

THE CROSS

5-7-96

Peter Marshall (1902-1949), was Chaplain of the United States Senate, after having emigrated from Scotland in 1927, and being ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1931. On January 13, 1947, as Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Peter Marshall remonstrated Americans, saying:

The choice before us is plain: Christ or chaos, conviction or compromise, discipline or disintegration. I am rather tired of hearing about the rights and privileges as American citizens. The time is come--it is now--when we ought to hear about the duties and responsibilities of our citizenship. American's future depends upon her accepting and demonstrating God's government.

5-22-96

Thomas Jonathon "Stonewall Jackson," known as one of the country's greatest generals, served under General Robert E. Lee in the Confederate Army. General Jackson's success in combat against great odds was observed in numerous battles. When he died, General Lee exclaimed, "I have lost my right arm."

As a professor of philosophy and tactics at Virginia Military Institute, General Jackson once said:

When we take our meals, there is the grace. When I take a draught of water, I always pause...to lift up my heart to God in thanks and prayer for the water of life. Whenever I send a letter...I send a petition along with it, for God's blessing upon its mission and upon the person to whom it is sent.

When I open a letter...I stop to pray to God that He may prepare me for its contents...When I go to my classroom and await the arrangement of the cadets in their places, that is my time to intercede with God for them.

After the *Battle of Cross Keys*, Chaplain Bennett recorded a soldier's remarks:

I saw something today which affected me more than anything I ever saw or read on religion. While the battle was raging and the bullets were flying, Jackson rode by, calm as if he were at home, but his head was raised toward heaven, and his lips were moving evidently in prayer.

9-3-96

Daniel Webster was a champion of the Union, ready to defend it anywhere, any time, under any attack.

"I shall stand by the Union, and by all who stand by it. I shall do justice to the whole country...in all I say, and act for the good of the whole country in all I do. I mean to stand upon the Constitution. I need no other platform. I shall know but one country. The ends I aim at shall be my country's, my God's, and Truth's. I was born an American; I will live an American; I shall die an American; and I intend to perform the duties incumbent upon me in that character to the end of my career."

9-13-96

President Ronald Reagan wrote:

The family has always been the cornerstone of American society. Our families nurture, preserve, and pass on to each succeeding generation the values we share and cherish, values that are the foundation for our freedoms. In the family we learn our first lessons of God and man, love and discipline, rights and responsibilities, human dignity and human frailty.

Our families give us daily examples of these lessons being put into practice. In raising and instructing our children, in providing personal and compassionate care for the elderly, in maintaining the spiritual strength of religious commitment among our people--in these and other ways, America's families make immeasurable contributions to America's well-being.

Today more than ever, it is essential that these contributions not be taken for granted and that each of us remember that the strength of our families is vital to the strength of our nation.

THE CROSS
September 17, 1996
Friendship Night

John Quincy Adams once admitted:

"There are two prayers I love to say--the first, the Lord's Prayer, because the Lord taught it. The other is what seems to be a child's prayer: 'Now I lay me down to sleep.' I have been repeating it every night for many years past; I say it yet, and I expect to say it my last night on earth if I am conscious. But I have added a few words to the prayer [for Jesus' sake, amen], so as to express my trust in Christ and also to acknowledge that what I ask, I ask as a favor and not because I deserve it."

October 1, 1996

On October 10, 1492, Columbus was on the edge of despair. The men were on the verge of mutiny; the other two captains extracted a promise from him that they would turn back if they did not sight land in two days. Columbus was convinced that God had called them to this mission. On October 12, 1492, the day they were to give up, the lookout aboard the Santa Maria cried out, "*Tierra! Tierra!*" An exhausted Columbus was barely able to make out the low silhouette in the darkness. He named the island *San Salvador*, Holy Saviour, and would later write:

"I am a most unworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous presence....No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Saviour, if it is just, and if the intention is purely for His holy service."

"My hope in the One who created us all sustains me: He is an ever present help in trouble....When I am extremely depressed, He raised me with His right hand, saying, 'O man of little faith, get up, it is I; do not be afraid.'"

<p style="text-align: center;">October 15, 1996</p> <p>George Washington's mother had been a source of spiritual strength to him in his youth. When he left home to begin a lifetime of service to his country, she said: "Remember that God is our only sure trust. To Him, I commend you." Then she added, "My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer."</p> <p>Years later, the General would copy into his field notebook the prayer for Sunday morning: "Let my heart, therefore, gracious God be so affected with the glory and majesty of (Thine honor that I may not do mine own works, but wait on Thee, and discharge those weighty duties which Thou requirest of me...."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November 5, 1996</p> <p>On April 2, 1917, Woodrow Wilson gave this war message to Congress:</p> <p>It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war....But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts, -- for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own Governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">November 19, 1996 Thanksgiving</p> <p>When the Pilgrims brought in their first harvest, and it was bountiful, they decided to have a time of giving thanks. They invited their Indian friends to join them--and were inwardly dismayed when 90 braves arrived. But they had brought ample to eat with them--deer and wild turkey. There was more than enough for all.</p> <p>In future years, the celebration of Thanksgiving became an annual tradition, but they would begin by giving each person a plate with five kernels of corn--which had been their ration in the second winter, when things were at their lowest ebb.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 3, 1996</p> <p>What is Christmas? It is the tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal and that every path may lead to peace.</p> <p>There is love at Christmas because Christmas was born of love. Let us, each one, keep alive this spirit of love and glorify God.</p>

1/7/97

In 1837, John Quincy Adams, said:

"Is it not that, in the chain of events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Saviour?....Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity and gave to the world the first irrevocable pledge of the fulfillment of the prophecies announced directly from Heaven at the birth of the Saviour and predicted by the greatest of the Hebrew prophets 600 years before?"

1/21/97

President Woodrow Wilson, an intensely idealistic Presbyterian elder, when asked the importance of the Bible, responded:

"The Bible...is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God and spiritual nature and need of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation."