

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

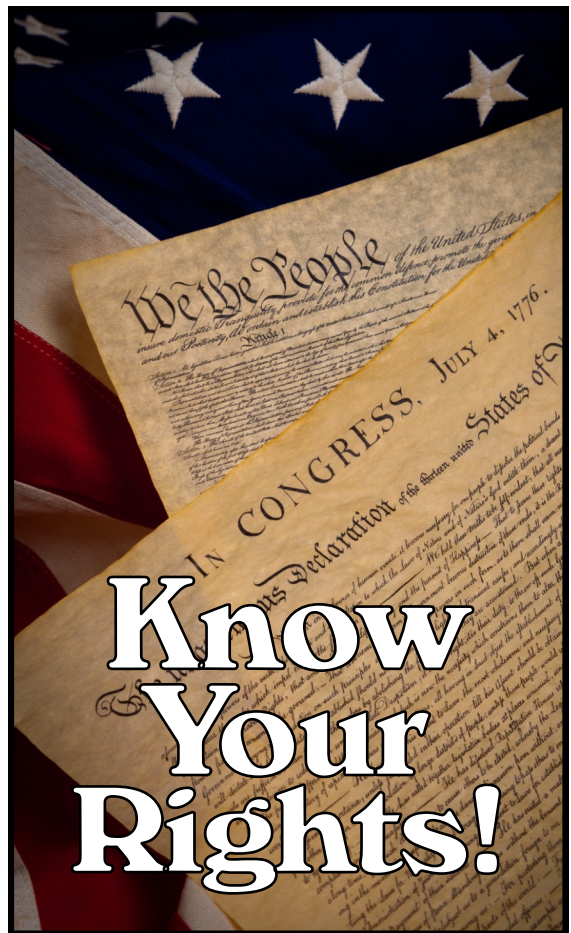
We all want to be happy, and in this land of opportunity, if we work hard and follow our dreams we can be. But happiness only lasts as long as this life does. What we really need is joy that will bring happiness in this life and continue on throughout eternity. What greater joy could you have than to know that God loves you so much that He was born into this world to save you. *“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* Luke 2:10-11

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO CHOOSE

God created you with a free will and you have the right to believe whatever you choose. But there are also consequences for making the wrong choice. *“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:”* Deuteronomy 30:19 *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* John 8:32



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As Citizens of these United States we acknowledge the rights which have been granted by our Creator. The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal" and have the right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". The Bible tells us much about our Creator and these rights that we should know.

ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL

The Bible says in Acts 10:34 "*...that God is no respecter of persons:*" While each of us look differently and have different talents and abilities, we are all equally important to God. God wants every one of us to know Him and have a personal relationship with Him. He has revealed Himself to us through creation. "*Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*" Romans 1:19-20 "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*" Psalm 19:1

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIFE

God gave us our life, and except for capital punishment and war, which were both instituted by God, only He has the right to take it. Each of us has the right to life without the fear of someone taking it unlawfully, but that is not a guarantee that we will not be the victim of crime or illness. "*Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*" James 4:14 We must also consider what many refer to as the "after life." God offers the gift of eternal life to all mankind, but it is only a right to those who meet the conditions. "*Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks,*

repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:21 If you will believe on Jesus Christ and confess Him as your Lord, He will give you eternal life. "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*" Romans 10:9 We are all sinners and need to be saved. Without salvation there is only eternal death after this life is over.

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO LIBERTY

The greatest right we have in this country is freedom; freedom to worship God and to live peacefully with one another. Our Creator has instilled in us the desire to be free and to be owned by no man. That freedom has come at tremendous cost. Many have sacrificed their lives so that we might enjoy this freedom. Even though we are physically free, we are still in need of spiritual freedom from the bondage of sin. The first man, Adam disobeyed God and plunged the entire human race into sin which has passed upon everyone ever born. "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*" Romans 5:12 No greater sacrifice has ever been made than when God's Son died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" John 3:16 God has provided deliveance from sin to all who will receive it. "*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*" John 1:12 "*Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*" Romans 8:21