges the importance of **God** as the originator of the principles of our nation. Our Founders had an entirely different concept in mind than both the Soviets or the post-modern progressives do today.

## The Founders Say...

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

**- U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice, John Jay**

*"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."* - **Patrick Henry**



**A “Christian nation” is a nation whose laws are self-consciously built on the laws and principles of the Word of God.**

## Special Points for Prayer

Pray for the lawyers and organizations who represent believers and biblical beliefs in our courts.

**Mat Staver**, founding



member and **Chairman of Liberty Counsel**, a non-profit litigation, education, and policy organization advocating for religious liberty, pro-life, and pro-family causes.

**Alan Sears**, President, CEO, and General Counsel of **Alliance**



**Defending Freedom (ADF).**



Documents such as our national motto and parts of the Constitution are being removed, as well as the dismantling of The Ten Commandments on public property. (Photo, NY Times)

## Remove the evidence.

The complete and radical disassociation between Christianity and the government, now being advocated by activists, progressives, and the media, is not what the Constitutional framers had in mind. Their goal in granting free speech in the First Amendment was to avoid the tyranny they had endured under the British monarchy. The King declared the State religion, and in many cases he added to its tenets. The framers wanted their new country to reflect their relationship with God, without government interference in their personal beliefs. They wanted freedom for all as to what they believed.

In the modern era, radical progressives, recognizing their failure to win their arguments on fact, deny the documents that contain the facts—or they twist the meaning of the documents. And because of the failure of many Americans to become familiar with our nation's founding documents and their meanings, they are easily duped into believing these deliberately inaccurate interpretations of our founding documents. What is happening today is an agenda to keep people from *learning* from these documents and seeing the evidence of God's influence firsthand by removing them from public access.

The schools and courthouses in eastern Kentucky made up Exhibit A, when officials removed their displays of historical documents in 2001, including the Mayflower Compact, an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, the national motto, "In God We Trust", and the Preamble to the state's Constitution, in order to comply with an order from Federal District Judge Jennifer Coffman. Judge Coffman said the displays were a violation of the First Amendment. This order is one of many that have been handed down from various courts and has led to the removal of statues that display Scripture, the Ten Commandments at courthouses, our national motto in school offices, and prayers from graduation celebrations across this nation. The "progressive" belief is that if you remove the documents, the mottos, and the Commandments, you have, in essence, removed God from our heritage and future.



## What do atheists and communists have in common?

Atheists and communists have similar goals: a godless society. The removal of any homage, reference to, or mention of the word “god” is one way they are systematically trying to accomplish that goal. So how would they keep God from being worshiped by more people in the world? By dismantling the largest, most successful missionary nation and its godly morals, values, history, and core message. Communism and atheism have had America as their primary target for generations because it is a nation initially built on God’s Word, a beacon of light, reaching out to many nations of the world with the message of Christ.

### Lawsuit by lawsuit.

In American society, the rule of law is the respected architecture and the result is a dispensation of laws recognizing God as supreme. Such a “fortress” could only be dismantled brick by brick, lawsuit by lawsuit. Such laws appeal to the instincts of Americans not to offend those who believe differently. There is also a growing slumber in the Church to fear man instead of God. Thus, we have a society where God is deemed offensive and harmful to others. By now our courts have ruled on enough cases to create precedents by which, barring widespread spiritual renewal, future laws will stand adamantly against inclusion of God in American culture.

### It’s not too late.

With our national heritage becoming unrecognizable, many believers are waking up to the fact that we have allowed God to be removed from so many places. It seems an uphill battle to regain the godly heritage and influence we once knew, but it is possible. Prayer can change culture, fight the darkness, win the court cases, and turn American hearts back to God. Every day, organizations such as the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) and Liberty Counsel are pushing back against lawsuits filed against good people who are following God.

### The Founders Say...

*"Our standard of right is that eternal law which God proclaimed from Sinai, and which Jesus expounded on the Mount. We recognize our responsibility to Jesus Christ. He is Head over all things to the Church, and the nation that will not serve Him is doomed to perish."*

—James Henley Thomwell, American pastor, theologian, and writer, 1812-1862



### The Scriptures Say...

*"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

—Matthew 6:10

*"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."*

—Proverbs 14:34

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..."*

—Psalm 33:12



## The ACLU

The **American Civil Liberties Union** was founded by Communist Roger Baldwin in 1920.

*"I am for socialism, disarmament and ultimately for abolishing the state itself as an instrument of violence and compulsion. I seek the social ownership of property, the abolition of the propertied class and sole control by those who produce wealth. Communism is, of course, the goal."* —ALCU founder Roger Baldwin

Since that time, the ACLU has been selective about the "liberties" they represent—namely abortion rights, atheist rights, gay rights, and progressive rights.



The current President of the ACLU is **Susan Herman** (above).

The **Executive Director** is **Anthony Romero**, an openly gay man who has lobbied and litigated prolifically for same-sex special rights.



Laws such as mandating equal access to restrooms for transgenders in schools and stores would not be considered in a nation that is God-honoring and governed by His principles.

## What is the result of a country without God?

We need to look no further than the communist countries, where no god whatsoever is allowed to be taught, mentioned, or injected into society. A rejection of the Creator's overshadowing influence brings a culture of hopelessness, moral relevancy, and lack of fruit such as compassion, kindness, and joy. "... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty," the Bible tells us (2 Corinthians 3:17). A nation without any acknowledgment of God is a nation without true freedom. It makes sense that so many godless nations create their godless culture through dictatorial rule or harsh and intrusive laws. Leaders become masters, and citizens become slaves.

Value for life, moral clarity, justice, and hope, are not practiced perfectly even in a nation where Jesus Christ is acknowledged, but such essential characteristics are seen where the Presence of God and the fear of the Lord are honored. These timeless values come only from Him. Without the standard of the Bible, there is no definitive right or wrong. Instead, laws reflect the whims of the powerful. Leaders will appease the loud and the organized—no matter what their values.



## The Scriptures Say...

*"The fool has said in his heart,  
'There is no God.'"*  
—Psalm 14:1

*"Professing to be wise, they  
became fools..."*  
—Romans 1:22

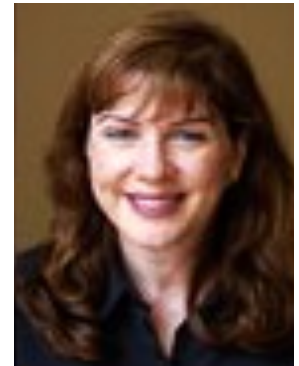
*"...at the name of Jesus every  
knee should bow, of those in  
heaven, and of those on earth,  
and of those under the earth,  
and that every tongue should  
confess that Jesus Christ is  
Lord, to the glory of God the  
Father."*  
—Philippians 2:10-11

## A family legacy of godlessness.

Calling religion "the root cause of women's oppression," **Anne Nicol Gaylor**, co-founder of Freedom from Religion Foundation, was a staunch radical feminist, pro-abortion activist, and aggressive atheist all her life. Gaylor branded the Bible "a grim fairy tale" and preached that "nothing fails like prayer." She wrote a book titled, *Abortion is a Blessing* and declared unabashedly that "in the kind of world I want to live in, all children would be wanted." The elder Gaylor died in 2004 and maintained her staunch disbelief and campaign against God until her death.

**Annie Laurie Gaylor** has taken the baton from her mother and has kept the anti-God movement going and growing in America. The campaigns against prayer, Christian holidays, God, and those who believe in them, have been made more prominent through advertising campaigns, litigation, and organization. She shares the leadership of the FFRF with her now-husband Dan Barker, another co-founder. Their annual budget of more than \$4 million helps fund their campaigns against religious freedom in communities across our nation.

Other board members of the Freedom from Religion Foundation include, **on right**, from top to bottom, actress **Julia Sweeney**; **Ron Reagan**, son of President Ronald Reagan; and **Richard Dawkins**.





## Special Points for Prayer

Pray for salvation for **Michael Newdow**, founder of **Secular Coalition for America**, ER physician, lawyer and avowed atheist. He has aggressively pursued taking God out of our schools, off our money, out of the marketplace,



and out of the courts. He became known when he pursued a lawsuit on behalf of his daughter, claiming she was uncomfortable with the Pledge of Allegiance due to its Christian references. It was a long legal battle that brought Newdow notice in the media. It was later revealed that the daughter is a dedicated Christian who never lived with her father, nor did he truly represent her interests or desires. He has continued his lawsuits against schools, municipalities, as well as state and federal governments, among others, all with the goal of erasing any reference to or acknowledgment of God in or on anything public.



Atheists Dan Barker, left, and Mikey Weinstein, at right.

## Who is behind the movement to remove God?

One of the biggest names in the anti-God campaign is **Dan Barker**. He is currently the co-president of The Freedom from Religion Foundation, the most prominent and prolific atheist organization. Mr. Barker was formerly a minister who, for over two decades, preached the Word of God. He claims to have “outgrown” Christianity and become a “freethinker”—as atheists like to call themselves. FFRF’s aggressive litigation to remove God from every public place reaches to the smallest towns in America. In general, FFRF lawsuits are not generated by people in the community, but from outside, as the atheist foundation looks for avenues to forward their cause legally and in the public eye.

Another outspoken atheist is **Mikey Weinstein**, who, formerly with the military, heads the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. His aggressive and combative approach has brought a “battle” mentality to his war against Christianity—intimidating, prosecuting, and stripping the rights of military chaplains. His foul speech and physical threats resulted in his removal from more than one talk show. Sadly, Weinstein wields a lot of power in the current administration and with the military, and he is on a familiar basis with several of those in command positions—particularly at the Pentagon.



The sun has not yet set on our nation. Through prayer and action, America can be restored to the foundations it once had, firmly placed on God's Word.

## As long as there is an intercessor, there is hope.

Praying faithfully for our nation, along with public policy involvement by Christians, can bring the declining nation we see today back in line with God's design. **Derek Prince**, in his book, *Will You Intercede?*, states, *"We need to take into account the tremendous influence that righteous persons can have in the world today. Their impact is felt in two ways: by their prayers, and by their presence. By our prayers we, like Abraham, can stand between God and the objects of His just wrath and hold off His judgment. By our very presence we commend the area where we are—the community, the society—to God's mercy and God's favor."*

*"Our presence can cause God to hold back his righteous judgment from an entire community or city or even an entire nation. On the other hand, if we are passive and indifferent we will make no impact. In fact, such a lack of response in the face of evil is sinful. James 4:17 says: 'Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him is sin.'*

*"That Scripture really faces us with a clear choice. Are we going to commit ourselves to be righteous persons, prayer warriors, intercessors, holding off God's wrath and judgment on our nation? Or are we going to be passive and indifferent, failing to do what the situation demands?"*

**As long as there are intercessors, there is hope. Will you be one of those intercessors?**

## The Scriptures say...

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...."*  
—Hosea 4:6a

*"... if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*  
—2 Chronicles 7:14

*"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*  
—Ephesians 6:12

*"Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor..."*  
—Isaiah 59:15-16

*"...for it is time to seek the LORD, till He comes and rains righteousness on you."*  
—Hosea 10:12

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."*  
—Matthew 5:13

*"Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?"*  
—Psalm 85:6