

FOREWORD

James Madison recorded the following occurrence in his *Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787* from Monday, September 17, 1787:

“Whilst the last members were signing [the Constitution] Doctr. FRANKLIN looking towards the Presidents Chair, at the back of which a rising sun happened to be painted, observed to a few members near him, that Painters had found it difficult to distinguish in their art a rising from a setting sun. I have said he, often and often in the course of the Session, and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting: But now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting Sun.”¹

As I considered the cover design of this volume and particularly the image of the rising sun, I asked myself the question: Is it a rising sun, or is it a setting sun? Even as Dr. Franklin had contemplated this thought during the Convention, American Christians must, today, ask ourselves whether we will allow this great nation to be in its sunset. Or, will we be used in the restoring of America’s Biblical foundations, so that the sun may continue to rise and our nation might reach its fullest potential?

The opportunity is ours, American Christian, and I trust you will join me in an effort to be part of the restoration of this land which has known the greatest liberty of any nation – understanding that there can be liberty in a nation only through Christ and Christianity.

– *Ruth J. Smith*