



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Benjamin Franklin: Bible Believer? Really?

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Rev. Dale Witherington / 651.785.3647 / dale.witherington@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org

Did you know that Benjamin Franklin, one of only six of our Founding Father's that signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, was not merely a deist (a believer that a god exists) but an avid Bible reader and a believer in the God of the Bible? On Thursday, June 28, 1787 at the Constitutional Convention, when the delegates were at an impasse to create a unified Constitution for what would become a newly formed republic, Franklin reminded them of the time 11 years earlier, *in that very same room*, when they had signed the Declaration of Independence as a result of daily prayer together. In the following 14 sentences of his speech, he quoted not one, not two, not even three Bible verses. Franklin spoke the Bible so fluently that his 14 sentences were laced with FOURTEEN Bible verses. (I have inserted the Bible references in the text of his speech.)

He said, "In this situation of this Assembly, groping, as it were, in the dark to find political truth (Job 12:25), and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of Lights, to illuminate our understanding (James 1:17)? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection (Psalm 121:7). Our prayers were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending Providence in our favor. And have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - that God governs the affairs of men (Daniel 4:17). If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice (Luke 12:6; Matthew 10:29) is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid (Psalm 75:7)? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that 'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it' (Psalm 127:1). I firmly believe this; and I also believe without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), and we shall become a reproach and a byword down to future ages (I Kings 9:7; Psalm 44:14; II Chronicles 7:20; Dt. 28:37). I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven (James 1:5) and its blessings on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business."

This is the first of our "Did You Know" series to reinforce what modern-day "historians" are trying to remove: that America was founded on the Bible as the Word of God and was, in fact, considered a Christian* nation not only at its inception but also until very recent history. (*Christian here is defined as an active follower of Jesus Christ as God in the flesh, the exclusive Savior of the world, not merely someone who attends or has attended a "Christian" church.)

Today's Quote – "It [the Bible] is the rock upon which our Republic rests." – President Andrew Jackson

* Capitol Commission Minnesota is a non-partisan, non-political pastoral ministry to the political leaders, their families, staffs and political networks in the State of Minnesota. Dale Witherington is the State Director and can be reached at 651.785.3647 and at dale.witherington@capitolcom.org. We can be viewed on the web at www.capitolcom.org.