

Washington's Advice on Religion

George Washington, known as the Father of His Country, was unanimously elected the first President of the United States by the Electoral College in the first two national elections.

He served in that office from April 30, 1789, until March 4, 1797.

At the occasion of his farewell address to the nation, Washington had this to say:

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. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity.



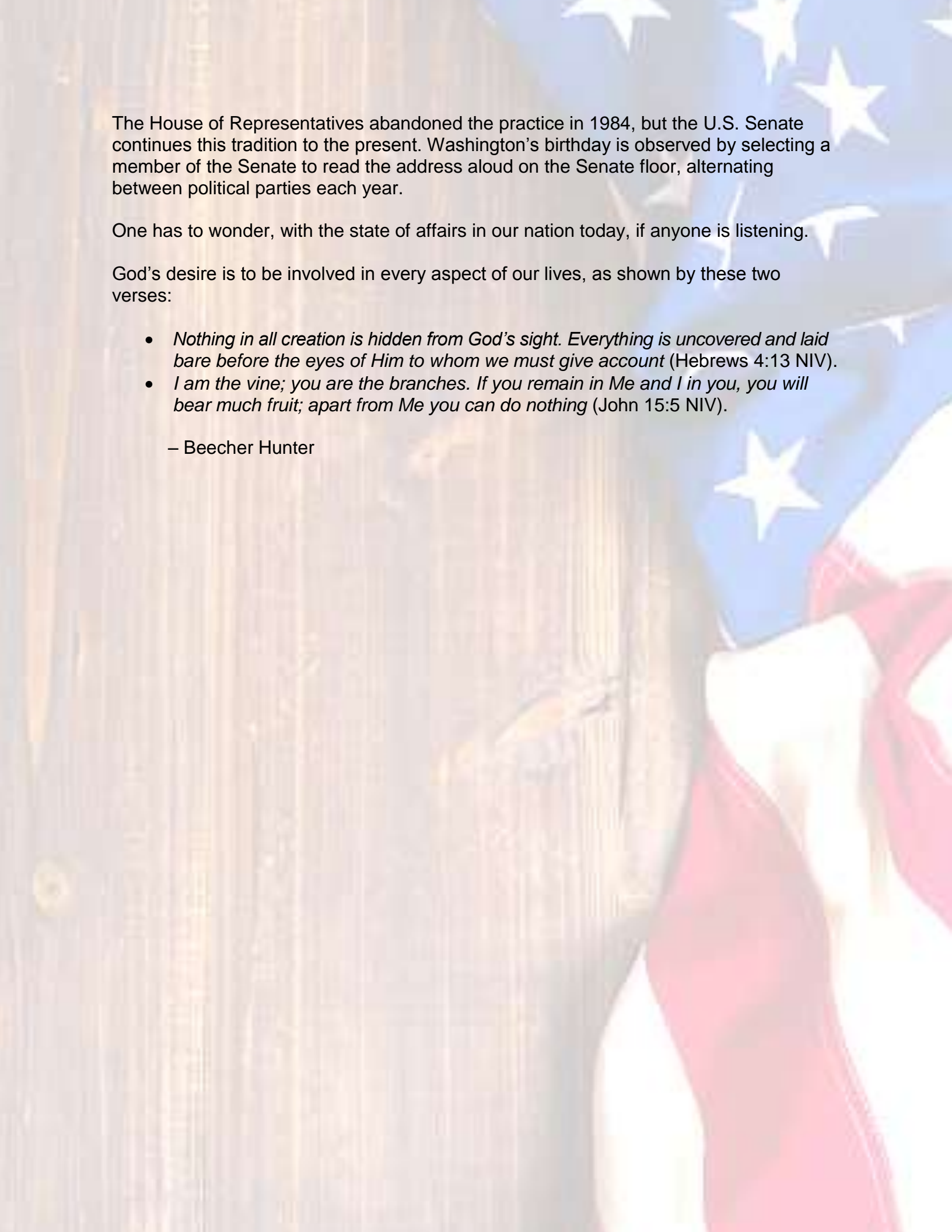
Let it simply be asked: Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.



In January 1862 during the Civil War, thousands of Philadelphia residents signed a petition requesting the Congress to commemorate the 130th anniversary of Washington's birthday by reading his Farewell Address "in one or the other of the Houses of Congress."

It was first read in the U.S. House of Representatives in February 1862, and the reading of Washington's address became a tradition in both houses by 1899.

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The House of Representatives abandoned the practice in 1984, but the U.S. Senate continues this tradition to the present. Washington's birthday is observed by selecting a member of the Senate to read the address aloud on the Senate floor, alternating between political parties each year.

One has to wonder, with the state of affairs in our nation today, if anyone is listening.

God's desire is to be involved in every aspect of our lives, as shown by these two verses:

- *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account (Hebrews 4:13 NIV).*
- *I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5 NIV).*

– Beecher Hunter