

WEEK THREE

*Understanding
the Times*

*...of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times,
to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two
hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;*

- 1 Chronicles 12:32

Three out of Five Americans believe there is no
moral absolute _____.¹

One out of two _____² believe there is no
absolute moral truth.

The fastest growing forms of _____³ in
America are non-religion and anti-religion.

In 5800 years of recorded history, _____⁴ has
never worked once in any culture in any century.

Truth and fact have been replaced by _____
_____.⁵

They did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all might be condemned [“damned” in KJV] who did not believe the truth.

- II Thessalonians 2:10-12

_____ ⁶ broke out of socialism in the 1600s before any other major nation.

Believing a _____ ⁷ has a high cost and consequence as it always causes harm.

As people of God, we have to be lovers of _____ ⁸ more than anything else.

Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth.

- John 17:17

_____ _____ ⁹ is the source of absolute truth. If we're not in it, we're not going to have the truth we need. The _____ ¹⁰ addresses every issue we face.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- John 14:6

Americans must now work hard to _____ ¹¹ truth.

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

- Revelation 21:8

Defending the truth requires _____.¹²

To turn the culture, we must: _____¹³ the truth, _____¹⁴ the truth, and _____¹⁵ the truth.

It is time for us to heed the challenge of our very first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Jay:

Every member of the State ought diligently to read and to study the constitution of his country, and teach the rising generation to be free. By _____ their rights, they will sooner _____ when they are violated, and be the better prepared to _____ and _____¹⁶ them.^{xi}

This quote by one of the authors of *The Federalist Papers* sums up the purpose of this class and provides the outline of our journey together through our founding documents.

It is important to spend time in the past because history shows us the _____¹⁷ that has made us the most successful nation in history up to this point.

It's important not only to _____¹⁸ what is Constitutional, but also to _____¹⁹ our Constitutional rights. You do not win by being on defense, you win by being on offense.

The Constitution still works today, even two centuries later, because it was based on timeless _____²⁰ of jurisdiction that govern human behavior.

The Founding Fathers believed that a lack of patriotism was selfishness:

Patriotism is as much a virtue as justice, and is as necessary for the support of societies as natural affection is for the support of families. The amor patriae [love of country] is both a _____ and a _____²¹ duty. It comprehends not only the love of our neighbors but of millions of our fellow creatures, not only of the present but of future generations. ^{xiii}

- Benjamin Rush

Dr. Benjamin Rush taught that the purpose of public schools is to teach students to love and serve _____, their _____, and their _____.²²

Dr. Rush put country before family because he understood that if we ever lost control of our country, it would become the _____²³ of our families.

Most of the Signers of the *Declaration of Independence* signed the document on _____²⁴. Many of them believed it would be their _____²⁵.

At the age of only 21, Captain _____²⁶ was captured after volunteering for a recon mission. Just before he was hung, he gave a passionate speech for freedom and closed with his famous “one life” statement that has inspired generations to sacrifice for freedom.

No greater love has any man than that he lay down his life for his friends.
- John 15:13

The best way to honor those who gave their one life for our freedom is to _____²⁷ the freedom that they sacrificed their lives for, as Captain Miller said in *Saving Private Ryan*.

Abraham Lincoln said we should take _____²⁸ to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. ^{xiii}

THE FATE OF THE FREE WORLD DEPENDS UPON _____²⁹!

Help prepare the next generation by getting your local school district to participate in _____³⁰. (visit PatriotAcademy.com/CFW and click on your state to see how you can help.)

Our Approach

1. This is not an exhaustive Constitutional study.

Think of this class as the “_____ _____
_____”³¹ to the Constitution, so we as citizens can get plugged in. Then, you should go back home and study the Constitution more extensively.

Recommended resources for further study:

- The Full 10-Week *Constitution Alive!* Series (PatriotAcademy.com)
- The Full *Foundations of Freedom* Series (WallBuilders.com)
- *The 5,000-Year Leap* by W. Cleon Skousen
- *The Heritage Guide to the Constitution* by Edwin Meese, Dr. Matthew Spalding, and Dr. David Forte
- *Constitutional Literacy* with Mike Farris
- Stansbury’s *Catechism on the Constitution* (PatriotAcademy.com)

Our goal is to _____ our rights, and know how to _____ and _____³² them.

2. Focus on _____³³, not judicial interpretation.

On every question of construction, carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed.^{xiv}

- Thomas Jefferson

I entirely concur in the propriety of resorting to the sense in which the Constitution was accepted and ratified by the nation. In that sense alone it is the legitimate Constitution. And if that be not the guide in expounding it, there can be no security for a consistent and stable [constitution], more than for a faithful, exercise of its powers.

What a metamorphosis would be produced in the code of law if all its ancient phraseology were to be taken in its modern sense.^{xv}

- James Madison

The first and governing maxim in the interpretation of a statute is to discover the meaning of those who made it.^{xvi}

- James Wilson

The first and fundamental rule in the interpretation of all documents is to construe them according to the sense of the terms and the intentions of the parties.^{xvii}

- Joseph Story

3. Take sections as _____³⁴.
4. Use plain language for basic understanding, but not a substitute for the _____³⁵.

In Appendix E of this workbook, you will find *The Constitution Made Easy* by Michael Holler. This has the original text on the left and the plain-language amended version on the right.

_____³⁶ is like the “owner’s manual” of the Constitution: it helps us identify the correct application of the tools we have been given.

Once we understand the original meaning, the _____³⁷ that is communicated is the same and completely applicable to today.

We have a responsibility to teach the Constitution, not just to the rising generation, but to _____³⁸ around us. In our day of social media, everyone has a _____³⁹.

You do not have to be super _____⁴⁰ to understand the Constitution. The Founding Fathers were ordinary men, and the Constitution they made was for us ordinary people.