First Principles

Ronald D. Ray

A frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty, and to maintain a free government.

Massachusetts Bill of Rights, 1780

It is therefore of immense importance to men to have fixed ideas about God, their souls, and their duties toward their Creator and their fellows, for doubt about these **first principles** would leave all their actions to chance and condemn them, more or less, to anarchy and impotence.

Alexis de Toqueville Democracy in America, 1838

No civilization has ever fallen to outsiders that did not first suffer a loss of faith in its first principles. The failure of faith always precedes the failure of will.

Dr. Gary North Economist, Historian, Theologian Prologue, *Call It Conspiracy*, 1985

America is a covenant nation. Our Declaration of Independence is a charter which acknowledges God as Sovereign over these United States and our Constitution is a "federal" or covenantal constitution. For the first time in our history the leadership of all three branches of our federal government will apparently be willfully and philosophically turning away from the covenantal vision and biblical principles of our Founders.

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Defending the Declaration, 1989