

Emotion without knowledge is just noise but applied knowledge can be very powerful. Hopefully over the next several meetings I can transfer as much knowledge as I can about the Constitution. The more we know about the constitution the better prepared we are to ask questions of our leaders and of those who seek to be leaders. I will start by painting a little bit about the historical setting leading up to the writing of the constitution. It's important for us to understand what was happening and why the founders did some of the things they did or didn't do.

This material comes from several sources but primarily two documents "The Making of America" published by The National Center for Constitutional Studies – NCCS.NET and The United States Constitution published by our Founding Fathers.

Most Americans have read or heard the preamble to the Constitution it's 52 of most powerful words ever written. But few of us know what was behind those words let alone what the 7 articles and 27 amendments really mean. 222 years ago the founding Fathers had great difficulty in getting the people to assume the responsibilities of freedom and self government – now we find ourselves having to fight to get back those very things because WE THE PEOPLE gave them away. Thomas Jefferson, in the final years of his life said "Preserve inviolate the Constitution. Which if cherished in all its chasity and purity will prove to be a blessing to all."

I'd like you all to see a virtual line going from the tip of my hand (your left ) to the tip of my other hand (your right) This line is LAW – on the left is Tyranny or Ruler's Law – Kings, Pharaohs, Dictators etc – the other extreme is anarchy or No Law – Somoila , France during the French Revolution, Russia – what happens in many of those situations? Someone comes along Napoleon and says "Hey I'll be your leader" What do they become – a return to Ruler's Law . In the middle – or balanced center we have the People's Law.

The founding Fathers knew what Ruler's Law was all about and they were starting to get a little taste of No Law after the Revolution so they looked for examples of something in the middle "People's Law" in the form of elected – by the people

answerable to the people representative form of government. Where do you think they found it? Would you believe in the BIBLE? Specifically in Exodus 18

Moses had led 3,000,000 Israelites out of Egypt – he was their ruler and it was driving him crazy – all day, every day people lined up with their problems finally his Father-in-law said “Son there’s got to be a better way” they came up with a system of representatives and layers – leaders of families , groups of families and finally the council of 70 reporting to Moses – most things got handled at the local level – only the really big stuff got to Moses.

Ever read or heard these words? “Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all inhabitants thereof” it’s cast into the top of the Liberty Bell but comes from Leviticus 25:10 – THESE are just two of many examples of how the founding fathers used the Bible and religion as an integral part of our nation –

Next time we’ll set the stage about what was happening in America leading up to the writing of the Constitution