

## *A Time of Remembrance*

*Quotes by the Pilgrims and early founding fathers whose example of Christian faith and sacrifice continues to bless us, even today.*



Quotes Collected by

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The Pilgrims belonged to the **Separatist** congregation, believing the Bible literally. They also knew it well. They came to conclude that the spiritual life of the church in England was wrong and were willing to risk the consequences of “separating” from the official church. They knew God’s promises—His Word. Many of these Separatists were fined, persecuted, pressured, imprisoned, and even killed for their beliefs.

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey*

1

“Before departing from Holland – the congregation spent a day in fasting and prayer. . . .Then they gathered for a special service and to hear from their pastor (John Robinson). He chose as his Scripture text Ezra 8:21. *‘Then I proclaimed a fast...that we might humble ourselves before our God to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions.’*”

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey*

2

During the 66-day voyage of 2,750 miles of 102 passengers plus crew, a baby boy was born, a man died, and many were sick. One youth, John Howland fell off the deck into the freezing, stormy water and miraculously was rescued and survived to have the following known descendants **Ralph Waldo Emerson, Humphrey Bogart, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and George W. Bush.**

*From: AmericanMinute.com- Pilgrim History*

3

After the Pilgrims saw land “where God would be worshiped freely and – in time- where freedom would flourish. Shouting for joy and falling to their knees to pray, they celebrated by reading Psalm 100.”

*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.*

*Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, [and] into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, [and] bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. (Psalm 100) KJV*

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey*

4

In 1620, William Bradford, second governor of Plymouth, observed as the *Mayflower* was coming near their new home: “*I cannot but ...stand half amazed at this poor people’s present condition; ...Being thus past the vast ocean, and a sea of troubles ...they had now no friends to welcome them nor inns to entertain or refresh their weather-beaten bodies; ...What could now sustain them but the Spirit of God and His grace.?*”

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey*

5

On Nov. 10, 1620 the leaders drafted an agreement, the *Mayflower Compact*, before getting off the boat to establish their new home.

“According to the book *The Light and the Glory*, by Peter Marshall and Daniel Manuel, “it marked the **first time in recorded history that free and equal men had voluntarily covenanted together to create their own new civil government.**”

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey*

6

***Mayflower Compact*** stated:

*“Having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern Parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and of one another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for the better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid...”*

7

**The *Mayflower Compact* was designed to show that Power flows from the Creator → to the People → then to the leaders rather than all other societies prior where the Power flowed from the Creator →to the King→ and then to the people.**

*Bill Federer - From:AmericanMinute.com- Pilgrim History*

8

A permanent location to begin building was agreed upon on December 11, 1620. First built was a meetinghouse and then they began building one-room frame houses about 18x14 feet in size with a fireplace and sleeping loft. The unmarried were assigned to live with a family. In January the roof of the meetinghouse burned. Because of sickness, building stopped and many died.

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey*

9

Winter of 1620 brought sickness. On many days only six or seven out of the 100 colonists were strong enough to care for the sick. The rough *Mayflower* sailors that had not left for home yet, because of the winter weather, got sick too and were cared for by the Pilgrims. This prompted one “who had ridiculed and cursed the God-fearing passengers during the sea crossing – to say, ‘**You, I now see, show your love** like Christians indeed one to another, but we let one another lie and die like dogs [speaking of his group of sailors.]”

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey*

10

By March of 1621, “several entire families had perished in the epidemic; fifteen of the nineteen women were dead...of ten girls, nine survived, and only eight of twenty-three boys had died.” Almost half of those who had arrived on the *Mayflower* had died.

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by  
Barbara Rainey*

11

William Bradford recorded that Squanto, the lone survivor of the Patuxet tribe, was “a special instrument sent of God for their good, beyond their expectation.” He stayed in Plymouth and “adopted” these families as his own, “never leaving them until he died.”

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember  
by Barbara Rainey*

12

In October 1621 after receiving blessings of good crops and stronger health, the Pilgrims invited Chief Massasoit and his 90 braves for a **feast of Thanksgiving**.

Prayer was given for the food, protection, and relationship with the Indians. It was a three-day event where they all participated together in games and exhibitions of shooting skills with bows and arrows and guns. The boys had races and wrestling matches. The Indians introduced the Pilgrims to popcorn. The boys introduced the Indians to stoolball, a game played with a ball and wickets. They parted agreeing to have a similar feast the following year.

*From: Of Plymouth Plantation by William Bradford*

13

In 1622, Edward **Winslow**, an original colonist and third governor of Plymouth, at the risk of his own life and desiring to be an example of a Christian life, went to Indian **Chief Massasoit** taking him what cured him of an illness, resulting in the **Indians and Pilgrims making a peace treaty**. It lasted over 50 years. If the chief had not recovered, the Indians would have killed Winslow.

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by  
Barbara Rainey*

14

In 1623 following a drought and upon the arrival of the ship *Anne*, full of people but few supplies, William Bradford wrote that the **Pilgrims were very malnourished without supplies**, “*some little better than half naked...but God gave them health and strength in good measure and showed them by experience the truth of the Word in Deuteronomy 8:3; that man lives not by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.*”

*From: A FamilyLife Book –Thanksgiving-A Time to Remember by  
Barbara Rainey*

15

**Dr. Marshall Foster** of the *World History Institute* and co-producer of Kirk Cameron's 2012 film ***Monumental: In Search of America's National Treasure***, wrote in "**A Shining City on a Hill**" (Feb. 27, 2013) that “*The persecutions drove tens of thousands of liberty loving believers to follow the Pilgrims to New England where they laid the foundation for the world's most biblically based nation.*”

16

In Andrew Young's *Chronicles of the Pilgrims*, **Edward Winslow** wrote of the Pilgrims response during a time of crisis: "*Drought and the like ... moved not only every good man **privately** to enter into examination with **his own estate between God ... but also to humble ourselves together before the Lord by fasting.**"*

*From: AmericanMinute.com - The Notorius Star Chamber & The Pilgrims Fleeing to Holland & New England*  
17

**106 of the first 108 schools in America**, were founded on Christianity. ...**Harvard College** was founded in "In Christi Gloriam" as its founders believed: "**All knowledge without Christ was vain.**"

**Harvard's Rules & Precepts**, September 26, 1642, stated: "**Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the maine end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life, John 17:3**, and therefore to lay Christ in the bottome, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning."

*AmericanMinute.com – Harvard*  
18

**Samuel Adams** wrote in *The Rights of Colonists*, 1772:  
"Among the natural rights of Colonists are:

FIRST, a right to life;

SECONDLY, to liberty;

THIRDLY, to property;

together with the right to defend them...

The supreme power cannot justly take from any man any part of his property **without his consent.**"

19

May 1765 – "*It cannot be emphasized too clearly and too often that this nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religion, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason, peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here.*"

Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia in a speech to the House of Burgesses

20

When **Samuel Adams** signed the **Declaration of Independence**, 1776, he stated:

"We have explored the temple of royalty, and found that the idol we have bowed down to, has eyes which see not, ears that hear not our prayers, and a heart like the nether millstone. We have this day restored the **Sovereign**, to whom alone all men ought to be obedient. **He reigns in Heaven ...** We may, with humility of soul, cry out, 'Not unto us, not unto us, but to thy **Name be the praise.**'"

21

"While the **people are virtuous they cannot be subdued**; but once they **lose their virtue**, they will be ready to **surrender their liberties** to the **first external or internal invader... Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws** will secure the **liberty and happiness** of a people **whose manners are universally corrupt ...**"

*Samuel Adams From: Rights of Colonists 1772*

22

**William Penn** (founder of the state of Pennsylvania) wrote to a friend, January 1, 1681, declaring he would:

"... make and establish such laws as shall best preserve true Christian and civil liberty, in all opposition to all unchristian ... practices .. and make it **the seed of a nation.**"

He wrote in his book, *No Cross, No Crown*, while in prison in England for his faith saying: "*It is a false notion that they may be children of God while in a state of disobedience to his holy commandments, and disciples of Jesus though they revolt from his cross...*"

*From: AmericanMinute.com - William Penn's Pennsylvania*  
23

September 11, 1777, during the Revolutionary War, "The newly constituted Continental Congress had a committee that reported 'the use of the Bible is so universal and its importance so great that...the committee recommends that Congress will order the Committee of Commerce to import 20,000 Bibles'." Congress gave the order.

*From: God and America's Leaders by Brad O'Leary*  
24

On November 1, 1777, the **Continental Congress** proclaimed the **First National Day of Thanksgiving** after independence had been declared:

*"That with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feeling of their hearts ...*

*join the penitent confession of their manifold sins ... that it may please God, **through the merits of Jesus***

***Christ,** mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance."*

25

March 22, 1814: Spoken by **Francis Scott Key**, author of the **Star Spangled Banner**, in a speech to the Washington Society of Alexandria: "The patriot who feels himself in the service of God, who acknowledges Him in all his ways, has the promise of Almighty direction, and will find His Word in his greatest darkness, 'a lantern to his feet and a lamp unto his paths.'"

Mr. Key was a lawyer that used his own money to free over 300 slaves.

*From: American Minute – Star Spangled Banner's Author Fought Slavery*  
26

William Bradford kept a diary, *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647* stating that, "*We have noted these things so **that you might see their worth and not negligently lose what your fathers have obtained with so much hardship.***"

*"Last and not least, they cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying good foundations...for the propagation and advance of the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in the remote parts of the world."*

*From: AmericanMinute.com- Pilgrim History*  
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