



"WALKING A LIFE OF PASSION AND PURPOSE FOR JESUS CHRIST"

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Friends and **F**amily of **C**ross**W**alk,

July fourth, we will once again celebrate our country's independence. A look at those who sacrificed to make possible the birth of this great nation will reveal a people who were willing to sacrifice personal well-being. As I think about this, I am struck by the stark contrast of two prominent figures: George Washington and Benedict Arnold.

Aram Bakshian, Jr. notes in an article entitled, "*Honor and Glory*," published last December that both were dynamic men of action with unquestionable personal courage; both were driven by personal ambition from an early age; both were capable of inspiring the men they commanded to acts of extraordinary sacrifice and endurance; both were hot-tempered by nature. Yet, despite all of these superficial similarities, one of them ended up a traitor, the other the Father of his Country.

It all boiled down to character, a case of honor versus glory. George Washington was guided by an indestructible sense of honor; Benedict Arnold was driven by a thirst for personal glory and the perquisites it could bring. Both men hungered for greatness, but to Washington, greatness meant subordination of self to a greater cause, learning from mistakes, and mastering personal weaknesses. To Arnold greatness meant the triumph of self over others, wealth, privilege, and the indulgence of personal appetites. For him, causes were merely vehicles.

None of this detracts from Arnold's earlier achievements to America's independence. Arnold helped drive the British out of Boston in the early part of the war. He also took the offensive against the British in twin battles that ended in the surrender of an entire British army at Saratoga. But Arnold also had a consistent pattern of insubordination, excessive drinking and lavish overspending. He tried to recoup his fortunes through his marriage to a young society beauty named Peggy Shippen. Shippen's connections led Arnold to a young British officer named Major John Andre', who served as a middle man for Arnold's later treason.

Unfortunately, it was Arnold's own nature that was key in his betrayal. As the many real and imagined slights and humiliations piled up, he had no core sense of duty or honor to counteract his personal grievance. It was all about him — and so, as far as he was concerned, treason was just a career move for his own personal gain.

Proverbs 16:18 warns that *"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."* The best defense against our falling prey to pride is to walk with our Lord in humble reliance on Him. *True freedom lies in reliance upon Him.*

Your fellow sojourner in the faith

Kirk

Messages for the Month

JULY 2, 2017— *Matthew 10:40 - 42* - “A Real Rewards Program” - **Communion**

JULY 9, 2017— *Zechariah 9:9 - 12* - “The King Is Coming” — 5th Sunday after Pentecost

JULY 16, 2017— *1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18* - “Back to the Garden” — **Dale Lutton** - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

JULY 23, 2017— *Matthew 5:38 - 42* — “The Christians Guide to Retaliation” — **Dr. Tim Rogers**

JULY 30, 2017— *1 Kings 3:5 - 12* — “A Hearing Heart” — 8th Sunday after Pentecost

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JULY BIRTHDAYS !

John Carson – 6th

Barbara Johnson – 6th

Will Schenk – 7th

Bill Hawk - 8th

Randy Wagner – 10th

Donnie Ferguson – 10th

Aaron May – 11th

Christie Werner – 14th

Greg Waldrop – 16th

Keith Ferguson – 18th

Lisa Brummett – 18th

Karin Morton – 18th

Caitlin Davis – 19th

Albert Wayman – 19th

Brad Brummet – 21th

Mary Alice Wagner – 22th

Mandy May – 24th

Sue Werner – 29th

Ava Werner – 30th

