

Sunday, July 3, 2022

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better. —Albert Camus

Scott Powell, Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute in Seattle, reports that most people are unaware that when the 56 members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, “they were in fact signing their death warrants.” The British regarded the declaration as treason, and the penalty was death.

This is why the identities of the signers, except for John Hancock and Charles Thomson, were withheld from the public for more than six months. Powell continues: “What prompted the Continental Congress to begin displaying all 56 signatories of the Declaration can be traced to Washington’s determination and success three months later at the Battle of Trenton in December 1776 ... Perceiving this a miracle and harbinger of more victories to come, and perhaps with apparent taking to heart of the last sentence in the Declaration that ‘with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor,’ the Continental Congress ...began posting the fully-signed copies of the Declaration throughout the 13 colonies in January, 1777.”

Our forebears of 246 years ago “placed everything on the line and trusted the Almighty for the results.” Powell cites the eminent British historian, Paul Johnson, who observed: “The Americans were overwhelmingly churchgoing, much more so than the English, whose rule they rejected. There is no question that the Declaration of Independence was, to those who signed it, a religious as well as a secular act.”

Today, we are blessed as a nation, although we are not perfect. We still strive for fairness and justice. We still try to lift up the fallen and give hope to the downtrodden. I firmly believe that most Americans would give their neighbors or even a stranger the shirts off their backs. Yet, we also know that the struggle for freedom continues, and it should never stop. Only in a great country does such a quest endure.

—Timothy Merrill

—For the entire article by Scott S. Powell, go to: “The little known story of the Declaration of Independence,” *American Thinker*, americanthinker.com, July 3, 2017.

Prayer: O God, today I give thanks for the freedoms I enjoy. Help me to enjoy this freedom responsibly, and to always be respectful of others. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Acts 1-2
- Monday:** Isaiah 25-27
- Tuesday:** Isaiah 28-30
- Wednesday:** Isaiah 31-33
- Thursday:** Isaiah 34-36
- Friday:** Isaiah 37-39
- Saturday:** Psalms 70-72



July 2022						
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31						



“I before E except after C”

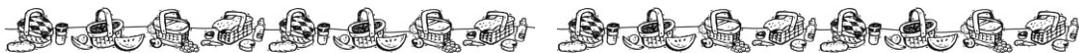
This is a spelling rule we learned when we were children. Yet, there are many exceptions to this rule. Unscramble the words below to reveal words that are exceptions to the “I before E except after C” rule.

1. In the following words, the I is before the E even though it follows a C. Unscramble the words to reveal the exceptions to the rule.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| nseecci _____ | ffeitecn _____ | octsyie _____ |
| lrcaige _____ | fniedtice _____ | cfiuitsefn _____ |
| nicntea _____ | ioncceens _____ | |

2. In these examples, the I is NOT before the E, but there’s no C involved whatsoever! Unscramble the words to reveal these exceptions to the rule.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| ehibnorg _____ | wighe _____ | iydte _____ |
| tetsiha _____ | gieeb _____ | roifeng _____ |
| tighwe _____ | szrieuu _____ | fecenfai _____ |
| rehite _____ | geithh _____ | ienr _____ |



ANSWERS: 1. nseecci=science; ffeitecn=efficient; octsyie=society; lrcaige=glacier; fniedtice=deficient; cfiuitsefn=sufficient; nicntea=ancient; ioncceens=conscience. 2. ehibnorg=neighbor; wighe=weigh; iydte=deity; tetsiha=atheist; gieeb=beige; roifeng=foreign; tighwe=weight; szrieuu=seizure; fecenfai=caffeine; rehite=either; geithh=height; ienr=rein.

Six things seniors can do to improve memory

1. Get better organized.
2. Make a special effort to pay attention, concentrate.
3. Eat well. Make certain you have a balanced diet.
4. Exercise the body.
5. Exercise the memory.
6. Get plenty of sleep.

—Adapted from “Six things seniors can do to improve memory,” by William Klemm, Ph.D., a senior professor of Neuroscience at Texas A&M University. (*Psychology Today*, November 26, 2010).