

Patrick Henry, who is often described as the firebrand of the American Revolution, is still remembered for his words, *“Give me liberty or give me death.”* But you will be hard-pressed to find these words in current textbooks, or if they are in there at all, the context of these words has been altered or deleted. Here in full and in context is what Patrick Henry actually said: *“An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not of the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death.”* These sentences have been erased from our textbooks. Why? Because Satan and his forces are afraid of the truth because to speak truth is to speak righteously. And to speak righteously is to speak of Christ. Jesus said in John 14:6, [RSV] *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me.”* He also said on another occasion, *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”* (John 4:24 [RSV]). And in John 8:31-32 [RSV] Jesus also added, *“If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”* Do not be fooled. The forces of Satan and evil exist in this world. They want to deny you your heritage, and they seek to deny you your salvation in Christ as well.

Was Patrick Henry a Christian? Only God can answer that question definitively, but we are told we can judge people by the fruit they produce. The following year from when he gave his famous *“give me liberty, or give me death”* speech, Patrick Henry he wrote this in 1776: *“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here.”*

The Wise Writer tells us in Proverbs 14:34, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”* Because God is the Almighty Creator, only He is holy and has the authority to determine what is righteous. Psalm 98:2 adds, *“The Lord has made known His salvation: His righteousness has He openly showed in the sight of the heathen.”* It is a mark of a nation in decline that calls evil good and good evil. One needs not look far to see this rampant in our nation today. As Isaiah 5:20 says, *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”* As our nation celebrates its founding and birth, please pray for a revival in the hearts and minds of our leaders and citizens. God tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:14, *“If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

May the Lord bless us and heal us as we repent of our sins!