The Grand Curse of Authoritarian Government, and How It Got Started

by Steve Barwick

Most Christians believe God instituted authoritarian government over His people. And He *did*, ultimately. But as a *curse* upon them, not a blessing.

In this study, I'll demonstrate, through Scripture, that our Creator instituted authoritarian government over His people in reaction to the fact that they had nearly unanimously *rejected* Him and His ways, in *favor* of authoritarian government.

You see, our God is a "*You asked for it, you got it*" kinda guy. If you reject His ways, and preferentially embrace the ways of the heathen, then He'll *feed* you with the ways of the heathen until you puke from it. He's a lesson-teacher.

Unfortunately, some lessons we never seem to learn from. And the evil of authoritarian governmental rule is indeed one of the big ones.

You see, back in the days of the Judges – when men appointed by God sat in the gates of the cities and helped resolve weighty issues the people brought to them -- God's people craved to have governmental authorities ruling over them, instead.

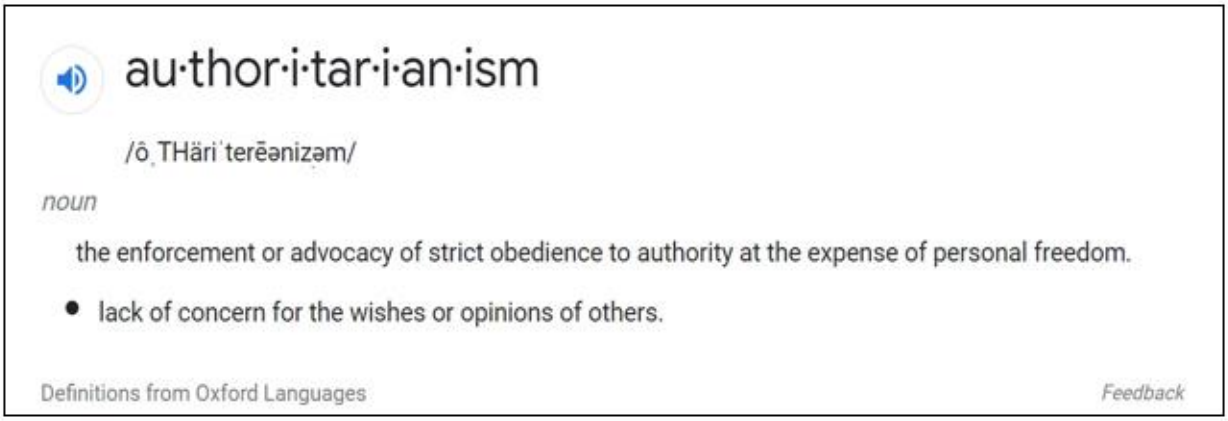
Taking personal responsibility for being a Godly or moral person was just too much for them. They wanted to abdicate that personal responsibility, and turn it over to governing bodies to decide, and enforce.

They wanted kings and queens ruling over them, taking care of them, and telling them *what* to do, *how* to do it, and *when* to do it, just as the heathen populations of the surrounding nations had instituted.

They wanted to be *like* the heathen, rather than distinguish themselves *from* the heathen through godliness, good moral conduct, and personal responsibility.

Authoritarianism vs Personal Responsibility

In other words, historically speaking, *authoritarianism* – here defined as "the enforcement of strict obedience to the ruling authorities at the expense of personal freedom" -- was *not* God's choice for us. Not by a long shot. It was our *own* choice, as you're about to discover in this study.


au·thor·i·tar·i·an·ism

/ôˌTHäriˈterēəniˌzəm/

noun

the enforcement or advocacy of strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom.

- lack of concern for the wishes or opinions of others.

Definitions from Oxford Languages Feedback

God didn't want us exercising authoritarian control over each other. Instead, He wanted His People to develop and exercise *personal responsibility* for their own lives, and *compassion* for the lives of others, under the banner of the golden rule:

> "*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*."

As Christ would later put it, "*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets*" (Matthew 7:12).

In another place, He put it more succinctly: "*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise*" (Luke 6:31).

In other words, quite simply put, treat others how you'd like to be treated.

Our heavenly Father also wanted His people to develop a *personal relationship* with Him, through faith in His Word. In return for the heartfelt willingness and daily effort to develop that personal relationship with Him, He would grant His Holy Spirit to lead, guide and direct those seeking after Him.

The Lord's simple rules for developing a personal relationship with Him were later elaborated on through Christ Jesus, like this:

> *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."* (Matthew 7:7)

Simply put, it takes a little bit of *effort* on your part to develop a personal relationship with God. But it's not that hard; there are only three simple steps:

1.) Through prayer, you ask Him what you'd like to know of Him

2.) Through studying His Word, you seek out what you'd like to know of Him (for it is, indeed, written)

3.) When you believe you've finally found the answer, you knock on His door (through prayer) and ask Him to allow His Holy Spirit to further enlighten you, asking Him to either confirm or refute

The bottom line is that if you try, sincerely, He'll respond. And you'll come to know the Lord, and ultimately, see His presence in your life through the manifold blessings and kindnesses He grants those who seek Him out faithfully.

God has always wanted us to take *personal responsibility* for our own well-being, our thoughts, and our actions.

He does not want us to abdicate our personal responsibility to live morally and to treat others with compassion and kindness, and give that responsibility over to some form of authoritarian government that would inevitably begin to re-define morality, legislate "compassion" until it becomes slavish socialism, forcing the people to accept things which, under God, would be considered abominable, and pit various segments of society against each other in order to distract the populace from government's faults and solidify government rule.

Back in Old Testament times, if we had any issues of profound importance that we had trouble dealing with, or understanding, we could go straight to any of the Godly judges who sat in the gates of the cities, and request their help in understanding what to do and how to do it, God's way.

You see, God had a very simple yet effective form of government:

1.) Take personal responsibility for your own life

2.) Live morally by treating others the way you'd like to be treated

3.) And if you run into an issue that you don't know how to handle in a godly and moral manner, reach out to one of God's Judges and ask for help in understanding what His Word says to do in such a situation, and how to do it.

God did not come up with the idea of kings or queens ruling over His people, and exercising grand titles over them, such as His Majesty, His Royal Highness or His Excellency – all of which titles imply God's personal imprimatur on them, when, in reality, He never wanted them there in the first place.

Nor did our heavenly Father impose upon us a vast and always growing network of civil government under authoritarian rulers, tyrannically micro-managing our daily lives with what the founding fathers of the United States of America would later call, "*swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance…imposing taxes on us without our consent*"… and much more.

God did *not* want this for us. Not at all.

Authoritarian government is what the heathen nations had come up with, on their own.

Our heavenly Father wanted us to take *personal responsibility* for our lives, be good to others around us, and if we needed any help, we could turn to Him (through prayer), seek out His Word (through reading or hearing it), and take the hard issues to His Judges to be understood and resolved in accord with His Word.

Straight from God's Word

You might say, "*Steve, those are some pretty bold claims. Can you show me in God's Word where the Lord didn't want authoritarian governments ruling over His People?*"

Yes, I can. Let's start in the Old Testament, in great book of I Samuel:

> **1Sa 8:4** Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,
>
> **1Sa 8:5** And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.
>
> **1Sa 8:6** But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.
>
> **1Sa 8:7** And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: **for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them**.
>
> **1Sa 8:8** According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

God's People didn't want God ruling over them. That was the bottom line, and God knew it.

What they wanted was a man-king who would talk tough, promise them the world, and indulge their fantasies. But Father warned this would simply *not* turn out the way they thought it would. They didn't know how good they already had it with Father ruling over them through His system of judges.

So, Father gave His people one last chance. He sent Samuel the judge to explain to them *exactly what would happen* if they rejected His simple system of government and chose a man-king in place of Father's Word and Father's Way. See for yourself if this is not the truth. As it's written:

> **1Sa 8:9** Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet **protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.**
>
> **1Sa 8:10** And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.
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> **1Sa 8:11** And he said, **This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.**
>
> **1Sa 8:12** And he will **appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.**
>
> **1Sa 8:13** And **he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.**
>
> **1Sa 8:14** And **he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.**
>
> **1Sa 8:15** And **he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.**

> **1Sa 8:16** And **he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.**
>
> **1Sa 8:17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.**
>
> **1Sa 8:18** And **ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; <u>and the LORD will not hear you in that day</u>.**

Our heavenly Father explained to the people, through His judge, Samuel, that instituting man-king rulers like those of the heathen nations would result in *tyranny*, *war*, *high taxes*, *bad economy*, *family disruption*, *involuntary servitude* and *loss of personal freedoms*.

In other words, authoritarian government rulers would turn out to be *a curse* on the nation and its people, generally speaking, and not a blessing at all.

Does *any* of that sound familiar to you? It should. You've been *living* it your entire life. But have you actually been watching? Have you taken note that what God *said* would happen if we insisted on instituting authoritarian government, has actually happened?

Our heavenly Father also explained, through Samuel the Judge, that you get what you ask for. And that once He's given it to you, short of national repentance you're pretty much *stuck* with it (i.e., "ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD *will not hear you in that day*").

You refuse to hear Him, and He'll refuse to hear you when his previous warnings begin to come to pass exactly as He said they would. He wants you to learn the lesson inherent in the situation. If necessary, He'll rub your face in those lessons, just as he's doing today as His Christian people once more idiotically fight with each other over which new man-king to "elect" to office next.

Yet, like today, the people of Samuel's time repeatedly demanded a man-king, rejecting our heavenly Father, along with His Word and His way. As it's written:

> **1Sa 8:19** Nevertheless **the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel**; and **they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us**;

1Sa 8:20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

1Sa 8:21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

1Sa 8:22 And the LORD said to Samuel, **Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city**.

The curse was on. Our heavenly Father finally gave them exactly what they wanted in the form of their first man-king, Saul, a man who couldn't even keep his own donkeys in the pen without losing them.

But though Saul, like most government denizens, was basically an idiot, he was also tall and handsome and a tough talker. And the people loved and trusted in him more so than they loved and trusted in the Lord.

And, of course, as you know from the books of Chronicles and Kings, Saul's turbulent reign as king was followed by a long string of additional man-kings, who, with very rare exception (such as David, Hezekiah, Josiah and a few others), turned out to be even more evil and tyrannical than Saul, and caused far more problems for the people and the nation than they ever solved.

Indeed, the long string of so-called "royals" ultimately led the nation of Israel and its people into utter ruin at the hands of the heathen nations – yes, at the hands of the very nations God's people had so longed to imitate.

God, in utter exasperation and disgust with His own people, finally gave the northern rebellious tribes of Israel over to conquest by the heathen Assyrians. And God later gave the rebellious southern tribes over to conquest by the heathen Babylonians.

They wanted heathenistic authoritarian government. So, ultimately, they got more of it than they'd bargained for.

You see, the principle the Israelites of old missed, and God's people of today (i.e., Christians) *still* miss, is this:

> **Psa 118:8** It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.
>
> **Psa 146:3** Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.
>
> **Pro 29:25** The fear [i.e., reverence] of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

So, you now know how the grand curse called authoritarian government got started. God didn't impose it upon us. We *insisted* upon it.

We abdicated our own personal responsibility to rule our lives with honor, morality and compassion for others, plus, love for the Lord and love for each other, and we quite willingly turned ourselves over to authoritarian government, thinking it would free us from the "oppression" of God's rules, when in reality it only enslaved us to wicked men, just as God said it would all along.

Listen, Christians have *one* King, and one king only, and that is Jesus. And He is unbelievably merciful. Do things His way, and He'll bless and keep you. Insist on doing things the way the heathens do, and He'll curse you, and ultimately, let you go straight to hell, *if* the cursings haven't brought about repentance.

Our heavenly Father simply wants us to establish a personal relationship with Him (now to be accomplished through His Son Jesus Christ), and follow His simple rules which are designed for *self-rule*.

Do you understand that? *Self-rule*.

Well, you might ask, what kind of rules from God are designed for self-rule?

Okay. Fair question. How about the 10 commandments? Let's take a look at how they're better understood and implemented through *self-rule*, and *self-responsibility*, rather than through the rule of authoritarian government:

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,

Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

The heathen nations around Israel of that time had some 70 gods they honored, in addition to the authoritarian rulers over them who insisted on being treated like gods, with many of them even claiming to *be* gods.

Our Lord, the Creator of all things, said, in paraphrase, "*Simply follow Me and ignore the rest of that nonsense. Don't participate in it*."

Not too hard, right?

But what if we put *authoritarian government* in charge of implementing and enforcing this simple and very reasonable commandment?

By the time government would be done with it, that simple three-sentence command would be 172-pages long, full of indecipherable bureaucratese, rife with thousands of new inter-related rules and regulations, and, of course, plenty of new taxes thrown in for enforcement.

> **"Last year, there were an additional 81,000 pages of government regulations. If you stack that up, it would be a three-story building."**

No. God wanted us to enjoy *self-rule* and *self-responsibility*. He wanted us to honor Him *willingly*, ourselves, without the heavy-hand of government forcing it

upon us. He wanted (and *still* wants) us to have a growing personal relationship with Him.

Let's take a look at the next commandment:

> **Exodus 20:4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
>
> **Exodus 20:5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
>
> **Exodus 20:6** And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Can you handle that? Or do you need the help of authoritarian government?

God doesn't want you making carvings or drawings of the things He created – in heaven above, or in earth beneath, or even under the water -- and then calling them gods, and honoring or worshiping them.

It truly pisses Him off. And it *ought* to. It would be as if one of your own children, whom you've taken good care of all of your life, suddenly decided he liked a set of neighborhood parents better than you, and started calling them "mom" and "dad" instead of you.

But what if authoritarian government was given enforcement powers over this commandment?

You can bet your bottom dollar that any picture you painted, any statue you made, any carving you made, would be deemed by government to be an "idol" or a "false god," no matter what your own intentions for it were. And you'd be fined heavily, because that's how governments make their money. Through enforcement of minutia.

If you were a painter, or a person who carved statues out of clay, you can bet there would be myriads of bureaucratic regulations covering what kind of pictures

you could paint, statues you could carve, colors you can use, symbols you can use, etc. And government would grant themselves the sole authority to interpret whether or not what you created was "idolatrous."

If people in government *liked* you, or liked what you were doing, you can bet they'd approve of your "art" no matter how idolatrous it might be. And if government *didn't like you*, or what you were doing, they'd use your art to destroy you, no matter how far from being idolatrous it might be. That's the very nature of government.

You see, this is why God wants His Christian people to be *self-responsible* to Him. It's why He wants you to have a personal relationship with Him. His rules are short, simple and perfectly fair when you really think about it. And you really don't need authoritarian government, at all, to follow them.

> **Exodus 20:7** Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

One of the things that really gets God's goat is to have someone make an idol, and call that idol by His Holy name. In other words, He doesn't want us to attribute His name, His honor, His authority and His character to some idol, or some false God. That's taking His name in vain, i.e., applying His Holy name to an empty thing.

Do we need government to implement that simple rule into our lives? Most emphatically, NO! Self-government works just fine.

> **Exodus 20:8** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
>
> **Exodus 20:9** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
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> **Exodus 20:10** But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
>
> **Exodus 20:11** For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

God says we should take one day off from our work, each week, to rest up, and to honor Him. We are to imitate *His* taking a day off after His initial six days of creation.

This is for our own good. Our health and well-being. He rested, after six days of hard work. So should we. And once again, we don't need government to force us to do this. We need only *self-government* and a bit of common sense. You don't want to work yourself to death. And you need time to honor the Lord, within your heart, mind, and spirit, which you can (and should) do every day of the week, and not just on a sabbath day. Christ is now our sabbath rest. Let's honor Him.

> **Exodus 20:12** Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Would you like to live a long and happy life?

Then give due honor to your mom and dad. God knows that if we treat our parents like pariahs, we'll most likely treat *Him* like one, too. But if we treat our parents with the love and respect they deserve, we'll likely treat Him the same way, too.

Now, there are circumstances in which some of the things our parents might have done were not very honor-worthy. Fine. Honor them for bringing you into the world, if that's all they ever did for you. But find *something* to honor them for, if you would like to "live long upon the land."

It's really that simple. And once again, we don't need authoritarian government to tell us how to do this. We need only our own *willing self-rule*.

> **Exodus 20:13** Thou shalt do no murder.

Don't commit the capital offense of murder. Don't lie in wait for another, and slaughter them.

Even for this commandment, authoritarian government is not needed.

For example, in Old Testament times, after a murderer was convicted by a jury of his peers, on the testimony of two or three reliable eye-witnesses, the people

most affected by the murder (for example, a son, or a brother) simply dragged the murderer out into the street and stoned him to death.

No authoritarian government was needed. No prisons for capital offenders, costing the taxpayers billions of dollars a year. Just a heartfelt willingness to follow God's simple rules.

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

This one's a tad bit more complicated that most people think. As you'll see, it's more about *personal honesty* than anything else.

Yes, it covers what we in modern times call "adultery," i.e., cheating on one's spouse, or having sex with a married person. But there's much more to it, as you'll see.

Think of it in terms of *adulteration*, rather than adultery.

Adulteration means to render something poorer in quality by secretly adding another, inferior substance or ingredient to it, such as "the ground meat was adulterated with potato flour," or "the whiskey was adulterated with water."

Just as secretly adding water to whiskey makes the whiskey less pure (adulterated), or adding potato flour to ground meat makes the meat less pure (adulterated), so cheating on your spouse *adulterates your marriage* (i.e., "and they twain shall be <u>one</u> flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh") by bringing a third person who shouldn't be there into the marriage bed.

In short, this command covers *all* forms of adulteration that's designed to rob the purity of a thing (including a marriage).

People have been adulterating things since time immemorial. For example, gold and silver are sometimes adulterated with base metals, in order to cheat one party out of a portion of what he's paid for.

Another example: Drinking establishments (i.e., bars) often try to save money by adding plain old drinking water to bottles of spirits, before making drinks with them. Drug dealers often adulterate the drugs they sell with powders that look similar to the drug itself.

Even a product like honey is no longer pure. Almost all brands of honey are adulterated with cheap vegetable oils and other products that *look like honey*.

Obviously, this is cheating. Which is why I said at the beginning of this explanation that this commandment is more about *personal honesty* than anything else.

If you sell something to someone, make sure they get the full portion they've paid for. Otherwise, you're a thief.

Now, you can make the case that we "need" government to enforce this one. But that would be putting the fox in charge of the hen house. After all, the governments of this world are, now, and always have been, the worst adulterators in existence.

They ALL adulterate, for example, their national currencies, so they can pay off the debts they've racked up during wars and frivolous spending with cheaper and cheaper "dollars."

As an example, in the U.S., our coinage used to be made of pure gold and silver – God's money.

Then, as governments got involved, and began racking up mountains of debt, our coinage went from 100% gold and silver to only 90% gold and silver, with the rest of the coinage being composed of cheap, inexpensive base metals like brass or nickel. In other words, the government adulterated our perfectly good money with cheap base metals. That way, the government could pay off its debts, quicker.

Then it got to the point at which our coinage was only 40% gold or silver, with the remaining 60% being cheap base metals. And eventually our coinage became made of 100% cheap base metals, with *zero* gold and silver in them.

Was that the ultimate adulteration? Nope.

Next, the government switched us over to paper money, which they told us was a "claim" on real gold and silver (they were called gold or silver "certificates").

Finally, they even removed the gold and silver-backing from our paper money (in 1971), and now our national currency is composed of nothing more than colored paper or base metal coinage.

So why is our national currency and coinage still worth what the government claims it's worth? Why is a $100 bill worth $100. Because they *say* it is. Nothing else. It's been adulterated, *by our own government*, from pure gold and silver all of the way down to flimsy colored pieces of paper barely worth two or three cents apiece, if anything at all.

And the people don't even realize they've been ripped off by their own government. Why? Because today, they're born and raised with paper dollars, they believe that to actually be *money*, when in reality it is the evidence that our own government has robbed us of real money and substituted cheap paper so they could spend more and more and more.

The point being, we don't need government to enforce this commandment against adulteration, either.

As Christians, in our own personal lives, we simply refuse to cheat people through adulteration. We don't adulterate the products we sell to others. We don't adulterate our marriage, or the marriages of others, by adding a third person when the marriage bed is for the two to "become one."

Get it? Adulteration is a form of robbery. It's a form of theft. It is cheating.

We, as Christians, are to give *full value*, and not cheat others. And this is something authoritarian government is simply *unfit* to have authority over, since they are among the worst of offenders, and always have been.

Self-responsibility. Self-rule. These two concepts take care of this commandment.

> **Exodus 20:15** Thou shalt not steal.

Again, self-responsibility and self-rule take care of this one. Governments are among the greatest of thieves history has ever recorded.

> **Exodus 20:16** Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

In another part of the Bible, our heavenly Father tells us that if you bear false witness against a person, whatever punishment the alleged crime would have borne for the accused, will now be borne by the one testifying falsely against the accused (Deuteronomy 19:15-21).

In other words, if Joe Schmidt testifies against Larry Longhorne, claiming he saw Larry commit a murder, and that testimony turns out to be false, then Joe Schmidt gets the punishment Larry would have received -- in this case, the death penalty. After all, he tried to have an innocent man put to death.

Do we need government to enforce this commandment?

Not really. It might seem like we do, because we've been repeatedly *told* we do, since childhood. And because it might seem like a huge burden to handle ourselves.

But in the old days, when the one testifying falsely was found out, the people who were witnesses to the false testimony, and who had diligently checked to see if it were true or not, simply dragged the false witness out into the street and stoned him to death (if it were a capital crime) in front of everyone, or punished him with whatever punishment the innocent person would have received if the false testimony had not been found out.

Later, when authoritarian government took over court cases, people were relieved because they no longer had to shoulder that awful responsibility.

But the problem is this: Authoritarian government *routinely* bears false witness against those they want to punish. This has been going on since time immemorial. The modern-day examples of government lies in order to silence critics or opponents are simply too numerous to mention.

Of course, this means, as in other examples, that authoritarian government is simply *not fit* to bear authority over this commandment.

We, as Christians, need to take authority unto ourselves, making sure we never bear false witness against others, and never simply believe one person's witness against another without thoroughly checking into it, first.

“Proof beyond a reasonable doubt” used to be the government’s standard. Now, they only pay lip service to that standard. For government prosecutors, it’s more about racking up “wins” in court at any cost, which can serve as stepping stones to higher political power. In all too many cases, “justice” is not what government prosecution is about, at all.

> **Exodus 20:17** Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

How can a government stop a person from coveting *anything*? They can’t. Only you and I can stop *ourselves* from coveting things which do not belong to us.

In other words, once again, it’s all about self-rule. Self-responsibility. And *earning* what we want, rather than desiring our neighbor’s.

It’s unfortunate that today we live in a world in which people reason, “*I don’t have this thing. But my neighbor Larry has one. I want what Larry has, because it’s not fair that I don’t have it*.” And instead of going out and earning their own, they end up robbing the neighbor of what he possesses.

Again, authoritarian government is the worst offender of them all regarding this commandment. They see the money we earn, and covet more and more of it, passing rules, regulations, fees, fines, taxes of every sort and description in order to get it.

They even make up issues out of whole cloth – such as COVID -- and use those issues to rob us of the things *they* covet most, in order to control us. They see our freedoms, and restrict them, but never apply the restrictions to themselves.

Therefore, authoritarian government is simply not fit to have authority over this commandment, either. Only we can rightly police *ourselves*. As Christians, it’s our *personal responsibility* to make sure we don’t covet that which someone else owns. Putting authoritarian government over this can only muck it up, since all they do is covet what others own.

God Was Right

So, we can see, just from the 10 commandments, that God was right when He explained to Samuel, and had Samuel explain to the people, that government is nothing but selfish brute force, and the people being ruled over are *always* its unwitting victims.

Self-rule, and self-responsibility, are what God wanted for His people. He wanted them (and *still* wants us) to develop a personal relationship with Him, and when we're challenged with a moral issue, to turn to Him to understand how to deal with it.

But we opted for Big Government, instead. We threw God out of the equation, and substituted authoritarian government in His place.

We *chose* to put that which is inherently immoral in charge of our morality. We chose to put the uncompassionate in charge of our compassion. We chose to put the irresponsible in charge of our personal responsibilities.

In short, we abdicated our authority over our own lives, under the ridiculous notion that Big Government can run it better than we can.

And guess what?

We're still paying the price for it, to this very day, because we continue to enthusiastically embrace the curse of authoritarian government, and eschew our *personal responsibility* for being a Godly and moral people.

Sadly, we, as a people, *prefer* authoritarian government to God and His very reasonable commandments, which were designed for *self-rule* and to promote *self-responsibility*…that is to say, *personal* responsibility to God and His Word.

Our Founders Were Right

Our Founding Fathers warned us from the very start that "*Government is not reason, it is not eloquence – it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant, and a fearful master; never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action*." (George Washington)

> The **first President** of the United States said: "**Government** is not reason, it is not eloquence,—it is force! **Like fire, it is a dangerous servant, and a fearful master;** never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."

Unfortunately, we of this final generation, and of generations before us, did not listen very intently to our Founders.

Instead of enjoying the very Limited Government our founders gave us, in which the government's job was merely to protect the people's God-given rights from being abused, we, like the Israelites of Samuel's time, allowed and even insisted upon Big Government, to the point that we've now been wholly swallowed up by it.

We now cannot even speak our minds publicly without being vilified or shunned, cannot move about freely in our own towns, cannot make our own choices for our own bodies, but instead have Big Government, in bed with the Big Corporations, ram ill-advised choices (and poisons) down our throats.

What's more, we no longer have freedom of association, but instead are forced by government edict either to service decrepit and ungodly people we would not otherwise freely allow into our presence, or, we're kicked off all public platforms at the whim of Big Government for failing to agree with said government and its growing mountain of unconstitutional writs, edicts and mandates.

What's more, our own government has now been swallowed up by a global government run by ultra-rich bankers (think: moneychangers) that seek to rule

over and dominate every human being on the face of the earth, reducing us to the level of mere serfs and themselves to the level of our overlords.

It is these very same globalist money-changers who hate Christianity with unmatched passion, particularly deploring its emphasis on self-rule and personal responsibility to family, community and particularly to God and His Word.

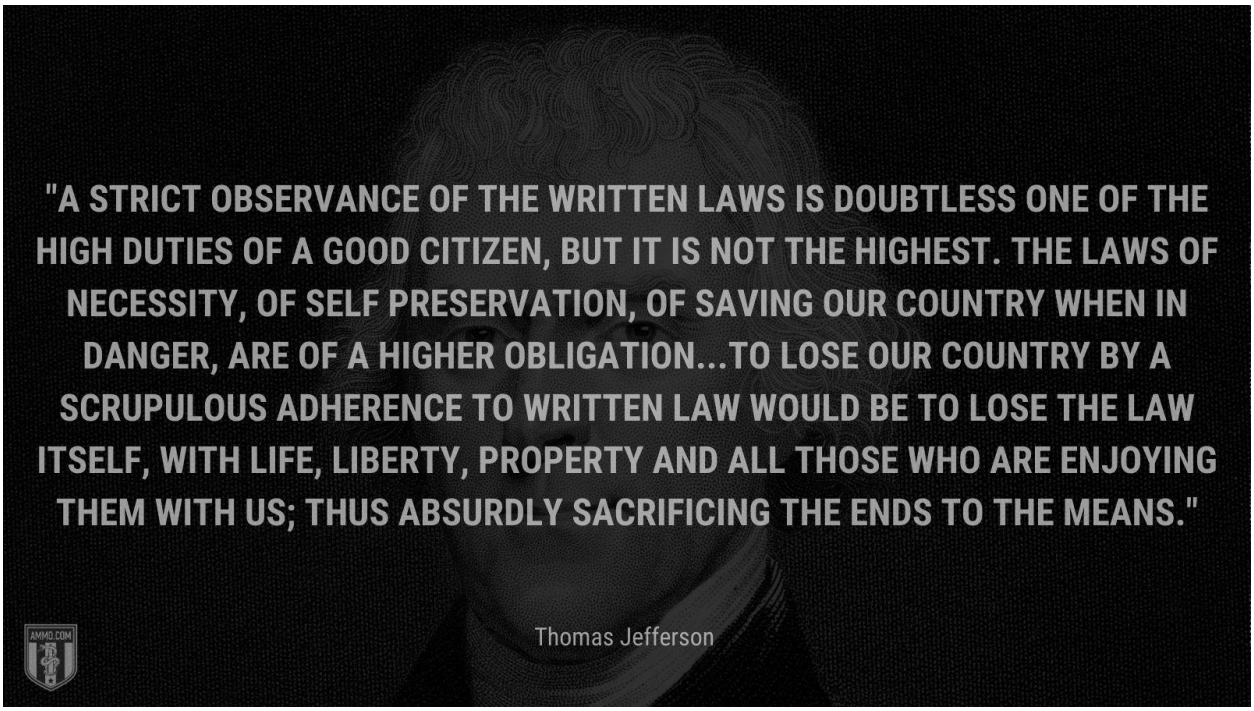
This is why our Founders warned so sternly of what would come, if we failed to stand firmly for our rights, and do away with any encroachers thereof. As Thomas Jefferson once said:

"***I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them***." – Thomas Jefferson

Jefferson also stated, plainly, "*Experience hath shown, that even under the best forms of government* ***those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny***."

And he later stated, "*Single acts of tyranny may be ascribed to the accidental opinion of a day; but a <u>series</u> of oppressions, begun at a distinguished period, and pursued unalterably through every change of ministers,* ***too plainly prove a deliberate, systematical plan of reducing us to slavery***." -- Thomas Jefferson: letter to Dupont de Nemours, April 24, 1816

Jefferson would later write:



"*A strict observance of the written laws is doubtless one of the high duties of a good citizen, but it is not the highest. The laws of necessity, of self preservation, of saving our country when in danger, are of a higher obligation...To lose our country by a scrupulous adherence to written law would be to lose the law itself, with life, liberty, property and all those who are enjoying them with us; thus absurdly sacrificing the ends to the means*." (Thomas Jefferson, Letter to J.B. Colvin, September 20, 1780)

And in a letter to Dr. Benjamin Rush, Jefferson stated, "*The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny*."

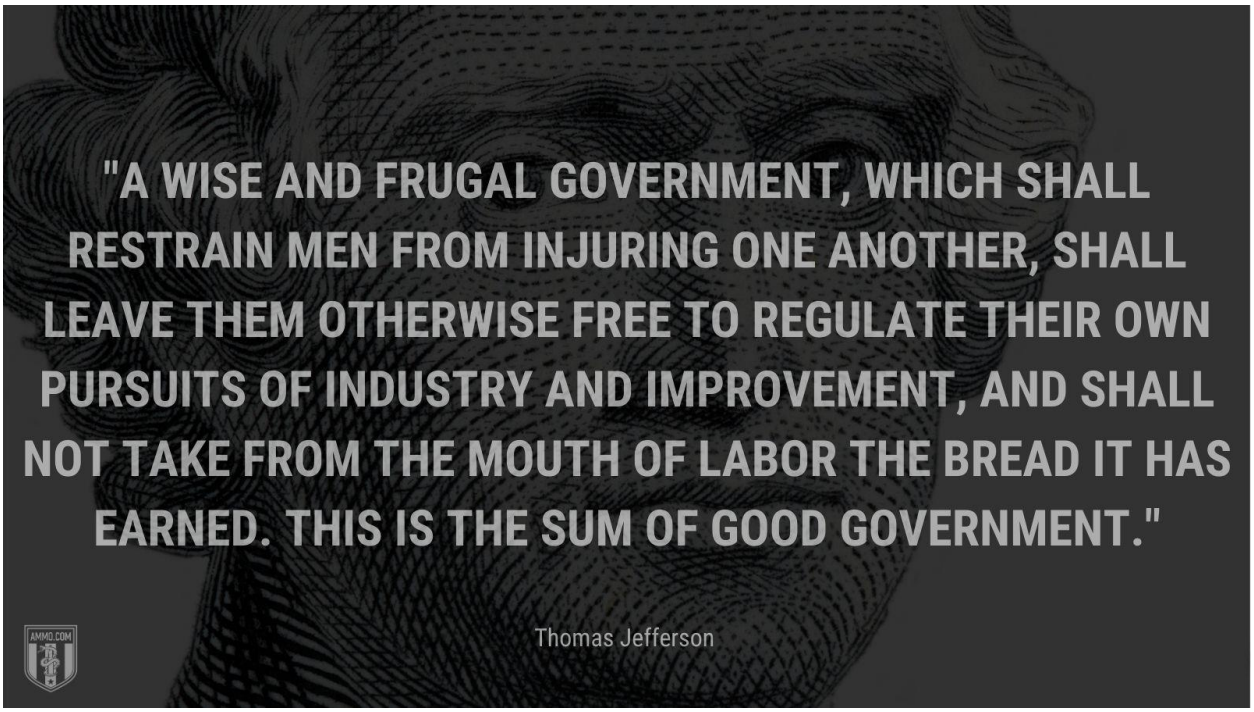
Jefferson also rightly stated, "*When the people fear their government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty*."

And he warned, "*All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent*."

Jefferson acknowledged the necessity of righteous government, and deplored authoritarian government, stating, "*I am a friend to righteous government, to a*

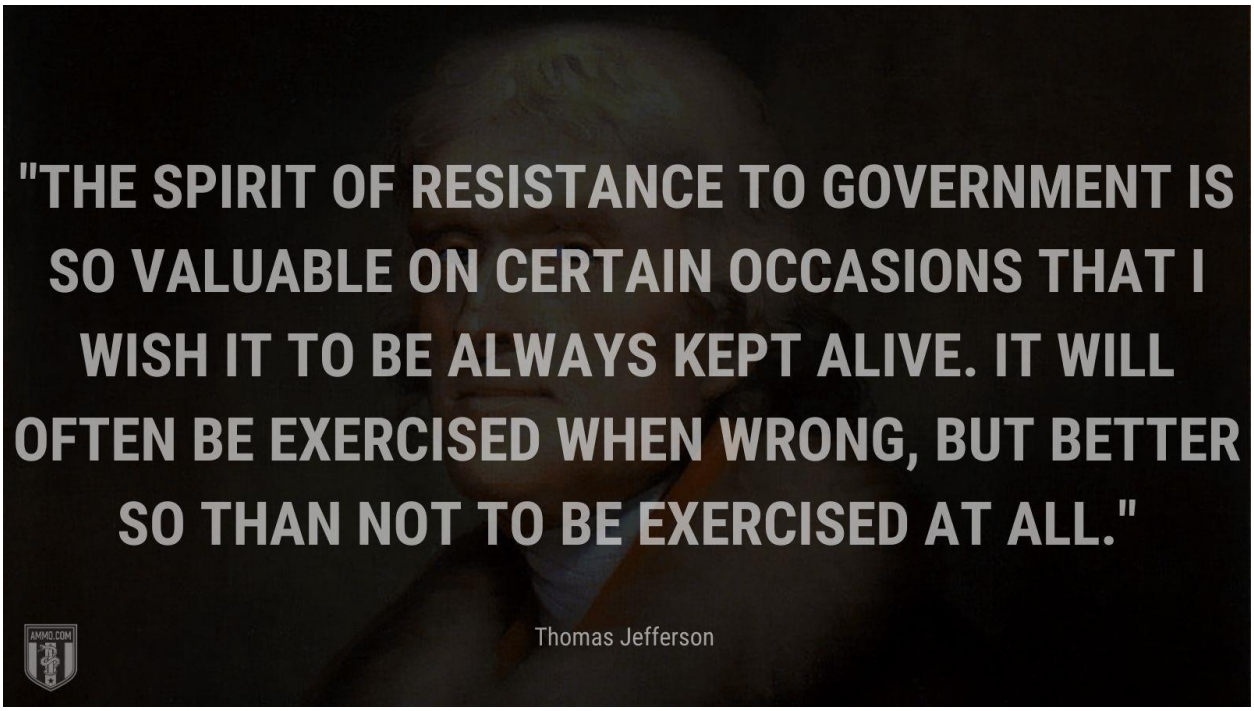
government founded upon the principles of reason and justice; but I glory in publicly avowing my eternal enmity to tyranny." (Thomas Jefferson: Diffusion of Knowledge Bill, 1779. FE 2:221, Papers 2:526)

He also warned further that while frugal (i.e., limited in power) government was necessary, that same government must not interfere with the people's right to "regulate their own pursuits," which is to say, be in charge of our own lives. He stated:



"*A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them* ***otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government****."* (Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1801)

Jefferson also eloquently wrote of the "spirit of resistance to government," as follows:



"*The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions that I wish it to be always kept alive. It will often be exercised when wrong, but better so than not to be exercised at all."* (*Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Abigail Adams, February 22, 1787*)

Finally, Jefferson stated, "*I have sworn upon the alter of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man*."

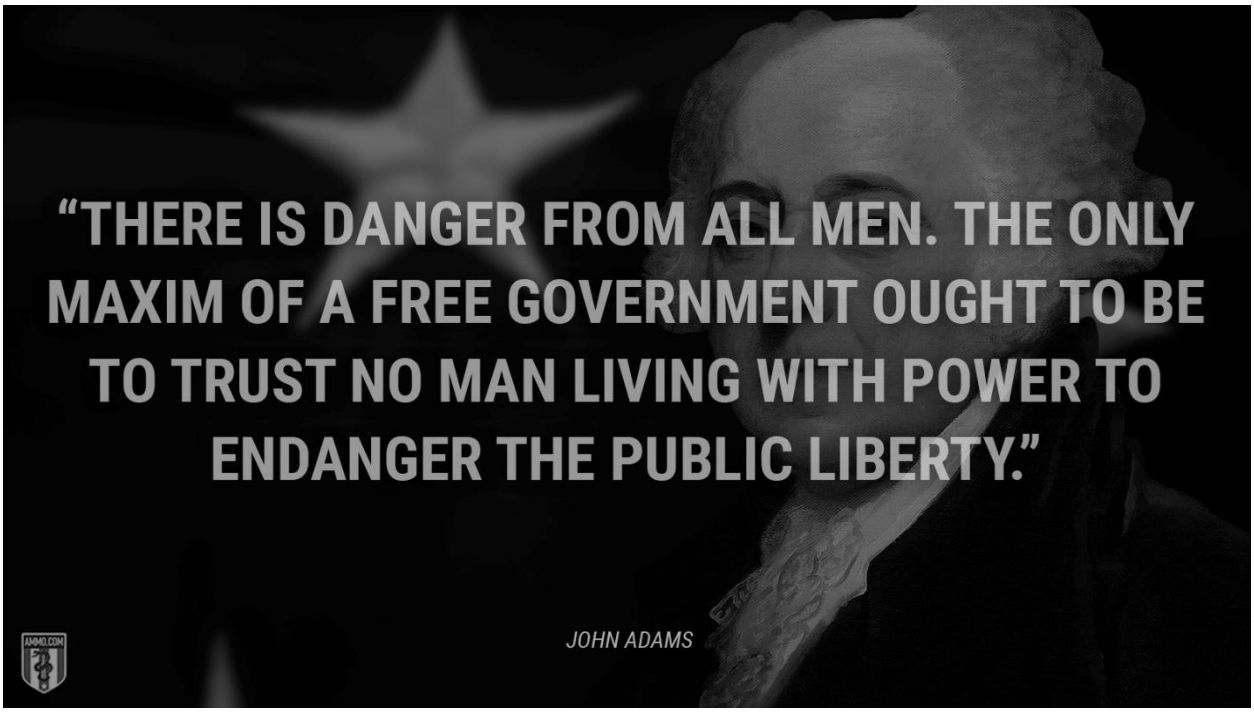
My question is, have *you* done the same?

Some Additional Founding Father Quotes About Freedom v/s Tyranny:

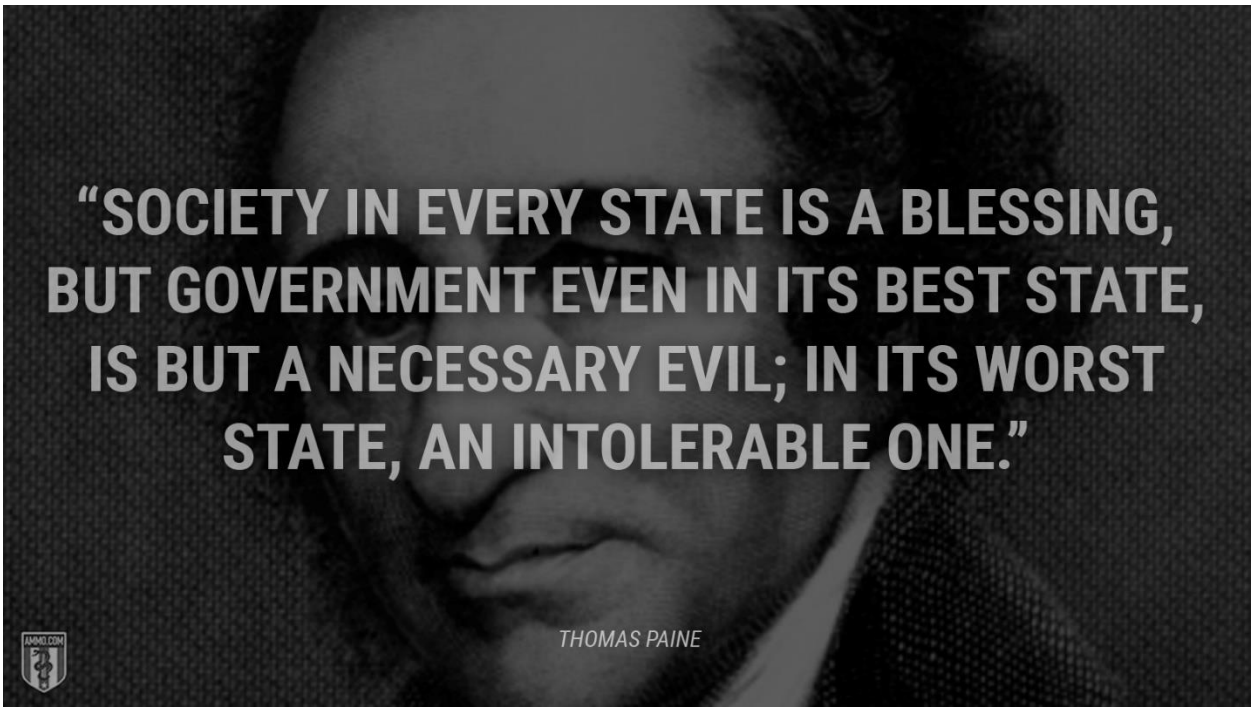
"*Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph*." (James Madison: Federalist No. 48, February 1, 1788)

"*The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government*." (Thomas Paine: The American Crisis, No. 1, December 19, 1776)

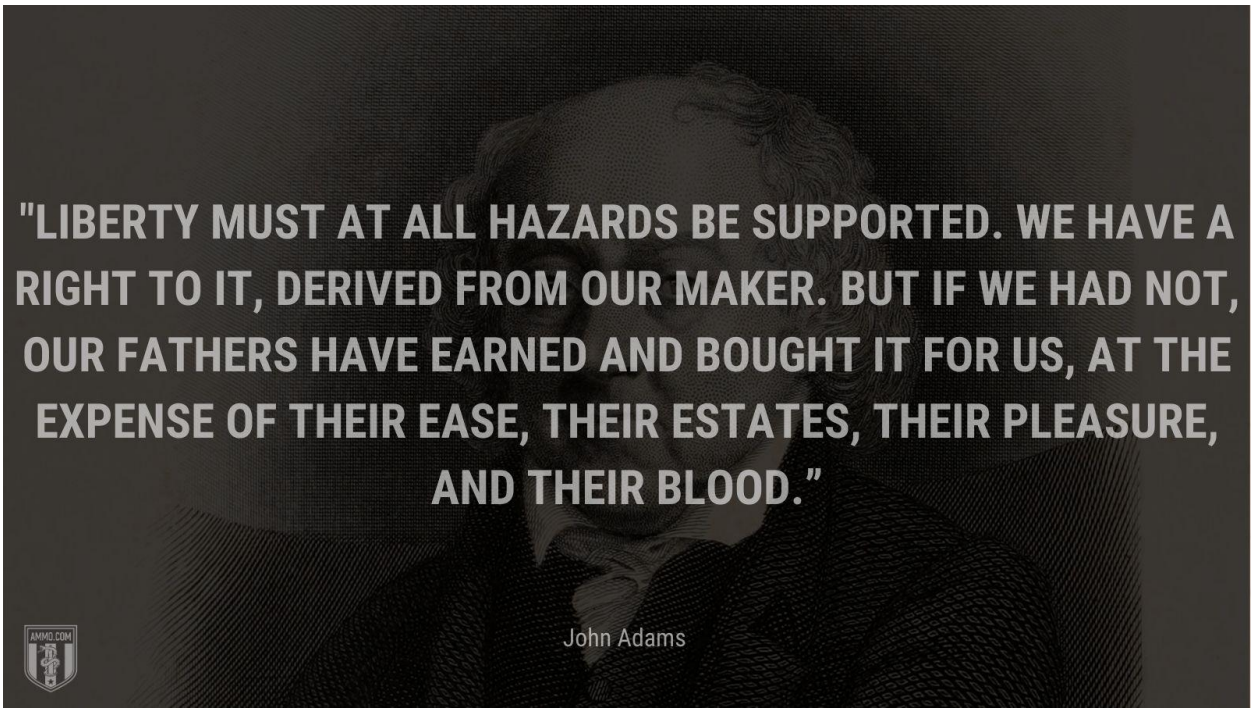
“*Now to what higher object, to what greater Character, can any Mortal aspire, than to be possessed of all this Knowledge, well digested, and ready at Command, to assist the feeble and Friendless, to discountenance the haughty and lawless, to procure Redress of Wrongs, the Advancement of Right, to assert and maintain Liberty and Virtue, to discourage and abolish Tyranny and Vice.*” (John Adams: Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law)



“*There is danger from all men. The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty*.” (John Adams, Notes for an Oration at Braintree, Massachusetts, 1772)

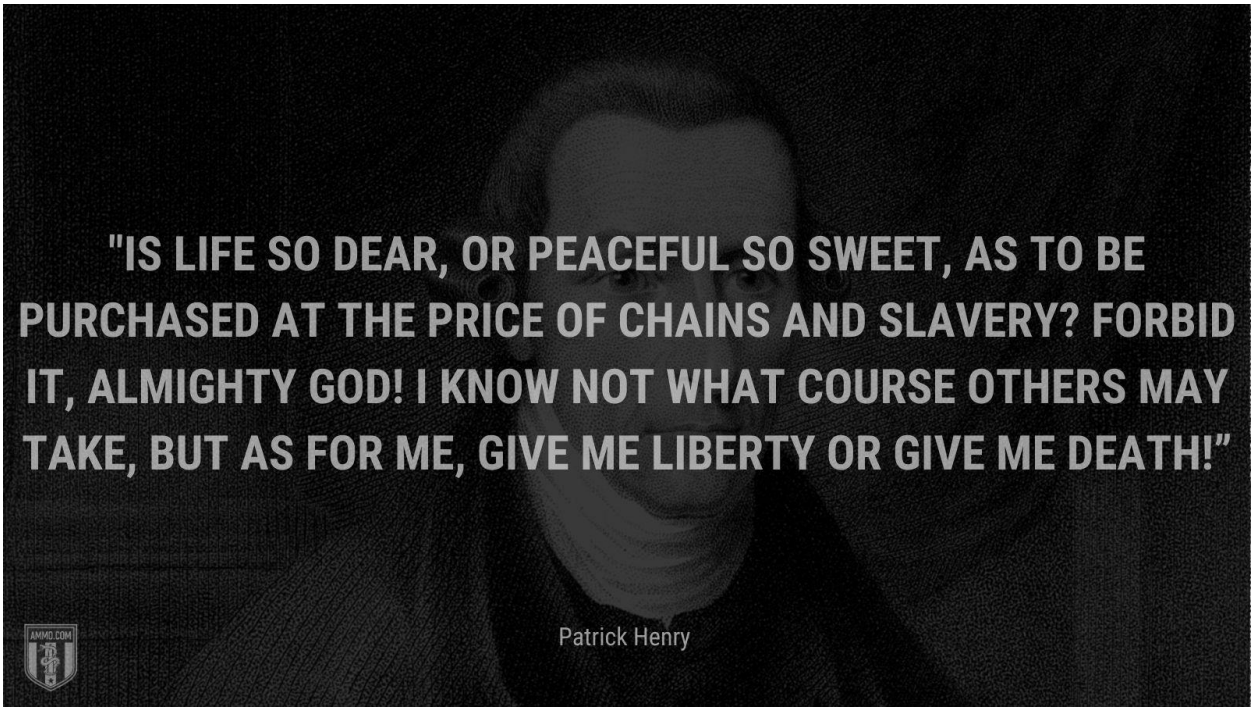


“*Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one*.” (Thomas Paine, Common Sense, 1776)

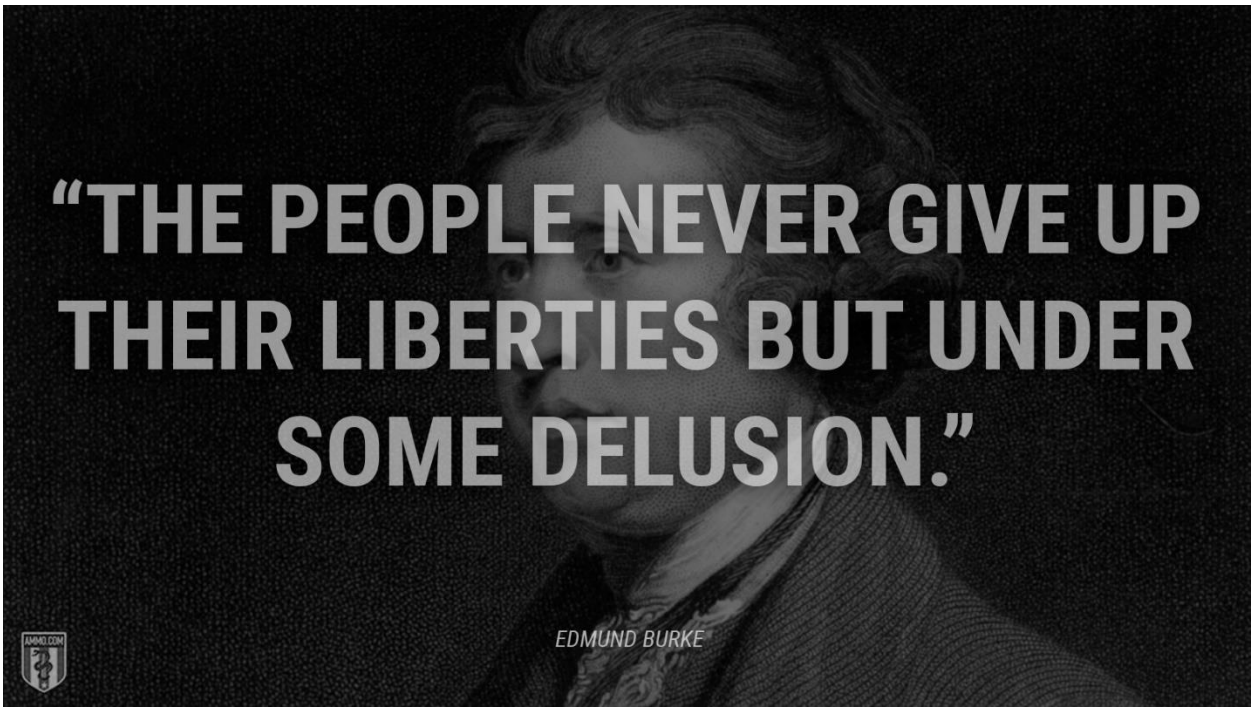


“*Liberty must at all hazards be supported. We have a right to it, derived from our Maker. But if we had not, our fathers have earned and bought it for us, at the expense of their ease, their estates, their pleasure, and their blood*.” (John Adams, A Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law, 1765)

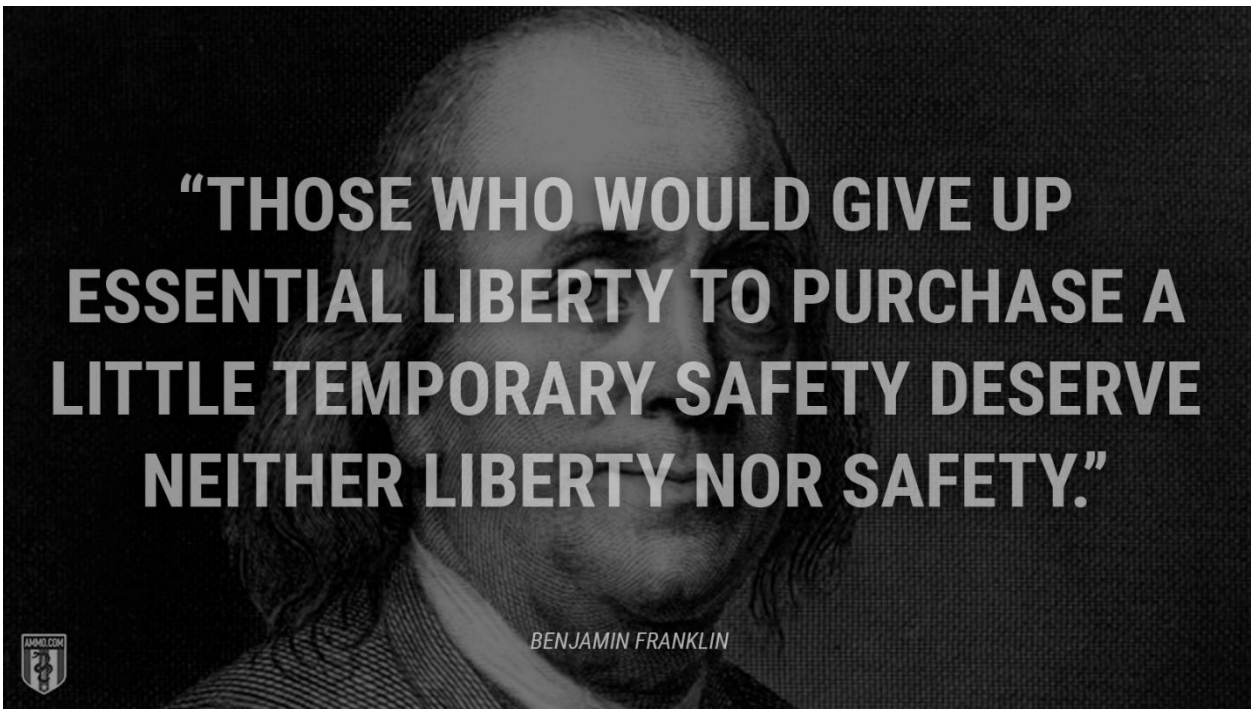
And, of course, we have Patrick Henry, who stated, simply and with profound courage: “*Give me liberty, or give me death!*”



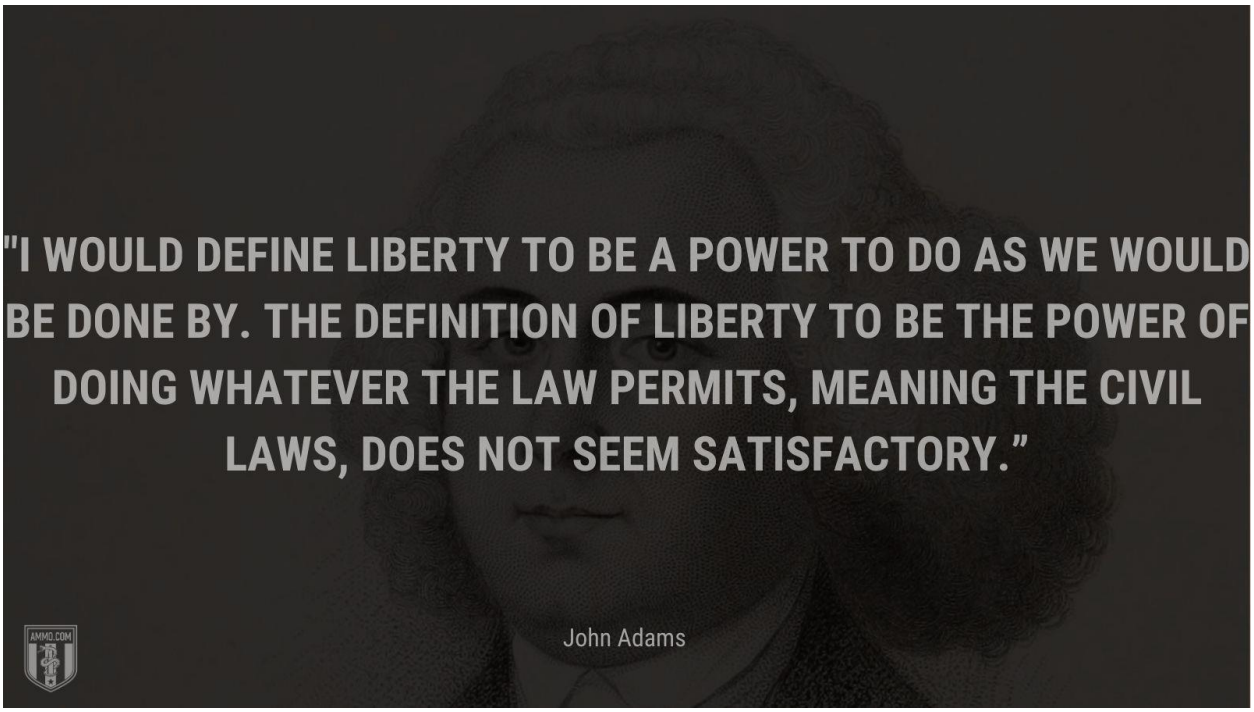
“Is life so dear, or peaceful so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” (*Patrick Henry, Speech at the Virginia Convention*)



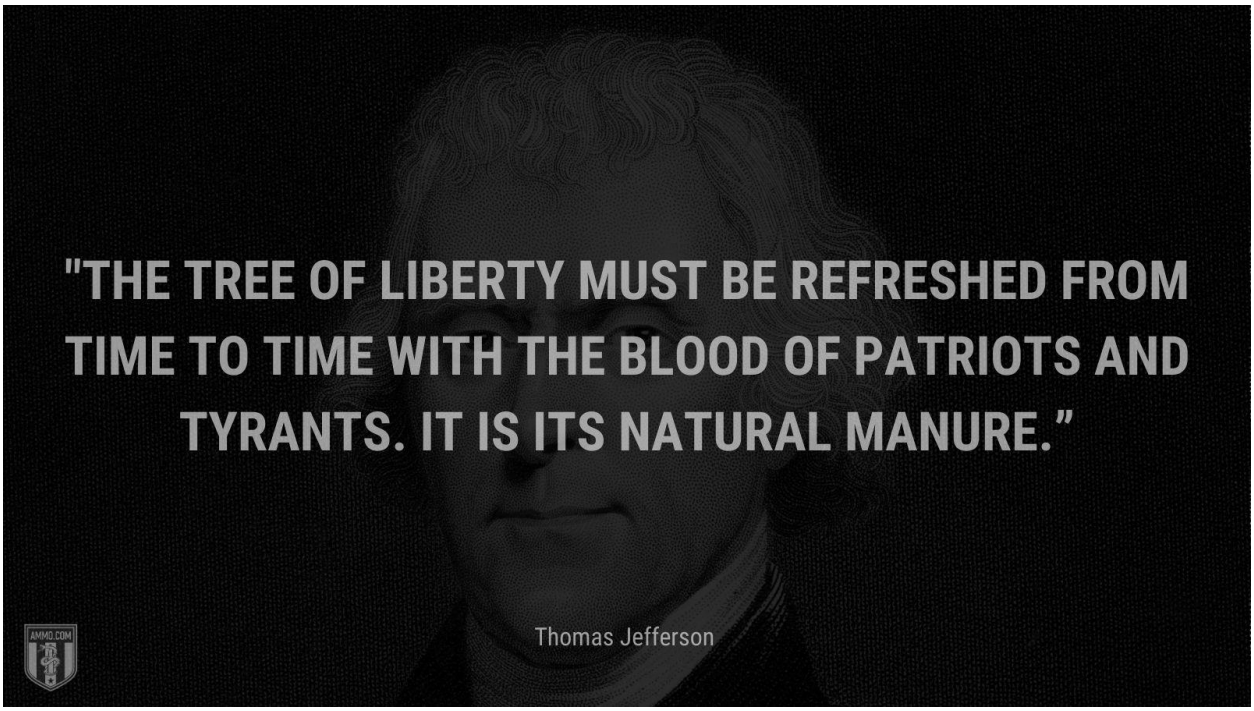
“The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion.” - Edmund Burke, Speech at Country Meeting of Buckinghamshire, 1784



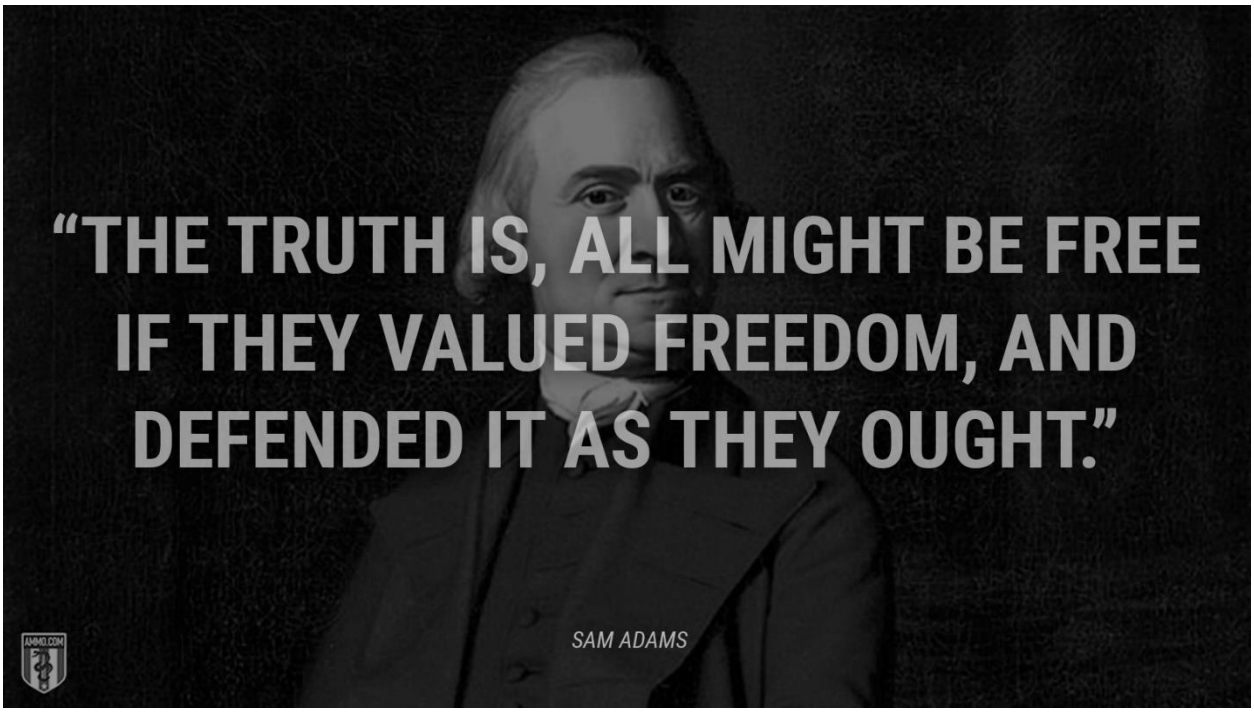
“*Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety*.” (*Benjamin Franklin, Speech to the Pennsylvania Assembly, November 11, 1755*)



“*I would define liberty to be a power to do as we would be done by. The definition of liberty to be the power of doing whatever the law permits, meaning the civil laws, does not seem satisfactory*.” (John Adams, Letter to J. H. Tiffany, March 31, 1819)

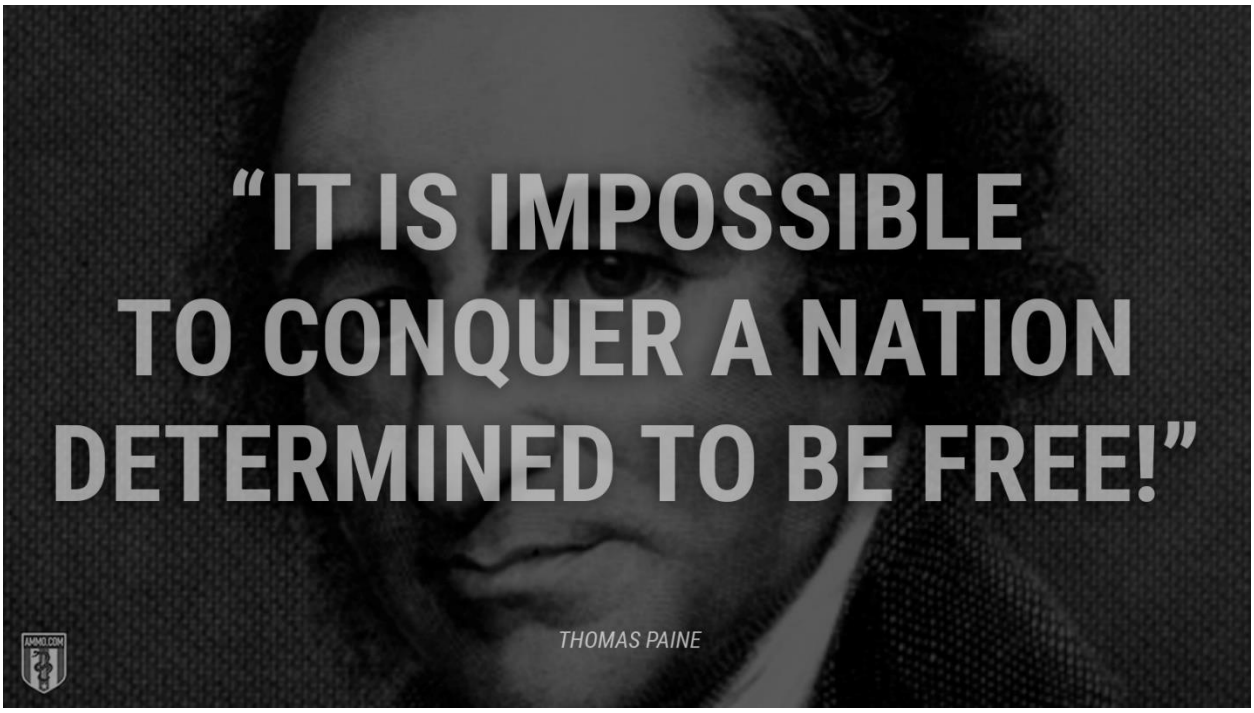


"*The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure*." (*Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Colonel William S. Smith, November 13, 1787*)



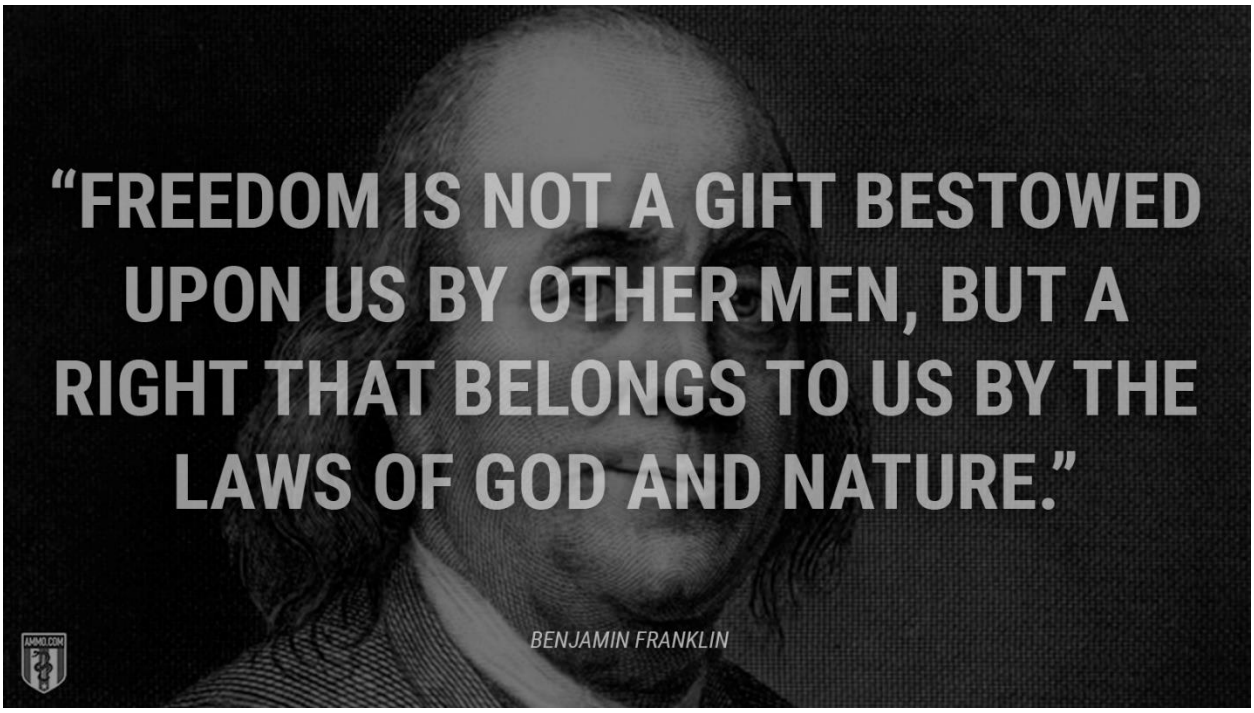
"*The truth is, all might be free if they valued freedom, and defended it as they ought*." (*Samuel Adams,* Article in the Boston Gazette, October 14, 1771)

"*Let freedom be the mistress of thy heart*." (Mercy Otis Warren to Don Juan De Padilla in "The Ladies of Castille," 1790)



"*It is impossible to conquer a nation determined to be free!*" (Thomas Paine, Letter to the People of France, 1792)

*"*Wear none of thine own chains; but keep free, whilst thou art free.*"* (William Penn, Some Fruits of Solitude, 1693)



"Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature." (Benjamin Franklin, Maxims and Morals from Dr. Franklin, 1807)

[The above quotes were taken from the Ammo.com website. More Founding Father quotes like these can be found on their great site, here and here. And if you're an avid shooter, like me, consider picking up some ammo from them, at some great prices.]

Our Declaration of Independence

And finally, a brief reminder of what our Founders wrote in the Declaration of Independence, when making the difficult decision to overthrow the tyrannical government under which they found themselves:

"*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 --**That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness**. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. **But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security**.* – Declaration of Independence

The bottom line, in my own view, is that blind loyalty to any form of government that's become wicked in its practices is the metaphorical equivalent of taking the mark of the beast — i.e., willingly working hand-and-mind with the ruling powers for personal gain, without ever resisting their wickedness and ungodliness, or even taking it into consideration.

In Conclusion…

As you can see from the above study, or heavenly Father *never* wanted authoritarian government for us. He preferred us to come to Him, learn of Him, and take *personal responsibility* for our lives rather than abdicating that personal responsibility and giving our God-given power of self-rule over to authoritarian government which would only abuse that power and work to enslave us.

This is why our Founding Fathers, being Godly men, implemented Limited Government for this country, explaining that government should *only* exist to protect the people's liberties and freedoms, and warned us to fight hard to keep our government limited, knowing full well that authoritarian government – Big Government -- has been the bane of every society from the very beginning.

Further Reading…

When Is It Okay for Christians to Disobey the Government?

The Old Devils Are at It Again: COVID and the Greatest Wealth Theft in World History

-- End –

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