

God Given Rights

John 1:1-13

Introduction

- Much discussion about the rights of countries and people
- See our Declaration of Independence

Introduction

“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”

Introduction

- Are these “rights,” and many others, given to all by God?

Definitions

- “rights” – “that which is due to anyone by just claim, legal guarantees, moral principles, etc.”
- “unalienable” – “impossible to take away or give up”

Our Rights

- We could look at many but these few mentioned in the Declaration should suffice.

Our Rights - Life

- Genesis 1:1, 27 – “God created ... God created man.”
- Genesis 2:7 – “man became a living soul

Our Rights - Life

- God is the creator of all life
- It is, ultimately, in His hands

Our Rights - Life

- James 4:13-16 – “If the lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that.”
- Psalms 90:10 – “it is soon gone, and we fly away”

Our Rights - Life

- God’s concept of life and time are different from ours
 - Psalms 90:4 – “but as yesterday”
- How, then, should we look at life?
 - John 20:30-31 – “life in his name”
 - I Thessalonians 4:13-18 – “so shall we ever be with the Lord”
 - I John 5:11 – “eternal life”

Our Rights - Liberty

- Definition
- A different concept in the Bible
 - Luke 4:17-21 – “set at liberty”
 - James 1:25 – “the law of liberty”
 - Romans 8:1-2 – “Christ Jesus made me free”

Our Rights – Pursuit of Happiness

- See the book of Ecclesiastes
- Other similar ideas
 - Luke 12:16-19 – “eat, drink, be merry”

Our Rights – Pursuit of Happiness

- Paul's idea of these pursuits
 - II Corinthians 11:23-27 – “more abundantly ...”
 - II Corinthians 4:16-18 – “our light affliction”

Conclusion

- We have “life in His name,” are “free (liberated) from the law of sin and death,” and pursue the “things which are ... eternal.”
- Colossians 3:1-3 – “seek the things that are above”
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 – “the whole of man”