

Dr. Dean's 2010  
Washington D.C. Report  
July 22, 2010

Dean Bible Ministries  
[www.deanbible.org](http://www.deanbible.org)  
Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



**Prov. 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation,  
but sin is a disgrace to *any* people.”**

**Prov. 29:2, “When the righteous rule  
the people rejoice;”**

1. Were the Founding Fathers mostly agnostics, deists, and secularists?
2. Is there any sense in which the United States was conceived as a Christian Nation?
3. Did the Founders intend to erect a “wall of separation between Church and State?”



# **Samuel Adams (1722–1803)**



**“While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader.”**

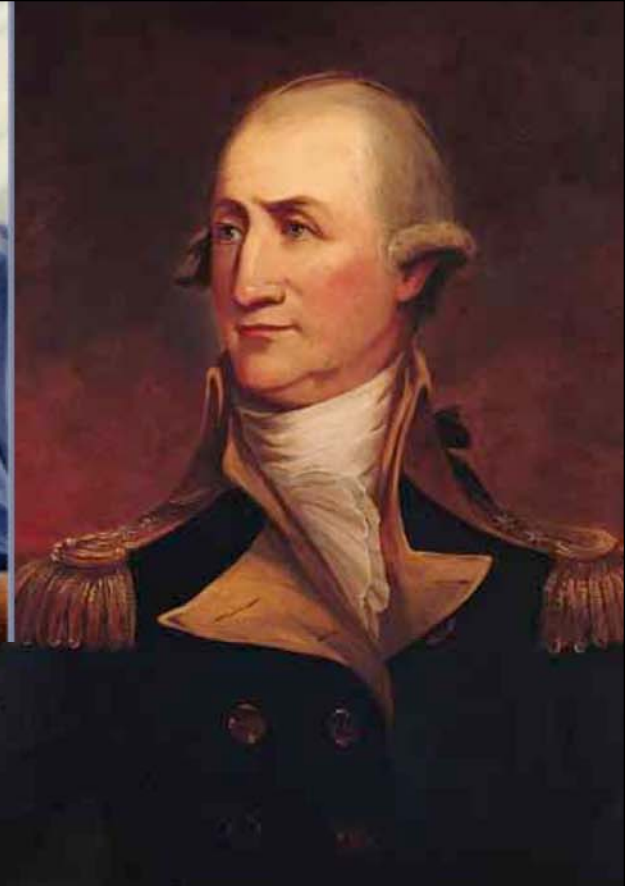
**–Samuel Adams**

**“I do not believe that the Constitution was the offspring of [Divine] inspiration, but I am as perfectly satisfied that the Union of the States in its form and adoption is as much the work of a Divine Providence as any of the miracles recorded in the Old and New Testament.”**

**–Benjamin Rush, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush***







**John Peter Gabriel  
Muhlenberg**

**Pastor, Major General,  
Congressman, Senator**



Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania was elected the first Speaker of the House on April 1, 1789. He served two non-consecutive terms as Speaker.





**Jonas Clarke led 77 men from his church to take his stand against 400 British.**



**Rev. William Payson**

**Rev. Jonathan French came w/ his musket and surgical bag**

**Rev. David Avery brought 20 from Vermont**

**Stephen Farrar (NH) led 2 companies**

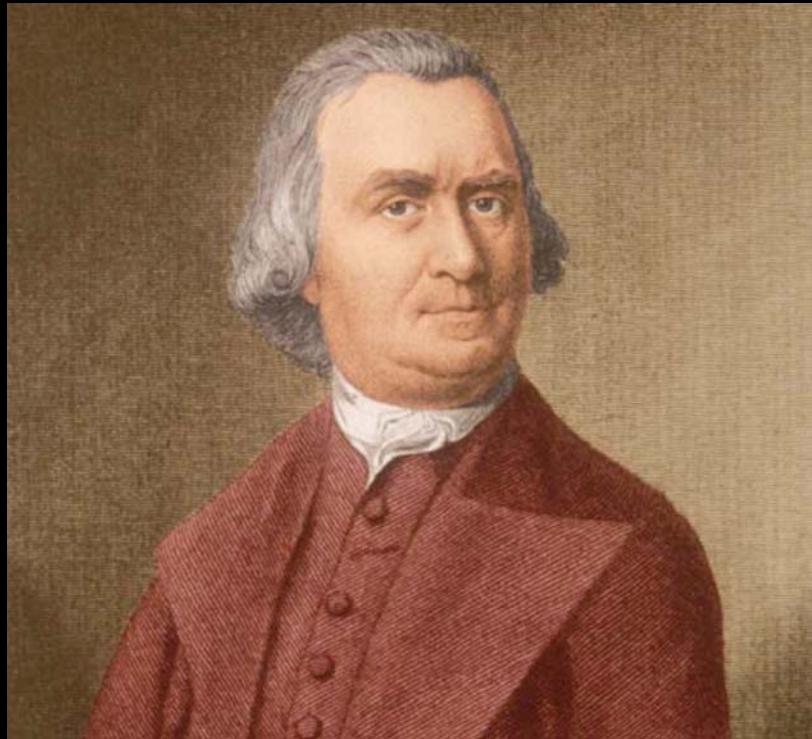
**John Steele (PA) brought 900 men from his church**

# Samuel Adams (1722–1803)



- “Father of the American Revolution”
- Sons of Liberty; Boston tea party
- Served as Lt. Gov. of Mass., 1789–1794; and Governor, 1794–1797

## Samuel Adams (1722–1803)



1795 – Call for prayer, fasting, and thanksgiving

All citizens were “to pray that the peaceful and glorious reign of our Divine Redeemer may be known and enjoyed throughout the whole family of mankind.”

1797 – Call for prayer, fasting, and thanksgiving

All citizens were “speedily bringing on that holy and happy period when the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be everywhere established and all the people willingly bow to the scepter of Him who is the Prince of Peace.”

**“I . . . recommend my Soul to that Almighty Being who gave it, and my body I commit to the dust, relying upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.”**



**-Will of Samuel Adams**

A  
S E R M O N

PREACHED BEFORE

HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN HANCOCK, Esq.  
GOVERNOUR;

HIS HONOR SAMUEL ADAMS, Esq.  
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOUR;

THE HONOURABLE THE  
COUNCIL, SENATE, AND HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES,

O F T H E  
COMMONWEALTH  
O F  
MASSACHUSETTS,

MAY 26, 1790.

BEING THE DAY OF  
GENERAL ELECTION,

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By DANIEL FOSTER, A. M.  
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN NEW-BRAINTREE,

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS:  
PRINTED BY THOMAS ADAMS,  
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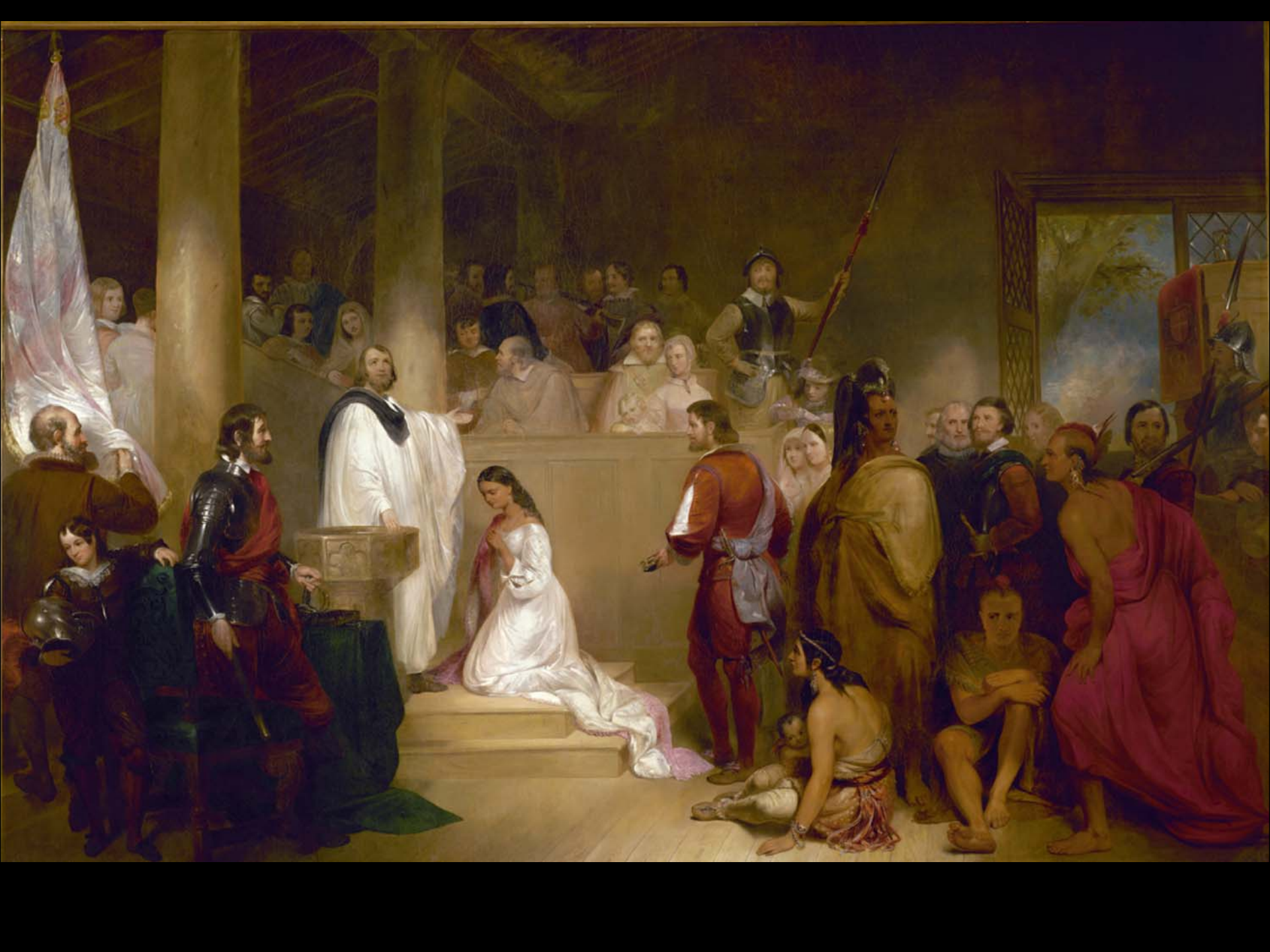
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**“The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach.”**

**–*Everson v. Board of Education*, U.S. Supreme Court**

# **The First Amendment**

**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

**“Among the many millions in America and Europe who rejoice in your election to office, we embrace the first opportunity ... to express our great satisfaction in your appointment to the Chief Magistracy in the United States... [W]e have reason to believe that America’s God has raised you up to fill the Chair of State out of that goodwill which He bears to the millions which you preside over. May God strengthen you for the arduous task which providence and the voice of the people have called you... And may the Lord preserve you safe from every evil and bring you at last to his Heavenly Kingdom through Jesus Christ our Glorious Mediator.”**

**“Our sentiments are uniformly on the side of religious liberty: that religion is at all times and places a matter between God and individuals, that no man ought to suffer in name, person, or effects on account of his religious opinions, [and] that the legitimate power of civil government extends no further than to punish the man who works ill to his neighbor. But sir, our constitution of government is not specific... [T]herefore what religious privileges we enjoy (as a minor part of the State) we enjoy as favors granted, and not as inalienable rights.”**

**“[N]o power over the freedom of religion ... [is] delegated to the United States by the Constitution.”**

**–Kentucky Resolution, 1798**

**“In matters of religion, I have considered that its free exercise is placed by the Constitution independent of the powers of the general [federal] government.”**

**–Second Inaugural Address, 1805**

**“[O]ur excellent Constitution ... has not placed our religious rights under the power of any public functionary.”**

**–Letter to the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1808**

**“I consider the government of the United States as interdicted [prohibited] by the Constitution from intermeddling with religious institutions ... or exercises.”**

**–Letter to Samuel Millar, 1808**

**“It had become an universal and almost uncontroverted position in the several States that the purposes of society do not require a surrender of all our rights to our ordinary governors ... and which experience has nevertheless proved they [the government] will be constantly encroaching on if submitted to them; that there are also certain fences which experience has proved peculiarly efficacious [effective] against wrong and rarely obstructive of right, which yet the governing powers have ever shown a disposition to weaken and remove. Of the first kind, for instance, is freedom of religion.”**

**–T. Jefferson, letter to Noah Webster**



**“[T]he clause of the Constitution which, while it secured the freedom of the press, covered also the freedom of religion, had given to the clergy a very favorite hope of obtaining an establishment of a particular form of Christianity through the United States; and as every sect believes its own form the true one, every one perhaps hoped for his own, but especially the Episcopalians and Congregationalists. The returning good sense of our country threatens abortion to their hopes and they believe that any portion of power confided to me will be exerted in opposition to their schemes. And they believe rightly.”**

**–Jefferson, letter to Benjamin Rush**

**“Gentlemen—The affectionate sentiments of esteem and approbation which you are so good as to express towards me on behalf of the Danbury Baptist Association give me the highest satisfaction... Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God; that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship; that the legislative powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church and State.”**

**—Jefferson, Letter to the Danforth Baptists**

**“Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties. I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association assurances of my high respect and esteem.”**

**–Jefferson, Letter to the Danforth Baptists**

**“And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure if we have lost the only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?”**

**–Jefferson, Letter to the Danforth Baptists**

**“Coming as this does from an acknowledged leader of the advocates of the measure, it [Jefferson’s letter] may be accepted almost as an authoritative declaration of the scope and effect of the Amendment thus secured. Congress was deprived of all legislative power over mere [religious] opinion, but was left free to reach actions which were in violation of social duties or subversive of good order.”**

**–*Reynolds v. United States*, 1878 U.S. Supreme Court**

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**That Court then succinctly summarized Jefferson's intent for "separation of church and state":**

**"[T]he rightful purposes of civil government are for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order. In th[is] ... is found the true distinction between what properly belongs to the church and what to the State."**

## **Key Thoughts Learned:**

- 1. The importance of prayer for, communication with, and encouragement of your congressional representatives.**
- 2. That throughout the history of this nation, rabbis and pastors have had a role as a community leader and spokesperson, something more than simply a Bible teacher. But someone who can represent and speak for his congregation in the halls of power.**
- 3. The importance of civic involvement for every U.S. citizen but especially for Christians, because we are commanded to do everything to the glory of God.**



**“The safety and prosperity of nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and the blessing of Almighty God, and the national acknowledgment of this truth is an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him.”**

**–John Adams**