

# TTP - Lesson 10, Class Quotes

## The American Experiment

### And Its Christian Foundations

On June 11, 2025, Scott introduced a compelling video presentation by Dr. Del Tackett for Lesson 10 of *The Truth Project*, titled "The American Experiment: Stepping Stones." This lesson challenges the modern narrative that the United States was founded as a secular nation, presenting a wealth of historical evidence to demonstrate its deep Christian roots. Through an exploration of primary sources, biblical principles, and the cultural shifts that threaten America's founding ideals, Dr. Tackett calls Christians to recognize their role in preserving this unique experiment in governance. Below are the Quotes cited as they occur in the lesson.

### Historical Quotes Cited in Class

- **National Education Association (NEA) - 1892:**  
"...if the study of the Bible is to be excluded from all state schools; if the inculcation of the principles of Christianity is to have no place in the daily program; if the worship of God is to form no part of the general exercises of these public elementary schools; then the good of the state would be better served by restoring all schools to church control"
- **John Dewey, The Architect of Modern Education**  
“...faith in the prayer-hearing God is an unproved no soul. Hence, there are no needs for the props of traditional religion. With dogma and creed excluded, then immutable truth is also dead and buried. There is no room for fixed, natural law or moral absolutes.” — Nash, *The Closing of the American Heart*
- **Harvard's Rules & Precepts - 1636**  
“Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore lay Christ at the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning.”
- **Harvard's Original Motto**  
“*Veritas Christo et Ecclesiae*”  
Truth for Christ and the Church  
This motto has been abandoned for the shorter:  
“*Veritas*” - Truth

- **Princeton**

*"Cursed is all learning that is  
contrary to the Cross of Christ"*  
Founding Statement — 1746

- **Samuel Adams**

"Let divines and philosophers, statesmen and patriots, unite their endeavors to renovate the age, by impressing the minds of men with the importance of educating their little boys and girls, of inculcating in the minds of youth the fear and love of the Deity...in short of leading them in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system." — Letter to John Adams, October 4, 1790

- **Benjamin Rush**

"In contemplating the political institutions of the United States, I lament that we waste so much time and money in punishing crimes, and take so little pains to prevent them. We profess to be republicans and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government. That is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by the means of the Bible."

— Benjamin Rush, "A Defense of the  
Use of the Bible as a School Book," 1798

- **Noah Webster**

"In my view, the Christian Religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed...no truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian Religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people."

— Reply to David McClure, Oct. 25, 1836

- **George Washington**

Farewell Address, Sept 17, 1796

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports...In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens..."

- **John Adams**

"Statesmen, my dear Sir, may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is Religion and Morality alone, which

can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand.”

— Letter of June 21, 1776, quoted in  
The Wall Builder Report, Summer 1993

- **Benjamin Rush**

“The only foundation for...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.”

— Essays, Literary, Moral and Philosophical, 1798

- **George Washington**

Farewell Address, Sept 17, 1796 “...And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion... reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

- **Benjamin Rush**

“The only foundation for...a republic is to be laid in Religion.”

“...Christianity is the only true and perfect religion; and that in proportion as mankind adopt its principles and obey its precepts they will be wise and happy.”

— Benjamin Rush, “ A Defense of the Use of the Bible as a School Book” , 1798

- **Charles Carroll**

signer of the declaration

“Without morals, a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.”

— Letter to James McHenry

- **Samuel Adams**

“Religion and good morals are the only solid foundations of public liberty and happiness.”

Letter to John Trumbell, October 16, 1778

- **Patrick Henry** 1736-1799

“The great pillars of all government and of social life [are] virtue, morality, and religion. This is the armor...and this alone, that renders us invincible.”

— Letter to Archibald Blair,  
January 8, 1789

- **Alexis de Tocqueville**

Democracy in America

“The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive one without the other.”

“The religious atmosphere of the country was the first thing that struck me upon my arrival in the U.S. In France, I had seen the spirits of religion and freedom almost always marching in opposite directions, in America, I found them intimately linked together and joined and reigned over the same land...

"Religion should therefore be considered as the first of their political institutions. From the start, politics and religion have agreed and have not since ceased to do so."

— Alexis de Tocqueville  
“Democracy in America”

- **Benjamin Franklin**

“...only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.”

Letter to Messrs.  
The Abbés Chalut and Arnaud,  
April 17, 1787

- **Noah Webster**

History of the United States, 1833

“...the moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws... All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.”

- **John Adams**

“We have no government armed in power capable of contending in human passions unbridled by morality and religion... Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

Address to the Officers of the  
Massachusetts Militia, 1798

- **Daniel Webster**

“To preserve the government we must also preserve morals. Morality rests on religion; if you destroy the foundation, the superstructure must fall. When the public mind becomes vitiated and corrupt, laws are a nullity and constitutions are waste paper.”

4th of July, 1800,  
Oration at Hanover, N.H.