

How Should We Then Vote?

Series

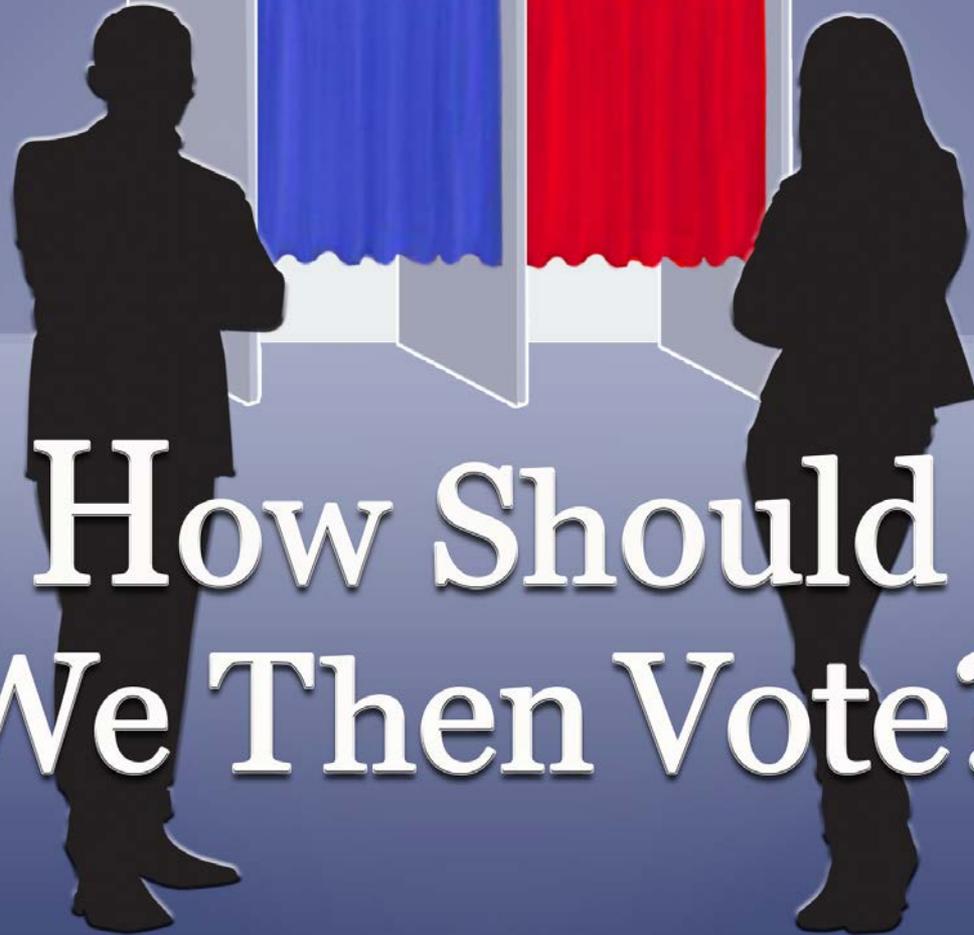
Lesson #04

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Dean Bible Ministries

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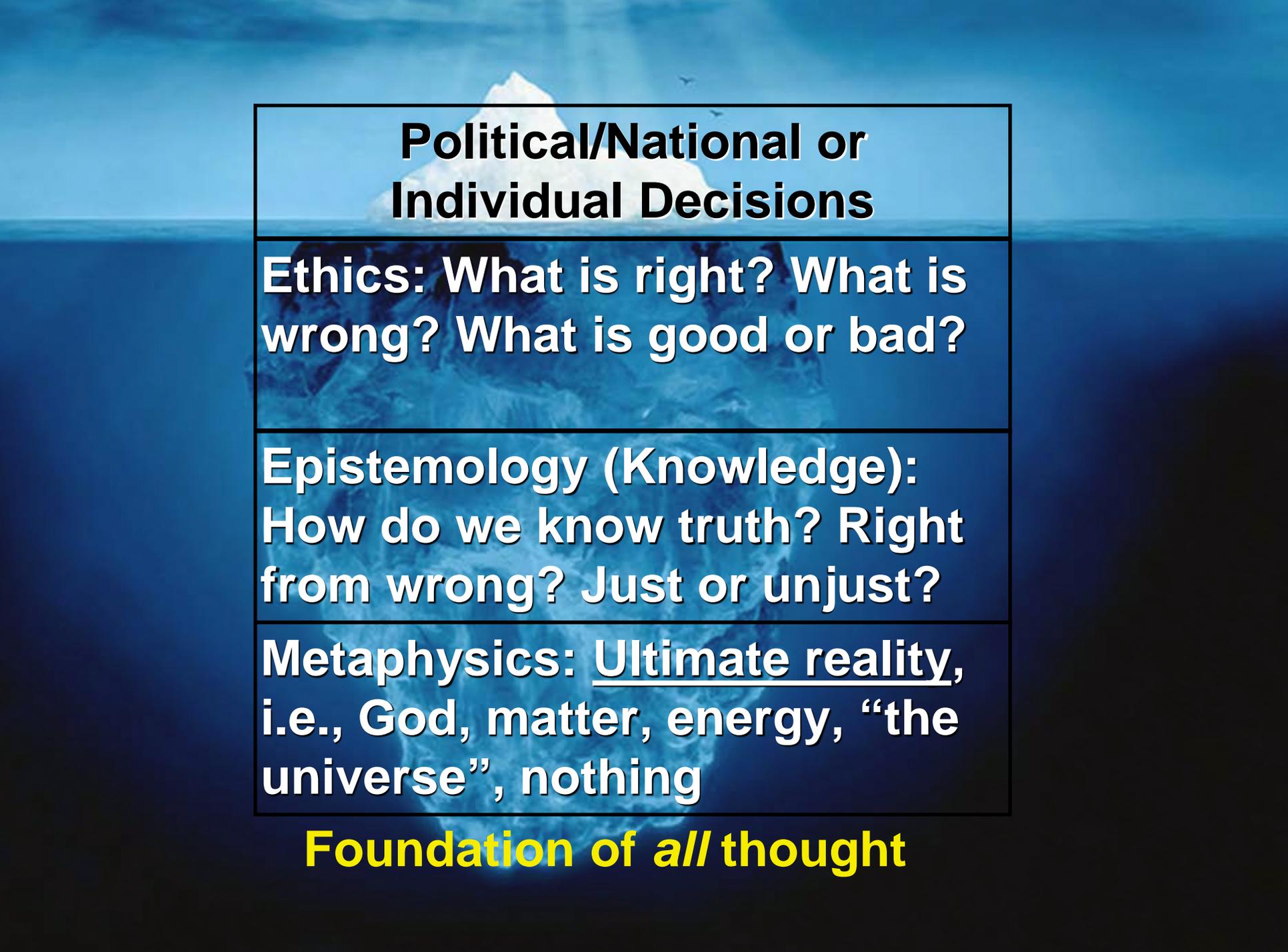
The Authority of the Bible

Psa. 11:3, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

צְדָקָה (*ṣ^edāqâ*) justice, righteousness.

Conformity to an ethical or moral standard

What is a Worldview?

An iceberg floating in the ocean, with only the tip visible above the water. The background is a blue sky and sea. The text is overlaid on the image, with the top part above the water and the bottom part below the water.

Political/National or Individual Decisions

Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?

Epistemology (Knowledge): How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?

Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, “the universe”, nothing

Foundation of *all* thought

A Judeo-Christian Worldview

- 1. God is the Creator of all things and created human beings in His image and likeness, giving them value and purpose.**
- 2. The Bible is God's revelation to man and is completely accurate in all that it reveals to man, teaching them how to live wisely in God's creation marred by sin.**
- 3. God created the human race in His image, both male and female.**

Basic Areas of a Worldview

- 1. Ultimate reality: Personal? Impersonal?
Includes the nature of humanity.**
- 2. Knowledge: Is there absolute Truth?
Can we know absolute Truth?**
- 3. Ethics: The standards by which we live.**
- 4. Beauty: What is it, how does it relate to
knowledge, ultimate reality, and ideas
of good and bad or right and wrong?**

Mankind, the Human Race

Psa. 139:14, “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”

The Image of God

Personal

Self-consciousness

Exercising will and determination

Intellectual, the ability to know, to think, to know

Gen. 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’

Gen. 1:27, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen. 1:28, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ ”

But if, as the Bible claims, we are the direct, intentional, creation of God, then humans have dignity, every human life has value, and every human is deserving of respect.

This is the foundation for equality under the law.

The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM	Innate ideas; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM	Sense perceptions; External experience; Scientific method; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM	Inner, private experience; intuition; <u>Faith</u> in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION	<u>Faith</u> in the objective revelation of God	<i>Dependent</i> use of logic and reason

Deut. 13:1, “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,

Deut. 13:2, “and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’

Deut. 13:3, “you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Deut. 13:4, “You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

Deut. 13:5, “But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.”

Deut. 18:20, “ ‘But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’

Deut. 18:21, “And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’—”

Deut. 18:22, “when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

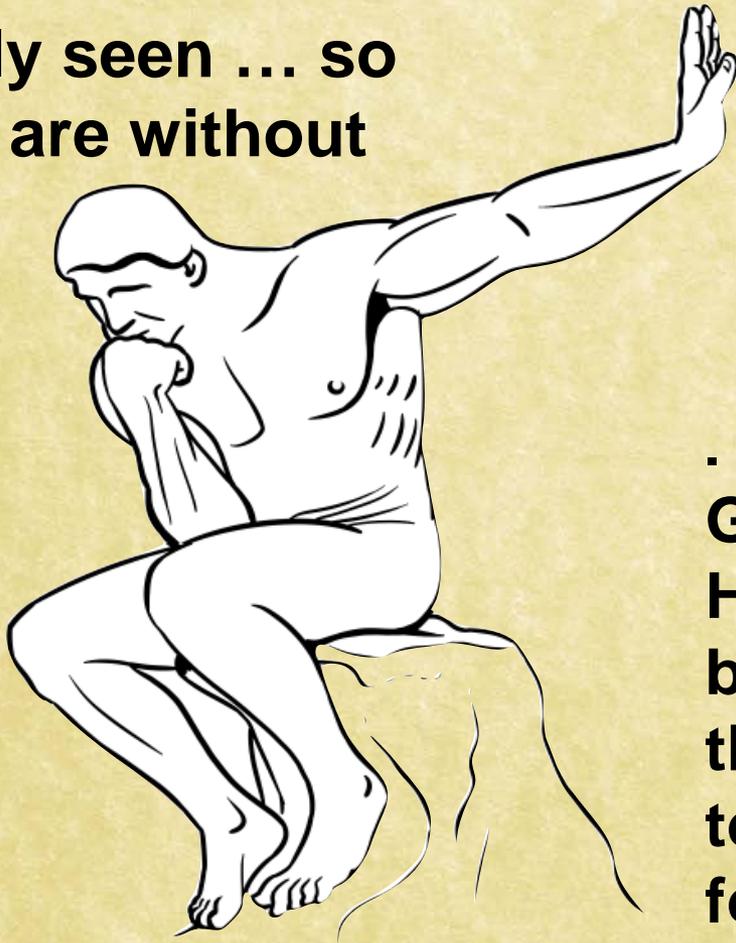
Acts 9:6, “So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’”

Acts 9:7, “And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.”

Psa. 36:9, “In Your light, we see light.”

Man as His Own Ultimate Authority

Rom. 1:20–22, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen ... so that they are without excuse!”



**God's Verbal &
Non-Verbal
Revelation**

... “Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God . . . But became futile in their thoughts . . . Professing to be wise, they became fools!”

Gen. 2:9, “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

The Authority of the Bible

1. The Bible claims for itself to be the very words of God.

2 Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Tim. 3:17, “that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

In 1 Tim. 5:18 Paul links Old Testament and New Testament verses and calls both Scripture.

1 Tim. 5:18, “For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,’ (Deut. 25:4) and ‘The laborer is worthy of his wages.’ ” Quoted as Scripture from Luke 10:7

Peter recognized Paul's writings as Scripture:

2 Pet. 3:16, “as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.”

2 Pet. 1:20, “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

2 Pet. 1:21, “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

- 2. “The Lord said”, 234x; “God said”, 44x;
“Thus says the Lord,” 420x
Specific commands to write the Word
of the Lord (Ex. 17:14; Jer. 30:2).**

**Matt. 15:4, “For God commanded,
saying, ‘Honor your father and your
mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or
mother, let him be put to death.’ ”**

**Jer. 30:2, “Thus speaks the LORD God
of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for
yourself all the words that I have
spoken to you.’ ”**

3. Every word of Scripture down to its verb forms, noun cases, is revealed by God, not just the thoughts.

Matt. 5:18, “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

‘ *yodh* smallest Hebrew letter.

tittle: smallest part of a letter

h or j

o and p b and d

bog and dog;

Rug and Pug

4. The belief that God revealed Himself in a non-verbal manner in what is called General Revelation. And in a verbal manner in what is called Special Revelation.

Psa. 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psa. 19:2, “Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.”

Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

5. God revealed Himself through Jesus of Nazareth.

John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**6. The use of quotation (Matt. 15:4;
Acts 28:25).**

Acts 28:25, “So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: ‘The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,’ ”

7. Jesus' use of Scripture (Matt. 5:17; John 10:35).

Matt. 5:17, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

John 10:35, “If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),”

The Views of the Founding Fathers

The Influence of the Bible on the Founding Fathers

- 1. 1983–Dr. Donald Lutz, Univ. of Houston. Ten-year project analyzed over 15,000 political documents from 1760–1805; 3,154 citations evaluated.**
- 2. The most often-quoted source for political ideas was the Bible, mostly the Old Testament, over 1/3rd of all direct quotes.**
- 3. The next most quoted source is quoted 1/4th as frequently, John Locke.**
- 4. Another 60% of all references came from authors whose original source goes back to the Bible.**

The Founding Fathers on God

“in 1776, every colonist, with the exception of about two thousand Jews, identified himself or herself as a Christian. Approximately 98 percent of them were Protestants, and the remaining 2 percent were Roman Catholics.”

~Mark David Hall, *Did America Have a Christian Founding?*

“The holy Scripture is to me, and always will be, the constant guide of my belief, and I shall always hearken to it, as containing infallible truth relating to the things of the highest concernment.”

~John Locke

“Not that any to whom the gospel hath been preached shall be saved, without believing Jesus to be the Messiah; for all being sinners, and transgressors of the law, and so unjust, are all liable to condemnation unless they believe, and so through grace are justified by God for this faith, which shall be accounted to them for righteousness.”

~Locke, *Reasonableness of the Christian Faith*, 52, sec 227

Views on God and the Truth of the Bible

“The Bible was everywhere in the colonies. No home or school was without one which was used daily. The American historian Joyce Appleby observed that *“the most important source of meaning for eighteenth century Americans was the Bible.”*”

~Mark David Hall, 30

“It was not necessary in New England, where everybody reads the Bible and is acquainted with Scripture phrases, that you should note the texts from where you took them.”

~Benjamin Franklin in a letter to Samuel Cooper in 1781

“I do believe in one God, the creator and governor of the universe, the rewarder of the good and the punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scripture of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration.”

**~Oath for every legislator to take,
Pennsylvania constitution, 1776**

“Christianity and religion are identified. It would be strange, indeed if with such a people, our institutions did not presuppose Christianity.”

~John Marshall, Chief Justice

“the only Foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments. ... The religion I mean to recommend in this place is that of the New Testament.”

~Benjamin Rush

“We the people of the United States, in a firm belief of the being and perfections of the one living and true God, the creator and supreme Governor of the world, in His universal providence and the authority of His laws.”

Proposed emendation to the Constitution

~William Williams, signer of the Declaration, member of Connecticut’s ratification convention