



JULY 4, 1776.

# United States of America.

United

...to dissolve the political bands which have  
... God entitle them; a decent respect  
to the rights of the People to alter or to  
reform their Government, is one of the  
most sacred of their rights. That  
whenever any Form of Government becomes  
destructive to these ends, it is the Right of the  
People to alter or to abolish it, and to  
institute new Government.

The history of  
To prove that  
Government is just

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112-11  
and for

JULY 4, 1776.

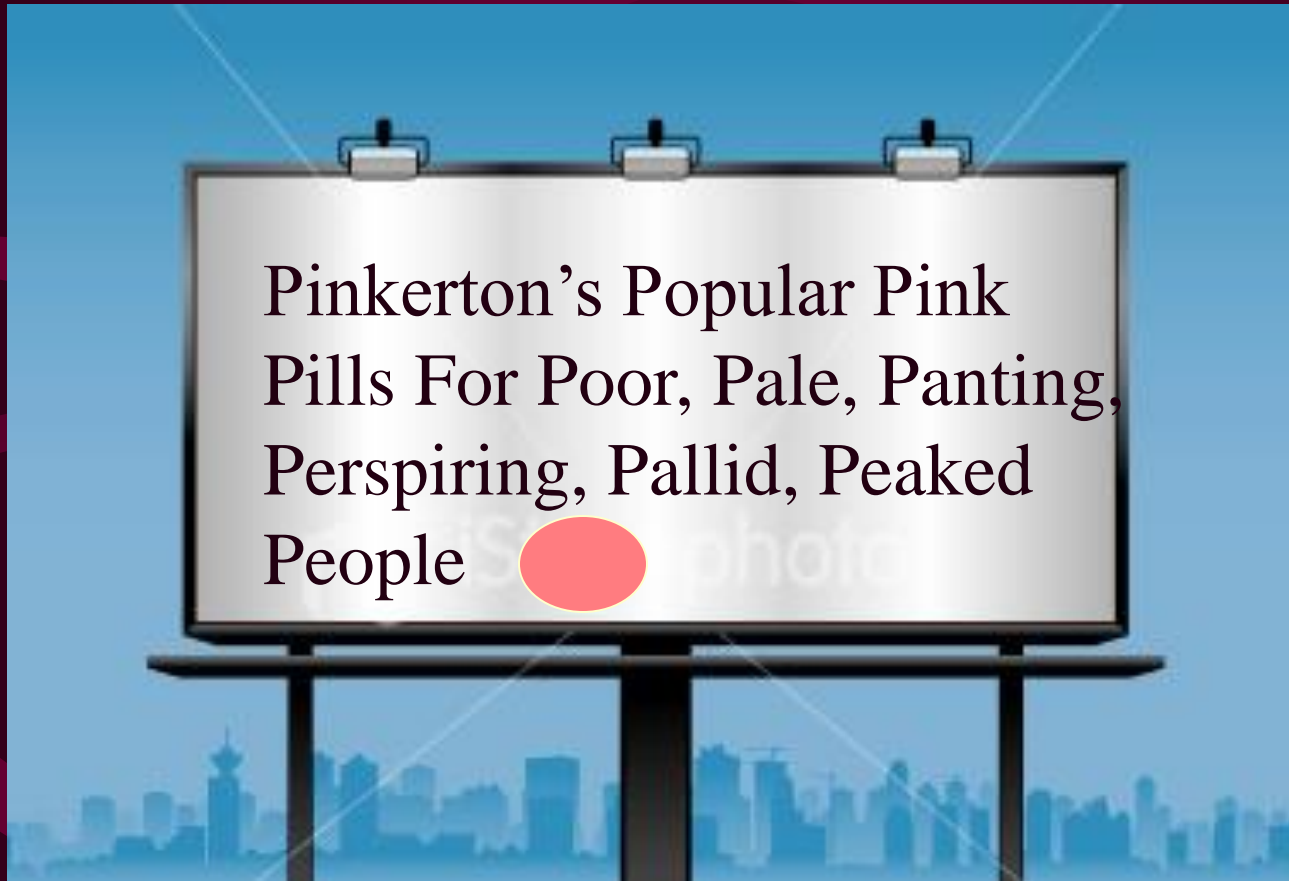
States of America.

**“...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalterable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”**

The desire for happiness is a universal trait



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But much of what men call happiness is  
fleeting, transitory, illusionary

- It is not enduring
  - (**Matt. 6:19**) “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”

# But much of what men call happiness is fleeting, transitory, illusionary

- It is uncertain
  - **(I Tim. 6:17)** “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”



# But much of what men call happiness is fleeting, transitory, illusionary

- It passes away swiftly
  - (**Ecc. 1:17-18**) “And I set my mind to know **wisdom** and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind. Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain.

# But much of what men call happiness is fleeting, transitory, illusionary

- It passes away swiftly
  - (**Ecc. 2:1-3**) I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with **pleasure**. So enjoy yourself." And behold, it too was futility. I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?" I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.

# But much of what men call happiness is fleeting, transitory, illusionary

- It passes away swiftly
  - (**Ecc. 2:11**) Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the **labor** which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

# But much of what men call happiness is fleeting, transitory, illusionary

- It passes away swiftly
  - (**Ecc. 5:10-11**) He who loves **money** will not be satisfied with **money**, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on?

# But much of what men call happiness is fleeting, transitory, illusionary

- It passes away swiftly
  - (**Ecc. 5:14-15**) When those **riches** were lost through a bad investment and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing to support him. As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand.

# What, then, is the secret of real happiness and joy?

- (**I John 1:4**) “These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.”
- (**Acts 5:40-42**) “They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.”

**The Joy of Being  
a Christian**

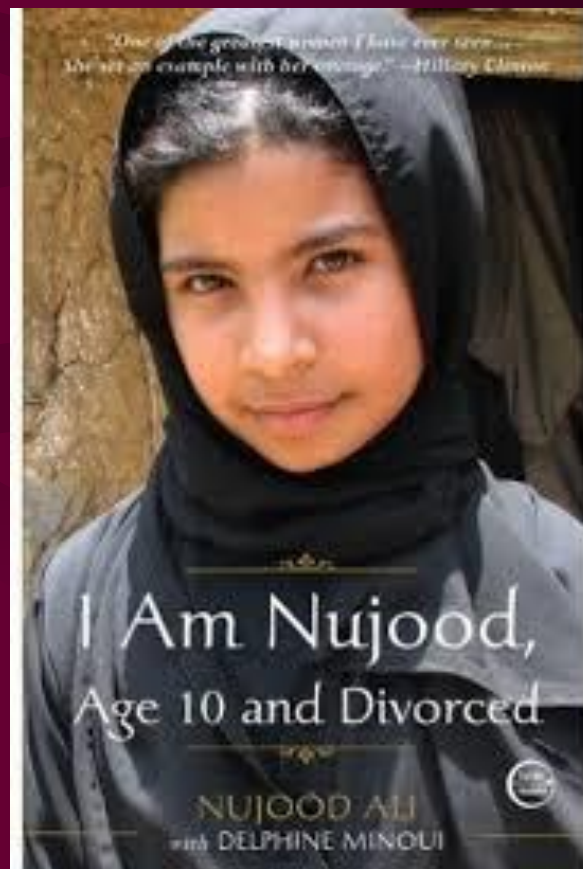
There is Joy in the *present* as the  
result of being a Christian



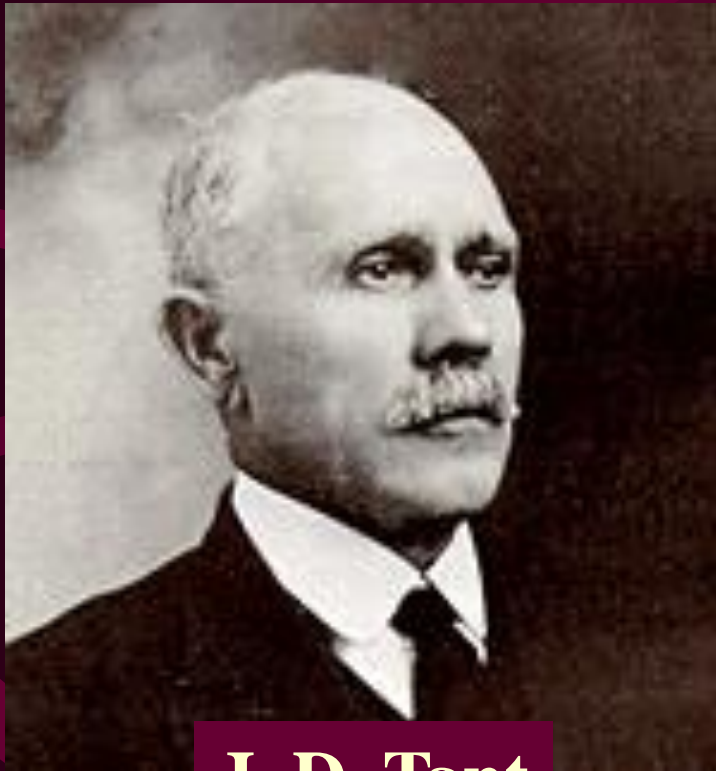
There is joy in wearing the  
name of Christ

# Man/Woman of the Year

# Man/Woman of the Year



# Family Names



**J. D. Tant**



**Yater Tant**

# There is honor in wearing the name of God's own Son

- (**Isa. 62:2**) “The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name Which the mouth of the LORD will designate.”

# There is joy in wearing the name of Christ

- **(I Peter 4:12-16)** “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation...

# There is joy in wearing the name of Christ

- ...If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”

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There is warmth in the  
knowledge of being loved



# There is warmth in the knowledge of being loved

- (**John 3:16**) “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes on him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”



# What a blessing we have in possessing self-respect

- (**Col. 3:10**) “and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him”

# The Christian knows he is important to God

- (**John 3:16**) “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes on him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

# The Christian is happy in being useful and busy

- (**Gal. 5:14**) For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

Can a person be honored, loved,  
possessed of self-respect, accepted  
as important, and be useful and  
busy, and not be happy?

There is joy in *reflection* as the  
result of being a Christian

# Christianity spares looking back on a misspent life with regret

God pity them both, and pity us all,  
Who vainly the dreams of youth recall.  
For of all sad words of tongue or pen,  
The saddest are these, “It might have been”  
(*John Greenleaf Whittier* in Maud Muller)



But Christianity gives comfort,  
courage and a sense of satisfaction

- (**Acts 22:16**) “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”

# But Christianity gives comfort, courage and a sense of satisfaction

- (**II Tim. 4:6-7**) “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith”

# But Christianity gives comfort, courage and a sense of satisfaction

- (**Ecc. 11:9-12:1**) “Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting...”

# But Christianity gives comfort, courage and a sense of satisfaction

- ...Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them"

There is joy in *anticipation* as the  
result of being a Christian

How happy we can be in  
contemplating things to come



# So can the Christian look forward anxiously to heaven

- **(II Tim. 4:6-8)** “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

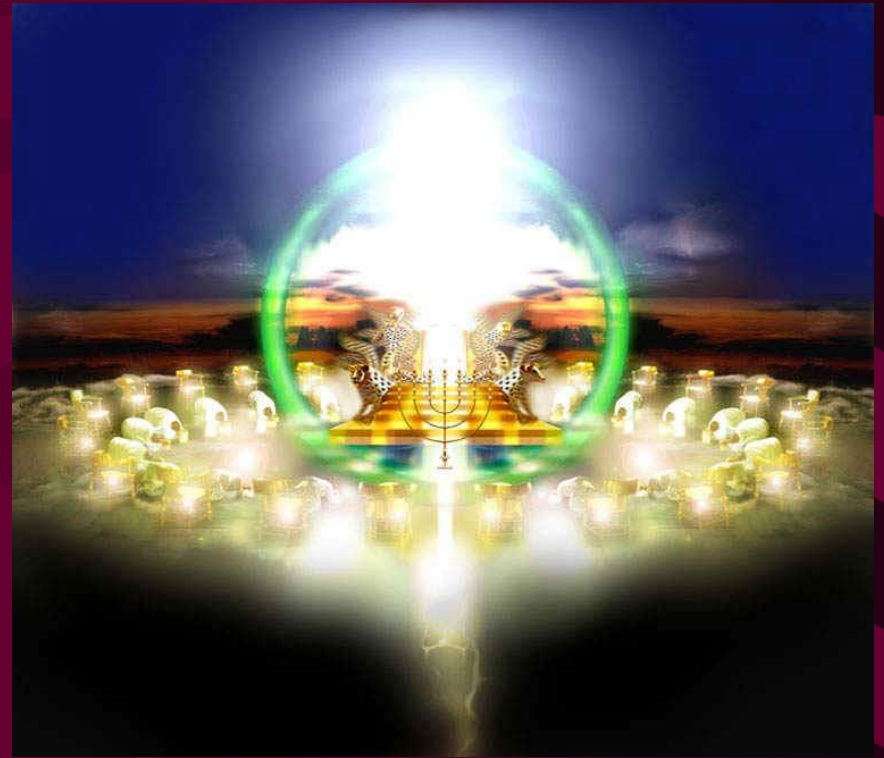
# So can the Christian look forward anxiously to heaven

- (**Phil. 1:23**) “But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better.”
- (**Isa. 35:10**) “And the ransomed of the LORD will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.”



# So can the Christian look forward anxiously to heaven

- (**Rev. 7:15-17**) “For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them...



# So can the Christian look forward anxiously to heaven

- ...They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

# So can the Christian look forward anxiously to heaven

- “As I come nearer the river’s brink, I am fighting harder and trying to do more that God may welcome me, than ever before. Only a few more miles and I shall rejoice to see the other side.

**(J. D. Tant, *Gospel X-Ray*)**



# So can the Christian look forward anxiously to heaven

Who can have a living hope of a resurrection from the dead and of an eternal place of honor and service in the presence of God, of joining in his praises, and of being with the good and redeemed of all ages, **without being happy?**

There is a key to all these  
lasting joys...

# Submitting to the will of God!

- (**Matt. 7:21**) “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

# God offers the only genuine happiness and lasting joy

- (**John 10:10**) "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
- (**Psalms 16:11**) "You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

# But this comes only through following His Word

- (**John 14:6**) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."



- “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he that does not believe will be condemned.”  
(**Mark 16:16**)

