

Their Purpose in America

Section IV

North Carolina and South Carolina

We have read about the Pilgrims and their families settling the Massachusetts area and we have read about the founding of Virginia and problems caused by too few families. We also read and should have no doubt that they came to America to start Christian communities. Now we will read about the founding of the other colonies beginning with North Carolina and South Carolina

In 1653 Quakers got a charter to settle in what would become North Carolina. Part of their constitution they drew up originally was for "the propagation (advancement) of the gospel.."

In South Carolina their charter was still under that of North Carolina, but seven years later John Locke, a great Christian thinker in Europe drew up a Constitution for South Carolina. It required people to: Believe in God, recognize godly justice and human responsibility in court, and to be a church member in order to be a free man of the colony.

Georgia:

In 1731 Dr. Thomas Bray and General James Oglethorpe established a colony for those in England who had been unemployed or in prison for owing taxes. When the first 100 settlers came they kneeled on the ground to thank God and said, "our end in leaving our native country is not to gain riches and honor, but singly this - to live wholly to the glory of God." They invited Methodist founders John and Charles Wesley and Rev. George Whitefield to serve as chaplains (preachers).

Back to Massachusetts

The Pilgrims were the first settlers here and they felt they were truly on a pilgrimage or Christian journey. In 1630 the puritans came. They had not wanted to separate from the Church of England like the Pilgrims did, they just wanted to purify it. Soon they decided they were out of luck in purifying the Church of England, so 1000 of them came to America. This was more than all the Pilgrims in 10 years put together. Their leader was John Winthrop and he served as governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Winthrop said they wished to be like "a city upon a hill" and to be an example to the world of a Godly place.

The one downfall of the Puritans was that they believed in a state church. But they also were very firm believers in total Christian government. The Pilgrim ideas of individual Christian liberty (to worship Jesus in your chosen manner) and the Puritan ideas of total Christian government smoothed together to form the strong basis Christian of America.

Connecticut:

Rev. Thomas Hooker was a Puritan Minister, but felt they were a little too strict and did not allow enough personal liberty and he did not believe in a state church. In June 1636 He and most of his church of about 100 people settled in what would become Connecticut Colony. By May 1637 there were over 800 people. In January 1639 He formed the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut as the Constitution. It had Christian ideas Written in a political way.

Rhode Island:

Roger Williams came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1631, but he had problems with the Puritan leaders and their idea of a church controlled state. He felt that while the government should enforce moral laws, they had no right to enforce church laws. He was banished by the Puritans and in 1635 bought land from the Indians and founded Providence. He wanted a place where individuals could have mental liberty and have their own Christian views, even though they still had to follow the moral laws. The Royal Charter of Rhode Island of 1663 stated:

"The colonies are to pursue with peace and loyal minds their sober, serious, and religious intentions...in holy Christian faith; ..A most flourishing civil state may stand and best be maintained...with a full liberty in religious conferments...rightly grounded upon Gospel principles."

Anne Hutchinson was the daughter of an Anglican minister in England. In 1612 She married William Hutchinson and they had 15 children. Anne became a popular Bible teacher in the Bay Colony. Anne and her supporters, including many prominent men of Boston, were banished by a Puritan court. Anne and her followers, like Roger Williams, had felt the Puritans placed too much emphasis on attaining salvation by works instead of Grace. (The Bible says we should work to obey God, but obeying every law doesn't mean we go to heaven, we have to have a good heart and believe in Jesus) They met with Roger Williams and he helped them to buy land from the Indians. They founded Portsmouth and Anne's husband was elected leader of the settlement.

They gathered on March 7, 1638, and agreed to the following Compact for their new colony:

"We whose names are underwritten do here solemnly in the presence of Jehovah incorporate ourselves into a Bodie Politick and as he shall help, will submit our person, lives and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and all those perfect and most absolute laws of his given us in his holy word of truth, to be guided and judged thereby."

In 1638 Rev. John Carke led a group to found Newport "in the presence of Jehovah" by agreeing to "incorporate ourselves in a Body Politic, and as He shall help us, will submit our persons, lives, and estate unto our lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords..."

Some people have tried to use Roger Williams as an example of a man who believed that there was to be no religion in government and that politicians could be Christians or not - whatever they decided. This is not true. Roger Williams still believed you must be a Christian, but he did not like the Puritan way of being overly strict. If a man had to cut firewood on Sunday to keep his family warm, he didn't consider this a sin and as working on the Sabbath day. It was just what had to be done. The Puritans

would have been very upset about this though and may even arrest the man or give him a ticket (pay a fine). The Puritans were good people - but Williams saw that no one could be perfect. That is why Christ died on the cross for our sins. The Puritans tried to be perfect and were upset if you failed. Still, the Puritans strived to lead good lives, founded many communities, and helped to give a good strong Christian foundation to America.

Rhode Island and Connecticut remained the only two colonies to be self governed all way until the American Revolution.

New Hampshire:

The colonists who founded New Hampshire wrote in 1639:

"...considering with our selves the holy will of God and our own necessity, that we should not live without wholesome laws and civil government among us, of which we are altogether destitute, do in the name of Christ and in the sight of God, combine ourselves together to erect and set up among us such government as shall be, to our best discerning, agreeable to the will of God..."

New York

This colony first began as two colonies in 1628. They were New Amsterdam and New Netherlands by the Dutch Reformed Church. New Amsterdam later became New York City. The first entry in their official government records stated:

"We graciously incline our hearts, that we exercise the power which thou hast given us, to the general good of the community, and to the maintenance of the church, that we may be praised by them that do well, and a terror to evil-doers."

In 1665 they passed a law to uphold "...the public worship of God" and to teach the "people in the true religion."

Maryland:

Maryland was started as a reformed Catholic colony. One of their leaders wrote: "bearing on our shoulders a huge cross, which we had hewn from a tree, we moved to procession (march) to a spot selected..and erected it as a trophy to Christ our savior."

In 1649 they passed the Toleration Act that said any person believing in Jesus Christ had the liberty to worship him as they chose.

Delaware:

New Sweden was established along the Delaware River in 1638 due to the backing of their great King Gustavus Adolphus and was settled by people of the Lutheran faith.

New Jersey:

Much of New Jersey was settled by the Dutch. Their constitution was developed by the Quakers. In 1697, the governor made a proclamation "in obedience to the laws of God". The motto of New Jersey on their seal was Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation."

Pennsylvania

William Penn founded this colony. Thomas Jefferson called Penn "the greatest lawgiver the world has produced. Penn said in the Frame of Government of Pennsylvania:

"Governments like clocks, go from the motion men give them; and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men, than men upon governments...Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad, it will be will, they will cure it." This meant that if the people of the land are good then the government they make and people they elect to govern will be good. But, if they people begin to be unchristian, then very soon the government will be ruined. Penn said that those who won't be ruled by God will end up being ruled by tyrants.

Many people came to form America. White Christian men and women from all over Europe. England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, France and many others.

The New England Confederation of 1643 issued as a combined statement of the northern colonies said "We all came into these parts of America with one and the same end and aim, namely, to advance the kingdom of our lord Jesus Christ, and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel in purity with peace."