

# My Country

Romans 13:1-7

# “My country...”

- “My country, may she ever be right; but right or wrong, my country.” (Stephen Decatur)
- “Our country! In her intercourse with foreign nations, may she always be right; but our country, right or wrong.”
- Romans 13:1-7

# Our government

- To protect our rights:
  - Our rights to property
  - To our conscience
  - To our liberty to speak and worship as we please
- Our government is to rule by our consent

# Declaration of Independence

- When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

# Declaration of Independence

- We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government ...

# James Otis

- “To say the parliament is absolute and arbitrary, is a contradiction. The parliament cannot make two and two, five: Omnipotency cannot do it. The supreme power in a state , is *jus dicere* only: --*jus dare*, strictly speaking, belongs alone to God. Parliaments are in all cases to *declare* what is good for the good of the whole; but it is not the *declaration* of parliament that makes it so: There must be in every instance, a higher authority, viz. God.

# James Otis

- Should an act of Parliament be against any of *his* natural laws, which are *immutably* true, *their* declaration would be contrary to eternal truth, equity and justice, and consequently void: and so it would be adjudged by the parliament itself, when convinced of their mistake.

# The best we can be in life ...

- Romans 12:9-21