

Greater Works Christian Church

Robert A. Enos
Founder and Lead Apostle

Independence Day, 2021

Intro: This is the day we celebrate our freedom from British rule and the tyranny of our oppressors. Many patriots past and present have fought and died on the battlefield to secure and protect our freedoms.

Freedom is not free but comes at a high price. We should never take our freedom for granted. We must always protect our freedom even if it costs us our life.

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Question: Paul writes, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free (Gal 5:1 – NASB)”. What are we set free from? Please explain what we are free from and why we have been set free from these things.

The Fourth of July

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

From the Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.— That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,— That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and

organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.

The War of Independence

The war of Independence, also known as the American Revolution and the Revolutionary War, was fought from 1775 to 1783 between Great Britain and the 13 British Colonies in North America.

The Treaty of Paris, which ended the war, gave the 13 colonies political independence, and led to the formation of the United States of America.

What happened to the Church? - What happened to its Leaders?

Joshua 1:6-9

6 Be strong and brave! You must lead these people in the conquest of this land that I solemnly promised their ancestors I would hand over to them.

7 Make sure you are very strong and brave! Carefully obey all the law my servant Moses charged you to keep! Do not swerve from it to the right or to the left, so that you may be successful in all you do.

8 This law scroll must not leave your lips! You must memorize it day and night so you can carefully obey all that is written in it. Then you will prosper and be successful.

9 I repeat, be strong and brave! Don't be afraid and don't panic, for I, the LORD your God, am with you in all you do."

The Black Robed Regiment

Reverend James Caldwell and the Price of Liberty

In 1760, The Rev. James Caldwell was installed at the age of 26 as the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

During the American Revolution, Caldwell became an ardent patriot known as the "Fighting Chaplain" and a leader among the "Black-Robed Regiment"- the title the British called the American clergy who resisted British tyranny. His church was the primary repository of rhetoric for liberty, and his sermons articulated God's resistance to tyranny, for only God could be sovereign, not man.

Not surprising, when armed conflict broke out in 1775, Caldwell's church became a virtual recruiting office. Thirty-one member became commissioned officers, including Governor Livingston; fifty-two were privates. When New Jersey called its militia to arms, James Caldwell was elected chaplain, and Colonel Dayton, one of Caldwell's parishioners, was chosen commander. As chaplain, he went everywhere his troops went.

Caldwell was known to:

- Encourage the timid
- Out debate the Tories (British supporting American's)

- Before Preaching he would lay his two pistols on the pulpit

When soldiers were ready to quit, due to lack of food and pay, which often happened, Caldwell would instill inspiration, courage, and fortitude that produced an unselfish devotion to their country and the liberty so freely given by God.

In January 1780 the British burned his church to the ground, and the individual who did it confessed he was sorry that the “black-coated rebel” was not burned in his own pulpit!

On the morning of June 25th, 1780, a British soldier shot and killed Hannah Caldwell (James Caldwell’s wife). He was sent for that very purpose.

Other Preachers and Pastors that fought the British

After the British fought the Americans at Lexington and Concord, they encountered increasing American resistance along the way back to Boston. Significantly, many who awaited them along the road were local pastors, such as the Rev. Phillips Patson and the Rev. Benjamin Balch, who had heard of the attack, taken up their own arms, and then rallied their congregations to fight the returning British.

The Rev. David Avery of Vermont, gathered twenty men and marched towards Boston, recruiting additional troops along the way.

The Rev. Stephen Farrar of New Hampshire led ninety-seven of his parishioners to the scene of danger.

A few weeks later at the Battle of Bunker Hill, American ministers again delved headlong into the fray. The Rev. David Grosvenor heard the battle had commenced, he left from his pulpit, rifle in hand, and promptly marched to the scene of action, as did the Rev. Jonathan French.

The Rev. Joseph Willard raised two full companies and led them into the battle.

The Rev. Thomas Reed marched to the defense of Philadelphia against British General Howe.

The Rev. John Steele led American forces in attacking the British.

The Rev. Isaac Lewis helped lead the resistance to the British landing at Norwalk, Connecticut.

The Rev. James Latta, when many of his parishioners were drafted, joined with them as a common soldier.

The Rev. William Graham joined the military as a rifleman in order to encourage others in his parish to do the same.

Still, other Pastors that Fought

The Rev. John Craighead, it is said that “he fought and preached alternately.”

The Rev. Dr. Cooper was Captain of a military company.

The Rev. John Blair Smith, president of Hampton-Sidney College, was Captain of a company that rallied to support the retreating Americans after the battle of Cowpens.

The Rev. James Hall commanded a company that armed against Cornwallis.

The Rev. William Graham rallied his own neighbors to dispute the passage of Rockfish Gap with Tarleton and his British Dragoons.

Question: How far would you be willing to go to defend your freedoms? Why?

A recent post on my Face Book Page

Hey Pastor’s and church leaders.

The 4th of July- the day we celebrate our freedom from tyranny- is coming up. If you closed the doors of your church because the Government told you to, it would do you good to preach a message of repentance instead of freedom.

Pastor, if you closed your church because the Governor or Mayor told you to, you have given up your right to celebrate our freedom. Why? Because you gave up your freedom for fear.

- No picnics
- No fireworks
- No sermons of freedom and liberty
- No Red, White and Blue
- No American Flags
- No parades

Preach a message of repentance then go home, shut the door behind you, and disconnect yourself from the rest of us- you’ve proven you’re good at that.

The 4th of July is for Freedom loving Americans- those willing to stand against tyranny, not cave to it.

Question: Is this post right or wrong? Why? Is this post too harsh or not harsh enough? Why?

Revelation 21:7-8

7 The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

8 But as for the cowards, unbelievers, detestable persons, murderers, the sexually immoral, and those who practice magic spells, idol worshipers, and all those who lie, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. That is the second death.”

It is unfortunate but most pastors of today folded when the government told them to close their church. The pastors mentioned above would never have closed their church but would have formed a militia and marched against the tyrants in government.

1 John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

The Christians of the Revolutionary period knew their pastors loved them. Not because of the morning greetings, or hospital visits, but because they were willing to fight and die for them. They followed the example left for them by Jesus. They picked up their cross and carried it into battle (their cross being a musket).

Questions: After reading these bible verses, is it too much to ask that the believer in Christ Jesus be willing to die for others, or die for his/her beliefs? Why?

Conclusion: Just a few short years ago I would tell people to find a church where the whole Bible is taught, and Holy Spirit is present. Today I would say, find a church that teaches the whole Bible, Holy Spirit is present, and the Church leadership is bold enough to go against the governments demands to the point of death. Only then will you know you are in a Church that loves you.

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Questions and Discussion: Please give your final thoughts on the content of this outline. What are your thoughts and opinions about the back story of Independence Day and those who fought for our freedoms?

Are we in need of a new Black Robed Regiment?