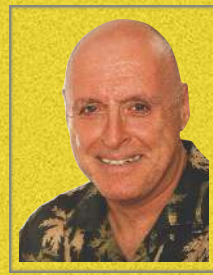


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



662 9 Key Things Ben Franklin Believed in

Today, let's look closer at one of America's founding fathers. I'm Jerry Roberts and we'll learn more about Benjamin Franklin, next, on The Extra Point.

Ben Franklin didn't come from a background of wealth and affluence. He used his intellect and drive to become one of the most influential people in the colonies, and the place that would be called The United States of America.

Over 250 years ago, Franklin wrote an essay about money and success entitled, "*The Way to Wealth*," which first appeared in his annual publication, *Poor Richard's Almanac*. While he was not one of the wealthiest people of his era, his interests were varied, and he was a prolific inventor. Some of his creations were the urinary catheter, swim fins, the odometer, the lightning rod, and bi-focals. It's estimated that his net worth in today's dollars could be \$10 billion, maybe much more.

Here's a brief list of the things Franklin strongly believed in and, for what we know, practiced in his own life.

1. Stay out of debt. Why was this important? Besides the obvious financial challenges brought on by debt, in Franklin's time unpaid obligations could land you in prison.
2. Don't flaunt wealth. He saw no benefit from having anyone envious of what he possessed.
3. Avoid bad company. Franklin recognized that being in the wrong crowd could get you in trouble, even if you were just an innocent bystander. He also knew that if you hang around with people who have questionable reputations, your own reputation could be hurt as a result.
4. Don't fight about politics on Facebook. Actually, Ben liked Twitter more. What we all should understand is the need to stop being

so argumentative. Stop telling people they're wrong, as if that's ever going to change their minds. What it will change is the relationship you have with them, and not for the better.

5. Read a lot. It's a national tragedy that a huge percentage of Americans will read only a handful of books after they leave high school. Some won't read any.

6. Franklin was thankful to God. He believed in a higher power and focused on living a life of service, rather than clinging to religious doctrine and any one particular sect or denomination.

7. He avoided alcohol. He saw that drinking had ruined lives of people he knew. He also thought it would be damaging to the reputation he wanted to establish.

8. Have a moral compass and stick to your principles. Franklin had no trouble evaluating himself in those terms.

9. Stay busy doing important work. He said important work focuses us and best utilizes our skills and gifts. The more important work we pursue, the better we will become. Not just any work, but important work.

In those nine key factors, we can draw value from the life of Benjamin Franklin, and how he lived. I'm going to show this to my son, so he knows more about the character of one of America's early leaders, and how what this man believed in can be meaningful in his life.

That's The Extra Point. be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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