

Christianity and United States History

Week 2: A Revolution and Constitution

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Rom.13:1)

Week 1 Review

- Mayflower Compact?
- Puritans & Theocracy
- Roger Williams & church-state separation
- Significance of the Great Awakening!

Discussion: Were the Founding Fathers Christians?

The “Enlightenment”

- “Reason” vs. “Revelation”
- Benjamin Franklin
 - *Experiments and Observations in Electricity*
 - The Almanac
- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

The Declaration of Independence as Civic (Sacred) Text!

- Thomas Jefferson
 - Deism
 - John Locke
- John Adams
- Samuel Adams & Patrick Henry

Constitutional Convention (Civic Text)

- James Madison
- Roger Sherman

George Washington!

- ***“...so help me God”***

Reflection/Application:

- To what extent did the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States establish a Christian foundation for government?
- With respect to the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment in particular, how does the Founding Fathers’ own reluctance to add a Bill of Rights impact your thinking?
- Consider the concept of civic texts and nationalism. What do you think should be the relationship of these concepts to a Christian’s sense of identity and citizenship?