

## Proud to be an American: In God We Trust

October 4th, 2020 by Kasey Crawford

**Today's Passages: Philippians 3:4-21, Romans 11:36, Psalm 35:1,4, 1 Peter 5:5-6, Proverbs 9:10, Psalm 14:1**

As Americans, we have a rich, godly heritage that has been bestowed to us as a mighty \_\_\_\_\_, that as Christians, we can be proud to preserve, defend and promote.

An American ideal to be proud of: In God we Trust!

This American Ideal began with our spiritual forebearers, the Pilgrims-1630

*"Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing and gives being to all things that are; and as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some sort to our whole nation; let the glorious name of Jehovah have all praise." -William Bradford (Plymouth governor)*

The First Continental Congress-1774

*"look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth \_\_\_\_\_ only on Thee."*  
-Pastor Jacob Duche, the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional Chaplain

About that prayer, John Adams commented to his wife: *"I never saw a greater effect upon an audience. It seemed as if Heaven had ordained that Psalm to be read on that morning."*

These examples are not just typical cultural ways of talking that give a weak mental assent to a God, these are vibrant \_\_\_\_\_ of the God of the Bible being present, powerful and personal in the lives of the founders.

The Declaration of Independence from Britain also declares our dependence on God!-1776

*"Nature's God entitle them...endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights... appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions..."*

The Constitutional Convention-1787

After more than a month of sharp dispute and deep discord, Ben Franklin made a motion: *how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of \_\_\_\_\_ applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings?*

A few days later, Washington took the delegates to a local church where pastor William Rogers prayed over them: *"Enable them to devise such measures as may prove happily instrumental for healing all \_\_\_\_\_"*

James Madison, often called the "Father of the Constitution", writing later about these events said:

*It is impossible for the pious man not to recognize in it a finger of that Almighty \_\_\_\_\_ which was so frequently extended to us in the critical stages of the Revolution."*

The 1<sup>st</sup> President's 1<sup>st</sup> words to Congress-1789:

*No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States..."*

And his "farewell address"-1796:

*Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports .-Washington*

**Responding to God...**

How can you act to preserve, defend and promote the great American ideal that: In God We Trust?