

**Pastor's Weekly Devotional- July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**  
***"The Book That Made America"***

While we celebrate our nation's independence, it's worthwhile looking at how far we have come as a nation. Here are some funny parts of our nation's history:

- In the early years, anyone who bathed more than once in Philadelphia faced a jail-term because it was believed that bathing led to sin.
- In 1782, Congress considered the eagle to be the symbol for the Seal of the country. However, Benjamin Franklin disagreed. Writing to his daughter, said: "The bald eagle is a bird of bad moral character and does not get its living honestly."

Benjamin Franklin accused the eagle of liking to perch on dead trees and that it was too lazy to fish for itself; it watches the labor of the fishing hawk and then steals the hawk's catch. Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the symbol of America.

Now, on a more serious note. I want to share how the Bible played an important part in making our country great:

- The Bible was the Book which formed the documents that framed and formed government.
- It was the government which founded and printed the first English Bible. In fact, the Continental Congress was dubbed "The Bible Congress" by the media.
- The founders of our nation were freedom-loving men, empowered by the Holy Spirit to birth a nation according to the Bible and to establish freedom of religion.
- John Jay, who was the first Supreme Court Chief Justice, became the third president of the American Bible Society.
- America became the most influential nation in its greatest exports – The Bible, Bible Literacy, Morals, Code of Ethics, Churches and Christian Schools – in its early years.

But "where have all the flowers gone?" If there was ever a time we should ask ourselves: "What's Going On In The Sweet Land of Liberty?" it is now. However, we have HOPE. Our hope is in the Person of Jesus Christ. Our God is still the God of our country. The Bible still remains the Word of God in our land.

With feelings of fear and uncertainty all around us in our country, the Bible reassures us that it is not over until God says it's over.

So, have a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

**Remember, this Sunday, Communion will be served in both services.**

Have a blessed week, See you in church.  
(Note that the church's office will be closed this Friday.)  
Pastor Sewdin