

Independence and Dependence – Both Are Causes to Celebrate

This is a big year for Independence Day celebrations. Our nation is celebrating the milestone 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence from England. Our independence gives us many freedoms and has been protected over the years by the courageous acts of many.

Our culture lifts independence as being important to the individual. We want to be self-sufficient, earn a living, support our families, and make our own decisions. Because independence is a symbol of strength, our culture seems to value independence over dependence.



Our relationship with God is exactly the opposite – it is one of dependence. There is nothing we can do to earn salvation. Through our faith in Him, we receive His righteousness. Forgiveness of our sins is a free gift available only to believers. It requires our dependence on the Lord.

God established government to govern our earthly lives. *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” (Romans 13:1).* The government establishes law and order in our community, so that we may live peacefully. *“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).*

Yet, Jesus Christ showed us how to live in this earthly world.

The fact that our nation has existed for 250 years is a reason to celebrate. Let us celebrate that our country offers the freedom to worship and celebrate the courageous men and women who fought for our freedom and protect us every day. In so doing, let us remain dependent on God. That is a cause to celebrate as it provides a pathway to eternal life with Him.

While some manmade governmental programs seek to reduce our burdens, God eliminates the burden of regret for the actions of repentant believers. While many fought for freedom from slavery, Jesus gave his life to eliminate our slavery to sin. *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)*

On July 4, there will be parades and fireworks across the land. We remember our freedoms, won at a cost. Every time you pray, remember the freedoms that Jesus Christ won for you at the cost of His life. Yet, He lives so we can live. (Read 1 Thessalonians 5:10). His resurrection gave us the Hope for Eternal Life. It is a cause to celebrate!

The Bible Says: *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36).*

Prayer: Dear Jesus. I am totally dependent upon You. Thank you for the freedom we enjoy in this country, and our freedom from sin as believers in You. Amen.