

Rewriting History – Debunking the Lies You’ve Always Been Told About America w/TimB @wallbuilders

July 24, 2026

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, there was a saying in the old Soviet Union; it went like this. The future is known. The past is always changing. The past is always changing. How so? Because if you can control what people think about the past, you can control what happens in the future. If you can get people to believe that your country was uniquely evil in the past, then you can get people today to believe that we should just tear the whole country down right now.

Because you see, your country created too many victims. So we need a revolution. We need to tear it down and start over. Is that really true about America? What do you really know about American history? Because I think so many of us know very little about American history. Is there anything unique or special about the form of government we have in America?

Or is it like this everywhere? And just our country is uniquely evil because, you know, we had slavery. And didn't American white people invent slavery? I mean, we've been told that America is evil because it was built on the backs of slaves. Is that really true? Now obviously no nation is perfect. Every nation is made of sinners.

Our founders were sinners, like founders of every country. And our leaders today are Sinners. We're all sinners. But what is the real story of American history? Why does it appear, American history is always changing, according to some people. What we hope to unpack here or to expose here are the lies you've been told about American history.

Not because America is sinless. It's not. But is it as bad as people say it was? Well, we're going to dive in by looking at original documents today. And there's nobody better in America to dive into the original documents than a man who has more original documents in a private collection than any other person in the world.

And that is my friend Tim Barton, all the way from Aledo, Texas ladies and gentlemen, The great Tim Barton. And if you're familiar. Shut up, crowd. If you're familiar with the name Barton, it's because Tim is the son of the great David Barton, who, when I was going through seminary, had



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written so many great books on the founding of America, that Tim is now following in his father's footsteps.

Tim, this is the first time on the I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist podcast. Thanks for being here.

TIM:

Frank, my pleasure. I'm so honored to be with you today.

FRANK:

Well, I'm honored to have you. I mean, I follow a lot what my friend Josh Howerton is doing, and I saw you had a recent podcast with him on some of the same questions we're going to cover today, but some other, other additional questions. And I thought you did such a great job on Josh's show that I said, I got to get Tim on here to expose what you're doing to our audience.

First, let's go back to the origin of all this. Your dad has been writing books and collecting original documents from the founding of America for many years. Tell us about your collection.

TIM:

Yeah. So starting in the 1980s, my dad, at the time, was a high school principal. It was actually his church were starting a Christian school.

They wanted him to be the principal of it. And he was reviewing curriculum and ends up, in the midst of a review, he reads George Washington's Farewell Address. And he had grown up learning how bad the founding fathers were, that these weren't religious men, that they really secular, immoral guys. And he read George Washington's Farewell Address, where George Washington acknowledges that religion and morality are the indispensable supports of political prosperity.

And he went, wait a second. That sounds like George Washington is saying we need more religion and morality. Which, of course, he was. But my dad thought, I've never heard this about the Founding Fathers, I wonder what else there is. So back in the 1980s, he started doing a deep dive, trying to find more original documents. Back then, there was not quite the demand for them there is today, that people didn't recognize the value of them.

So he started gathering as many as he could with a very limited budget he had, and we have been collecting literally since the 1980s, before there was an Internet, before people were able

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to look up and find out who somebody was. He was doing the deep dive. And we now have personally about 100,000 items, the majority of them from before 1812. It's considered the largest private collection of original documents from the founding era.

We have handwritten documents from every single signer of the Declaration, every single signer of the Constitution, every single president. Although when we got something from Joe Biden, I did raise the question, do we think he signed it, or was there an auto pen involved? I don't know. But, yeah, it's absolutely incredible that God's allowed us to collect this. And so we just spent time. Instead of saying, you know, what does some academic or professor think about this?

We say, well, what do the Founding Fathers actually write, say, and do? And we go back to the original documents to try to discover that.

FRANK:

Now, so much research today is built on what we call secondary sources. So many professors today will quote somebody else, not the original person who said it, but quote somebody else. And of course, it can get garbled and misinterpreted.

So it's always good to go back to the original source. Now, you say you have over 100,000 of these documents. Are these documents on display somewhere? I mean, can people come see some of these?

TIM:

Yeah. We actually have two museums on display in Texas. One of them, we partnered with Glenn Beck, and he had a nonprofit he started called Mercury One. They have an educational wing called the American Journey Experience.

And so some of our collection, it's a collaborative collection with Glenn Beck and with American Journey Experience, it's on display over in the Dallas area. People can come down. It's open every day for tours. And then at Wall Builders, we're on the west side of Fort Worth, and we also do tours a couple times a week that people can sign up and come see the collection. And, Frank, we're very different than most museums. We believe people should be able to handle, hold, and experience part of history.

So, for example, I think in our collection, we have about 13 muskets from the Revolution. So when you come, we let you hold actual muskets from the American Revolution, cannonballs

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from the Revolution. We'll let you hold letters from the Founding Fathers. And of course we take the precautions, and you got to wash your hands and hold them a certain way or don't hold them a certain way. We do all of that, but we, we want people to actually experience and hold it.

And so when you, for example, hold one of these original prayer proclamations or one of these letters, and we're like, hey, read this part right here. And you read it and it's expressly, explicitly Christian. And then someone later in your life is going to say, well, you know, none of the founding fathers were Christians. You can say, actually I held a document from whoever it was you had that day. Charles Carroll, right, picked your person. John Hancock, Sam Adams.

And this is what the document said. And so we want people to come, not just hear from some academic or some historic researcher. We want people to come see for themselves, discover the truth for themselves. So we have two museums in the Dallas-Fort Worth area where they can do that.

FRANK:

That's amazing. WallBuilders.com Is that correct? Is that the website?

TIM:

Yes, sir.

FRANK:

WallBuilders.com. Check it out there.

Now, Tim, we're going to get into some pretty spicy questions on this podcast and we're probably going to move into a second podcast after this for the midweek. But many of the claims that have been made that we hear and we've been taught either in school or just in the culture is that, let's go back to the beginning with Christopher Columbus, evil guy.

When we got to the founding of our nation, it's not a Christian nation. It was really comprised of deists, and the founders were deists. I mean, the Jefferson Bible cut out miracles from the Bible. Franklin claimed to be a deist, and the Treaty of Tripoli says we were never a Christian nation. So I don't know why you Christians run around saying we were a Christian nation. And then, many of these guys, maybe all of them, were slave owners, and it was American white people that started slavery, Tim.

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And not only that, America's on stolen land. Okay, you heard Billie Eilish, whatever her name was at one of the Oscar presentations or something. I mean, we're on stolen land. The natives were peace-loving and we're evil because we killed so many of those natives. And we shouldn't be very proud of our, of our country at all.

In fact, we got to tear the whole thing down. So answer all that. Just before the break, you have 30 seconds, Tim.

TIM:

Well, you know, Frank, that seems so easy. It's no problem.

FRANK:

That's right. You're going to do it from original documents once we get into this. But we'll, we'll start after the break, with Christopher Columbus. But give us just 20 seconds on what the 1619 Project was.

TIM:

Yeah, I mean, the 1619 Project came out in 2019, a New York Times, really kind of their big publication. And the whole premise was America's evil because we were founded and built on slavery and therefore burned the whole thing down. Was totally incorrect. But you got to know the truth to know that's a lie.

FRANK:

That's what we're going to cover right out of the break. We'll start with Christopher Columbus. Then we'll move into questions like that.

And weren't they all deists and unbelievers and all this? Wasn't the Enlightenment really the founding of America? We'll cover it all with the great Tim Barton of wallbuilders.com. I'm Frank Turek. Don't go anywhere. Back right after the break.

Ladies and gentlemen, the future is known. The past is always changing. If you're a historical revisionist, you can control what people think about their past. So they'll do what you want in the future. And we're here to show you from original documents, really what the history of America was. The good, the bad, and the ugly.

But let's go back to the founding of this continent, by the Europeans, or at least the European founding of the continent by Christopher Columbus. You know, when I was growing up, Tim,

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Christopher Columbus generally was considered to be a good guy. We had Columbus Day, October 12th, and all this. But Christopher Columbus has been given a bad rap. What do people say about Christopher Columbus?

What's true about it and what isn't?

TIM:

Yeah, I mean, really, Frank, starting in the 1980s, when Howard Zinn did his book, *The History of the American People*, Howard Zinn was an academic who took a very Marxist approach and said basically, everything you think you know about America is wrong, because all of the people that we've celebrated for hundreds and hundreds of years actually weren't good. And Howard Zinn started telling these stories.

And so, for example, with Columbus, that Columbus actually wasn't a brilliant navigator, that he was actually a racist monster, that he came and enslaved and murdered and did all these awful things to natives. And now Howard Zinn goes on to talk about lots of other founding fathers. But almost everything we talked about in the first segment where you just kind of alluded to, all of the bad things about America, Howard Zinn's the one that really popularized those in the modern culture.

And unfortunately, a lot of Christians have believed a lot of these lies. And I mean, not even just Christians, everybody largely going through the academic system has believed these lies because we don't know what the truth is. And so if you just quickly look at the truth of, like, for example, Columbus, when someone says, well, Columbus is this racist monster who enslaved the natives, I always like to start with the question of, well, when did Columbus do that?

And usually. And Frank, you enjoy this on college campuses, getting to talk to students and ask questions, right? Usually the answer is, well, when he came to America. And I go, well, which voyage are you talking about? And they're like, well, it's one to America. And I'm like, right, he had more than one voyage. And most people don't remember, or they never learned. And why it matters is because if you don't even know there's more than one voyage, and you sure don't know what happened on what voyages and the context behind some of it.

So, real quick, Columbus had four voyages to America, and there's even background on this that the only reason he's coming to America is back up a couple hundred years. You have Marco Polo, who discovers the Silk Road. When Europeans start trading with people over in Asia, and,

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you know, people over in Western Europe have discovered, like, cinnamon and these amazing spices, and they're like, this is the best thing ever.

They start these incredible trade routes. And at that point, you have the Ottoman Turks that get involved in the scene, and they go, there's these trade wagons that are coming across land right in front of us. It's basically like a grocery store delivering to our backyard. Let's just go raid and take all of these loaded caravans of wagons. And so the Ottomans begin attacking the trade on the Silk Road.

This interrupts the trade. But people from Asia, people from Western Europe, they're going, we want to continue the trade. How do we do this? This starts a lot of the. The sailing expeditions, the voyages that led to some of those trade routes. And so Columbus is a mariner; he's from Italy. And the Italians were great mariners. They were great men of the sea. He thinks, instead of having to go south around Africa or north around, right, Asia, what is now Russia getting all the way.

Excuse me. Around Europe, past Russia getting all the way to Asia. He says, we know the Earth is a globe. Why don't we just sail west and we'll come up to Asia? Now, this matters a lot for context, because as Columbus finally gets approval for a voyage from the king and queen of Spain, they give him what they say was enough to fund a meager expedition of three ships because it was really an exploring party just to see, is this real?

Can you really go west and reach Asia? Well, he was going trying to set up a new trade route or a faster trade route. So when he discovers these small islands off the coast of North America, he was looking to set up trade. And he actually writes back to the king and queen and says he's met this tribe and they're amazing people. Part of the letter, he says, or the journal that he gave back to them returned into them, that his was his report to them.

He said that these are gentle, kind people. A better race there cannot be, and we should rejoice that they will soon join us in the Christian faith. So Columbus is thinking they're going to be Christians. Well, that first tribe was the Taino tribe. T A I N O, Taino tribe. And some people say the Taino, but either way, that's who they were. And they actually were very friendly with Columbus.

Columbus had three ships. One of the ships ends up running a ground. They have to leave men behind. They build a little fort. They find some fresh water. And he tells them, we're going to go back and tell the king and queen what we found. This is super exciting. We found this island.

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Nobody's here trading. We can have unhindered trade with all of these natives. And actually, he called them Indians because he thought he was over in Asia —

FRANK:

And in India.

TIM:

Yeah, correct.

He thought he was in India. So these are Indians. And he goes back, tells the king and queen what he discovers. They say, okay, we want you to lead these men back, and we're going to send. I think it was 17 ships, and it was 1200 men that ended up coming back. And Columbus actually tells the king and queen that these are not all honorable men, that they're not befitting the title Christian. I don't think we should bring all of them. And the king and queen says, that's not your job.

Your job is just show them the way back. Columbus leads them on the way back. And one of the things worth noting is before Columbus leaves his men on the original island off of North America, the Taino tell them that they're not the only tribe on the island. And Columbus, in his journal, you can see he's very skeptical, because the Taino told them that there's another tribe here, and this other tribe actually eats people.

And Columbus is like, that's crazy. People don't eat people. Right? This is the 1400s. We're way past cannibalism. Well, he, on this voyage back, second voyage, they land on an adjacent island. He then takes a ship to go back and pick up his men on this original island. And when they get back to the original island, they find that the fort they had built has been destroyed and torn down. They find the bodies of his men lying on the beach, and they've been cannibalized.

So they're missing parts of their body that were eaten by these natives that were there. And so Columbus goes to the only tribe he knows, the Taino tribe. And he says, what happened? And they said, we told you there's another tribe. The other tribe was known as the Caribbes, which is where the word Caribbean comes from. They were also known as the cannibs, which is where the word cannibal comes from. Columbus says, well, where are they? The Taino joined forces with Columbus.

They eventually find one of these villages. And Columbus declares war on this village of men who've already attacked, killed, and eaten his men. So this is not him starting a war. This is him

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going back defensive against this. This village that's actually killed and eaten men. They conquer the village. But this is important because when they conquer the village, they actually don't kill all of the warriors that are in the village.

Some of them surrender, and those are the first ones that Columbus ever approved the enslavement of. And this is where people go, well, Columbus enslaved all the natives, first of all, No, he didn't. And secondly, Columbus only approved, largely speaking, he only approved the enslavement of those that had been captured in what would be considered a justified war. This was a war they didn't start. And in the 1400s, and really for much of human history, if you pick a war with somebody and you lose that war, there's only two options for the losing side.

You are either killed or you are made a slave. And so this is not Columbus being uniquely evil. This is the way it was. But also the context matters, because people go, well, Columbus enslaved all the natives. No, he didn't. And, Frank, this is the point of the story, because I don't want to digress too much by telling all the details of the story. We actually wrote a lot about this in our book, *The American Story: The Beginnings*, where we start with Columbus and go all the way through the American Revolution.

But the point is that when you start looking at the story, it's not that Columbus didn't enslave natives; he did. It's just he didn't do it the way people say. And when you leave out the rest of the story, like who did Columbus enslave? Oh, he enslaved the men that he had just defeated in war after those natives had killed and eaten men he left behind on that island. So there's a totally different context to that story.

So today when people look back at Columbus, it's not that Columbus didn't do things that we might morally look at and go, well, that probably wasn't right. And as you already mentioned, everybody's a sinner in need of a savior. We've all sinned. There's none righteous. No, not one is what the Bible tells us. It's just that Columbus isn't guilty of what he's accused of today. And the reason that he is so demeaned today is largely from Marxist propaganda and worldview that wants to say everybody from the past is evil and should be torn down.

And that's part of how I think ultimately they're taking a position to say we need to get rid of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration. You can't remove those documents if you still honor and venerate the men who gave us those documents. But if all of the men in our founding were evil, then the documents they gave us are fruit of the poisonous tree and therefore get rid of those documents. And the Marxists, they don't want documents that limit the power and control that government has.

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They want the government to be the god of the nation. And I think this is part of their long-term play. They don't want to tell an honest story of history. They want to be dishonest for their own propaganda agenda narrative.

FRANK:

So they can control the future. But I want to reiterate something you said earlier and maybe you can amplify this or correct if I get this wrong. It's ironic that Columbus was heading west to avoid Muslim aggression to the east.

In other words, he probably never would have gone looking for a trade route to India by going west if the Muslims weren't intercepting the trade to his east. And now we have people claiming that Columbus was a bad guy because he enslaved cannibals, essentially. They leave that little detail out.

And today Islam is using, for lack of a better term. I think this term came out of, the Iranian Revolution. 47 years ago, when college students in Iran protested to get rid of the Shah and bring in the Ayatollah, I think they called those protesters useful idiots because as soon as the Ayatollah took over, he murdered them despite them helping him get to power.

And it appears that today, Islam, at least some in Islam, are using Marxists to claim they're oppressed. The Muslims are oppressed. And so we need to overthrow the West because we're oppressed. And yet if they ever gain power, everybody else is going to be oppressed for real, including, of course, Christians and the liberals, the Marxists that help put them in power.

TIM:

Frank, I think you're exactly right. I think I am not calling liberal college students idiots, but I think that the Muslims would call them useful idiots in this context because we have in our nation right now what's considered the red green alliance, where you have the Marxists teaming up with the Islamicists and they're using ignorant college students. And I say ignorant because ignorance is when you don't have enough information, you don't have the knowledge.

You're believing things that are just not true. We have a bunch of ignorant, naive, and very misled students supporting something that is so contradictory in nature. When you see, for example, the idea that you're going to have the gays for Palestine, and you're like, guys, what happens to gays in Palestine? They get thrown from rooftops to their death. That's what happens. They get stoned and murdered in the streets.

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That's what happens. And you're aligning with people that don't want your good. They want to use you for their end. And then when they're in control, you lose all your rights.

FRANK:

And if you want to avoid this, ladies and gentlemen, you need to know history. Those that don't know history are doomed to repeat it. But when people go through historical revisionism to try and get you to believe the past that isn't true, they can control the future.

We're trying to prevent that here with the great Tim Barton of wallbuilders.com I'm Frank Turek. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. Back right after the break.

AD:

Could you answer this question? Why doesn't God let everyone into heaven? Or do all religions get you to heaven? Well, Frank Turek can. And now you can. Watch him tackle the toughest questions from his latest college tour appearance.

See real students challenge Frank and watch how truth stands up under pressure. Subscribe to our Cross Examined YouTube channel right now to watch. That's Cross Examined, two words, on YouTube and sharpen your faith for the real world,

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know if you've noticed, but there's a war on reality going on right now. People are trying to reinvent history. They're trying to tell us things that aren't true about history. They're trying to say they are true. What can you do about it? Well, me and Phoenix Hayes have written a new book called The War on Reality: Recovering Truth, that's. I don't even know the subtitle of my own book.

Recovering Truth in a World That Celebrates Lies. It doesn't come out till September. However, if you order it on Amazon right now, the paperback version, we're going to send you chapter 10 right now. And that's the chapter on cultural Marxism. It's probably one of my favorite chapters in the book. It deals with all this oppressed oppressor stuff that is guiding people away from the truth.

You need to bring other people back to reality. And I hope the book, The War on Reality, will do so. In fact, I know it will, so check it out. Also want to mention that the Bible You Never Knew starts August 3rd, our brand new online course that will open your eyes to how Jesus and the apostles interpreted the Old Testament.

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You're not going to believe the insights in this course. Look, I didn't think of them all myself. I'm reading a lot of other people. But once I saw how to really interpret the Old Testament the way Jesus and the apostles did, it revolutionized the way I looked at the Bible. It is an intricate tapestry written by at least 40 authors over 1500 years. And it's woven together in this one beautiful story.

So many of the Old Testament prophets and Old Testament characters foreshadow Jesus. And once you see this, you can't unsee it. So if you want to be a part of that course, go to crossexamined.org, click on Online Courses. You will see it there. Let me go back to my friend, the great Tim Barton. Tim, we talked a little bit about Christopher Columbus in the last segment. We got so much to cover, so we're going to move on from Columbus.

But you have a great book that you and your dad wrote. It's called *The American Story: The Beginnings*. It covers everything we're talking about here and much more. And then there's also a brand new book called *Lives, Fortunes, and Sacred Honors*. What's that one about? Can you tell us about that? You got the new version of that right there. What's it about?

TIM:

So it's this book right here. It's a short bio of all 56 signers of the Declaration.

One of the things I bet we're going to get to in just a few minutes is some of the accusations of the Founding Fathers. There's a lot of, of misnomers and flat-out lies that people believe about the Founding Fathers. And we only believe it because we don't know their story. Kind of like Columbus, if you know the whole story, you realize, oh, well, that's not really what happened. That's not who they were. Most people recognize some of their names, but they couldn't tell you their story.

So we wanted to go back and reintroduce Americans to these people that, without their sacrifice largely, there never could have or would have been in America. When they pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honors, every one of them paid with lives, fortunes, and sacred honors. There was nobody that did not make sacrifices for the cause of liberty. And we just want to reintroduce Americans to who these great men were, warts and all, where we tell the whole story, the good, the bad and the ugly.

Some of them definitely had some glaring sinful moments in their life. And we don't shy away from it, but we still acknowledge God used some really sinful people in the past for great good, for his kingdom and purposes. And that's the way we look at these guys. That the fact that, you

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know, Samson as an example, is mentioned in Hebrews 11, which is kind of known as like the Faith hall of Fame, the hall of Faith. Well, Samson had so many glaring issues, by the way, as did virtually everybody in Hebrews 11, but it's an acknowledgement that God used these people in significant moments for significant reasons. And that's really the men that built this nation. God used them in special ways at a special time.

FRANK:

And here's where we hear things like, well, they're all deists. They weren't Christians. You know, Franklin claimed to be a deist, Jefferson was a deist. Jefferson cut the miracles out of the Bible. We're going to get into all that. But before we do, Tim, we were on our second spiritual tour with Speaker Mike Johnson a couple of weeks ago, and we went up into the Rotunda, and Speaker Johnson was in front of that famous painting.

In fact, we're going to show some video of that right here. He's telling us about the founding of our Nation, that famous painting of all the founders, the 56 signers in Philadelphia, the day they're going to sign the Declaration of Independence. We're going to, we're going to play, or we're going to release the video with Speaker Mike Johnson, what he says about that, it's a brilliant 10-minute little presentation he gives.

But here's some of the video of it. But Tim, I heard your father say this about this painting and tell me if he got this wrong. He said that you go to college campuses with a gift card. And this gift card you say you will give to any student who can name five people from that famous picture.

And everybody gets Jefferson, everybody gets Franklin, maybe they get one other. Has anybody, after nine years, gotten five people, name five people in that picture?

TIM:

Yeah. No. The short answer is no. It's a 20-dollar Chick-fil-A gift card. And I say, if you can, if you can identify five people in there, then I will give you this 20-dollar Chick-fil-A gift card.

I have only had one student that ever found five. And he was a return student on a Christian event I did. And he said, I was so shamed last time I went and learned five. But no, when generally speaking. And that wasn't a college campus, but that's just in general. I'll ask college students, hey, can you tell me about these guys? Can you find five? And of course, every college kid, you want a gift card.

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And I would like a 20-dollar Chick-fil-A gift card. I love Chick-fil-A. But the fact is, I want to point out to them that you don't even know these guys and yet you believe a lot of things about them. You think all of them were racist, bigoted slave owners. You think none of them were religious. But you can't even tell me five of 56 people that signed the Declaration. Then, how do you know your presupposed ideas are true if you don't even know five names of the 56 guys that were there?

So that's one of my favorite ways to start, just to help them realize that you don't know nearly as much as you think you do. And a lot of your ideas have been formed because you've heard prevailing narratives, not because you know the actual story.

FRANK:

See, that amazes me. That is a great insight that they all know. All these students know these guys were all racist slave owner, deists, and yet they can't name five of them.

How do you know—

TIM:

Frank, one of my, one of my favorite examples—

FRANK:

That's 10% of them. They can't even name 10% of the founders.

TIM:

I think it was Michigan State University is where I was. And there was an open mic Q and A after my lecture. And I was talking about how the Founding Fathers were moral men. They built a moral framework rooted in Christianity based on the principles of the Bible. And we needed to return to that so freedom could thrive once again in America.

And a professor came to the open mic and said, now how can you suggest they were honorable men when we know all of them had slaves? And I already know where this argument's going to go, but I'm going to let him play the game. And I say, okay, now, just to be clear, are you suggesting all of them had slaves? He said, we know they all did. I said, okay, well, what about John Adams?

And he thought. And he said, well, what do you mean? I said, well, I'm pretty sure John Adams never had slaves and he was against slavery his whole life. He said, well, I don't know about John Adams, but all the others did. And already, right, like Frank, you understand the logic of

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this. You're like, you can't make an absolute claim. And then when I give you an example of why it's wrong, you're just shifting the goalposts. But I said, okay, well, what about Sam Adams?

And he's like, I don't know. Well, Sam Adams never had slaves, and he fought against slavery his whole life. Well, I don't know about Sam Adams, but all the others did. I said, oh, Roger Sherman and I go through five or six names of many of the Founding Fathers that never had slaves and fought against slavery their whole life. And so finally he says, okay, I don't actually know who did and who didn't have slaves, but I know the majority did. And again, I'm like, you just disqualified yourself. You just said you don't even know who did and who didn't.

But you are repeating this narrative. And this is the problem is we are repeating narratives that if we knew the story. So, like, John Hancock is a fun example, because John Hancock, very well known name, John Hancock. He and Sam Adams are two of my favorite guys from Boston to talk about because they show two ends of the spectrum where John Hancock, incredibly wealthy guy. Sam Adams, incredibly poor guy.

John Hancock uses his wealth. He actually funds basically all of the things the Sons of Liberty does. He uses his wealth in opposition to the King, knowing that if he loses, not only is his wealth gone, his life is gone. But John Hancock, his father was a pastor, his grandfather was a pastor. His father died when he was young. He gets adopted by his uncle. His uncle is a merchant trader.

His uncle, when his uncle dies and John Hancock was in his 20s, his uncle left him this incredible wealth, which makes him this crazy wealthy guy, but his uncle also left him a slave. And so John Hancock actually, by definition, was a slave owner. But here's where if you're like, but if you know the story, you realize how dumb this is. John Hancock, when he inherits a slave, he is an open abolitionist.

So as soon as he inherits the slave, he frees the slave. So even when people are like, but the majority of the Founding Fathers own slaves. The majority of the Founding Fathers that own slaves actually came out in opposition to slavery. And the majority of them that had slaves, they freed their slaves. They spoke openly against slavery, they helped found abolition societies, they fund abolition societies, and some of them even became the officers of those abolition societies.

So to pretend like all of them were these racist, bigoted slave owners, you are promoting propaganda that is only believed because people don't know the stories anymore. And again,

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that's why my dad and I wrote that book. If people knew the stories, we would realize how much we are being lied to in this nonsense of this Marxist ideology.

FRANK:

But, Tim, Tim, Tim, American white people invented slavery. How do you respond?

TIM:

Yeah, that's dumb for so many reasons. But, but Senator Tim Kaine from Virginia, he actually made that statement from the US Senate floor when he said that America didn't inherit slavery; we invented slavery. Now, to give him a little grace, I think he was talking about chattel slavery. But even then it's super, it's super stupid. You only can believe America invented slavery if you've never read a history book in your entire life.

And by the way, he is an outspoken Catholic. He professes proud to be a Catholic. Like, you can't even get through Genesis. Joseph, the coat of many colors. This is a point that I think a lot of Christians forget. And this is very important historic context. Joseph is sold by his brothers not into slavery only. It says that he was sold to slave traders from Egypt.

Egypt's in Africa. There was already an intercontinental slave trade in Genesis in Africa. So this idea that America invented slavery, no, as long as there were people, there were people oppressing other people. The reason Jesus came is because of sin and unrighteousness and evil and wickedness. And it was God's redemption plan and path for us. The reason that matters is when you look at America or white people as being the only ones who can be guilty of a sin, you are not only incredibly ignorant of history, you're just ignorant of reality.

But even when you look at America, when Columbus discovers, you know, quote unquote, when he lands in America, it's estimated by historians, anthropologists, archeologists, between 20 to 40% of every native American tribe prior to Columbus was comprised of other native slaves. So we didn't introduce even slavery to the native people of America.

That was here way before any white European settlers ever arrived on this continent.

FRANK:

Well, hopefully your mind is blown by this point, ladies and gentlemen, because you've been told lies from so many people over the past few decades. And we're here to debunk those lies, particularly my friend Tim Barton of wallbuilders.com. Get the book *The American Story: The Beginnings*. Much more right after this.

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Ladies and gentlemen, why is the past always changing? People are trying to tell us an alternate history rather than what really happened because they're trying to control the future. And my friend Tim Barton is exposing so many lies we've been told about American history. Not that Americans have always been virtuous; we haven't. There's been a lot of evil done in America, but so much of the evil that has been said to have been done never really happened or has been exaggerated.

And that's what we are uncovering here today with my friend Tim Barton. Tim, before the break, we were talking about this idea that even the senator from Virginia tried to say was that we invented slavery here in America. That's quite obviously not true. Even in the book of Genesis, as you mentioned, Joseph is sold to slave traders. So this is, what, almost 4,000 years ago? And—

TIM:

Yeah, just a little before America.

FRANK:

Yeah, just a little bit before America. And slavery has been ubiquitous all over the world from the very beginning. In fact, ladies and gentlemen, the word slave comes from the Slavic people. Muslims were taking Slavic people as slaves, and that's where the word originally came from. And if people had followed the biblical commands against man stealing, which in the Old Testament was punishable by death, none of this ever would have happened.

So, we've been really sold a lot of lies here about this. How many, though, Tim? Let's, let's try and unpack this. We have 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. And you have that book *Lives, Fortunes, and Sacred Honor* about these. How many of them really did have slaves and believed in slavery.

TIM:

Yeah. So, 41 of the 56 at some point in their life owned slaves.

And I say that a little loosely because again, it's like the John Hancock situation. His uncle dies, leaves him a slave, and he frees him. So it's a little bit of a skewed number because it's the way academics would tell it today. It would imply that these were, you know, really slave oriented people. That's not true at all. But if you're going to be kind of a nuanced specific, at some point in their life, 41 of them, the argument is own slaves.

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But of those 41, and this is another one of the questions I love to ask people when they accuse all the Founding Fathers of owning slaves, and I point out they didn't, and they're like, okay, well the majority did. And I'm like, yes. How many? They don't even know. I tell them 41. I say, but here's a follow-up question. Of the 41 men that owned slaves, how many of them freed them in their lifetime? How many of them actually began openly advocating for the end of slavery and actually even promoting legislative changes for the end of slavery?

How many of them started abolition societies or funded abolition societies? How many of them became leaders or presidents of abolitionist societies? And nobody knows the rest of the story. And as a kid who grew up listening to Paul Harvey, I just always want to be like, and now the rest of the story, that's it. So, what I would say is that when you break it down, the majority of the 41 of the 56 signers that own slaves actually come out against slavery, very openly and boldly.

And, and some of the most famous names you have guys that signed the Declaration, like, Ben Franklin. Ben Franklin. No honest historian is going to consider Ben Franklin a racist. Ben Franklin, throughout his lifetime, owned a couple of different slaves. But Ben Franklin was one of the guys who, in 1773, he wrote the Reverend Dean Woodward a letter where he said that there is a growing disposition in America to abolish slavery.

He said, in Pennsylvania, many of us are already setting our slaves at liberty. Now this is 1773, so the Sons of Liberty, that movement, there's a lot of stuff happening in America, but we're way before, several years before you get to the Declaration and even the War for Independence. And Franklin says that there's already a growing movement. We're trying in Pennsylvania, we're trying to end this, free our slaves. Well, Franklin was one of the guys who did own slaves, but then he freed his slaves.

In 1774 he actually supports the founding of what's considered the very first abolition society in America. And then Franklin is one of only six guys that signed the Declaration in 1776. And then in 1787, he's at the Constitutional Convention where he signs the Constitution. The reason I make that connection is Franklin owns slaves, freed the slaves. He then helps found the first abolition society.

By the time he gets to 1787, the Constitutional Convention, he's actually the president of that abolition society. So the reason, again, this matters is people look at the Founding Fathers and they say, well, look, if they ever owned slaves, then like, that's it. They're evil, they're done. And if you don't know the rest of the story, it would be almost as dumb as a Christian being like, guys, you can't read the Pauline epistles.

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Do you know who he was? He used to kill Christians. And you're like, yes, before Damascus, where he encountered Jesus, he did used to kill Christians, the apostle Paul. But, but then God got a hold of his life, and now he's a totally different person. That's why he wrote the thirteen Pauline epistles, et cetera. People don't do that with the Founding Fathers because they don't know their story.

And under this Marxist propaganda worldview, if you've done anything evil, you are forever tainted by that evil. And that's not the reality of the redemptive nature of God or of often the story of humanity. One of my favorite examples, John Jay was the original chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. John Jay, there's a couple different letters on the WallBuilders website. We actually have a couple of these letters, quoted from John Jay dealing with the slavery issue.

In 1776 he writes somebody, and he says, it's occurring to me there's hypocrisy in my position that I am supporting the cause of freedom while I myself am enslaving others. And we of course would look and be like, yeah, bro, that's super hypocritical that you're fighting for freedom and enslaving somebody else. But it's significant because it gives you a glimpse into their world at that time that when, when people think the Founding Fathers were evil because they had slaves, I love to ask the question, can you name any world leaders in the 1700s that had money and power and didn't have slaves?

And I'll wait because the reality is this wasn't something unique for America. This is the way the world worked at that time. And so John Jay is having a revelation that is new for virtually anybody in the world. He's going, I don't think slavery is what we should do. 1778, he writes another letter where he's like, fully embrace the abolition movement. The reason all this is cool is because toward the end of the revolution, he writes to the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, and he says, I would like to get your founding papers, because I want to start a New York abolition society.

And so John Jay becomes, the original Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court becomes the founder of the New York Abolition Society. He went from owning slaves, having a revelation slavery was wrong, freeing his slaves, and founding the New York Abolitionist Society. That's the chief justice of the original U.S. Supreme Court. And Frank, this is the point is, like when you learn their stories. No, these were not perfect guys. Every one of them was a sinner in need of a savior. It's not that they weren't sinners; it's just that they're not guilty of many of the sins they're accused of today.

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FRANK:

Well said. In fact, not many people understand this, but inform us, Tim, of when slavery was abolished in the northern states or northern colonies. Northern states.

TIM:

So the largest grievance in the original draft of the Declaration was a grievance arguing against the enslaving of Africans, arguing against the slave trade, and for the humanity of all that were enslaved. And this actually did not make it in the final draft because it wasn't unanimously agreed to. Georgia and South Carolina led the opposition, but every northern colony voted in favor of that grievance because they were embracing the abolition movement. Every northern colony began passing laws for abolition by 1804. New Jersey was the last one to pass laws for abolition. By 1804, every single New England colony had passed laws for the abolition of slavery. England didn't do it till 1833. So we were, all of the northern New England colonies were 30 years in advance of England and passing laws for the abolition of slavery.

So again, it's not that the Founding Fathers did not participate in something that was an evil, but the evil was not unique for them. And they actually were the first political leaders in the world to start a political movement against the evil institution of slavery.

FRANK:

So of the original 13 states, how many of them had abolished slavery by 1804?

TIM:

I think it's six or seven. I have to go back and look that up—

FRANK:

About half.

TIM:

About half of them. But what I can be more specific on is America signs the first law banning the slave trade in the world. Jefferson was president. He signed that law March 2, 1807. But by the time he signed it, there was only one colony that still had not passed bans on the slave trade. It was South Carolina. So not only did we pass laws in almost every colony against slavery, every colony but one passed laws banning the slave trade. And again, this was before anybody else in the world had passed laws banning slavery or the slave trade. So the Founding Fathers and the political leaders of America were taking massive anti-slavery steps that no other leaders or nations in the world were taking at that time.

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FRANK:

Wow. Now I know that a lot of people say, well, the Constitution says that slaves were 3/5 of a person. Now this is a little, inside baseball to explain how this got into the Constitution. And we don't have time to unpack it here on this podcast. We're about out of time, but we're going to take that up.

That's the first question we're going to address in the midweek podcast, ladies and gentlemen. That's coming up on Tuesday. If you're listening on the American Family Radio Network or other stations, you're not going to hear this, the podcast broadcast. You've got to look for the I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist podcast to see that. And then we're going to also cover more about the founders, what were their religious beliefs.

We're also going to deal with the objection; America's on stolen land and the natives were peaceful. So what do we say about that? But Tim, give the websites again and the books again so people can go further if they want to.

TIM:

Yeah, wallbuilders.com is the best place to go. We're all over social media. And then the book *The American Story: The Beginnings* goes from Columbus through the end of the American Revolution.

And then the new book that's out, *Lives, Fortunes, and Sacred Honor*, those are available at wallbuilders.com or on Amazon, wherever you get your books. But those are two great resources for people to have. Everything we're talking about, it is footnoted in those books. Don't take my word for it. You can see it in the founders' writings for yourself.

FRANK:

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, David and Tim Barton have the largest collection of original documents from the American founding prior to 1812.

Over a hundred thousand documents. They're not relying on secondary research; they're relying on primary research going back to the sources themselves so they can verify all of this, and you can teach it to your kids so they don't hate America. No country's perfect. America's not perfect either. That's another thing we're going to cover in the next session. What's unique about the American founding and Constitution?

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We'll get into it in the next session. The I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist podcast. I hope to see you there. Lord willing, we will see you there. God bless. See you next time.

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