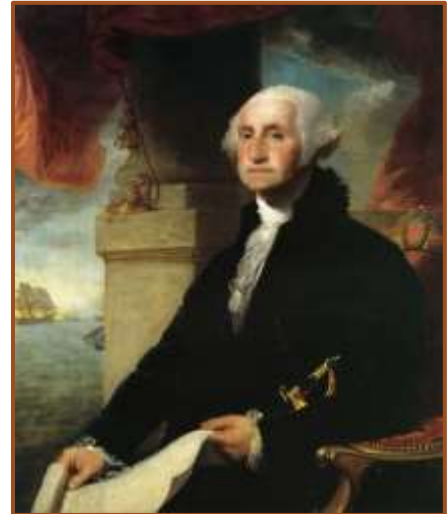


Thoughts from Washington

Today is the birthday of George Washington, born in the year of our Lord 1732. One of the Founding Fathers of the United States, he served as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and later as the new nation's first President.

What many people don't know, or may have forgotten, is that Washington also presided over the convention that drafted the Constitution. As a major player in winning independence from England and giving birth to the republic, what would Washington think about our country today, in 2019?

That is impossible to know, of course. But we may gain some insight through some of his quotes. Here are a few:



- *If the freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.*
- *Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.*
- *It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible.*
- *The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere and everywhere restrains evil interference – they deserve a place of honor with all that's good.*
- *Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism.*
- *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.*
- *If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war.*
- *Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains to bring it to light.*
- *The time is near at hand which must determine whether Americans are to be free men or slaves.*
- *I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.*

Therein is a glimpse into the mind of Washington as we today celebrate, and thank God, for his leadership in war and peace.

And, just perhaps, it stirs our thinking into the contributions we can make to our country and the legacy we leave.

– Beecher Hunter