

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

One Nation Under God: "One Nation Under God"

Good morning and Happy Independence Day.

Independence Day (informally the **Fourth of July**) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

The Second Continental Congress declared that the Thirteen Colonies were no longer subject to the monarch of Great Britain, King George III, and were from then on united, free, and independent states. The Congress voted to approve independence on July 2 and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, on July 4.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches, and ceremonies, celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States.

But what is so significant about this day that makes Americans of every race, religion, or political affiliation stop to celebrate? Do most people even know what they are celebrating or is it just a day off from work or a free pass out of class?

How timely is our series, ONE NATION UNDER GOD, and that message two falls on the Fourth of July weekend. If you recall, Last week P Mark established a road map of everything we will cover throughout our series to Give God Control in the Government Sphere. He opened up with a key scripture from Matthew 28:18, when Jesus said,

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."

Then he proceeded to unpack biblically what we should know about the government and how we should respond. As a staff, we knew a biblical foundation was essential. Why? Because many don't even believe we should be talking about politics within church. To those people, I would say I agree with you! However, to be clear, we are not talking about politics. We are talking about government and a Christians responsibility in dealing with the governing officials. Let's quickly define these two words:

Politics is the activities associated with the governance of a country or other areas, especially the debate or conflict among individuals or parties having or hoping to achieve power.

Government is the governing body of a nation, state, or community.