

While recently reading from the writings of our country's founding fathers and their contemporaries, I reflected on their capacity for profound analyses. Their substantive reasonings were further elevated by their skills of articulation. It was a refreshing departure from self-promoting sophistic rhetoric of many modern political persons.

Many of these early leaders were self or home educated, rather than the product of any formal academic process. Yet, their mental clarity was not grounded in education alone. It was augmented by their *intention* to assess important issues within a holistic and circumspect framework, along with a mature self-control over their own idealistic passions, evidenced in how many so often promoted 'truth and reason' above personal ambitions.

Although there are found numerous occasions of baser expression, there was a fountain of verbal (subsequently captured in print) and written propagations, that mirror Solomon's expression: "A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold set within a picture [engraving or relief] of silver" (Pr. 25:11).

Their affinity to honest debate, particularly in the post-revolution pre-republic period, often (although not always) focused on a more honest representation of antagonistic views – as characteristic of many of articles within *The Federalist Papers* – and often resisted the base use of polemic hyperbole. Very shortly following the creation of the Republic, factionist polarizations made this a rarity even up through the present time.

The Christian vision of the perfect country comes to us through Jesus Christ from Scripture. It describes an eternal country with citizens having eternal and harmonious membership. Its policies are not grounded in humanist worldviews, but in God's heavenly knowledge that is made available to all humankind through the power and revelation of the Holy Spirit.

The assurance of its imminent appearance comes to us by faith, removing any desperation to bitterly contend to 'force it to take place', which differentiates it from the aspirations of politicians and worldly governments. The Kingdom of God is a greater government, much more worthy of passionate promotion than is any earthly one (Heb. 11:16).

Let us strive to grow in our ability to explain what the Kingdom of God is about and why we believe in it (1 Pe. 3:15) and why we are willing to suffer to enter it. Through prayer, meditation and study, seek understanding from the Spirit of Truth (Jn. 16:13). We owe it to God, ourselves, our children and others to increase our understanding of, and subsequently our abilities to explain why we believe in Christ and hold to Christian values (1 Pe. 3:15; 2 Ti. 2:24), which identify us as citizens of God's heavenly country. "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that is not ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Ti. 2:15-16). Seek it (endeavor), ask for and receive it (Mt. 7:7).