

Winter History & Heritage -- #7 (Feb. 10)

All Men Are Born Unequal (with Natural Duties) --- (teacher's remarks)

This affirmation, together with man's fall into sin, is basic to the traditionalist-conservative outlook on life? Conservatives believe particular variations of nature and circumstance derived from birth—ethnic group, sex, family, culture, native land—largely determine the particular variations of identity, estate, and destiny we witness in this world. Thus, conservatives say that, subject to changes our will and work effect, we are ordinarily born to who we are, to what is ours, and to what we are meant to be and do.

All Men Are Created Equal (with Natural Rights) --- (teacher's remarks)

This proposition, together with man's essential goodness, is basic to the classical-liberal outlook on life? Liberals believe a universal right to self-determination—derived from our common created humanity—takes precedence over the particular and variable circumstances of birth and should decide any differences of identity, estate, and destiny in a just world. Thus, liberals say that, no matter what we're born with, we still will and work our way to who we are, to what is ours, and to what we can be and do.

Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom - (Grant; *Christian Almanac*, Jan. 16)

This 1786 Virginia law, authored by Jefferson and advocated by Madison, secured the equal religious rights of all believers and communities of faith in the State? It took a long seven years for the bill disestablishing the Anglican Church as a state-sanctioned body to pass the Old Dominion's legislature. For Jefferson, it was one of his finest achievements, and, in the final analysis, the VA statute proved a prototype for the religious restraints imposed on the U.S. by the Bill of Rights (1st Amendment).

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. --- (teacher's remarks)

This Baptist minister and civil rights activist (1929--1968) is presently the only individual American in whose honor a national holiday exists? Highlights of his career include the Montgomery bus boycott (1955), his "I Have A Dream" speech (1963), his "Letter From A Birmingham Jail" (1963), and the Selma voting rights march (1965). His revered legacy, despite severe personal moral failings, is one of non-violent revolution for equality's sake via mass protests and federally-mandated reparations for minorities.

Worldview --- (Grant/Wilbur; *Christian Almanac*, Dec. 18)

This term encompasses man's basic beliefs about himself and his surroundings, a way of seeing things by which he tries to make sense of his experience? The term was used by evangelical author Francis Schaeffer (1912--1984) in several of his books, including *A Christian Manifesto*, to call attention to the deeper source of the disorder plaguing the West. Christians, wrote Schaeffer, were combatting this or that social ill (abortion, pornography, etc.) without realizing the need for a total renewal of the cultural mindset.

(sources for the summaries are indicated; any errors of judgment belong to Mr. Zaffini, Veritas history teacher and writer of this blog for his students & families)