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vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness.... The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them.” -George Washington

### **God was revealed and empowered the Constitutional Convention**

“The real wonder is that the Constitutional Convention overcame so many difficulties. And to overcome them with so much agreement was as unprecedented as it was unexpected. It is impossible for the pious man not to recognize in it a finger of that Almighty Hand which was so frequently extended to us in the critical stages of the Revolution.” -James Madison

“For my own part, I sincerely esteem a system which, without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests.” -Alexander Hamilton

“As to my sentiments with respect to the new Constitution, it appears to me little short of a miracle. It demonstrates as visibly the finger of Providence as any possible event in the course of human affairs can ever designate.” -Washington

### **The ending of the Declaration of Independence**

“We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions....

“And in support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

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## **Government—part 2** **Grace and Truth—part 20**

September 3, 2023

### **The Declaration of Independence**

“The virtue which had been infused into the Constitution of the United States... was no other than the concretion of those abstract principles which had been first proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence. This was the platform upon which the Constitution of the United States had been erected.”  
-John Q Adams

### **Biblical Truths and Principles** **Undergirding our Nation**

#### **1. God governs over the affairs of man**

*2 Chronicles 20:6 “LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.*

#### **2. Self-evident truths**

*Jeremiah 31:33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “**I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

#### **3. All men are created equal**

*Revelation 5:9 “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

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#### 4. Fixed moral law

“...The laws of Nature and Nature’s God”

*Psalm 19:7 **The law of the LORD is perfect**, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are **trustworthy**, **making wise** the simple. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are **right**, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*

<sup>9</sup> *The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are **firm**, and all of them are **righteous**.*

*Psalm 119:89 Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.*

#### 5. Endowed by Our Divine Creator

##### The Great Mandate:

*Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

<sup>28</sup> *God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

<sup>29</sup> *Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.*

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#### 6. Inalienable rights

(See Matthew 25:14-30)

#### 7. Government exists to protect inalienable rights

*1 Timothy 2:1-2. “First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, **in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.**”*

“In this text we are called to pray for kings and those in governing authority, and it is not a stretch to think that we are to pray for them to be successful in fulfilling their proper function. What is that function? They are to sustain a stable social order in which people can live peacefully and quietly without fear of harm.” J.P. Moreland

*Eccl. 8:11 When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people’s hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.*

#### 8. Consent of the Governed

“It is a great mistake to suppose that the paper we are to propose will govern the United States. It is the men whom it will bring into the Government and interest in maintaining it that is to govern them. The paper will only mark out the mode and the form. Men are the substance and must do the business.”- John Francis Mercer, delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

#### 9. The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In

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