

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The stars are visible in the upper left, and the stripes of red, white, and blue run diagonally across the frame. The lighting is somewhat dramatic, with the blue field being darker and the stripes appearing more vibrant.

# **Words of Wisdom and Warning from Our Nation's Founders**

**Al Aitken & Steve Hemler**

# The Foundation

- **Christian Moral Foundation**
  - Free Market Economy
  - Constitutional Liberties
  - Representative Form of Government
- **“It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand.”**
  - John Adams

# The Foundation

- “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” – John Adams
- “And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion.”  
– George Washington
- *Video:* Religious vitality fosters national morality, which the Founders believed is the foundation of freedom



# The Foundation

In the 1830s, French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville observed:

“The religious atmosphere of the country was the first thing that struck me on arrival in the United States.”

“When the seventh day comes, all trade and industry seem suspended throughout the nation. All noise stops. A deep repose, or rather solemn contemplation, takes its place.”

# The Foundation

Alexis de Tocqueville:

“The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other.”

“Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith.”

“The safeguard of morality is religion, and morality is the best security of law and the surest pledge of freedom.”

# The Foundation

- President George Washington signed Northwest Ordinance into law in 1789  
“Article 3: **Religion, morality, and knowledge** being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”
- *Video*: First Amendment and the “Separation of Church and State”





# The Separation

- Have re-written clear intent of U.S. Constitution from forbidding what it actually says, namely “**an** establishment of religion” (a noun), into a general prohibition against “**the** establishment of religion” (a verb)
- When public religious influence in society is reduced, public ethics and morality are reduced as well
  - Loss of ethics in our society is a “root cause” of recent economic troubles, etc.

# The Separation

- Drive to “compartmentalize” religious faith to our private lives puts us on a slippery slope where at the bottom is:
  - No public prayer
  - No acknowledgment of our Creator
  - No recognition of our nation’s religious heritage and its connection to America’s strength and freedoms
  - Weakens foundation upon which our great nation was built
- *Video: Consequences of secularization*



# The Consequences

- **Comments?**
- **“Without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure. If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.” – Ronald Reagan**
- **It is bad for our nation when our people and our government publicly ignore God**
  - **Risk loss of liberty & economic collapse**

# The Consequences

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

– Benjamin Franklin

- “Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness.”

– George Washington

# The Consequences

**Alexander Tytler, Scottish History Professor :**

**“A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury.”**

**“From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship.”**

# ***The Tytler Cycle in History***



# The Consequences

- Major “root cause” of recent and looming economic troubles is that too many Americans look to government as solution to nearly every human need
  - Strangles community spirit and works of charity (since pay taxes, less giving)
  - Government simply cannot meet all of humanity’s needs, nor should it try to
  - The more government acts as God, the less people depend upon God and each other, esp. during hard times (ahead?)



# The Solution

- **Real choice is whether God is Lord, or whether Government is Lord**
  - Look to God and each other for help during hard times, not government
  - So many people looking to government for help got us into this economic mess
- **More and bigger government is not the answer, good morality is**
  - If a healthy religious commitment is needed for widespread moral responsibility, then our nation needs more religion, not less

# The Solution

- **When a culture loses its moral foundation, it is often because believers have failed to adequately bring Christian truth to society**
  - **As “salt” of our society, we must strive to be courageous advocates for and sincere examples of seeking God’s Will**
  - **Present our convictions with civility and respect (“The Golden Rule”)**
  - **Pray for God’s Will to be done through us, as the road to national and cultural renewal begins on our knees**

# The Solution

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

“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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

- **Video:** Rabbi Jonathan Cahn

- Bestselling author of *The Harbinger*
- *Isaiah 9:10* DVDs (on YouTube)



# The Solution

- ***Remember***

- Our nation's founding principles:
  - Continued liberty needs good morality
  - Religious vitality fosters good morality

- ***Repent***

- Individually and as a nation
- Boldly expose modern myth of “separation of church and state”

- ***Return***

- Both individually and as a nation
- Seek God's Will and help each other

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**Questions? Comments?**

**Close with prayer**

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