

THE BOOK THAT SHAPED OUR NATION
2 TIMOTHY 3:16

I. THE PERSONAL OPINIONS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS.

A. Founding Fathers Were Diligent Students of Scripture. – Previous message on subject.

B. George Washington.

“ It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and Bible.”

C. John Jay – First Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court.

The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts

II. THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF AMERICA.

A. John Jay – First Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court and co-author of the Federalist Papers along with James Madison and Alexander Hamilton.

“Whether our religion permits Christians to vote for infidel rulers is a question which merits more consideration than it seems yet to have generally received either from the clergy or the laity. It appears to me that what the prophet said to Jehoshaphat about his attachment to Ahab [“Shouldest thou help the ungodly and love them that hate the Lord?” 2 Chronicles 19:2] affords a salutary lesson.” [*The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay, 1794-1826*, Henry P. Johnston, editor (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1893), Vol. IV, p.365]

B. Joseph Story – Supreme Court Justice 1811-1845. Law Professor at Harvard.

“I verily believe Christianity necessary to the support of civil society. One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the Common Law. . . There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying its foundations.”
[Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States p. 593]

C. Noah Webster – Father of American Education.

“In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed...No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”
[Source: 1828, in the preface to his American Dictionary of the English Language]

D. James Madison.

We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We've staked the future of all our political institutions upon our capacity...to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." [1778 to the General Assembly of the State of Virginia]

E. Current Attitude.

1. In 2003 a Federal Court ordered Judge Roy Moore of Alabama to remove the Ten Commandments from an Alabama State Courthouse.
2. According to a CNN poll 77% of Americans surveyed disagreed with the decision.

III. THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN AMERICA. See Previous Message – Education in America.

A. George Washington.

"What students would learn in American schools above all is the religion of Jesus Christ." [speech to the Delaware Indian Chiefs May 12, 1779]

B. Noah Webster.

"The Bible was America's basic textbook in all fields." [Noah Webster. Our Christian Heritage p.5]

"Education is useless without the Bible" [Noah Webster. Our Christian Heritage p.5]

C. Supreme Court Ruling.

- * In February 1963 the Supreme Court ruled that school sponsored Bible reading was unconstitutional. *

See "Year of the Bible" Proclamation Signed by Ronald Reagan Feb. 3, 1983

Will the book that shaped the history of our country have a role in shaping its future?

