

Blessed Is The Nation Whose God Is The Lord

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In 1751, the providence of Pennsylvania ordered a large bell from the Whitechapel Foundry in England. When the bell was first rung in Philadelphia on March 10, 1753, it was so brittle that it was cracked by the clapper. The bell was then melted down by a local foundry and then recast with extra copper added to make it stronger.

The new bell did not have a pleasing tone, so it was melted down and recast again. Since some people were still dissatisfied with the tone of the bell, a new one was ordered from England. However, when the new bell came it was determined that its tone was no better than that of the recast one.

And so the new bell from England was attached to the clock in the cupola on the State House roof and was used to sound the hours. But the recast bell was left in the State House steeple and was used to summon the people together for special announcements and events.

The most famous ringing of the bell, now called the Liberty Bell, occurred on July 8, 1776, when it rang out to summon the citizens of Philadelphia to the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence.

When the British invaded Philadelphia the next year, all the bells in the city were removed for fear that they would be seized and melted down into cannons. The Liberty Bell was hidden in the floorboards of the Zion Reformed Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

After the British were driven out, the bell was returned to Philadelphia where it continued to ring for special events until 1846. In that year, as it was being rung in celebration of George Washington's birthday, a crack that had appeared some time before expanded to the point that the bell became unringable.

Since then the Liberty Bell has become a sort of museum piece that thousands of people walk by each year, trying to catch a glimpse of history.

But perhaps they miss two of the greatest lessons we can learn from the Liberty Bell. The first lesson is found on the bell itself. When the founding fathers wanted a quote engraved on the bell, they turned to the Bible and chose a passage from Leviticus in the Old Testament, "*Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof...*"

What are the chances of that happening today? Practically zero. Instead of allowing the Bible to be engraved on public places our courts chisel out historical carvings of the Ten Commandments and anything else that refers to God and the Bible. Will the quote on the Liberty Bell be next?

The second lesson is this: while the crack may add to the legend of the bell, it also makes it basically useless. In the same way, if we as a nation depart from the purpose for which we were founded, we will eventually become so changed that we will lose our position in the world.

It is impossible to remove God and the Bible from our schools, our government institutions, our laws and our decrees and live in an America as it was founded. If the founding fathers meant to eliminate the Bible in government, why did they engrave it on the Liberty Bell, quote it in their documents, and carve it into their buildings?

The Bible promises that "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*" However, it also warns that "*The nation that will not serve God will perish; it will be utterly ruined.*" It is our choice as a nation.