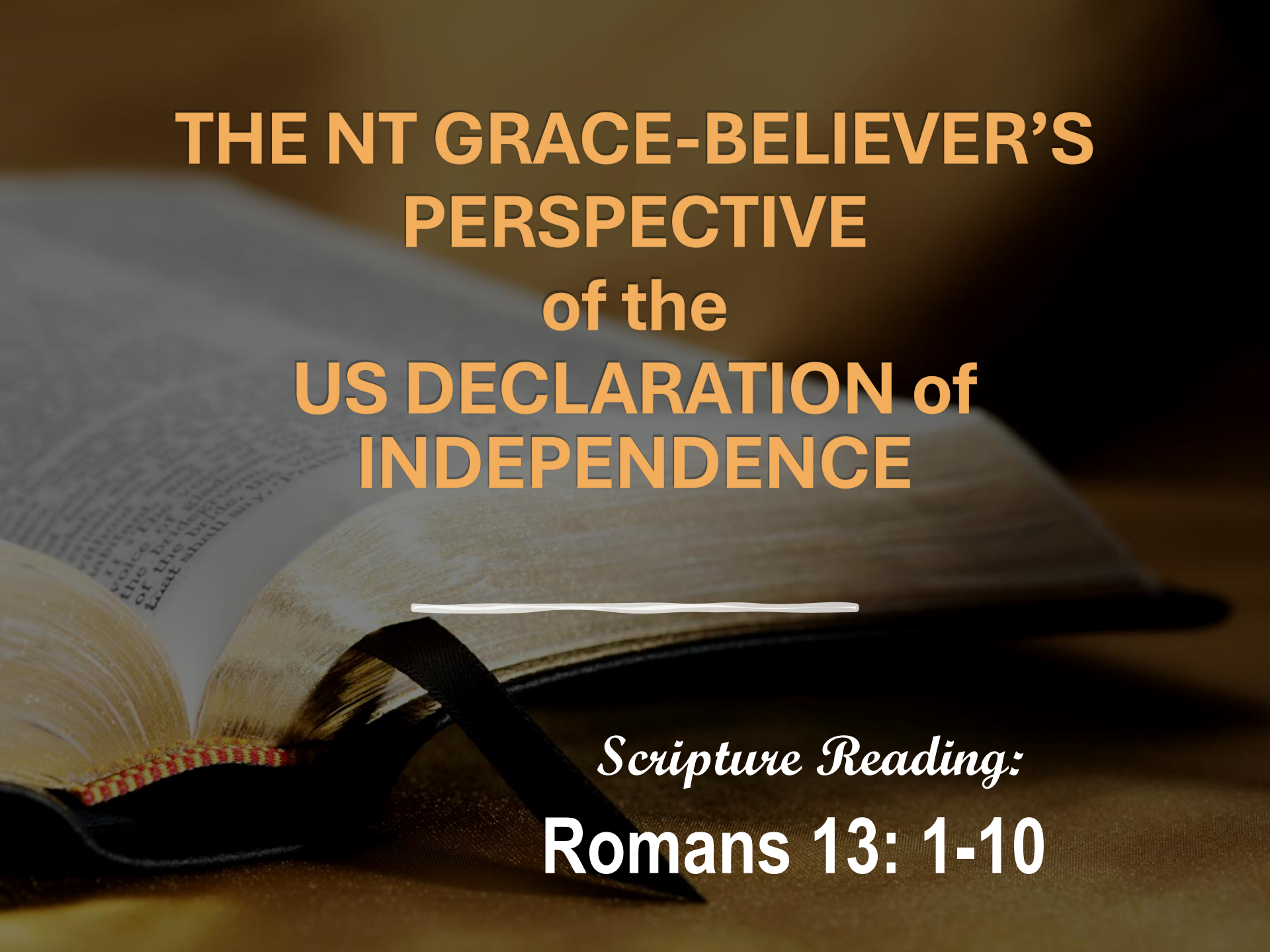


An open book with a black ribbon bookmark and a red and yellow striped bookmark. The text is overlaid on the book.

THE NT GRACE-BELIEVER'S PERSPECTIVE of the US DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE

Scripture Reading:
Romans 13: 1-10

INTRODUCTION

250 years the first copy of the US Declaration of Independence came off the press. It addressed the grievances and resolutions of the thirteen colonies against the Crown of England.



The second paragraph of that document summarized what the colonists considered as self-evident truths to which God has endowed all men:

Equality, and the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

INTRODUCTION

- The NT grace-believer, who is a citizen of the USA should understand this important document from two perspectives:
 - Our secular government, and from
 - God's written Word

THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY

The Secular Understanding:

- **Equality of personal treatment** by and to fellow human beings, and the opportunities to choose (leaders, laws, education, vocation, etc.)

The Biblical Understanding:

- **Pre-salvation:** all mankind is equally lost in sin – Rom 3:10, 23, Eph 2:1
- **Post-salvation:** all believers are equal (one) in our position in Christ – Eph 2:5, 1 Cor 12:12-13, Gal 3:26-28, Eph 4:3

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE RIGHT OF LIFE

The Secular Understanding:

- **Laws enacted that protect from physical harm and unjust treatment (i.e., false imprisonment, or confiscation of property, etc)**

The Biblical Understanding:

- **The Lord Jesus Christ now owns and directs, or allows, all events in the life of the NT grace-believer for His glory – I Cor 6:19-20**
- **The believer's physical life is short upon the Earth – Ps 90:9-10, Jam 4:14, Eph 2:10**
 - The length of life equals the length of God's planned works for each NT grace-believer

THE PRINCIPLE OF LIBERTY (FREEDOM)

The Secular Understanding

- Freedom of association, religion, employment, expression of speech, freedom from tyranny

The Biblical Understanding

- Freedom from the principle of sin and death (spiritual and physical)- Rom 6:18-22, Rom 8:2
- Freedom from OT Law – II Cor 3:15, Gal 3:13-14, I Pet 2:15-16

THE PRINCIPLE OF HAPPINESS

The Secular Understanding

- Pursuit of whatever make a person happy, if it doesn't infringe on another person's rights of safety, security, and decency

The Biblical Understanding

- Loving other believers through menial service – Jn 13:12-17
- By faith, exercising liberty from OT Law requirements – Rom 14:22
- Exercising patience in suffering – Jam 5:11
- Suffering for righteousness – I Pet 3:14, 4:14

CONCLUSION

- NT grace-believers are completely DEPENDENT upon God and His written Word, while we enjoy a level of temporary and limited citizenship in the USA
- We are in the world, but not out of the world, as to our source – Jn 17:15-17
- We can use the world system, but we are not to ‘over-use’ it – I Cor 7:31