



Focus on Religious Freedom

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“A diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty.” James Madison

Learn and Live God’s Gift of Religious Freedom: Part 1

1. Our Creator, not a king, emperor or elected government, is the source of each man’s unalienable rights as asserted in our Declaration of Independence
2. The Pilgrims came to America, not for religious freedom, but to escape religious persecution.
3. In our colonies only certain Christian denominations were chartered or allowed. No one could preach or practice a faith not included in the charter. Christians persecuted other Christians over denominational differences.
4. By the time of the founding the colonists saw that religious persecution in the colonies was the same evil that had caused them to flee to America.
5. Our founders knew the history of their forefathers of centuries of religious dictates. They did not want to repeat the mistakes of government-dictated religion because history was clear ... it always led to tyranny and persecution.
6. Our founders were men of faith who believed in the Bible as the greatest of all books
7. and source of moral knowledge...and believed in a final judgment where each would stand before his Creator and answer for what he had done and he had failed to do.
8. Therefore, they believed that each man must be free to follow his conscience. John Leland, Baptist minister and Founding Father, said, “If government can answer for individuals at the day of judgment, let men be controlled by it in religious matters; otherwise let men be free.”

“It is favourable to liberty. Freedom can exist only in the society of knowledge.”

Founding Father Dr. Benjamin Rush