

CCC I Pledge Allegiance To The Lamb
July 4th 2010

I want to start off today by reminding us that this holiday is about so much more than hotdogs, cook outs, swimming and fireworks. The 4th of July is about a country founded, a country rooted and established on Christian principles....

Today, I like to remind us of some of the words our founding fathers said in this regard.

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."-- Patrick Henry

George Washington in his farewell address to Nation said, "Do not let anyone claim tribute of American patriotism if they even attempt to remove religion from politics."

President Thomas Jefferson said, "The 1st amendment has created a wall of separation between church and state, but that wall is a one directional wall, it keeps the government from running the church, but it makes sure that Christian principles will always stay in government." --

So you can see that today, despite what modern politicians, despite what the contemporary media or the history revisionists say - America was founded not on the concept of freedom to worship any god but on the freedom to worship Jesus Christ.

Today what I want to do is to look briefly at the parallel between our founding father's allegiance to this country and our allegiance to the lamb, Jesus Christ the Son of God. First we will look at the, "the patriots" and then us, "the Christians."

"THE PATRIOTS"

a. They Made A Bold Declaration

For more than 14 months after the Battle at Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775) the patriots fought not for their independence at that time... but rather they fought for their rights within the British Empire. Their rights that had been gradually taken away before, and even more after the Boston Tea Party, 100's of Americans gave their lives to regain these rights, 400 alone died at the battle of Bunker Hill to regain their rights

It was during this time of conflict that Patrick Henry, the fiery politician from Virginia, gave his famous speech before the Virginia Provincial Convention...Here is how he concluded it:

"3 million people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by

any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the Destiny of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battle for us. Battle sir, is not to the strong alone, it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides sir, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreating, there is only submission and slavery if we don't act. Our chains are forged. There clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable -- and let it come. I repeat it, sir let it come!

It is in vain, sir to extenuate the matter. Gentleman may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace. The war has actually begun! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle when we are already in the battle?

What is it that gentleman wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the

price of chains and be in slavery. Forbid it, almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

Then early in the summer of 1776 at a meeting of the continental congress on July 2, 1776, the colonies voted to announce and declare that they would accept nothing less than absolute freedom from England and 2 days later on July 4th, after making some minor adjustments to the text, the final wording was ratified and signed by the 56 members, representing the 13 colonies.

After the declaration was signed couriers took copies of it to George Washington who was with his troops in New York -- and on July 9th the declaration was read before the militia troops who were out in the fields.

We need to understand something here, this was a bold declaration, in it the Americans were challenging the

most powerful empire of the world at the time. And the Americans entered the war without a Navy or an Army. Their fighting forces consisted only of militia units in the various colonies. These citizen soldiers were ready to defend their home and families when danger threatened. And it did not come without a cost.

b. They Paid A High Price

After the Americans declared their independence, they had to win it by force. The task proved especially difficult, partly because not all the people were fully united behind the war effort. A large number of colonists (about 1/3) remained unconcerned about the outcome of the war, they were indifferent. Why were they indifferent? Because it wasn't affecting their lives. They thought they were neutral in the matter as they enjoyed the benefits of both worlds... at least at the time they thought it wasn't affecting them...

What about the 56 men who signed the declaration of Independence? Those who took a brave stand. Did they pay a price for pledging their allegiance? Yes, they sure did, their conviction resulted in untold sufferings for themselves and their families. Of the 56 men, 5 were captured by the British and tortured before they died. 12 had their homes ransacked and burned... another 9 of the 56 fought and died from wounds of hardship of the war. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships sunk by the British Navy. They paid a high price... and that is just the story of a few on the men who stood up to be counted.

Now, it's one thing to make a bold declaration in the comforts of the house of Congress, but it's quit another to pay the price, to fulfill that declaration on the field of battle, to pay it with blood; - yours - your families - and

your neighbors... Our founding fathers made a bold declaration and from that... they paid a high price.

"THE CHRISTIAN"

a. We Too Made A Bold Declaration

If you are here today and you call yourself a Christian, YOU TOO have made a bold declaration. Do you remember the day, when you confessed Jesus as your Lord & Savior and were baptized, when you stood before the body of Calvary Community Church and proclaimed your desire; to be a Christian, and to be united with Christ.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ do you remember the day when you made that good confession, You said, "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, I believe that He is the Son of the Living God and I receive Him as my Lord and Savior." Do you remember the day when you repented of your sins and were buried with Christ in baptism and were

raised to live a new life in Him? In doing this you to were making a bold declaration.

You were at that time >> pledging your allegiance – pledging your devotion, pledging your loyalty, your dedication, your commitment, your very life, to the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Understand that you were at that time proclaiming what Paul proclaimed in Galatians 2:20; *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and gave himself for me..."* Friends it is a very bold declaration to say, that you will no longer, live for yourself, that you will no longer, seek your will for your life, that you will no longer, live for the things of the world (the power, pleasure, popularity and possessions). But rather that you will seek God's will for your life, seeking to do what pleases him far and above

what pleases you... declaring that he comes first in your life. Yes it is a very bold declaration to say that you will live for him who died for you... And if you are here today and a Christian, you have made that declaration.

Listen to the words of Joshua, in God's word, the bible. What had happen here is God's people had conquered the promise land and were beginning to settle down and start their new life. *"Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day, whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* Joshua 24:14,15

When you came to Christ.

When you pledged your allegiance to the lamb. You were making a very bold declaration.

b. And Like The Patriots... You Must Also Pay A High Price.

[Show Video - Ray Boltz Video - "I Pledge Allegiance To the Lamb"](#)

It's one thing, to make a bold declaration in the comfort of a church building, but it is quite another to live up to it outside these walls... to pay the price if you will, to fulfill that declaration on the battlefields of our Dailey lives. Most of the time saying words is the easy part, the actions are much tougher.

You know, on that day when Joshua made his bold declaration, "*But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*"

he was not alone, on that day others join in with him, they said the same words. He wasn't alone... The people answered Joshua saying, *'far be it for us to forsake the Lord and serve other gods!...We too will serve the Lord, because He is our God...*" Josh 24:16,18

Let's make no mistake about it - there is a high price to pay to fulfill our declaration - THAT JESUS IS OUR LORD.... Our Lord demands total, radical, rooted, unswerving allegiance and the fact that he does, is no secret, Jesus made this clear to us when he walked the earth..... He said, "*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of*

*man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory
and in the glory of the father and of the holy angels..." Lk
9:23-26*

To the people is Jesus day picking up ones cross meant only one thing.....DEATH. When the declaration was made, "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God and I receive Him as my Savior and Lord...." that was a bold declaration, as it is today, and to pick up your cross daily, to deny self, to die to self..... is a high price to pay when the world is calling you to come and enjoy.

But friends the reward we shall reap is a great one ---- is worth it??? Well I should say, "It is to me," but you have to make that decision for yourself: And if you do let me tell you something wonderful; God has established for you right here on earth, a peculiar kind of a church, we call

that church, The Calvary Family and it is where all peoples can come to know Jesus as Lord.... It a place: where the good news will be preached to the poor
where freedom will be proclaimed to those held in captivity
where recovery of sight will be proclaimed to the blind
a place where the burdened and oppressed will be released
a place of hope for the hopeless
a place of joy despite circumstances
of peace beyond understanding
a place of love, forgiveness, healing and acceptance
a place of new beginnings.....

And that is not all. One day we will reap what is perhaps the greatest reward of all. One day you and we will stand before the Lord and all His glory and receive the crown of life which he gives to those who love him and long for his coming.... And we will hear those most precious words of

the ages; *"Well done they good and faithful servant, come
and share your masters happiness..."* And we will in our
new body, join that great heavenly choir that is circled
around the Lamb; Revelation 7:9-17

There, in Heaven, we will be making that bold declaration
that, "Jesus is my Lord"

The price is high "Die to self"

But WOW the reward is great...

Would you say with me today...

I pledge Allegiance to the Lamb, with all my strength and
all I am, I will seek to honor His commands, I today pledge
allegiance to the Lamb.