Freedom and Truth

It is truly a blessing to live in as country that recognizes the value of freedom, such as is guaranteed by our Constitution. On July 4, 241 years ago, brave patriots from our 13 colonies declared our nation's independence from England. As we visit with family and friends at this season of the year, and devour our burgers and hot dogs, may we pause to remind ourselves that the fathers of our nation were not only affirming a Declaration of Independence from England, but also a Declaration of Dependence upon God. Certain "truths" were held to be "self evident," and had their source with God, our Creator. They perceived "rights" as free men and women to have been "endowed by our Creator", not endowed by government. Rights granted by government can, as quickly, be denied us. Freedom guaranteed us by God, based on His truths, is irrevocable. Jesus expressed this principle to His disciples, saying, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

That said, it must be realized that our founders were not mere religionists, but recognized the unique principles of Christianity to be a solid base for a free people. While not all were Christians in the full sense of the word, yet they were wise enough to recognize certain eternal truths that would result in liberty and justice for all. Our culture, as a nation, has not been based simply on religion, but on the Judeo-Christian truths of the word of God. Without that recognition, we would open up ourselves to bondage.

An even greater freedom is available to us in the full surrender of our wills to God through Jesus Christ. Jesus declared, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). A true and lasting freedom is available to all who would "know the truth" (John 8:32), believe the truth (1 Thessalonians 2:13), and obey the truth (Romans 6:17-18). In Jesus Christ, who is "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6), true freedom is found. Jesus is the answer for all who would not only be free from the guilt and bondage of sin, but also free from the ineffectual religious systems by which Satan would deceive and ensnare us, as the apostle Paul declared in Colossians 2:20-22: "If ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why are ye subject to ordinances…after the commandments and doctrines of men"? Sin and false religion are the devil's means of putting us in bondage, while the truth of God would set us free. Which is your choice?   --Ron