

**Strengthen
America's
Foundations**

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The Congress of the United States will again be asked to give serious consideration to an important amendment to the Constitution which would strengthen America's religious foundations in this hour of national danger. The suggested amendment merits favorable action by both branches of Congress.

This vital amendment will give due recognition to God and Jesus Christ in the Constitution of the United States of America. It needs the support of all conscientious citizens in writing to their Congressmen and in promoting popular sentiment for its enactment.

The Historical Background

When our Founding Fathers assembled in Philadelphia to draw up our immortal Constitution, there were sharp differences of opinion and much angry debate which seemed to make impossible the drawing up of an acceptable Constitution. In that hour of crisis, Benjamin Franklin rose to address the momentous constitutional assembly and made certain statements which apply today as they did when the Constitution was being prepared. Benjamin Franklin said in part: "I have lived a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men. I firmly believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel."

Unfortunately, the convictions thus expressed and which guided the subsequent thinking of the Founding Fathers were not

written into this fundamental law of the land. As a result of that unfortunate failure to give verbal statement to background convictions, the present members of the Supreme Court have misinterpreted the First Amendment which was intended to prevent any form of church structure to become the established religion of the nation, even though the Amendment did firmly state that no one should be deprived of the free exercise of his religion.

Our Dependence on God

In the Declaration of Independence, which was written very largely by Thomas Jefferson, whose non-sectarian views are widely known, there are the following four references to a protecting and guiding Deity which would make possible the success of the effort of the thirteen colonies to achieve independence. In the Declaration of Independence, God is named four different times as (a) the God of nature; (b) as the Creator of all men; (c) as the Supreme Judge of the world and (d) as the God of providence who guides, protects and judges nations.

Upon the official coins of the United States, beginning in 1865, the following inscription was imprinted—"In God We Trust." In all of the Thanksgiving Proclamations of the Presidents of the United States, there is also a definite and grateful recognition of the guidance of God in the affairs of men. The National Anthem reverently affirms: "Praise the Power that has made and preserved us a nation . . . Let this be our motto, 'In God Is Our Trust.'"

The amendment to the Constitution, which will be reintroduced in Congress, would correct an unintentional oversight in the Constitution and would form a legal basis for the continuing of non-sectarian religious customs which have become a part of the cultural life of the United States. They are now threatened by a series of decisions of the Supreme Court which innovate a new attitude toward the historic convictions of our Founding Fathers and of our grateful leaders throughout the ensuing years. One of the most important phases of unfinished business which await the action of Congress is the proposed Christian Amendment to our Constitution which would acknowledge divine sovereignty over our nation. It is a vital amendment which merits the aggressive support of every Christian patriot.

Why the Amendment Is Needed

This amendment is necessary for at least four reasons: **First**, it would give needed constitutional support to many religious acts of a public nature which are being undermined or ruled illegal because of the Supreme Court's recent misinterpretation of the First Amendment which states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." Non-sectarian religious education in the public schools and observance of Christian traditions are now imperiled.

Second, it corrects a fundamental weakness of the Constitution which was adopted at a time when the Founding Fathers were fearful of the possibility of national establishment

of any one church and when religious fervor was at the lowest point in our national history, due to the moral backwash of the Revolutionary War and when the influence of French atheism was strong throughout the Colonies. We have added to our currency by congressional action the declaration, "In God We Trust," and the words "Under God" to our pledge of allegiance to the flag. The adoption of a Christian Amendment is the next logical step in correcting past omissions.

Third, it recognizes that man alone is not the master of his fate nor the determining force in human destiny. "We, the people" are not all-powerful. God is still the Ruler of the universe He has created. His Son is the revealer of His will for individuals and nations.

Fourth, it gives a needed testimony to the world at a time when our country is engaged in a life-and-death struggle with godless communism. We must give expression to a faith that inspires our noblest and most sacrificial efforts to preserve America as a Christian nation.

The Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment reads as follows: "1. This Nation devoutly recognizes the authority and law of Jesus Christ, Saviour and Ruler of nations, through whom are bestowed the blessings of Almighty God.

"2. This amendment shall not be interpreted so as to result in the establishment of any particular ecclesiastical organization, or in the abridgment of the rights of religious free-

dom, or freedom of speech and press, or of peaceful assemblage.

"3. Congress shall have power, in such cases as it may deem proper, to provide a suitable oath or affirmation for citizens whose religious scruples prevent them from giving unqualified allegiance to the Constitution as herein amended."

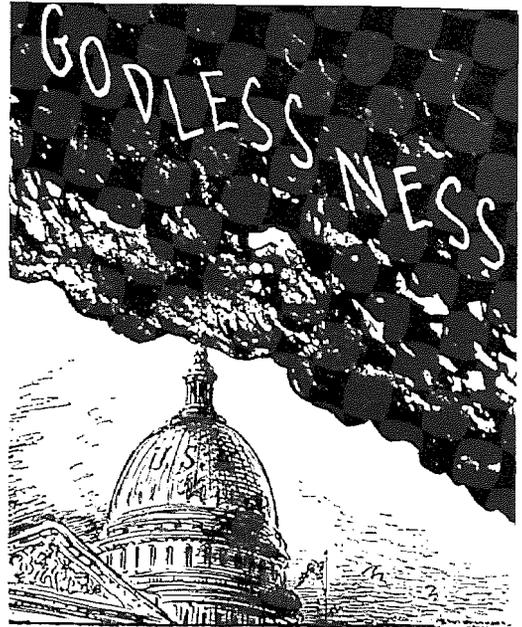
You will note that the second paragraph in the amendment definitely forbids "the establishment of any ecclesiastical organization or abridgment of the rights of religious freedom or freedom of speech and press or peaceful assemblage."

The third paragraph likewise empowers Congress, in such cases as it may deem necessary, "to provide a suitable oath or affirmation for citizens whose religious scruples prevent them from giving unqualified allegiance to the Constitution as herein amended."

The above two paragraphs safeguard our country from any attempt to favor one form of religion as against another and give full freedom of conscience to minority groups and, at the same time, make possible the will of the majority upon which a democracy must always rest.



It Can Happen Here



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