



Church Connection November 2017

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing... Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100:2, 4, 5

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:1

Did You Know?

Wisconsin Family Council is on 25 Christian radio stations across Wisconsin with a daily program, a weekly program and two different monthly programs. For a schedule of broadcasts and a station near you, see wifamilycouncil.org and click on Radio.

Giving Thanks for Our Constitution

It was September 1787. It had been a long hot summer in the nation's largest city, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In spite of the soaring temperatures, 55 men had been meeting regularly since May, occupying what was then known as the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall). They were truly men on a mission and in the process of accomplishing that mission, some say they were part of a miracle.

Their mission was essentially to rescue America. Originally they believed they were meeting to revise the Articles of Confederation under which the states had been operating since 1781. The intervening years had shown the Articles to be cumbersome and virtually unworkable for the fledgling country. And so once again delegates from the states were asked to sacrifice time from their families and their livelihoods in order for America to have any hope of succeeding.



Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

It soon became clear that revising the Articles was insufficient. America needed a new governing document, maybe even a new form of government. Their mission now became to make that a reality.

Twelve states responded with delegates. Rhode Island deferred. The list of those attending is filled with luminaries: James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington to name a few. The average age was 43, even factoring in Benjamin Franklin's 81 years. Most of the delegates had political experience. Nearly three-quarters had sat in the Continental Congress. Others had helped write state constitutions.

What went on in the meetings was largely kept secret from the public. Reports and letters to friends and family from those attending tell us emotions were high, conflicting ideas were prolific and tempers often flared in the meetings, as the men sought to reach consensus on their important mission.

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Give Thanks for...

- The blessings of salvation by grace
- The blessings of family and friends
- The blessings of your church family
- The men and women in our military, and their families, who serve our country sacrificially
- The men and women who serve our communities as police officers
- The US Constitution and the religious liberty it recognizes as our right

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

I Thess. 5:18

“I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that...they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers...”

~Abraham Lincoln, 1863

In late June, with the Convention seemingly at an impasse, Dr. Franklin suggested “humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate [their] understandings” and moved “that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that Service.” The records don’t show any vote on this motion, but on July 4, 1787, Baptist clergyman William Rogers led the Convention in prayer.

Eventually consensus was reached and on September 17, 1787, 52 of the 55 men signed what they called the Constitution of the United States of America. The preamble begins with those stirring and declaratory words, “We the people,” and continues by laying out the purpose of the document: “in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity....”

In seven articles the delegates laid out the new form of government—a Republic—and established 3 separate but equal branches, each having checks and balances over the other. It further established the delicate but important concept of federalism, that unique balance of a central government with sovereign states. The federal government’s powers are enumerated, and the 10th amendment, part of the Bill of Rights, clarifies that those powers not specifically given to the federal government are the province of the states and the people.

George Washington and James Madison used the word miracle to describe what took place over those twenty-some weeks in sweltering Philadelphia—and in some sense surely it was a miracle. The Constitution is now 230 years old and continues to be the longest standing constitution in the world, providing the rule of law for this Republic. Rehearsing the story of our Constitution is good and proper. Knowing and understanding our Constitution is imperative. As always at this season of the year, we have much for which to thank God. Let’s include giving thanks for our Constitution.

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

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