

Yesterday was indeed a great day. A great day upon which to reflect on how we became a truly blessed nation and of the sacrifices that were made then to establish it and the millions made since to keep it.

But, today, Sunday the 5th of July, is also a great day indeed. It's The Lord's Day and we have this occasion every 7 days. It too, is a day in which we reflect on our citizenship in the Kingdom of God. The greatest blessing in being an American citizen is our Freedom. As great as that is, it cannot compare to the freedom we have as citizens of God's kingdom.

Our nation's freedom removed us from the tyranny of the King of England. The freedom we have in God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, is that we're removed from the tyranny of sin. Freedom, in whatever degree we have as citizens in the world, can be a temporary thing, can't it? As is everything that's part and parcel of the earth.

What makes the freedom we have in Christ indescribably better than earthly freedom is that it is not temporary. It is a freedom that cannot be taken from us (John 10:28). However, as indicated in the survey I mentioned at the outset, we can renounce our citizenship from God's kingdom but, when or if we do, by default, we then become a citizen of Satan's kingdom. It makes little sense to me that a person would leave America for another country, but it makes even less sense to me that someone would rather be a subject in Satan's hell than a citizen in God's heaven.

In closing and thinking about our remembrance of our nation's history and the sacrifices that brought us freedom and keeps us free, let's carry that over to the remembrance of the sacrifice that brought us our eternal freedom. It was the sacrifice of Christ on the cross that purchased this freedom (Acts 20:28).

In considering being freed by Christ we're talking about being freed from slavery to Satan and sin. I particularly like what we find in Luke 4:18 where He says at the outset of his ministry on earth, that He was *"anointed"* (chosen) to *"set at liberty them that are bruised..."* The Greek word translated as "bruised" means "broken-down" or "oppressed." Just as world affairs can break us down and oppress us, sin does that same thing with everlasting results.

By His sacrifice, Jesus brought into being the *"kingdom,"* the *"church"* and ratified its founding and sustaining document – "The Truth."

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32

Respectfully submitted
Ron Covey

Highland Church of Christ



Sunday, July 5, 2026

Schedule of Services
Sunday
Bible Study.....9:45 am
Morning Worship.....10:45 am
Evening Lesson.....6:00 pm

Preacher
Visit www.searchtv.org to view "In Search of the Lords Way"
Direct TV CH. 363 4:30 am

Wednesday
Bible Study.....6:00 pm

Our FB Page:
Highland Church of Christ in California

Welcome

We are happy to have you worship the Lord with us today. If you are a visitor, please complete a visitor card and place it in the collection plate.

EVENTS	BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES
7-05 Will Knight will preach 7-12 Potluck following AM service 7-19 Men's Mtg following AM service 7-27 BD/Ann Lunch at Jenny's 11:30 Door knocking <u>Saturday 7-11</u> – meet at the building by 9:00 AM	July Gage Halstead Steve Portias Vic Smith Duane Miller Faith Lewis NO KNOWN JULY ANNIVERSARIES

NEWS & NOTES

* We thank Paul (Debbie) Schlosser for a great lesson last Sunday.
* We welcome Will Knight back with us to bring our lesson today.
* We were happy to see Lewis & Brenda Frisby able to be back with us last Sunday

Last week's POP QUIZ answer: Speaking of Israel, Paul said, "Are not they which eat of the altar partakers of the altar?" 1 Corinthians 9:13

POP QUIZ: _____ tells us in _____ that, "Even unto this day, when _____ is read, the veil is upon their heart."

26814 Cypress St. Highland, CA 92346
Mailing: P.O. Box 187 Patton, CA 92369
(909) 862-3678

<i>PRAYER REQUESTS FOR</i> Jimmy Land Marsha Plavajka’s nephew, Faith Lewis, Lewis and Brenda Frisby James McIntyre, Paul and Michelle Petersen, Faith Forsey Gayle Covey and all those on the roads and in the air traveling on this holiday; the leaders of this great country that they turn to God in making their decisions; and our young people that they, too, will turn to God to guide them in their lives; the first responders and the military as they work to keep us safe.	
Bible Questions of the Week 1. Who was given presents of ivory and ebony horns? 2. Who single-handedly defeated a troop of Philistines in a bean field? 3. Who refused to hide in the temple to save his life from a hired killer?	Last week’s Answers 1. What other bird will gather with the vultures? Great owl (Isaiah 34:14-15) 2. Who had mouths, eyes, ears and noses and didn’t use them? Idols (Psalm 155:2-6) 3. In an Israelite animal sacrifice, what parts did the priests get? Shoulder, two cheeks and the maw [the whole of the intestines commonly used for food] (Deuteronomy
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (July 5-2015) <i>“Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the Inhabitants thereof.” (Leviticus 25:10 and on the Liberty Bell)</i> Yesterday, Saturday July 4th, 2015 we celebrated a notable date in our nation’s history. I will admit, right up front, that I’m an unabashed patriot of my country and I fully believe that it is the best place in this world in which to live. I believe this is so because it was founded upon better principles than any of the other nations that we share it with. It’s a nation having a society made up of just about all the people of this world. Yes, people of all races and nationalities make up our citizenry. And, to throw in a personal opinion here – I wish that we’d get rid of all the “hyphenated” Americans and just be plain old Americans. I read in the newspaper the other day that a recent survey indicated that about 37 percent of our citizens wouldn’t mind living in another country. That about floored me. Yes, there	

are many other countries that would be a good place to live, but I don’t think that I’d trade my citizenship here for anywhere else. Have you ever considered what a blessing it is to be an American citizen? This country by far, leads all others in immigration figures. But, if you were born here, what a great blessing that is. Did you know that Americans make up only 4.5 percent of the world’s population: Looking at it from the opposite direction, there is a 95.5 percent chance that you could have been born somewhere else. Which country would you choose to be a natural-born citizen of than here? Interesting thought, isn’t it? Well, back to my initial thought, yesterday was what we refer to as our Independence Day. The reason it’s called that is because our most famous document, the Declaration of Independence, was ratified and signed on July 4th, 1776. Here’s a little historical fact for you – only two of the 56 signers of this document actually signed it that day – John Hancock and Charles Thompson. All the rest signed at a later date. Sticking with history for more information, yes, a bellringer was standing by to announce this most momentous occasion if and when it was signed. When the news came that it had been so ratified and signed, the news came to him and he rang it. One more thing to keep in mind here, is that by affixing their names to this document, they were, in essence, signing their own death warrant. Oh yeah, let me give you a little information regarding the bell itself. On that day, July 4, 1776, it was “just a bell.” It wasn’t known as the “Liberty Bell” until the 1830’s when it was adopted as the symbol of the anti-slavery movement. Another little piece of information regarding the bell that flies in the face of what many believe about it, it did not crack while being rung on that occasion. It had already cracked and been repaired twice before this. It was last rung on Washington’s birthday in 1846 and another deep crack developed and it was never used after that. When you do some study of our early forefathers, especially those involved in the formation of our nation and its documents, you’ll see that we had a close and stated relationship with God. They “relied” on the “providence of God” in setting forth this new nation and the laws which were to govern it. I just wish that our country still had that close association with The Divine today. A lot of interesting things and events have happened on July 4th since that day in 1776. Just FYI, let me mention a few. On that day in 1884, we were presented with the Statue of Liberty. On July 4th, 1826, exactly 50 years from the signing of the Declaration of Independence, two of our greatest forefathers, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, passed into death. That most beautiful song, “America the Beautiful” was published on July 4, 1895.
