



CALLING ALL  
CHRISTIANS TO VOTE

RESTORE  
AMERICA

*Commentary*

## "The American Crisis"

July 19, 2004

**As the Continental Army retreated** in full flight from the British and Hessian Armies after humiliating defeats in and around New York in November 1776, **Thomas Paine**, noting the air of panic and defeat of both soldier and civilian alike, wrote, "**These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.**"

**Those words could well apply to this moment in our nation's history.**

As with the Continental Army and their Generals, so the early defeats to the defenders of traditional marriage bring to us a **sobering challenge**: "**Will we stand and fight, or will we, like so many 'summer soldiers' and 'sunshine patriots' then, drift away, discouraged and disillusioned, defeated in spirit?**"

**Will we recognize, as did the colonists, that tyranny of the few over the many is intolerable, that some evils in the world require our all to defeat?**

**Paine**, accompanying the troops in retreat and observing the crisis of "heart", wrote later that he **feared the colonists might see the defeats "as proceeding from a natural inability to support its cause against the enemy, and might have sunk under the despondency of that misconceived idea."**

His essay, published in the Pennsylvania Journal on December 19th, **traveled like wildfire throughout the colonies.** Within a day it was being read in the camps of the Continental Army along the Delaware River. Militiamen who had left the army returned. Others whose term of service was over, voluntarily stayed on to fight another day. In short, **a revival of hope and determination ensued**

throughout the colonies as Washington planned to Cross the Delaware with his exhausted yet newly invigorated troops.

What followed has been described as the most "**brilliant military campaign**" in history as the tattered Continental Army and growing bands of militia, inspired by Paine's challenge and the desire for liberty and self determination, defeated Howe's professional armies in New Jersey over the following three months.

**This was the "pivotal moment" in our history.** As historian David Fischer stated, "In early December, British Commanders believed that they were very close to ending the rebellion, and American leaders feared that they might be right. Three months later the mood had changed on both sides. By the spring of 1777, many British officers had concluded that they could never win the war. At the same time, Americans recovered from their despair and were **confident** that they would not be defeated."

Fischer says these early events in our nation's history were driven by "**people making choices**", "**choices that had an impact on events**". He wrote, "The acts and choices of these men were **an expression of their beliefs.**"

In the battle for our culture, for our blood bought liberties and hard won freedoms, we can no longer be 'summertime soldiers' and 'sunshine patriots.' We have to make difficult, costly choices **based on our beliefs**, choices that will affect our history and the lives of our offspring.

At this critical time in our nation's history, **will we Christians "...stand and fight" for traditional marriage and get our peers to register and cast their ballots for those who stand with us?** Or will we, like so many 'summer soldiers' and 'sunshine patriots' then, drift prematurely away, discouraged and disillusioned, defeated in spirit? " **He that stands...NOW deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.**"

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