

George Washington

“No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand [of God] which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States.”

“[I]t is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor.”

“[T]he propitious [favorable] smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.”

“[W]e may then unite...and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions...to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue.”

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports...[and] great pillars of human happiness.”

“Let it simply be asked, Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert...?”

“And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds...reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

“While just government protects all in their religious rights, true religion affords to government its surest support.”

Benjamin Franklin

“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.... I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our partial local interests; [and] our projects will be confounded.”

“Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.”

[First Chief Justice] John Jay

“Providence [God] has given our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

Noah Webster

“When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers ‘just men who will rule in the fear of God.’ The preservation of [our] republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good, so much as for selfish or local purposes....”

“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.”

Gouverneur Morris

“Religion is the only solid basis of good morals; therefore education should teach the precepts of religion, and the duties of man towards God.”

Benjamin Rush

“In contemplating the political institutions of the United States [if the Bible and prayer were removed from our public schools], I lament that we [would] waste so much time and money in punishing crimes and take so little pains to prevent them. We...[would] neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government; that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible.”

James Madison

“Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe.”

John Adams

“Statesman...may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand.”

“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion.... Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

George Mason

“As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, so they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.”