

GAINING INDEPENDENCE

July 8, 2013

Two hundred thirty-seven years ago this past Thursday, our country celebrated its birth as a new nation. Our founding fathers and the new nation's determined citizens resolved that they could no longer live under the tyranny of King George William Frederick III of England (<http://www.shmoop.com/american-revolution/king-george-iii.html>). Their actions resulted in the formation of a more perfect union, known as the United States of America. Once an ambitious and dedicated people come to the realization that the circumstances under which they are burdened will not change, they are usually inclined to make changes themselves and to themselves. That has always been the recipe for change!

Government regimes are not the only ones that are affected by this type of change; individuals must embrace this method, as well, when they endeavor to break the bonds of Satan's curse. Jesus said, **"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"** (Mt. 11:28). What did He mean? He meant all that labored under the burden of sin could come to Him for the necessary help to gain the independence from sin we all desire. However, like the early Americans, one must have the determination and will to change self if he or she is ever to throw off the shackles of Satan and sin.

As bad as despotism is, it pales in comparison to Satan's tyranny over mankind which exists through the temptations of sin (1 Jn. 2:16). Our once great nation's Supreme Court recently made a declaration that the all powerful God of heaven didn't know what He was doing when He said, "Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh" (Mt. 19:4-5). They chose to burden themselves and America's citizens with the sins of the world when **they** determined that homosexuality was a right that all people should uphold! The problem with that is that the Holy Spirit of God, through the pen of Paul said:

"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, **that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them" (Rom. 1:26-31, emphasis RO).**

If one is going to gain independence from sin and receive the blessing of eternal rest with our Savior, a personal change must first be made (1 Cor. 6:11), and then hopefully others will be influenced by the faithful. Once that happens, we will be able to stand firm against the tyranny of Satan and never support a godless government that has abandoned heaven for hell through their calloused disregard of God's commandments!

Determine today to forsake the world and follow Christ even when it goes against traditional political views or even friends and family. May we all embrace the faith of Noah and stand against a world of iniquity and gain our independence from sin (Gen. 6:1-9)!