

Weekly Posting of the Conservative Cow Doctor

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Tyranny v. Freedom

America is fighting three wars—two in the Middle East and one here at home. Sadly, we are losing the one on American soil. If you are a skimmer of the news, you may have missed the numerous subtle victories of tyranny over freedom and blissfully think tomorrow, next week, and next year will be just like yesterday. You are wrong. America is about to change because compromise and consensus are championed as the new ideal. Exactly when compromise, a submissive technique, became honorable is unknown, but it certainly wasn't favored in colonial times. Our founders passionately understood the battle for liberty and never dreamed of compromising a little bit of freedom in exchange for just a little bit of tyranny. To the contrary, the tougher things became, the more patriots held to principle. America needed men of conviction then, and she desperately needs them again today.

It appeared all was lost in December of 1776 when Tom penned the words, "Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated". In *American Crisis*, Tom was making the point God didn't say freedom would be easy, only worth it and his timely message forever changed world history.

Tom's first paper, *Common Sense*, laid the groundwork for colonists to break free from the chains of British tyranny and he was one of the first patriots to take up arms in our War for Independence. As an aid to General Greene, Tom was with the Continental Army during their tough three month retreat through New Jersey, and into Pennsylvania the fall of 1776. From a force of 12,000 in August, by December, death, desertion and dysentery had shriveled Washington's Army to a rag-tag cluster of 2500 starving and exhausted patriots. Colonists, who cheered every minuteman packing a musket to New York earlier that summer, now stood deathly quiet as Tom and these unrecognizable, emaciated soldiers staggered back to the west. The endless days in the mud and slop had rotted their leather boots and many wrapped their feet in burlap and rope to march in the snow and ice. It wasn't easy being a patriot.

With a British victory nearly certain, many colonists began siding with the crown; in every war there is a winning side and they wanted on it. Had it not been for Tom, tyranny might have prevailed. Guided by the hand of God, Thomas Paine, using a drum head as a writing desk, penned the words of the *American Crisis* on December 23rd, 1776. Seeing Tom's essay spark the passion for liberty in his emaciated soldiers, General

Washington bet all his chips on a Christmas Day surprise attack across the icy Delaware River. Fighting with divine inspiration, the starving American patriots overwhelmed the well fed, well equipped and highly disciplined Hessian forces. America was victorious because ordinary patriots—true uncompromising patriots—did extraordinary things and this brings me to my point.

Conviction to principle and one's oath of office are nearly non-existent today in Washington. Last week, our US Congress further shackled us under a growing, tyrannical federal government when they raised the debt ceiling. By a vote of 74 to 26 in the US Senate, and 269 to 161 in the US House, politicians have compromised away the very freedom gifted us by those 2500 starving American patriots on that Christmas Day in '76. I'm a wordsmith, yet I can't find the words to express my disgust. Every single Representative or Senator who supported this bill must be removed from office at the next election—every one of them. It won't be easy, only worth it. The restoration of our great American republic must begin with you, because it won't begin with anyone else.