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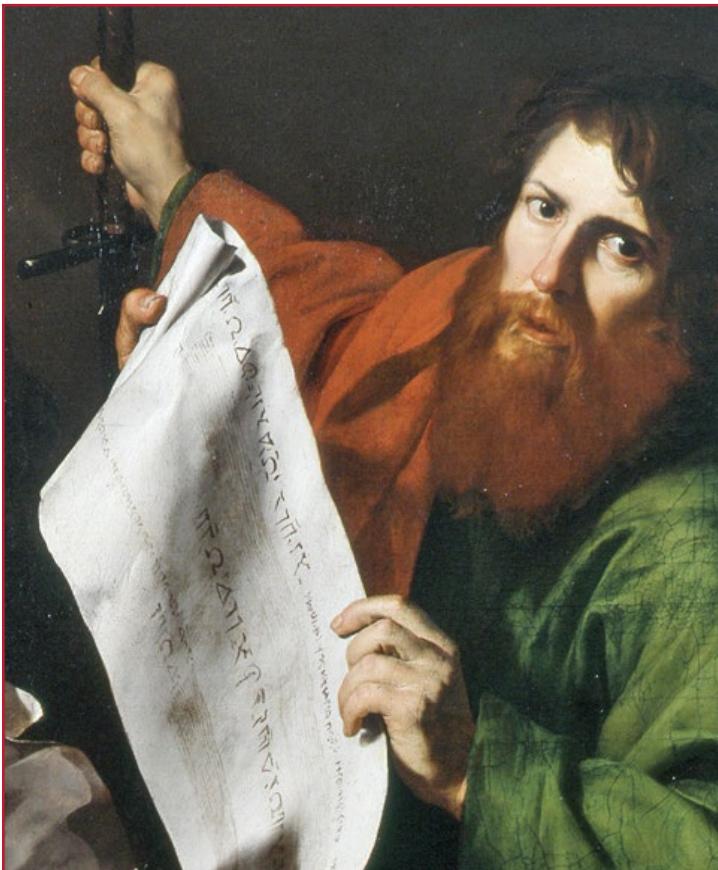
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WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

- White House Senior Staff:** Thursdays 7am, OMB Conference Room, hot breakfast served.
Cabinet Members: Wednesdays 7am, location undisclosed, refreshments served.
Senate Members: Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served.
House Members: Thursdays 7:45am, The Capitol Hill Club, hot breakfast served.



The apostle Paul, Jusepe de Ribera, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Strasbourg.

I am continually encouraged by your enthusiasm, cooperation, and help in achieving our joint strategic ministry objectives. Thank you! Why are we doing this save the clear command of the Great Commission?

Read on,

Ralph Drollinger



MINISTRY UPDATE

Michael Johnson

Montana Ministry Leader



Pastor Michael Johnson is learned about the Great Commission and enthusiastic about fulfilling it, but he wasn't aware that the Bible designates political leaders as a priority group to reach with God's Word until he learned about Capitol Ministries.

In fact, Pastor Johnson was reluctant when Dr. Barrett Duke, executive director of Montana Southern Baptist Convention, asked him to meet with CapMin President Ralph Drollinger who was looking for a Bible teacher to create a ministry to members of the Montana legislature.

Pastor Johnson serves as the lead teaching pastor at Big Sky Fellowship Church, an affiliate of the Montana Southern Baptist Convention. "My first thought was, I didn't want to have anything to do with politics or lobbying," Pastor Johnson said. "That's not my idea of what ministry should be."

Despite hesitations, Pastor Johnson and his wife, Christi, met with Ralph and Danielle

Continued on next page

The Importance of Faithfulness in the Life of the Believer

I. INTRODUCTION

How do we facilitate more men and women in public office who are mature in Christ—governing authorities who not only have the courage to fight the right battles but the strength, *faithfulness*, and perseverance to go the distance? In order to mature public servants in Christ we need strong Bible teachers, evangelists, and disciple makers at every level along their career paths. Thank you for faithfully opening doors in local governments, state capitols, and foreign nations! Your partnership is so helpful and effective!

Paul too had such good friends as you are to Danielle and me. One such friend was Tychicus. Paul trusted him with the most important of tasks: To personally deliver some of his original letters—the original autographa of Scripture—over hundreds of miles of perilous journey! How come? Like you, he was a reliable and trustworthy friend and partner in the ministry of the Gospel. Let's drill down on this character quality this week.

Near the end of his letter to the believers in the Ephesian church, the apostle Paul conveys some personal comments about his close friend and partner in ministry, Tychicus. From this narrative passage, we can glean important insights into the matter of *faithfulness*. Ephesians 6:21–22 states the following:

"But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother

and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts."

Paul (writing in Greek) employs a tense known as the “Epistolary Aorist.” He describes the action from the perspective of the person who will read his letter. Accordingly, “I am sending” is our most accurate understanding, whereas *I have sent* is most accurate to the Greek. I.e., Tychicus had not been dispatched prior to Paul writing this letter.

When we hear the word *faithful* today our attention is often drawn to the context of marital fidelity. For sure that is an accurate understanding of the biblical word usage. But as used here and illustrated in the life of Tychicus the character quality of *faithfulness* has a broader application. Stemming from the Greek word *pistos*, it means in the passive use of the verb (i.e., not acting but affected by the action represented by the verb) “trusted” or “reliable.” In contrast, *apostos* means “untrustworthy” or “not worthy of another’s confidence.” Theologically, *faithfulness* is a fruit of the Spirit fully bequeathed by the Holy Spirit to and upon every believer at the point of salvation (cf. Galatians 5:22–23). Accordingly, *faithfulness* is a possessed quality in the life of the believer, but nonetheless one that needs to be continually honed. Reliability, in our vertical relationship to God, as well as horizontally in our relationship to ministry partners, is a



requisite, indispensable characteristic that assures both great communion with God and fulfillment of the Great Commission of God.

Paul was writing from prison in Rome as indicated by the preceding passage in Ephesians 6:20, "***I am an ambassador in chains.***" It was there that he penned what are commonly referred to as the Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon. Many commentators believe that he wrote Colossians in close proximity to Ephesians, in that the Colossian epistle would also be delivered to Colossae by Tychicus. Colossians contains an epistolary aorist passage similar to the one under study. Note Colossians 4:7–9:

"As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here."

Each passage from the two epistles not only refers to Tychicus as a characteristic ***faithful*** man, but actively illustrates that very same thing: Paul, who was unable to go because of his imprisonment, sent Tychicus as an apostolic emissary to these churches on his behalf. Paul trusted nonetheless in God's sovereignty, stating in Philippians 1:1–12, "***Now I want you***

to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel ..." His situation necessitated ministry teaming in order to fulfill the Great Commission. How could the Gospel possibly progress in a geographic sense while he remained in prison if it were not for ***faithful*** teammates who would go and travel in his place? Part of God's sovereign orchestration of Paul's circumstances serves to illustrate his ability to effectively trust in a fellow worker, one who, over many years, had proven himself to be ***faithful***. Tychicus personified Proverbs 13:17 and 25:13:

"A wicked messenger falls into adversity, but a faithful envoy brings healing."

"Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the soul of his masters."

Today, fruit packers manufacture a ***cold snow*** if you will: After being picked in the field, they immediately douse produce in icy cold water in order to impede its deterioration. The idea is that a good messenger preserves the message of the one who sent him. Note the summation of Tychicus' character quality of ***faithfulness*** as illustrated by Hoehner in his outstanding commentary on the book of Ephesians:

Later in his second Roman imprisonment, Paul sent Tychicus to Ephesus to relieve Timothy in order that Tim-

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Luke 16:10

"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."



Be faithful in the smallest matters; those victories become mental imprints for developing lifelong responses.

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Drollinger and over dinner the couple learned that Capitol Ministries did not lobby, and that the ministry focused on one thing—fulfilling the Great Commission by making disciples of Jesus Christ in the political arena throughout the world.

The Johnsons were excited. The mission dovetailed perfectly with their desires and those of their church congregation.

Continued on next page



The Importance of Faithfulness in the Life of the Believer

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Pastor Johnson read Drollinger's book, *Rebuilding America; A Biblical Mandate*, and learned that the Bible makes reaching political leaders priority from the Old Testament to the New Testament. He learned Capitol Ministries' missional mandate was found in Acts 9:15 when Paul's mission is revealed to bear God's name "*before the Gentiles, and kings and the sons of Israel.*" Between Gentile and Jew is the set apart group of kings. "I was writing down notes feverishly and pouring through it," he said. "Luke wrote his book to 'most excellent Theophilus,' a political leader. In 1 Timothy 2:1–4, the Greek word for 'first' is '*protos*', which means of first importance. In Acts, the priority was not just to kings, but to those in authority. Ralph's book shows that so much of Scripture is directed toward political leaders."

After completing the required CapMin training earlier this year, Pastor Johnson was named ministry leader to members of the Montana Legislature. He is preparing to begin his ministry in January when the 2021 legislative session begins. "Our hearts are full," Pastor Johnson said. "We are ready to attack this ministry 110 percent. God has put all the pieces in place. We feel God is about to do something great in Montana not only with Capitol Ministries, but also in our church. We are starting to feel the early breezes of revival and we are super excited about that."

othy could come to Paul (2 Timothy 2:4) and Paul sent either Tychicus or Artemas to Crete to relieve Titus so that Titus could visit Paul in Nicopolis (Titus 3:12). Tychicus, then, bore five letters (Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, 2 Timothy, Titus) and probably relieved two of Paul's apostolic legates. It is no wonder that he was called a "beloved brother and faithful servant of the Lord." Servant (*diakonos*), emphasizes the activity of the servant and in this case signifies faithfulness in his activities for the Lord.

The first mention of Tychicus is in Acts 20:4. Of Asian descent, he had been chosen by Paul to take the relief offering to Jerusalem. Therein was the start of a beautiful relationship; Tychicus was not only *faithful*, but this passage also informs us that he was available and teachable: these are three concomitant characteristics for being used mightily by God. Are you *faithful, available, and teachable*—or just one or two of those, if any?

Now note one particular means Paul used to evoke *faithfulness*, availability and teachability: Paul was *collegial* with his partners in ministry.

II. FAITHFULNESS STEMS FROM COLLEGIALITY

Paul says of Tychicus in this week's passage, "*the beloved brother and faithful minister.*" What exactly does

this larger statement mean? Commentator Ellis says,

In this context the term '*brother*' means not so much 'fellow-Christian' (though Tychicus was obviously this, and the term has this meaning in v. 21) as [it does] 'co-worker' or 'helper.'

This is significant. In the world of ministry, Paul didn't make people refer to him in some sense of hierarchical superiority. It is not as if Paul paraded around in some robe like some ministers do today. Nor did he sit up front in the churches he founded in some extra-large chair—as if he was somehow above those he ministered to. That is not biblical Christianity my friend! Rather he had a collegial relationship with those whom He disciplined and partnered with in ministry. Even though he personified apostolic authority, his leadership style was not one of pulling out the org chart. Merriam and Webster define collegial as "marked by power or authority vested equally in each of a number of colleagues." I realize there are problems with this leadership style wherein it tends over time to breed disrespect and license as it relates to the one in authority, but such problems have to do more with the immaturity of those under a collegial boss than the leadership style of the boss himself. Nonetheless, collegiality is an indispensable biblical-based component of effective leadership (with its inherent risks) and it greatly aids developing *faithfulness* and motivation. Being collegial to your staff works not only



in the advance of the Great Commission in ministry but it will work for you as a leader in your office.

Motivation in work and ministry are enhanced when one senses shared ownership.

I hope you sense collegiality in and from me as we attempt to germinate and mature effective ministries not only in state capitols but the thousands of local city and county government offices throughout America—and in foreign federal capitols throughout the world. What a task we are about! How we each need to be *faithful*, motivated partners in the Gospel in order to achieve such a divine task as this! I count each of you as strategic partners and peers in our joint monumental effort to help create a movement for Christ amongst the world's governing authorities!

While the practice of collegiality is no guarantee of developing *faithfulness* in another, it can certainly help. Viewing others as teammates and partners was tantamount as to how Paul dispatched his authority in leadership. In Philippians 2:3 this internal attitude of Paul's—how he viewed leadership—is further revealed when he states, “*regard one another as more important than yourselves.*” As a result of Paul trusting others who were trustworthy, Tychicus could be counted on to complete the smallest tasks and the most difficult, Paul had created self-starters, self-sufficient teammates for the sake of the Gospel. Tychicus developed into a doctrin-

ally solid believer who had a passion for world evangelism; he represented Paul well, being void of disloyalty, undermining comments of disrespect (cf. 1 Peter 2:18), and gossip. Paul took notice of that; and God used Tychicus mightily in His Kingdom work. Collegial Paul had created a co-equal co-laborer for Christ!

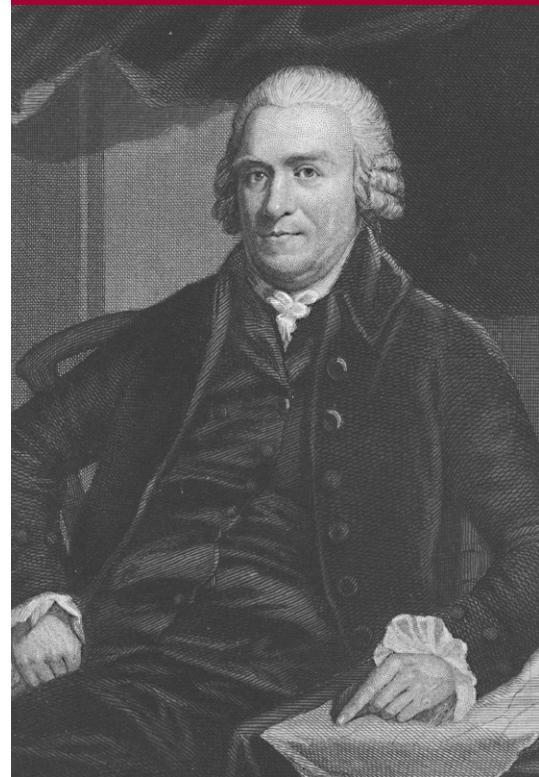
Paul had his personal weaknesses (cf. Romans 7) as we all do, and we know that collegiality requires transparency and thus a risk of vulnerability. It follows that Tychicus could have exploited Paul's foibles and undermined or damaged his leadership. Instead grace and not an extra biblical judgmental spirit characterized Tychicus's demeanor with others; he undoubtedly possessed skill and dispatch in personal relationships. Undoubtedly he was mature in this regard having earned the highest levels of trust; again he was deemed seasoned enough to transport portions of the original New Testament!

Grace with one another is key to our fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Unfortunately, the shortage of such grace in present-day and historic American Evangelicalism has resulted in many Christian leaders who are not collegial—having been burned by others. In contrast may our partnership always be characterized by abundant grace.

Beloved public servant friends, you are wonderful, effective, powerful

Samuel Adams



“In the supposed state of nature, all men are equally bound by the laws of nature, or to speak more properly, the laws of the Creator.”

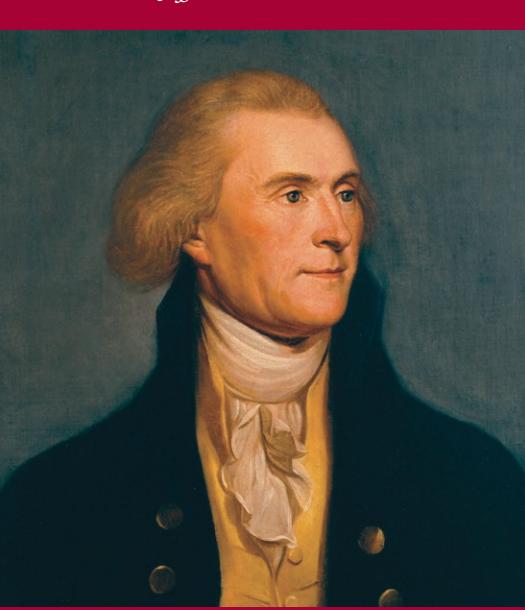
— Samuel Adams, signer of the Declaration of Independence, father of the American Revolution, ratifier of the U.S. Constitution, governor of Massachusetts.

Samuel Adams, letter to the Legislature of Massachusetts, January 17, 1794.



The Importance of Faithfulness in the Life of the Believer

Thomas Jefferson



“How prone all human institutions have been to decay; how subject the best-formed and most wisely organized governments have been to lose their check and totally dissolve; how difficult it has been for mankind, in all ages and countries, to preserve their dearest rights and best privileges, impelled as it were by an irresistible fate of despotism.”

— Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, signer of the Declaration of Independence, diplomat, governor of Virginia, Secretary of State.

Thomas Jefferson, letter to Edward Carrington, January 16, 1787.



partners in ministry! I am so blessed by what we have seen God do in our partnership already—opening numerous doors for new ministries in civil, state and international governments! May God grant us the ability to germinate hundreds more ministries throughout America and the world in the days and years ahead! What follows are further insights into *faithfulness*.

III. FAITHFULNESS STEMS FROM GOD’S CHARACTER

First Thessalonians 5:24 and 2 Thessalonians 3:3 state the following:

“Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

“But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

To grow in Christlikeness connotes that we must grow in God’s attribute of *faithfulness*! To become more like Jesus means we must become increasingly *faithful* to Him and others! Christ was *faithful* to the Father even to the point of death, death on a cross! This stands in stark contrast to too many believers who are *faithful* only to the degree it is advantageous to themselves.

Are you *faithful* even when it costs you something to remain *faithful*?

IV. FAITHFULNESS STEMS FROM CULTIVATION

Faithfulness must be cultivated and developed continually throughout our lives. Psalm 78:8 and Luke 16:10 depict this necessity:

“And not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not prepare its heart and whose spirit was not faithful to God.”

“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.”

We should be strict with ourselves to be *faithful* in the smallest matters; those victories become mental imprints for developing lifelong responses.

V. FAITHFULNESS WILL BE COMPENSATED

Faithfulness is an intricate, key character quality, and among other things, something every public servant should discern in employees when considering hiring or promotion. Proverbs 28:20 Nehemiah 7:2, Luke 12:42, 1 Timothy 1:12 and 2 Timothy 2:2 all respectively serve to indicate the biblical connection between *faithfulness* and reward:

“A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.”

“Then I put Hanani my brother, and Hananiah the commander of the fortress, in charge of Jerusalem, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.”



“And the Lord said, ‘Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?’”

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service.”

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

These passages serve to illustrate the correlation between *faithfulness* and reward in both this life and the next. Make no mistake: God intends the

motivation of rewards to compel us to be increasingly *faithful*! God rewards *faithfulness*!

VI. APPLICATION

Tychicus was *faithful* to God and to others. Subsequently God blessed and strengthened him. Paul noticed that and entrusted him with the most important of tasks: personally delivering original autographs of Scripture over hundreds of miles of perilous journey! Why? *He was deemed faithful!* That is to say he was found to be reliable and trustworthy. May that be said of us as we team to plant ministries amongst public servants throughout America and the world. Therein are everlasting dividends redounding to His glory!

OAKS IN OFFICE

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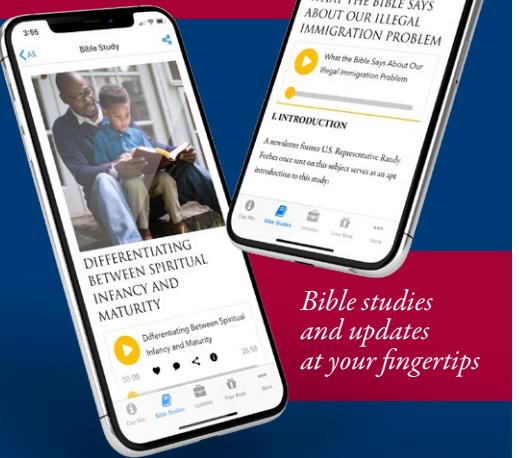
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The Importance of Faithfulness in the Life of the Believer

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Benjamin Franklin

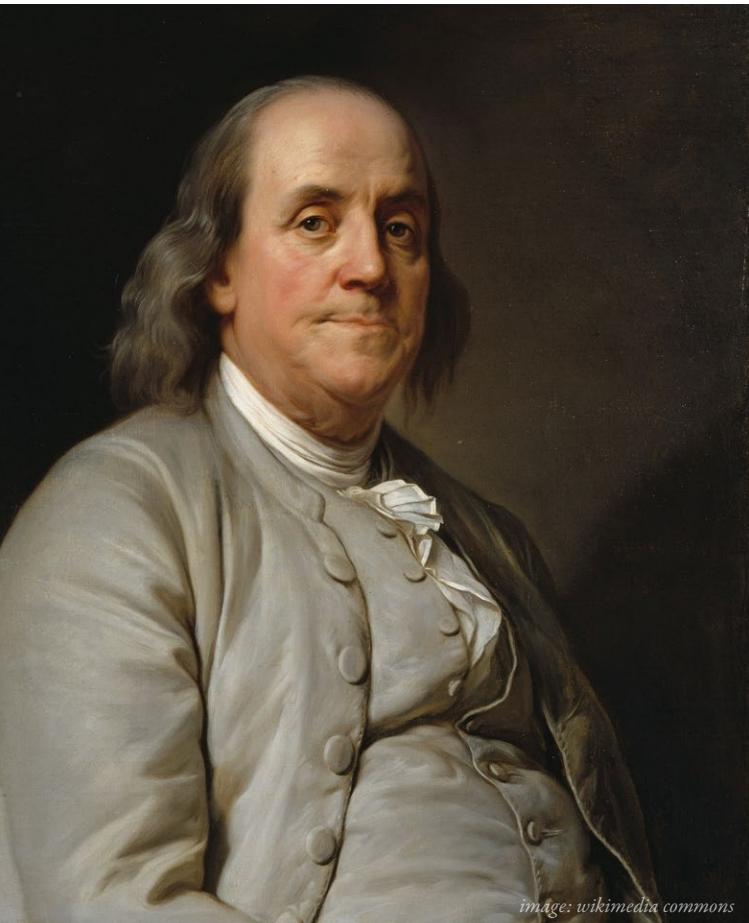


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“That wise Men have in all Ages thought Government necessary for the Good of Mankind; and, that wise Governments have always thought Religion necessary for the well ordering and well-being of Society, and accordingly have been ever careful to encourage and protect the Ministers of it, paying them the highest publick Honours, that their Doctrines might thereby meet with the greater Respect among the common People.”

— Benjamin Franklin, signer of the Declaration of Independence, diplomat, printer, scientist, signer of the U.S. Constitution, governor of Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Franklin, *On that Odd Letter of the Drum*, April 1730.

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