

Etched In Stone

Often we ask the question, “Is that etched in stone?” Then we hear statements such as, “The Constitution is a living document and should always be open to change.” One of the tenets of Secular Humanism which so dominates liberal legal thought today is that truth always changes. However, the following are a few historical statements that are etched in stone on the public buildings in Washington, D.C.

At the Washington Monument two stones presented by the Sunday Schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church in New York and from the Sabbath School children of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia:

“He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.” Proverbs 10:17

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

“And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.” Luke 17:6

Inscriptions at the Lincoln Memorial:

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

Words of Thomas Jefferson:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men. We...solemnly publish and declare, that these colonies are and of a right ought to be free and independent states...and for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour.”

“I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.”

“God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever. Commerce between master and slave is despotism. Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that these people are to be free. Establish the law for educating the common people. This it is the business of the state to effect and on a general plan.”

“Almighty God hath created the mind free. All attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burdens...are a departure from the plan of the holy Author of our religion...No man shall be compelled to frequent or support religious worship or ministry or shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions

or belief, but all men shall be free to profess and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion. I know but one code of morality for men whether acting singly or collectively.”

At the Library of congress, President James Madison:

“Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

“The essence of government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse.”

“Equal laws protecting equal rights are the best guarantee of loyalty & love of country.”

“As a man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights.”

At the House Chamber of The Capitol, from the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States:

“We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

From Daniel Webster: “In God we trust and Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered.”

In The Prayer Room: “Annuit coeptis” (God has favored our undertakings) and “Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.” (Psalm 16:1)

In The Senate Chamber: over the east doorway: “Annuit coeptis” (God has favored our undertakings), and over south entrance: “In God we trust.”