

LAW

Historical and Theological Foundations of Law is a remarkable book. John Eidsmoe canvasses all of recorded history to analyze the legal systems of the world's great civilizations. In doing so, he raises important questions that are often ignored by modern legal scholars and policymakers: What are the sources of liberty and the rule of law? Is there a higher law? Is law naturally evolving from the primitive and crude to the sophisticated and effective?

The book is both accessible and thought-provoking. And it opens the door for further discussion and research on the issues and legal cultures it addresses. We recommend *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* to anyone with an interest in knowing more about the roots of law and justice.

Jeffrey A. Brauch, Dean

Doug Cook, Associate Dean

Eric DeGross, Professor

Regent University School of Law

John Eidsmoe sets forth the Christian vision of law, centered on man's relation to God, encompassing all the great cultures of the world from ancient to the early modern eras. For citizens and lawyers, leaders and students, this book relates the great Christian story underlying the history of law: how man's awareness of God's desire for justice and liberty under law has made itself felt in age after age. Our law students—early readers of the book, drawn from twenty different countries—have been inspired by it to carry on this universal story in their own legal ministries.

Eric Enlow, Dean

Handong International Law School

Pohang, South Korea

It has been said, "*If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*" (Ps. 11:3). In the United States, the foundations have not been destroyed, but they are being ignored. Every nation's legal and political system rests upon certain philosophical tenets concerning the nature of man, the source of rights, and purpose of civil government. Professor Eidsmoe addresses the question of what is the philosophy of government of America's constitutional republic by exploring the different views of government and cultures known to our Founders

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when they created a new nation. This comprehensive discussion of the historical and theological foundations of law—from the ancient to the modern—supplies the documentation for any intellectually honest person to consider why our Founders chose the theory of government expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

Robert J. Barth,

Associate Dean
Oak Brook College of Law

John Eidsmoe’s book, *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* is magisterial in its sweep of history, scholarly in the thoughtfulness of its reflection, and remedial in its correction of what is modernly a much-neglected question: why obey the law? This work does not break new ground so much as survey the ground upon which all civilization has been attempted. Eidsmoe illustrates that the Darwinian notion of an ever-improving species is belied by any number of examples where what is ancient is sturdier, more captivating, or more consistent with human nature. If the pyramids outclass their Las Vegas counterparts, why would we think law follows an opposite path? Because our founders “built better than they knew,” America is cocooned from some of the international incoherence spinning in a secular frame that oppresses the yearning for the transcendent. But no wall of separation is high enough to protect us against the ill consequence of an arrogant complacency that denies either moral or physical realities.

Unless law is well-founded, and for that to happen schools must teach what Dr. Eidsmoe has assembled here, we likely will not have to wait for a tsunami to repay our environmental degradation. Not everyone, of course, believes in climate change; just as not everyone grasps the insight of the Divine. There is a truth, however, and law no more than science can long retain its coherency or its usefulness if the ultimate meaning and source of authority or meaning is ignored. This timely book is an essential recollection of the vast knowledge of the past needed to have any hope of navigating into the future.

Douglas W. Kmiec, U.S. Ambassador (ret.)

Caruso Family Chair in Constitutional Law & Human Rights,
Pepperdine University

ENDORSEMENTS

As an admirer of the work of Professor John Eidsmoe for many years, I am very pleased to learn that he has completed his three-volume treatise on the *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law*. For many years I have assigned the students in my “Origins of the Constitution of the United States of America” to read a very enlightening article he wrote about the theological foundations of the U.S. Constitution. He draws the connection between the development of core ideas of theology and the core ideas about government, particularly self-government, in a very persuasive manner.

I have reviewed the Table of Contents for *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* and they outline a very thorough and fascinating set of materials. The scope and breadth are exceptional and the clear genealogy of ideas about freedom and responsibility, from ideas about man’s relationship with God to man’s relationship to other men is impressive.

I have read the overview of his three-volume treatise and it describes a work that should be in every law library and every library of religion, political science, and history. I commend Colonel Eidsmoe on this publication and strongly encourage serious students of legal history to get and use this comprehensive resource.

Lynn Wardle,

Professor of Law, J. Reuben Clark School of Law
Brigham Young University

There has been a lot of confusion over the role that faith has played in the development of our legal systems. John Eidsmoe’s book does a great deal to address that problem. This comprehensive survey of the foundations of law contributes significantly to the discussion of the source of our legal order.

Myron Steeves,

Dean and Professor, Trinity Law School

It's been noted that he who is not aware of his own ignorance will only be misled by his knowledge. One memorable cartoon depicts a professor confiding to his academic colleague, "Thirty percent of what I say is pure nonsense...but nobody knows which 30%!" America's nonsense quotient has been rising sharply in recent years—especially in relation to the subject of law. Thus, it is timely that Professor John Eidsmoe is releasing his *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* three-volume set at this time. A fellow Alabaman, U.S. District Judge Brevard Hand (1924–2008) once wrote of "...pebbles on the beach of history from which scholars and judges might attempt to support the conclusions that they are wont to reach." Knowledgeable readers who are wont to see a return to America's Godly heritage will no doubt find that Dr. Eidsmoe's pebbles make for refreshing reading indeed.

Retired Judge Darrell White

American Judicial Alliance
Baton Rouge, LA

THEOLOGY

John Eidsmoe effectively demolishes the evolution-compatible theory that modern law is a product (still continuing in motion) of the crude and ignorant protective devices of the ancient primitives extending to the relative societal consensus represented variously in civilized societies today. Finding the "cornerstone" in Hebrew law, he traces its alternating influences on nations and movements up to the advent of American common law in the constitution of the United States. The reader will discover in this massive volume a wealth of valuable historical information gleaned from the author's thorough-going research and will recognize and affirm from this convincing well-documented testimony that the common source of all just law is divine.

Dr. Francis W. Monseth, Dean

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary
Plymouth, MN

John Eidsmoe's *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* will, I believe, become a cultural landmark in centuries to come, because it will long serve as a lighthouse, beaming desperately needed historical and legal and governmental good sense, based on unchanging principles of divine truth. It shines out light in a time of educational darkness and political storms and confusion. It is a rare and happy day when a scholar of massive erudition and genuine humility is able to bring into his vision a multitude of facts and underlying principles from broad fields of culture, and think them through together, giving his readers a bright and harmonious synthesis of truth from thousands of years, thereby making sense of competing national histories and world religions.

To my mind, Charles Norris Cochrane in the 1940s provided a remarkable synthesis of religion, culture, and law in his *Christianity and Classical Culture*, as has Niall Ferguson (2011) in his *Civilization*. John Eidsmoe is certainly in their league, and I have felt that the synthesis he offers is not forced, but naturally flows out of the massively documented content (which somehow never overwhelms the reader). None could properly accuse Colonel Eidsmoe of “Eurocentrism,” for one of the qualities of his book is the lucid discussions on the development of Law in China, Polynesia, South America, and—what particularly piqued my interest—law systems among the North American Indian confederations: the Cheyenne and the Iroquois. Throughout this large volume is an intelligent and fair-minded discussion of this underlying question: does the evidence support the evolutionary scenario of development of law (and the religion behind it) from primitive, polytheistic sources, or does it rather indicate a Creator God, who imprinted his moral standards into the human conscience across space and time? One quote will summarize the debated point: “. . . If the people of the ancient world possessed such sophisticated knowledge of building construction, writing, medical skills, and so many other forms of knowledge, is it not possible, is it not likely, that they possessed sophisticated systems of law as well? In fact, would not a sophisticated system of law and government be a prerequisite for the other achievements? If so, then modern Darwinian theories that law evolved from the simple to the complex, definitely need to be re-examined” (p. 11).

I cordially recommend this amazing volume; I fully expect it to be known as a classic a century hence, and I shall be mentioning it with appreciation to my classes.

Douglas F. Kelly,

Professor of Systematic Theology
Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC

ENDORSEMENTS

Eidsmoe's massive work chronicles the development of law from widely disparate cultures (e.g., Egyptian, Chinese, Mesopotamian, Indian, Polynesian, Mayan, Cheyenne and Iroquois) through the common law basis of the United States Constitution. Throughout Eidsmoe courageously argues that there are universal features within particular legal codes and systems that point to a non-natural source for human law, a source oftentimes apprehended more clearly at the origins of these civilizations and subsequently occluded as governmental power centralizes. This book should be of significant interest to those who take the reality of God seriously, who believe that human beings are created in the image of this real God, and who venture to claim that truth about God's relationship to culture must be unitary, that is, that theological claims about God's primary intentionality for human beings must be ultimately consonant with the moral and legal understandings present among the divergent cultural traditions of humankind.

Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt,

Vice President of Academic Affairs
Institute of Lutheran Theology

Christian academia spawns multiple disciplines and produces a variety of dissertations. I have read from these varieties for decades; yet, none has been more intriguing, or more comprehensive than *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* by Colonel John A. Eidsmoe. Originally presented to the faculty of Emmanuel College of Christian Studies as a doctoral dissertation, this monumental, multi-volume work of almost incalculable proportions, spans ancient civilizations, examining their laws and religions, before ultimately reaching the rational conclusion that the source of all law is Almighty God! Authored by one of our nation's foremost authorities on the Constitution of the United States, this compendium of historical and theological truth comes in an easy-to-read style that simply begs not to be laid aside.

Gene L. Jeffries, Th.D.,

President, Emmanuel College of Christian Studies

E N D O R S E M E N T S

There have been studies in the past to show the influence of the Christian faith on the founders of the American constitution and the representative form of government. My former student Colonel Eidsmoe has been a strong contributor to this study.

In this comprehensive study he researches history to show a common strain that has demonstrated itself in many primitive and modern cultures. Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, India, China, Hawaii, Malaysia, Inca, Aztec and several modern civilizations.

Col. Eidsmoe comes to this task with training and experience in law and religion. This study is destined to become a classic in the history of law and religion.

Rev. Omar Gjerness, Professor (Ret.)

Lutheran Brethren Seminary

Professor Eidsmoe has written a “Summa Legem” which in its vastness and erudition reveals the author’s grasp of the historical, theological, and juridical foundations of civilization. As a competent lawyer, theologian, and historian, he has employed these disciplines successfully in his effort to demonstrate the truth of his thesis, namely, that law and government cannot be understood or preserved without an understanding of and commitment to the religious/moral underpinnings of the culture. The reader will be intrigued by the wealth of anecdotal detail in Colonel Eidsmoe’s description of the religion, law, and government of ancient civilizations from the Sumerian culture of ca. 4000 BC to the Incas and Aztecs of ca. AD 1000 as well as of the classical civilizations of the Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans. The author gives in-depth insights into the more immediate antecedents of our American culture in the religion and laws of the Celtic, Viking, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman invaders and colonizers of the British Isles. Pastor Eidsmoe concludes by delineating the profound effect which Christianity has had on the legal and governmental culture which was transferred to American shores by colonists and immigrants and took root to produce the Laws and Constitutional form of government of the United States. This scholarly work has my highest recommendation.

Press on in the Lord!

Med vennlig hilsen,

Rev. Dr. Duane R. Lindberg,

Presiding Pastor Emeritus, The American Association of Lutheran Churches

HISTORY/HERITAGE

John Eidsmoe has masterfully synthesized a broad array of primary sources into a comprehensive survey of legal philosophy. Eidsmoe is equally at home in the fields of law, theology, and history. What's more, he energetically guides his readers on a journey from the ancient Near East to the founding of the American Republic, gracefully distilling complex ideas into short, accessible sentences. Study questions conclude each section, making the text readily adaptable to the classroom. By including frequent block quotations from history's greatest legal thinkers, *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* achieves an encyclopedic chronicle of human endeavors to maintain ordered societies. Eidsmoe's narrative also links salient facts into an interpretative essay, culminating in a reflection upon natural law and the divine Lawgiver who established it.

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.

Chair, Dept. of History, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota
Founding President, The Hausvater Project

John Eidsmoe's tremendous work, *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law*, is an amazing overview of world history. After reading his examination of the development of the law throughout the centuries, one cannot help but come to the conclusion that what we have experienced in America is truly rare. Americans have been the beneficiaries of the most individual freedom, opportunity, and prosperity than of all previous cultures. This phenomenal book not only pulls aside the curtain to help us understand the origins of law, but inspires us to want to preserve it for future generations.

William J. Federer,

Author/Producer, The American Minute

Professor John Eidsmoe presents an irrefutable case for the excellence of the Biblically based common law tradition that birthed America's constitutional liberty. Eidsmoe clearly explains what is the only unchanging source for a just and prosperous society. Every American who values freedom should read these volumes.

Marshall Foster

World History Institute
worldhistoryinstitute.com

E N D O R S E M E N T S

John Eidsmoe is a great intellectual of our time. He understands so well the Christian roots of America, including some of the nuances to avoid lest we fall into exaggeration. He has a grasp of the big picture of history and the ability to communicate that, so we can see God's hand in civilization—including the foundation of America's law. What a great trilogy from a great scholar.

Jerry Newcombe, D.Min.

Spokesman for Truth in Action Ministries (formerly Coral Ridge)

Author, *The Book that Made America*

In the *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law*, John Eidsmoe does a thorough and masterful job of presenting the origins and development of law, and in particular of the laws of liberty. He clearly shows that true law originates with God, and that law is right and true when it emanates from Him. Understanding God as the source of law leads to voluntary obedience, since such obedience to truth brings great blessing to men and nations.

Stephen McDowell,

President, Providence Foundation Biblical Worldview University

MILITARY

My friend Colonel John Eidsmoe has defended our country throughout his distinguished military service. Now he defends our country as an attorney, with meticulous research and lucid explanation of the long history of America's Godly Heritage, including the foundations of American law and civil government, from ancient times to the founding of our nation. Everyone who is concerned about the source and nature of the Higher Law in America should read this excellent book. The U. S. Supreme Court has declared four times that America, as a matter of law and fact is a "Christian Nation." Colonel Eidsmoe provides a readable account of this crucial history, suitable for lawyers, judges, legislators, and laymen.

Ronald D. Ray, Colonel, USMC (Ret.)

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Counselor and Co-Founder of First Principles, Inc.

CULTURE

John Eidsmoe has written arguably the most comprehensive—likely, at least, the most wide-ranging—genealogy of legal systems ever published in English. In tracing the influence of Christianity and the Bible on Western legal systems, Eidsmoe has left us deeply in his debt. This is a massive, towering work, a *magnum opus* to which few could attain, and it will furnish legal students intellectual grist for many, many years to come.”

P. Andrew Sandlin,

President, Center for Cultural Leadership

John Eidsmoe has presented the world with a book that it has long needed. His three-volume *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* offers a richly comprehensive account of the historical development and supra-historical foundation of the law. Though his focus is Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman, Eidsmoe offers fascinating glimpses into how the law has manifested itself in non-Western cultures; he also challenges his readers to preserve the future by looking backward to the past. Most vitally, he equips his reader to understand that the law is neither a man-made artifact nor something that varies wildly from culture to culture and age to age.

Louis Markos,

Professor in English and Scholar-in-Residence, Houston Baptist University; author of *From Achilles to Christ: Why Christians Should Read the Pagan Classics*, *Apologetics for the 21st Century*, and *Restoring Beauty: The Good, the True, and the Beautiful in the Writings of C. S. Lewis*.

As a former law student of Professor Eidsmoe and now a government and legal studies professor myself, I have read many of his books and am currently using one of his books as a text in my introductory American government class. In this, his most current work, John Eidsmoe has crafted a premier text on the subject of law and theology from a distinctly historical perspective. I can think of no better treatment of the subject for use in the classroom to inform the reader of the historical sources of our law and theology than this multi-volume work. It is destined to be a classic for the ages.

Bryan H. Sanders, J.D.

Chair, Department of Social Sciences. Professor of Government and Legal Studies
Evangel University, Springfield, MO

E N D O R S E M E N T S

Written from a Protestant evangelical viewpoint, John Eidsmoe's three-volume work provides material difficult to find in similar works on the subject: ancient and primitive law and the legal traditions of non-western societies provide the background for his deep appreciation of American common law developments. Those in the legal field and students wanting to delve into the intricacies of legal history as it interacts with theology will surely want to add it to their bookshelves.

John Warwick Montgomery

Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy and Christian Thought, Patrick Henry College. Professor Emeritus, University of Bedfordshire, England. Ph.D. (Chicago), D.Théol. (Strasbourg, France), LL.D. (Cardiff, Wales, U.K.). Member of the California, D.C., Virginia, Washington State, and U.S. Supreme Court bars; Barrister-at-Law, England and Wales; Avocat à la Cour, Paris.

“Law is a back stage pass to theology,” as one man put it. John Eidsmoe has, with meticulous research articulated in plain language, granted us VIP seats in the theater of theology playing in the legal culture. He connects the contextual dots, thereby allowing us to see how the WHAT's of legal history are linked to the WHEN's, WHERE's, and WHY's animating that history. And, in doing so, he provides much needed clarity and context in the sea of relativist confusion. This project underscores with Paul, that “we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully” (1 Tim. 1:8, ESV).

Jeffery J. Ventrella, Esq.

Senior Vice President, Strategic Training
Alliance Defense Fund

Fascinating, interesting, knowledgeable, and wise are just a few words that describe Professor Eidsmoe. As his former law student and now lawyer, I can say firsthand that he has an extraordinary ability to communicate and educate, and *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* is the proof. Two of my sons had the privilege of cite-checking two chapters of this book and found the information intriguing. They could not seem to get the work done for reading the rest of the book! This book is well written and so full of well-researched facts that it is a must have for every homeschooling family. As a homeschooling mother, *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* is an invaluable tool.

Stacy Harris

Attorney, home-schooling mother, and author of
Happy Healthy Family Tracking the Outdoors In

E N D O R S E M E N T S

Colonel Eidsmoe's comprehensive historical survey of the foundations of law from a Biblical perspective will be an outstanding resource for Christian students and scholars.

Roger Schultz, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Liberty University

Congratulations to Professor John Eidsmoe on the completion of his magnum opus! *Historical and Theological Foundations of Law* is a landmark accomplishment, not just for the study of the history of law in general but also for the demonstration of the vital impact of the Judeo-Christian worldview on the development of western culture. Scholars, lawyers, pastors, and theologians will benefit greatly from Eidsmoe's tour de force.

Peter A. Lillback,

President, Westminster Theological Seminary
President, The Providence Forum

AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Greetings!

Please embark with me on a journey through time and space, to explore the foundations of law from their very beginnings.

We will begin, in **Book I, The Foundation**, by exploring the ancient legal systems of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, India, China, Polynesia, the Inca, the Maya, the Aztec, the Cheyenne, and the Iroquois Confederacy. We will study the facts about their legal systems, but we will consider much more: How did these systems arise? How did they develop, or degenerate? What common characteristics did they possess? And what was their source, or sources, or Source?

Then, in **Book II, The Cornerstone**, we will focus upon the legal system that has influenced the world more than any other—the laws and institutions of the ancient Hebrews. What is the secret of the Hebrews' genius, and why are the Laws of Moses so often overlooked by scholars today?

In **Book III, The Structure**, we will turn to the Greek and Roman legal systems, with their many strengths and equally many weaknesses. What was the source of their strength? And what were their fatal flaws? Out of Roman law we will see the rise of the Canon Law of the Church, and we will also survey the Sharia law of Islam.

Book IV, The Centerpiece, chronicles the birth of the Common Law of the West, with its Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Viking, Jewish, and Norman roots. What is the Common Law? If it is so common, why is it so seldom defined? How does it relate to Canon Law or Civil Law? And is it Christian, or Roman, or a fusion of both?

Book V, The Pinnacle, views the Common Law as resurrected by the Lutheran Reformation of Germany and Scandinavia and the Calvinist Reformation of Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Scotland, and England. Following in the footsteps of the Reformers, we will see how legal philosophers like Selden, Milton, Althusius, Grotius, Pufendorf, Vattel, Locke, Coke, Montesquieu, and Blackstone crystalized the Common Law and articulated its timeless principles in a more modern form.

Historical and Theological Foundations of Law

And finally, **Book VI, The Beacon**, dramatizes the Common Law's journey across the Atlantic to the American colonies, how it gave form and life to their colonial governments and provided the background for the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

I hope this book provides information and answers, but just as important are the questions it raises about the nature, purpose, and *source* of law. Jurists have articulated it, philosophers have theorized about it, theologians have explored the moral principles that underlie it. Statesmen have enacted it, judges have interpreted it, sheriffs have enforced it, soldiers have defended it, kings have implemented it. And then, after the fact, people like me have written about it, to try to explain what it is, and what it should be.

With a scope as wide as this, I certainly have not exhausted the subject. Not even close! Already, just before this book goes to print, I have come across materials that I wish I had included, and in coming years I'm sure I'll discover much more. Some years from now, perhaps, I will revise this work into a third edition. But it will never be truly complete.

History consists of objective reality, but because of our human fallibility, our understanding of history is often incomplete and imperfect. Especially in ancient history, the original sources often conflict, and the more recent interpretations of ancient history conflict even more. Faced with these conflicts, I have tried to select the interpretation and explanation that seems most likely to be true. If you, the reader, believe I have interpreted something wrongly, or if you have information that I have overlooked, I would be pleased to hear from you; you may contact me at eidsmoeja@juno.com. Unfortunately, I may not be able to answer all communications. I will also try to be available for speaking engagements on topics related to this book.

If you, the reader, are as blessed and edified by reading this book as I have been by writing it, my purpose in writing will have been fully accomplished.

Soli Deo gloria!

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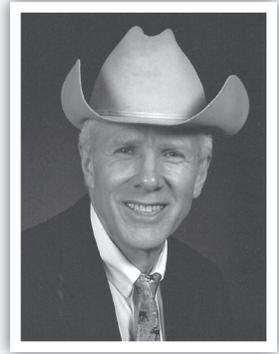
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOHN EIDSMOE brings to this study the combined disciplines of the soldier, jurist, theologian, and historian. A retired Lt. Colonel in the Air Force, retired Colonel(AS) in the Alabama State Defense Force, and a Colonel(MS) in the Mississippi State Guard, Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law and related subjects for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy, and is also an Adjunct Professor for Handong International Law School in South Korea and for the



Institute of Lutheran Theology. In his various teaching assignments his students have given him the Outstanding Professor Award or Prof. of the Year Award five times. He holds seven academic degrees in law, theology, history, and political science. He has served as a Senior Staff Attorney for the Alabama Supreme Court and currently serves as Senior Counsel and Resident Scholar for the Foundation for Moral Law. He has written 14 books, including *Christianity & the Constitution*, *Columbus & Cortez*, and *God & Caesar*, and he has produced numerous lecture albums including the basic and advanced *Institute on the Constitution* and is in much demand nationally and internationally as a speaker for churches and civic organizations. A Knight Commander and Chaplain with the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem and a third-degree black belt with the American Taekwondo Foundation, Eidsmoe is an avid horseman and skier. Colonel Eidsmoe and his wife Marlene have been married since 1970, have three children and three grandchildren, and live in rural Pike Road, Alabama.

THE PUBLISHER'S WORD

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.
And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God,
command that these stones become bread."
But he answered and said, "It is written,
'Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"
(Matthew 4:1-4, cf. Deuteronomy 8:3)*

Dear Reader,

This is Colonel John Eidsmoe's magnum opus from a deep-rooted commitment to the study and application of the Law of the Lord to all of life and living. He has written seventeen outstanding books, given hundreds of speeches, taught numerous educational classes, written multitudes of legal opinions and position papers, and preached numerous church sermons.

My wife and I met Col. Eidsmoe over a quarter-century ago when he taught a weekend class at Simon Greenleaf Law School (now Trinity Law School) in Orange County, California, USA. He was introducing his special book, *Christianity and the Constitution*, which he autographed to us during Gail's and my engagement to be married. We obtained a video of the seminar and spent hours reviewing the talks he gave. They deepened our love for America.

Nordskog Publishing is delighted to republish this enhanced version of his three-volume book in this expanded second edition with its comprehensive new index. Historians and scholars for decades to come will enjoy studying these volumes, the fruit of a lifetime of research and writing.

I will not even try to give an overview of this profound book; I will only suggest that while these volumes are an invaluable reference tool, a thorough read-through in the order in which the book has been conceived—in its three-volume, six-book, 37-chapter presentation—allows the reader to fully mine the abundance of treasure contained herein.

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I am humbled by the sheer quantity of researched facts and information contained in these pages. All points have been well-reasoned and presented in an unbiased manner. The journey through eons of history and diverse cultures brings us to understandings of right and wrong principles of monumental importance in our lives, in the life of our American nation, and for mankind everywhere in the world. What an opportunity to learn for our future from 4000+ years of history!

From the Ten Commandments to the Two Greatest Commandments, and from the Golden Rule to the Great Commission, we all seek peace, joy, stability, and the opportunity to express ourselves and promote goodness throughout mankind, especially to our brothers and sisters of the Christian faith who love and follow Jesus and live by the Word of God in Holy Scripture. (Galatians 6:10)

We all want to know the truth and how to apply it to everyday life in our homes, churches, schools, communities, and nations. Jesus Himself said He is the way the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father God without coming through Him. And truth is *in* and in fact *is* the Holy Scripture.

Regarding the Big 10—The Ten Commandments, Founding Father John Quincy Adams declared:

The law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal as well as moral and religious code; it contained many statutes...of universal application—laws essential to the existence of men in society, and most of which have been enacted by every nation which ever professed any code of laws. *

Furthermore, Founding Father Noah Webster agreed:

Where will you find any code of laws among civilized men in which the commands and prohibitions are not founded on Christian principles? I need not specify the prohibition of murder, robbery, theft, trespass. *

President Ronald Reagan proclaimed:

Of the many influences that have shaped the United States of America into a distinctive Nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible.... The Bible and its teachings helped form the basis for the Founding Fathers' abiding belief in the inalienable rights of the individual—rights which they found

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implicit in the Bible's teachings of the inherent worth and dignity of each individual.*

All of the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war proceed from them despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.

— Noah Webster, Schoolmaster to America*

The Bible is the best gift God has given to men. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong.

— President Abraham Lincoln*

The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the Word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts.

— John Jay, President of the Continental Congress*

The Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world. By renouncing the Bible, philosophers swing from their moorings upon all moral subjects.... It is the only correct map of the human heart that ever has been published.

— Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration*

Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book and every member should regulate his conduct by precepts there exhibited.... What a Utopia—what a Paradise would this region be! The Bible is the best book in the world.

— President John Adams*

By now you know my bias (deeply held belief). You can draw your own conclusions in reading and digesting this work. I pray you will seek wisdom and understanding from our Creator and Savior as you embark on this exciting journey of learning. Col. Eidsmoe has crafted his words in such a way as to generously allow readers to form their own opinions. You, dear reader, I urge to do so with great care, as you and your fellow humans will live with the consequences of your conclusions. The issues touched on in this work will affect how you view the role of government, how much power you will give to your leaders, and the role religion and church will play in society, regardless of what nation you live in. Future generations hang in the balance.

I toast and affirm our author's generosity of spirit and love of brotherhood in doing what God Himself does: giving you the opportunity to decide for yourself. As a believer in Christ Jesus, I rejoice in our One God, the only

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One Who is always working for our good, forever and ever, from eternity past and ever onward. I trust you will, dear reader, choose truth and life after deliberating on the treasure chest of gems within the covers of these three volumes.

The form of civil government is not of divine appointment; this is left by God very much to the will and determination of men, and depends upon a people's temper, genius, situation, and advantages or disadvantages of various kinds. But yet that form of government which is adopted and established by the consent and agreement of the body of people, and which is found by experience to be conducive to the common good and interest of society, is that which seems to be agreeable to the divine will.

— Rev. Ebenezer Bridge of Chelmsford, MA, Election Sermon, 1767**

The Scriptures cannot be rightfully expounded without explaining them in a manner friendly to the cause of freedom.

— Rev. Charles Turner of Duxbury, MA, Election Sermon, 1773**

Unlimited submission and obedience is due to none but God alone. He has an absolute right to command; He alone has an uncontrollable sovereignty over us, because He alone is unchangeably good. He never will nor can require of us, consistent with His nature and attributes, anything which is not fit and reasonable. His commands are all just and good. And to suppose that He has given to any particular set of men a power to require obedience to that which is unreasonable, cruel, and unjust, is robbing the Deity of His justice and goodness.

— Rev. Samuel West of Dartmouth; MA, Election Sermon, 1776**

Man will ultimately be governed by God or by tyrants.

— Founding Father Benjamin Franklin**

The conclusion, when all has been heard is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Jesus affirmed to His disciples:

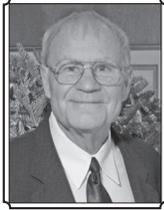
*Peace I leave with you; My Peace I give to you;
not as the world gives do I give to you.*

Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

(John 14:27)

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PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGH OUT ALL THE LAND
UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF.
(Leviticus 25:10, the Jubilee)
(inscribed on the Liberty Bell)



Peace in Christ's Liberty,

Gerald Christian Nordskog
Constitution Day, September 17, 2016

ENDNOTES

Scripture quotes in The Publisher's Word are from: *The Founders' Bible: the Origin of the Dream of Freedom*, NASB, Signature Historian David Barton of WallBuilders; Brad Cummings and Lance Wubbels, Editors. Newbury Park, CA: Shiloh Road Publishers, LLC, 2012.

*"America: A Bible Nation," article from *The Founders' Bible*, pp. ix-xiv; (taken from earlier original sources).

***They Preached Liberty* by Liberty Press (imprint of Liberty Fund, Inc., 7440 North Shadeland, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250), LCCN: 76-26327; (taken from earlier original sources).