

## Declaration of Dependence

Ponder: Dependence on God

Scripture: “in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28, NKJV).

The final draft of the Declaration of Independence was approved on July 4, 1776. It proclaimed the thirteen colonies to be “free and independent states,” no longer part of the British Empire.

Independence from a government on another continent is one thing. But I submit that of surpassing importance is our own declaration of our dependence on God! Even within the Declaration of Independence we read the truth that our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are given by our Creator. Doesn't it necessarily follow that we are dependent upon Him?

King Belshazzar, an arrogant Babylonian monarch, drank toasts to his idols using the sacred vessels Nebuchadnezzar had looted from the Jerusalem temple. In essence, he thumbed his nose at the God of the Hebrews. Daniel rebuked him for serving dead idols while insulting “the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways” (Dan. 4:23). The king quickly humbled himself, but it was too little too late. He was slain that night as his empire fell to the Medes and Persians.

The New Testament teaches the same principle of dependence. Of the true God Paul said, “He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17). We study weather patterns and fertilize fields, but in fact we're still dependent on God. We may think we're in control, but we're not.

Acts 17:25-28 declares dependence by saying that God, “gives to all life, and breath, and all things . . . “for in Him we live and move and have our being.”

As we celebrate our political independence, may we remember that we would have nothing, indeed, we would be nothing without God.

Hymn: “The Providence of God”

Prayer: Father, humble us to rely on You more fully. In Jesus' name, Amen.