July 4 - "Independence Day"

On July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress ratified the "Declaration of Independence" from Great Britain.

c. 33 AD, on a Friday - *Christ crucified*

Lk 24:20-21

"20 … chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel"

Mk 14:50

"they all forsook Him and fled" NKJV (when arrested on Thurs)

Sun. morn, "1st day of week" - *tomb empty!*

Lk 24:22-23

22…some women…were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and did not find His body…

Lk 24:1-6

1…on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb…3 when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus … 6 He is not here, but He has RISEN …"

“1st day of week” - *appeared to …*

1. Mk 16:9 *Mary Magdalene*
2. Mt 28:1…9 *Other women*
3. Lk 24:1…21,22…29…34 *Peter*
4. Lk 24:1…13-15…31 *Two men*
5. Jn 20:1…19,20 *Apostles*

“1st day of week” (1wk later) - *appeared to …*

6. Jn 20:26-29 *Apostles incl. Thomas*

1st day of week

Ac 2:1 “Pentecost” (Lev 23:11,15)

“14 Peter…with the eleven, raised his voice and declared… 23 you nailed to a cross … 24 put him to death 27 nor allow…to undergo decay” [burial] 32 This Jesus God raised up again”!

1st day of week Ac 2

"36 know for certain [faith] that God has made Him both Lord and Christ… 38 Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins … 41 those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls … 47 being saved"

Independence! **Secured & confirmed, preached in fullness, received and "added" on 1st day of the week!**

But independence from SIN requires an acceptable SACRIFICE for *atonement*…

Heb 9:17 "a covenant is valid only when men are dead ["Lit over the dead" NASB ftnt]" … **22** without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness"

Heb 10:5 "Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "You have not desired sacrifice and offering [bulls & goats, v4], but you have prepared a body for Me … By this will [the "second" v9; "new" 8:13] we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

1Co 11:20 “the Lord’s Supper…23 …the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took <u>bread</u>; 24 … He broke it and said, ‘<u>This is My BODY</u>, which is <u>for you</u>; do this in remembrance of Me.’ 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, ‘This <u>cup</u> is the <u>new covenant</u> in <u>My BLOOD</u>; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's DEATH until He comes.”

Lord’s Memorial to our <u>Independence</u>!

Ac 20:7

“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” NKJV

Commemoration of our Independence through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Jn 8:34,36

“34 Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin … 36 if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed!”

Ac 2:36-38

“36 know for certain [faith] that God has made Him both Lord and Christ… 38 Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins”

Jn 8:24-25

"unless you **believe that I am** *He,* you will **die in your sins**. …"

Mark 16:16

"He who has **believed** <u>AND</u> has been **baptized** shall be <u>SAVED</u>; but he who has disbelieved shall be **CONDEMNED**." (cmpr "repentance" Ac 11:18)

<u>Independence</u> from the condemnation of SIN!

You can make today YOUR Independence Day …

Ac 22:16 "be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (NKJV)

You can secure your Independence …

1Jn 1:7 "if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin … 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins … 2:2 He Himself is the propitiation for our sins"