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## Focus on Religious Freedom

*"Almighty God hath created the mind free ..."*  
*Inscription on Jefferson Memorial, Washington, D.C.*

### The Faith of Our Founders – Freedom Requires Sacrifice

Most of the nation's 56 Founders were openly religious, believing with Samuel Adams that "true Religion and good Morals are the only solid foundations of public liberty and happiness." After signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, Samuel Adams wrote, "We have this day restored the Sovereign to whom men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven, and with a propitious eye beholds his subjects assuming that freedom of thought and dignity of self-direction which He bestowed on them. From the rising to the setting of the sun, may His kingdom come!"

***"And for the support of this Declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."*** - The final line of the Declaration of Independence

With this pledge, the 56 Founders were willing to sacrifice everything for God and for liberty. Many of them and their families suffered hardship that few today remember:

- Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died.
- Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.
- Nine fought and died from wounds or hardships of war.
- A Virginia planter and trader saw his ships sunk by the British navy and he died in poverty.
- Others also lost all their worldly possessions and died bankrupt.

*(The Faith of Our Fathers, by Alf Mapp; courant.com, 7/4/18; lehmaninstitute.org; see the American Minute)*

***"(Freedom) is a challenge held out to each generation and it must constantly be won over for the sake of the good."*** - Pope Francis