I think there are two reasons and they are closely united, closely related. The first of these is our loyalty -- I shouldn't say ours perhaps, because it was the founders of the nation -- their loyalty to God and His Word. This nation was founded by people who desired to have a nation where they could make the Word of God stand at the very center of their plan and of their arrangements, for the country.

Von Holtz, the noted German constitutional historian said, A civil war is usually the most bloody and barbarious type of war there is, but he said, the American Civil War was different from any civil war in history. Because, he said, both sides said if we can be shown from the Word of God we are wrong we will give up what we are fighting for. Both sides made that claim. In the course of the war though there were atrocities as there are in all wars, both recognized that the laws of civilized warfar were better followed by both sides than perhaps by any === in any civil war in all history.

There was an attitude toward the Word of God that characterized our nation from its foundation; it was not universal by any means. There were wicked people here as there are everywhere but Charles Dickens who hated this country because they (it) did not given him royalties on his books which he felt he was entitled to and wrote sneeringly about the U.S., nevertheless in his account of his American trip about 130 yrs. ago, he said that in the U.S a woman could walk through any street at any time of day or night without the slightest fear that anyone would think of molesting her. That's hard to imagine today, but that was the impression Dickens got after several months in this country where there was so much he disliked, but he was impressed by that. This country has been greatly blessed of God because it was founded by those who desired to put Him first.

Of course the Pilgrim Fathers are the ones best known but they are not the only ones by any means. There were various groups that came to this country for that reason and settled in different portions of the country.

But there is a second reason why this country has become so oppulent, and this second is related to the first. This second is the fact that people reading the Bible saw in the Bible the rights of the individual. They saw the right of the individual not to be controlled in all his life by a government, but to use his God-given ability to figure out the best way to make progress. I don't know to how many of the original settlers this was a clear factor in their minds but it was a real factor in their activities.

Take the case of the Pilgrim Fathers. They had left England and gone over to Holland not because England was not a place where you could hear the Gospel preached. At that time when they went to Holland King James was just about to order the making of the KJV.

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