

Constitution Day Prayer Guide

Southern Wesleyan University

Central, SC

September 17, 2013

Constitution Day is a day designated by the federal government to commemorate the signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787. Events are planned across the nation that will call our attention to the significant contributions this document has made in our country and around the world (for more information on these events please see www.constitutionday.com).

In addition to reflection on our democratic heritage, this occasion affords us an opportunity to pray for our country in some specific ways. Below you will find the Preamble to the Constitution (the full text may be found at www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html). Following the Preamble are suggestions for prayer and scripture passages for reflection. Please use this guide today or this week in your personal devotions as we give thanks and petition God for our nation.

Praying Through the Preamble of the Constitution for the United States of America

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Suggestions for Prayer

We - As part of the "We," ask God to show you how you can become more actively involved in making your country better. *Matthew 5:13-16*

The people - The United States is a democracy in which the "people" have a say in what happens. Thank God for that right and pray for those nations where people are powerless to effect change. *Micah 6:8*

Of the United States - Our country was founded on principles of freedom, democracy, and equal rights. Pray that this country would stay true to those principles and that citizens like you would have the courage to speak out and take action when it drifts. *Ephesians 4:14,15*

In order to form a more perfect union - There are rifts in our country between rich and poor, black and white, young and old, Christian and non-Christian, conservative and liberal, and the list goes on. Pray for our "union" that we might always be united though we may have differences. *Galatians 3:28*

Establish justice - Though our constitution establishes important structures and protections designed to ensure justice, the system is often flawed and sometimes corrupt. Pray that God would defend the falsely accused and protect the downtrodden from injustice. *Amos 5:11-15*

Insure domestic tranquility - People long for peace and a quiet place in which to live a full life. Pray for peace in our homes, our cities, our nation and in this world. *Leviticus 26:6*

Provide for the common defense - It seems our country and the life we enjoy is often under attack. Our service men and women are sent to remote places to ensure that we are protected. Pray for those in harm's way who are defending our country. Pray also for a swift end to the conflicts that place them in jeopardy. *Matthew 5:43-48*

Promote the general welfare - Even in such a land of plenty, there are many who are unemployed; many who go hungry and homeless; many who are crushed by almost unbearable burdens. Pray for help and relief. Pray for their "welfare." Pray about the role you might play in bringing help to those suffering around you. *Matthew 25:31-46*

And secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity - The "blessings of Liberty" are not an unconditional guarantee. Never can they be taken for granted. In countless ages and in many, many other countries, these blessings can't be found. Ask God to show you your role in securing those blessings for the next generation. *2 Chronicles 7:14*

Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America - The constitution sets forth how the government of the United States should work. It establishes a Congress, a President, and an independent court system. It stipulates what government can and can't do. It guarantees basic treasured rights. This system has worked well for over 200 years. Pray for our leaders in each branch of government who have sworn an oath to "faithfully execute" the duties of their respective offices and to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." *1 Timothy 1:1,2*

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