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INDEPENDENCE

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(editing by Kathy Boynton)

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In 1776, the Declaration of Independence declared separation of the 13 original colonies from British authority. This declaration accused King George III of England of “establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these states...” It accused him of subjecting them to “...repeated injuries and usurpations.” Traditionally, this declaration has been celebrated on July 4th in the years that followed.

Such tyranny was not new to the king of England. Early in man’s history, the fallen angel, Lucifer, provoked Adam and Eve to disobey God’s command. God had commanded:

“...Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

Adam and Eve yielded to Satan’s temptation by disobeying God and eating the forbidden fruit. As a result, mankind became subject to death, disease, wickedness, and slavery of every kind. Instead of being subject to and followers of God, they became pawns of the Devil. Jesus said to

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the religious leaders of His day:

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44)

The insidious tyranny of King George III was child’s play compared to mankind’s bondage to the Devil’s wickedness. There is only one hope for any person alive. Only through faith in God the Son, Jesus Christ, can any person be saved from sin’s eternal bondage! No church or clergy member can grant such freedom. No good works by a person can earn a person absolution from sin’s guilt. Only the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross could pay the penalty for sin. No other person can pay such a penalty. Christ’s payment can only be credited to a person through faith in Jesus Christ. He is the only Savior!

On judgment day, it will be Christ’s edict that will determine where a person spends eternity. John the Baptist, sent by God to introduce the

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