

Biblical Roots of American Government and the Founders Justification for Independence

Transcript of Tea Party Message preached by Pastor Paul Blair (Fairview Baptist Church/Edmond) on the North Steps of the Oklahoma State Capitol on April 14, 2010 at the OKC Tea Party Gathering.

(This message is the property of Pastor Blair, but may be shared in its entirety)

History records that it was the pastors of the New England churches who were most responsible for teaching their communities and their congregations about the Biblical foundation of human government and the proper role of government.

- History also records in their sermons a purpose of familiarizing men with the heroic deeds of their ancestors in order to inspire a love for the rights and liberties for which their ancestors fought.

Therefore, I consider it an honor to be called to speak to this assembly of patriots on this subject.

Modern history tries to tell us that our forefathers “rebelled” against England because of high taxes. That is not true. England forfeited its right to govern, by forsaking Constitutional rule and imposing a tyrannical government over a free people. **The cause that drove our cry for Independence was not high taxes; it was about the loss of liberty – both civil and religious.**

- In our Declaration of Independence, our founders gave the following explanation for separation: *“when a long train of abuses and usurpations (had taken place), pursuing invariably the same Object (attempting) to reduce them under (the control of) absolute Despotism”* – **in other words the English government had**

demonstrated clearly and consistently that their aim was to subdue the Colonies under the rule of a Despot or Tyrant.

- Then the founders listed 27 specific grievances as clear illustrations of that intended tyranny, stating that it was their God given right to dissolve their political bonds, throw off the yoke of tyranny and become a separate and equal nation among the powers of the earth.
- Only once is taxation mentioned. Not in the top five or in the top ten even, but number 17 of the 27 listed grievances.

In fact, **this gathering** calls itself the “TEA Party” but the original tea party was not even about higher taxes – **it and everything else has always been about the proper role of government and God given personal liberty.**

Our Declaration specifically states in paragraph three that *“We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”*

Our Founding Fathers were not anarchists. They were not rebels. They knew full well that God Himself had established “human government”.

- **Our Founders believed that when men lived together in some sort of society, they willingly came together and entered into a Covenant or Compact or Charter or Constitution with each other with God as witness and separate individuals conceded to a civil political body authority over certain enumerated natural rights and thus granting**

to the governing body limited responsibilities for the oversight of and general welfare of the community.

- The government did not grant rights. The government's sole responsibility was to protect its citizens and assure that their God given rights of **life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness**.
 - **We are guaranteed the right to life and no man or government can arbitrarily deprive you of your life.**
 - **We are guaranteed the right to liberty and no man or government can arbitrarily deprive you of your liberty.**
 - **No man can deprive you of your pursuit of happiness, which is not a license of licentiousness. The "pursuit of happiness" was a legal term defined in the Blackstone Commentary on Law (Book 2, section 1) -- which states that as a created being you cannot be happy unless you are able to walk unhindered in the will of Your Creator God as listed in the Holy Scriptures, which includes, according to the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:12), your right to labor and keep the fruit of your labor.**

If God grants us our rights, then no man can take them away. If the government grants us our rights, then a tyrannical government can take them away.

In 1620, the tyranny of England was so great over its citizens that it even prohibited a person's right and freedom to worship God according to the dictates of his own heart. You were required to be a member of the King's church - and if not - you had no rights as a citizen and you faced persecution. It was the cause of liberty- "both religious liberty and civil liberty" that drove a local church body from Scrooby, England, to board a

little cargo ship called the Mayflower and sail across the Atlantic settling in Plymouth Colony. We call that church body the Pilgrims.

Understand the importance of the connection between the union of Civil Liberty and Religious Liberty as our founders did.

- Our Founders said that God grants rights, therefore God reigns supreme. Nothing and no one can trump the rule of God.
- In a totalitarian government, the government reigns as supreme and stands in the place of God and nothing can overrule the government.
- Consequently, Totalitarian governments are either followers of atheism as in China, Cuba and the former Soviet Union or the government and spiritual leadership are one and the same as in Iran or Saudi Arabia.
- Only in America have human beings enjoyed both and we have lived under the longest running Constitutional government in human history as a result.

In the decades following the journey of the Pilgrims, tens of thousands fled tyrannical rule in England for liberty in America.

They were under the authority of the King of England, but by their charters, they were free men.

- They could elect their own legislatures
- Make their own laws
- Tax themselves as they deemed necessary
- Own property

- Buy, sell and trade with whomever they chose –

Most importantly they were free to study the Bible and worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth without having to serve at the whim of the Church of England.

Over time however, the Kings of England willfully placed themselves above the law and unilaterally and illegally broke the charters that were in place between the Colonies and Great Britain.

- Understand that these Constitutions or Charters were equally binding to all parties. **The King could no more violate the law than could any common citizen.**

Let me read an excerpt from a sermon preached in 1649 by the Reverend Jonathan Mayhew of West Church in Boston:

- ***The king in his coronation oath, swears to exercise only such a power as the constitution gives him. And the (citizen), in the oath of allegiance, swears only to obey (the king) in the exercise of such a power. The king is as much bound by his oath, not to infringe the legal rights of the people, as the people are bound to yield subjection to him. From whence it follows, that as soon as the (king) sets himself up above law, he loses the king in the tyrant: he does to all intents and purposes, unking himself, by acting out of, and beyond, that sphere which the constitution allows him to move in. And in such cases, he has no more right to be obeyed, than any inferior officer who acts beyond his commission.***

In other words, by breaking the charter and exceeding his defined authority, the King disqualified himself from the right to rule.

Over time, the Kings of England revoked the Colonial charters.

- **They replaced colonial governors with royal appointments.**
- **They dissolved Colonial legislatures at their whim.**
- **They voided Colonial laws.**
- **The Colonists sought to print Bibles and tracts for the Indians, the King said no.**
- **Pennsylvania voted to outlaw slavery, the king said no.**
- **The King threatened to “establish” the Church of England over the colonies, make membership mandatory and outlaw other religious denominations.**
- **The king placed troops in America even though there was no conflict with the Indians or France -- the effort was clearly to subjugate the Colonists.**

Understand also to the founders, the power to tax meant the power to control and to enslave.

- **If a man is forced to work but can't keep the fruit of his labors, that man is a slave.**
- **Likewise, taking a man's possessions without his consent is called stealing.**

It was understood by all that some taxes were necessary to provide for the enumerated limited roles of government, but as free Englishmen there was no “taxation without representation” as it was unlawful to take from a man's possessions without his consent.

King George III, the tyrant of tyrants, assumed the throne in 1760 and continued to tighten his tyrannical grip over the colonies by taxing

everything from legal documents, to paper, paint, and glass, lead, even their tea was taxed. The colonists sought to boycott the British goods importing from other countries. The British used might to force American compliance ultimately leading to the Boston Massacre in 1770.

After much resistance, England finally removed much of the taxation – except for the tax on TEA.

The government then gave an exclusive contract – a public, private partnership if you will – to the East India Tea Company who was struggling financially and had received a government bailout loan of 1.4 million pounds. The British Government had a vested financial interest to see that they succeeded.

The colonies were then required to buy tea from only this one distributor and they were even given an incentive as the East India Company received a tax break that would allow them to charge less for tea.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Colonists could have bought TEA cheaper from the British than they could from other sources, but their decision was not about money it was all about principle.

- **They would not pay one penny in taxes without representation.**
- **And the government could not dictate to them who they would and would not trade with.**

The British played a very heavy hand and would not allow the Colonists to refuse the English TEA and return it to England. **The TEA was going to be unloaded and the Colonists taxed for it whether they liked it or not.**

- But the night before this “health care” (oops) this tea was forced upon the American people about 100 Patriotic Mohawk Indians boarded three ships and tossed the English Tea in the Boston Harbor.

We are again being subjected to ‘creeping tyranny’ – you lose your freedom little by little with compromise until one day you have no freedom at all.

The Original TEA Party in 1773 was not about a tax increase it was about an over-reaching tyrannical government stripping them of their liberty.

- The Modern Day TEA party is not a political party like the Republicans or Democrats.
- The Modern Day TEA party is not opposed to all taxes – some taxes are necessary

The Modern Day TEA Party is a grass roots movement of the people that have had it with the tyranny being imposed upon them by an over-reaching Federal government.

The modern day TEA party stands for LIBERTY – and we stand together this day demanding that our government return to its narrow limitations as outlined in our United States Constitution.

God Bless you for being here and may God Bless America.