



This past weekend, we had the pleasure of hearing from Tim Barton, founder and president of WallBuilders, LLC. He is dedicated to presenting America’s forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on the moral, religious, and constitutional foundation on which America was built. Tim spends much of his time in the Wallbuilders’ library, with tens of thousands of original documents, researching the truth of the founding of America and exposing the lies regarding our nation. He consults with numerous state and federal legislators on policy and legislation across America each year.

Barton shared about the early explorers and their devout faith, particularly regarding the first Thanksgiving. Despite extremely difficult circumstances, the Pilgrims came together to praise God for the things He had done and asked Him to continue to intervene on their behalf. From this, a tradition was birthed into American history, and this year we will celebrate our nation’s 401st Thanksgiving.

- 1. *Sometimes, it is hard to see the good when we are in the midst of a trying and challenging season of life. Where have you seen the Lord move in your community? In your state? In America?***
- 2. *How can we be more intentional in expressing our gratitude to the Lord for all the things He has done?***

Whether it is in a classroom, boardroom, or a newsroom, we are constantly bombarded with messages that tend to leave out much of “the rest of the story.” Our history lessons are watered down to only include those parts of the story supporting an overarching narrative that not only denies our Christian heritage but mocks it. In **John 8:31-32**, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- 3. *What discrepancies do you see being taught, both in our schools and in the public square, about the history and heritage of our nation? What effect do you think this will have on future generations?***
- 4. *How does knowing and believing the objective truth of God’s Word lead to freedom?***

One of the stories Barton shared was of former president John Quincy Adams and his endurance in fighting against slavery through his position in Congress. When asked why he would spend so much time and energy on something repeatedly shut down and dismissed, he said, “The duty is ours, but the results are God’s.” Barton echoed: Our job is to be faithful in standing for the truth where we are—regardless if we ever see the fruit of our efforts.

- 5. *What can you learn from President John Adams’s endurance in standing for a biblical worldview despite countless roadblocks? What is the difference between being productive and being faithful?***

Barton discussed the dangers of giving in to the unrealistic goal of perfectionism inundated in American culture today. He says, “American culture says we want perfect; but as Christians, our starting place is imperfection.” Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” Your sin does not disqualify you from being used by God in remarkable ways. Our greatest heroes—both in American history and in the Bible—are flawed at best, and yet God still used them to bring about miraculous outcomes.

6. *Where have you been hesitant to lead and obey the Lord because you didn't feel “good enough?” How does the Bible show us this is a lie?*

Prayer:

Dear Lord, I believe You called this nation into existence, that You have protected us and delivered us time and time again as well as generation after generation. You have called forth men and women to stand for Your truth and for Your principles and values. Lord, we say, here we are. Send us and forgive us for being distracted. We've had our hearts invested in other things. We choose to honor You, and we pray that the name of Jesus would be lifted-up once again in our nation, in the corridors of our courtrooms, in the halls of government, and in our churches. Lord, turn the hearts of the people to yourself. Look upon us with mercy. We thank you for Your faithfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.