

Viewing the Estate Tax through a Biblical Lens (cont)

The estate tax represents an attempt to force those with much property, to share their inheritance with strangers. Moreover, only “the rich”, defined as anyone other than ourselves, are expected to bear this un-Biblical intrusion into the family inheritance. This raises some interesting questions.

Yet estate taxes have confiscated as much as 55% of that family nest egg that exceeds an arbitrary exemption amount upon a person’s death. This is true despite the government previously taxing that money during the person’s lifetime when it was acquired, and despite the government having no rightful claim of ownership to it. By confiscating a large share of a person’s lifetime earnings and thus taking it away from that person’s family whom it was designed for, the estate tax impedes and hinders what the Bible says a good man should do for his family.

While the government can forcefully take property from others against their will through laws, does it make it right that such taking is only from “the rich”? Does that make the action of taking property from one to give to another, who you are not willing to provide for yourself, moral or right?

The Robin Hood mentality of taking from the rich to give to the poor seems appealing because we consider ourselves “the poor” who get something that isn’t ours, but it is a concept that is not Biblical.

Class envy, class warfare, and attacks on the rich paying their “fair share,” all arise from the same problem, the sin of covetousness. Just because the government is doing it through the means of a law does not make that law right or moral.

“The Robin Hood mentality of taking from the rich to give to the poor seems appealing because we consider ourselves “the poor” who get something that isn’t ours, but it is a concept that is not Biblical.”

Who Are We Serving? God or Government?

Both the Gospel of Matthew and Luke warn us that where your treasure is, that will be where your heart is also (Matt. 6:21; Luke 12:34). We have come to place more and more trust and reliance upon government to the exclusion of God. As a result, far more of our treasure goes to government than to God, a reflection of very wrong priorities in our society today. In the case of the estate tax, we are allowing not just a non-Biblical model to be used by the government, but an anti-Biblical model in at least four respects.

First, the estate tax hinders what we are called by God to do for our families, second, it transfers to government the responsibility that is rightfully ours to provide for our

own families, third, it forces us to give far more to government than we give to God, and fourth, it does so upon the ungodly foundation of covetousness.

If the estate tax is anti-Biblical at its current tax rate of up to 55% and it’s targeting of “the rich” it is anti-biblical at any tax rate and toward any person. It impedes the measures that God has provided us to provide for our own families, and it reflects a wrong priority of government provision over Godly provision.

The real question regarding the estate tax is not whether “the rich,” however we wish to define that term, are paying their fair share. The real question is whether the estate tax is consistent with God’s will, and with His word. Clearly the answer is no. To a world full of Christians seeped in the non-Biblical thinking of the world, who have bought into the Robin Hood concept of wealth redistribution, will they even care? We must continue to pray that God’s truth will ultimately prevail within the hearts of His people.

“Whoever shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world.” -- Benjamin Franklin, March, 1778

Prayer Focus

How to Properly Pray for the President

By Charlotte Findley
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A few months ago I received an interesting voice mail on my phone. The person leaving the message said “I saw a bumper sticker that said, ‘Pray for our President and at the bottom it said Psalms 109 verse 8’. You need to read this, it is really good.” Knowing this person did not like our current President I was very

excited to think that he was going to be praying for him.

When I looked up the verse my heart sank as I read Psalm 109:8, “Let his days be few; and let another take his office.”

There were several reasons this bothered me. The first reason was the fact that this was taken out of context. In Psalm 109 David is crying out for God’s judgment on his false accuser, his enemy. This is not a prayer for one in authority.

The fact that the person who left

me the voice mail was taking the verse out of context is again illustrated in Acts 1:20 where Luke quotes Psalm 109:8 concerning Judas Iscariot. The wording is a little different in Acts but most Bibles reference Psalm 109:8 to Acts 1:20. Luke specifically points out that this was fulfillment of Biblical prophecy concerning Judas. We must be very careful to check scripture against scripture to see if it lines up with the rest of the Bible.

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The second reason I was uncomfortable with this message is because this person was willing to commit a sin akin to witch craft. It is dangerous to **knowingly** pray scripture out of context to justify a person's own agenda.

His agenda was not to ask God to help or guide the leader of this country but to have him removed from office because he personally didn't like the President as a person or his politics and party affiliation. **ARE** we to pray for our President?



I Timothy 2:1-4 tell us, "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, **for kings and all who are in authority**, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (New American Standard Bible - Emphasis added) When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy, Nero was in power and believers in Jesus were under terrible persecution. Yet Paul said the people were to pray for this infamous leader despite their personal feelings about him.

Even though we may not understand why God has asked us to pray for those in authority, we are to be obedient and do as He asks. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (King James Bible)



God has the plan, He knows the reasons why, all we need to do is follow His instructions. In Psalms 22:28 we read, "He (God) rules over the nations". (New American

Standard Bible) If He is ruling over the nations, then it stands to reason that He knows what He is doing in that nation, even if we do not.

Each person in authority is allowed to be placed in their office by God. Psalm 75:6-7 says, "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge; He putteth down one and setteth up another." (King James Bible)

Over the centuries God has allowed good men and women to be in leadership. He has allowed



mediocre people and even evil people to be in positions of authority. We may not know or understand why God allows a certain person in any office at any particular time nonetheless it is our responsibility to pray for those in authority. The people in Paul's day may not have understood why they were asked to pray for Nero yet Paul asked them to pray for this wicked ruler because he knew it was the will of God for them to do so.

WHAT are we to be praying?

We find the answer to that question in I Timothy as well. Paul tells us **WHAT** we are to be pray. We are to pray for them to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth - not for God to strike them down or take them out or even to exalt them.

Why are we to pray for their salvation? First, because God loves those in authority as much as He loves every other person and it is His desire that all men be saved (I Timothy 2:4).

Second, so the people of our nation may lead a quiet and peaceable life. This principle is also stated in Proverbs 29:2 which says, "When the righteous are in authority the people

rejoice but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." (King James Bible)

We should be praying for our President to become the righteous man **God** desires for him to be. For the President and all those in leadership to have their hearts, minds, wills and emotions turned toward the true Lord and Savior. For their eyes and ears to be opened to the truth as defined in the Word of God.



We should also pray for him to be surrounded by men and women who can give Godly counsel. The Book of Proverbs has much to say about this:

Proverbs 11:14 Where no **counsel** [is], the people fall: but in the multitude of **counsellors** [there is] safety.

Proverbs 15:22 Without **counsel** purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of **counsellors** they are established.

And lastly the most important Word on counsel comes from Proverbs 19:21 [There are] many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless **the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.** (All references from the King James Bible with emphasis added).



We should make the determination that we are going to pray for the President of our country and all those in authority not because we like them personally, because we like their party affiliation or their politics but **BECAUSE THE BIBLE TELLS US TO DO SO.** We need to decide that we are going to pray in spite of our feelings, logic, understanding or party line. We need to have the desire to pray for those in leadership, at every level, because God wants to see them come to the true knowledge of Him, so His

"Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." – Benjamin Franklin, April 17, 1787.

How to Properly Pray for the President (cont)

counsel will stand and so we, the people of this great nation, will be able to live a peaceful and tranquil life.

Lastly, we need to make sure we are praying and interceding for those in

authority and especially for our President out of a pure heart and Godly motives and not get caught up in witchcraft by praying our own wills or agenda over them.

Remember the words of Paul not only to Timothy but to all believers that it is **good and acceptable** in the sight of God our Savior for us to be praying for our President and all those in authority.

“A Bible and a newspaper in every house, a good school in every district – all studied and appreciated as they merit – are the principal support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty.” – Benjamin Franklin

Healthy Mind, Healthy Soul

Health Care or Health Scare?

By **Michele Bester**
Eagle Christian Ministries, International

This article is first in a two part series. Part two will appear in our next newsletter.

The headlines and news reports are full of story after story of the continuing saga on Capitol Hill involving the healthcare debate. As I read yet another article on the subject, I found myself asking the question...what is this really all about? The Lord responded with, “*health care or health scare?*” As is usual when He asks a question, there is an answer He is asking us to see. This article by no means will answer this question in its entirety, as the debate over health care reform is an intricately woven garment of many strands.

In an article dated January 19, 2010, James C. Capretta of The Witherspoon Institute made the following comments:

“The choice the country faces in health-care reform is a stark one with profound ramifications: What process will best deliver affordable quality health-care to all Americans, a government-driven or market-driven one? The disagreement over what must be done to improve American health-care is profound and largely irreconcilable.

The outcome of the battle will be highly consequential, not just for our system of financing and delivering health-care, but also for our economy and democratic

processes. In short, the stakes are very, very high, and both sides know it. The real sticking point between the two sides is really about allocating resources in the health-care sector. Both sides agree that the status quo is unsustainable, largely because costs are rising much more rapidly than wages or governmental revenues. The crucial question is what to do about the problem. Put differently, the question health-care reform advocates must answer is this: what process will be put in place to bring about continual improvement in productivity and quality of patient care?”

“We are proverbially in a leaking ship that has so many holes in it that putting a plug in here and there is simply like putting a Band-Aid on a major hemorrhage.”

When we look at the healthcare issues, there are a few facts that we know. (1) Many individuals and families in the U.S. are uninsured or underinsured. Why? Because... (2) it costs too much. Health care costs are spiraling ridiculously out of control. We are proverbially in a leaking ship that has so many holes in it that putting a plug in here and there is simply like putting a Band-Aid on a major hemorrhage. Again,

the question is...*why are we here in this mess to begin with?* To answer, we, as a nation made up of individuals, must be willing to look beyond the surface, to stop shadow boxing with the circumstances and all the intellectual arguments, and go to the root of the issue.

There is currently a lot of finger pointing of blame for our current crisis. Many of the issues that are raised certainly have significantly contributed to the problem. Some of these are as follows.

As a nation, we have tolerated *illegal* immigrants within our borders for way too long. I am not against individuals immigrating to the U.S. However, it is the liar and deceiver who sneaks in and then stays in, taking advantage of the benefits that are supposed to be retained for those legally here. Billions of dollars – which ultimately then come out of the citizens’ pockets in terms of higher taxes or higher cost insurance and health care – go to paying off the debts incurred by those not legally here.

As a nation, we have tolerated corruption within the government and medical community for far too long. There are billions of dollars that go wasted in medical scams, insurance fraud, and pharmaceutical kickbacks.

As a nation, we have tolerated corruption within our legal system and allowed frivolous lawsuits or exorbitant judgments for the purpose of enriching ourselves to go unchecked. I am not against

Health Care or Health Scare? (cont)

seeking compensation when a wrong has been committed, but we have a tendency to be like leeches in these circumstances, taking above and beyond what is justified...all under the guise of "personal injury and suffering".

As a nation, we have become sicker and sicker, requiring more health care to begin with. Many people have multiple doctors, multiple and frequent visits to this doctor and that, and multiple medications they take. Healthcare has become like a slow growing cancer: by the time you realize you have it, it's too late. As a society, we have allowed ourselves to get sucked in and manipulated by the system to become so dependent on the system that we can't (or think we can't) live without it.

As a nation, we have allowed corruption and bad practices in the farming of our land and production of consumable food in the U.S, partly out of greed and partly out of ignorance, apathy, or convenience. We produce food of little nutritive value.

We allow our bodies to be contaminated with chemicals and pesticides that kill. We consume animals and animal products that are pumped full of steroids, growth hormones, and antibiotics, all for the purpose of making the animal "healthier" or "fatter" or "bigger" to bring a better corporate profit.

As a nation, we have allowed the government and corporate companies to tell us what is good or bad for us to eat. We have bought into what they advertise as good and safe for us hook, line, and sinker. We forget the influence that lobbyists have over the FDA and the fact that a company will do everything necessary to market their product, including mental and emotional manipulation through sensory advertising. We are like a bull led around by a nose ring, being led where they want us to go.

As a nation...

I posed this question earlier: *why are we in this mess to begin with?* Yes, there are many contributing facts and factors. Yes, there

are many things we can point the finger at. But what happens when you point a finger at someone else? Go ahead. Try it right now, look at your hand and see how many fingers are pointing back at you.

As a nation made up of individuals, we have allowed ourselves to get where we are by our own individual and collective actions and inactions. The government of the U. S. is supposedly voted in by the people and is to rule for the people, yet we have more lawmakers making policy decisions for their own benefit and re-election than we do really serving the American people. We are the ones who continue to allow that.

*To be continued
in the next issue...*

*"I am only one,
but I am one. I
cannot do
everything, but I
can do
something. What
I can do, I should
do and, with the
help of God, I
will do!" -Everett
Hale (1822-
1909), an
American author
who wrote over
50 books
including "The
Man Without a
Country." He
was the nephew
of Nathan Hale,
the revolutionary
war hero who
was hanged by
the British as a
spy.*

On This Day in Providential History

On March 3, 1931, the U.S. Congress officially adopted *The Star Spangled Banner* as our National Anthem and codified its act in title 36 U.S. Code Section 170. The song was written by a lawyer named Francis Scott Key on September 14, 1814 during the British bombardment of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The fourth verse is worth particular note:

*"O thus be it ever when free men shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation;
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just;
And this be our motto, 'In God is our trust!'
And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."*

ARM Celebrates Its 5th Anniversary in Style

On Saturday, July 17, 2010, America Reclaimed Ministries (ARM) celebrated its 5th anniversary by coordinating a private tour of the Mary Washington house in Fredericksburg, Virginia. According to its mission statement, ARM is a Christian ministry that seeks to see righteousness, virtue, and liberty restored in America by teaching and equipping people in America's founding principles.



Prior to their private tour, led by Barbara Kardatzke in period costume, ARM President and Co-founder, Doug Anderson spoke briefly of the origins, vision, and early activities of ARM over the past five years. He also spoke about current and future projects ARM is planning.

Following a clear direction from the Lord in early 2005, then Lt Col Anderson, who served 20 years as a JAG, submitted his retirement papers to the Air Force and began making plans to transition to civilian life and to start a ministry to preserve and proclaim God's Biblical truths of America. On June 28, 2005, he

and Dan Noel presented the idea to Pastor Tony Hall of Christ Worship Center (now The Connection), and it was at that meeting that the idea was approved and ARM was officially birthed.



Since then ARM has hosted four conferences, a historical presentation called, "An Evening with Jefferson," presented a series of Liberty Restoration classes teaching a Biblical worldview, made several presentations to local Christian groups, and even met with Senate Chaplain Black. Resources have also been produced including seven booklets on the seven founding principles of this nation, a website that includes approximately 30 historical documents, along with an explanation as to their



significance, and some initial issue papers tying Biblical principles of America to current events.

Convicted of the need and importance of praying for our nation and her leaders, for over two years ARM has hosted quarterly prayer for the nation events to pray corporately for America, along with training of intercessors who pray daily for our nation.



ARM continues to teach and train Christians and others in the Biblical truths that founded our nation, yet which have been largely forgotten or ignored. We encourage you to visit our website at www.americareclaimed.org and peruse some of the historical documents and issue papers for yourself.

Old New England Primer

Although today the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that most prayers in public school are unconstitutional, prayer in public school was fundamental to early Americans. Indeed, included in the most widely used public school textbook of our founding era, The New England Primer of 1777, was both a morning and evening prayer for the young students to recite. Below is a copy of the morning prayer to start their school day:

"Almighty God, the Maker of everything in Heaven and Earth; the Darkness goes away, and the Day Light comes at thy command. Thou art good and doest good continually. I thank thee that thou hast taken such care of me this Night, and that I am alive and well this morning. Save me, Oh God, from evil, all this day long, and let me love and serve thee forever, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son. Amen."

"The great art of government is not to govern too much." -

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746-1825), signer of the U.S. Constitution

American History

History Revised – Indian Relations in Early America

By Doug Anderson
President
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Those who wish to assault the Christian influence of our nation have worked hard to recast history in order to make the white Europeans who were Christian, to appear as evil invaders of America and the Indians who were living here at the time as angelic martyrs. Why should we be concerned? Because such revisions of history are really part of a larger agenda to diminish the positive impact of Christianity upon a nation.

As we view this early period of our nation's founding, it is important to consider the spiritual dynamics, something public school textbooks intentionally ignore. During the early 1600's, this land was inhabited by Indians who had never seen a Bible or heard of a man named Jesus. They believed in many false gods but had not been shown the One True God. In order to give the Indians an opportunity for eternal salvation, the Lord had to send a people from outside these shores who knew of Christ and the Bible.

In order to provide that opportunity of salvation for the Indians, God chose a people, in the Pilgrims and Puritans, who knew and loved both Christ and His Word. Through their persecution in Europe, and the spiritual motivations they received, He provided their reason to leave their own homes to come to America to share their faith and lives with the Indians who were already here. Moreover, through their Christian desire to evangelize, the Pilgrims and Puritans move to America represented, in a very real sense, a type of church planting operation with a missionary calling. It was not at all as some extreme revisionist history has portrayed it: a military invasion that sought to take over the land and commit genocide on the local population. When you read the actual writings of these early settlers from Europe, it is undeniable what their spiritual

motivation was.

Recall the language of their first political document on these shores, the Mayflower Compact. It said they came "for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith." That is far more consistent with a church planting operation with a missionary purpose than it is to a nefarious invasion to kill the local population. Their motives were to live in harmony with the local population, not to destroy them. This spiritual motivation and dynamic is essential to understand when reading historical accounts of this period of the 1600s.



While the Pilgrims and Puritans were not perfect, they were devoutly Christian and they did seek to conduct their lives in accordance with the Bible and the love of Christ. They came with a heavenly vision and brought Biblical principles to this land seeking to transform this land into one where light overcomes darkness. They rightfully viewed the Indians as a people in need of salvation. Indeed, their desire for peace with the local tribes resulted in their entering into a peace treaty with the local Indians that endured for 50 years; one of the greatest examples of peaceful relations between the Indians and the white Europeans in our history.

Were there problems between the Indians and the Pilgrims and Puritans? Of course; just as you would expect from any situation where foreigners arrive into a new community. Communication issues, and some

real distrust between them were certainly understandable factors on both sides. What is critical to recognize is that any bad behavior by anyone is not the result of their skin color; but of their lack of Biblical character. All people, regardless of color, culture or belief system, have a sin nature. There isn't a single group of people or specific skin color, whether they are Indians, European Caucasians, African Americans, Latinos, Asians or anyone else, that can claim superiority in behavior because we are all human and we all have the same sin nature.

Therefore we must be wary of any historical account that seeks to demonize an entire group, whether they are Indians or whites, because of their bad behavior. Any person who acts badly is not acting that way because their skin color is white, or red, or brown. They act badly because they have a sin nature. Any problems between the Indians and the Pilgrims or Puritans was not really an issue of race, as liberal historians seek to portray, but of sinful man in need of a savior, or in need of repentance for failing to follow Christ.

We should also clarify another historical revision in this equation: the Indian culture in the Americas during the 1600s was not the idyllic one portrayed in many of our movies, and certainly not as portrayed in Howard Zinn's revisionist history book, *A People's History of the United States*. The Bible should give us a clue that such portrayals of any people do not match that of man's fallen nature portrayed in Genesis. Doug Phillips, President of Vision Forum captured a different perspective of the Indians prior to Christian influence coming to the lands; a perspective the Bible implies is true of any culture without Christ.

"Prior to the arrival of Christian culture in North America, approximately 1 million people,

"Religion is the basis and Foundation of Government." – James Madison, June 30, 1785.

History Revised – Indian Relations in Early America (cont)

“The only foundation for . . . a republic is to be laid in Religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty . . .” --

Benjamin Rush,
signer of the
Declaration of
Independence

none of whom were united under a single banner, were sparsely distributed on a vast land mass that was in excess of 3 million square miles. These cultures constantly warred against each other, had no written language, worshipped demons and animal spirits, practiced cannibalism and child sacrifice, had no biblical concept of property ownership, and because of insufficient cultivation of the land, sometimes starved, despite access to vast resources.”

(World Net Daily, April 20, 2007)

It is critical for us to maintain a Biblical perspective on history if we are to see through such blatant revisionist attempts to undermine the Christian influence of the past. From a Biblical perspective, the Indians were without Christ and were in desperate need of evangelization by a people with knowledge of the Bible and a relationship with Christ. From a Marxist perspective the white man represented an oppressive invasion, theft of land, and genocide of innocent native people. Such a perspective is not only racially divisive, it ignores and distorts facts. Consider the following example.

Example of the Pequot War.

When a liberal historian talks about early atrocities, he will always be referring to Indian atrocities by the white man, not the other way around, and invariably he will refer to the Pequot War from 1636-1639 in which the claim is that the Pequot tribe was nearly wiped out by the Puritans. He or she will also invariably exaggerate any blame upon the Puritans. For example, in a book by Alfred E. Cave, called, *The Pequot War* (1996), Mr. Cave asserts the fault lay exclusively with the Puritans. In laying out his case, he intentionally omits some key facts.

Cave describes the war was caused by the Puritans who transformed "petty squabbles"

into "a cosmic struggle of good and evil in the wilderness," that the Puritans had little respect for cultural diversity, that they viewed many of the Indian practices as Satanic, and that their own actions of warring against the Pequot's was required of "Saints." In other words, Cave seeks to place all the current liberal labels of Christian intolerance and bigotry upon the Puritans and make that the cause of the near genocide of the "innocent" Pequot tribe.

“Any person who acts badly is not acting that way because their skin color is white, or red, or brown. They act badly because they have a sin nature; the byproduct of being human, not the byproduct of a certain racial composition.”

Such narratives not only are completely false, if accepted, they can lead to the belief that Christian influence in any nation is actually dangerous! Therein lies the hidden agenda to remove Christianity from the public arena. In Zinn's textbook, the Pequot violence against whites that led to the war is almost entirely absent from the text. In his one-sided portrayal of wrong behavior, the author details only the atrocities committed by the Puritans. While graphic descriptions of Puritan violence are highlighted, Pequot atrocities are brushed aside.

In actuality, the Pequot tribe was an extremely violent tribe that was despised by all the surrounding tribes. Moreover, the Puritan defense of their people against the Pequots was a legitimate need, given the fact they had been attacked by that tribe on several occasions.

Also absent from Howard Zinn's devious narrative are the atrocities that the Pequots committed against other Indians of the Connecticut Valley. The Pequots not only waged war on whites, but on their fellow Native Americans as well. They were a belligerent people feared by

weaker tribes.

Myth of the Fort Mystic Massacre of 1637.

The deceptions about the Pequot tribe are enhanced by the characterization of what is often referred to as the "Fort Mystic Massacre." Some revisionist narratives refer to a massacre by the Puritans or Englishmen of some 700 Pequot men, women and children at Mystic Fort, burning many of them alive in their homes and shooting those who fled.

Yet never do you read that it was primarily Indians from other tribes who attacked and massacred the Pequots. Though objective facts are difficult to come by on this issue, it is clear that the attacking force at Fort Mystic, was approximately 500 men; of which only about 70 were Puritans. The remaining 400 plus members of the attacking force were a confederation of opposing Indian tribes who did not like the Pequots. The few Puritans involved had been requested to join the other Indian tribes against the hated Pequots. The violence towards the Pequots was primarily violence rendered by Indians against Indians. It is far from truthful to claim it was a massacre by violent white men against peaceful Indians.

Such accounts undermine the truth: that the Pilgrims and Puritans had an evangelistic zeal that sought good relations with the Indians. They sought to glorify God with a missionary intent toward the Indians, not to conquer and destroy them like an invading military force. As a result, the relations between themselves and the local Indians was extremely good overall, due to the Christian influence that was so strong.

Sadly, that Christian influence weakened over time and as it did, treatment of the Indians by the whites later in our history deteriorated badly. As a result of such non-Christ-like treatment, there continue to be deep wounds and anger in the hearts of many

History Revised – Indian Relations in Early America (cont)

people. The devil can use that animosity to promote division, which is bad enough. But we don't need to fuel the fire of hatred through revisions of our history that seeks to portray the Christians in a negative light and make it a race issue instead of the spiritual issue it really is.

When Christians act wrongly, as they sometimes do, it is contrary to their Biblical worldview and beliefs. Therefore, the lesson to remedy such conduct should always be to encourage greater faith and reliance upon Christ, not less, and to encourage more of God in the public

arena, not less. As you read accounts of violence between the Indians and white men in our nation, do so through spiritual eyes. Such violence is not caused by a person's skin color; it is caused by sinful hearts in need of forgiveness and salvation.

Religious Liberty

A Clash Between "Rights"

By **Doug Anderson**
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As militant homosexual groups continue to push their agenda in the State houses and court houses of the land, a clash between their "rights" to have their sinful lifestyle sanctioned by law and the rights of Christians to freely exercise their religion was inevitable. Given two recent pending cases, it is safe to say the battle has been joined between homosexuals and Christians, and the short-term winner thus far has been the advocates of homosexuality.

In one case, a Christian woman, Julea Ward, enrolled in the graduate counseling program at Eastern Michigan University. When a lesbian couple approached her for counseling on their relationship, Ms. Ward tried to avoid such an obvious conflict with her religious beliefs by attempting to refer the couple to another counselor. Her attempted referral was discreet, never mentioning her personal disapproval of the couple's lesbian lifestyle.

Unfortunately for her, her efforts to transfer the case to another counselor was denied. Even worse, she was admonished by the school and given a choice of either counseling homosexual clients on their same-sex relationships or taking a remediation program in which she would need to see "the error

of her ways" and change her beliefs about homosexuality. When she refused to accept the choices given her, the University removed her from the school's counseling program for her refusal to counsel homosexual clients.

While the school claimed she violated school policy and the American Counseling Association (ACA) code of ethics, that code of ethics actually allows for client referrals to other counselors when a counselor determines they have a conflict of interest or is otherwise unable to counsel a client. That option, typically provided others, was not provided to Ms. Ward. To prevent being disenrolled in the graduate counseling program, Julea Ward filed suit against the university claiming that her Christian beliefs precluded her from affirming relationships which she believed were inconsistent with Biblical teachings and that the university failed to make reasonable accommodation for her religious beliefs.

"Abandoning one's own religious beliefs should not be a precondition at a public university for obtaining a degree."

On July 26, 2010, U.S. District Court Judge George Caram Steh dismissed Ward's lawsuit (Ward v. Wilbanks)

against Eastern Michigan University and rejected her free exercise of religion claim, stating, *"Plaintiff was not required to change her views or religious beliefs; she was required to set them aside in the counselor-client relationship – a neutral, generally applicable expectation of all counselors-to-be under the ACA standard."*

Amazingly, this federal judge ignored the ACA code of ethics that provides for easy accommodation of religious views through referrals to other counselors. In so doing, he ensured that religious rights were unceremoniously denied for the sake of advancing homosexual "rights," and an agenda contrary to most Christian's religious beliefs.

A second case, at Augusta State University in Georgia, is almost identical. Jennifer Keeton, a graduate student in the school of counseling, accused the university of similarly violating her rights by ordering her to change her views opposing homosexuality. Like Julea Ward at Eastern Michigan, Jennifer was ordered to complete a homosexual remediation plan to accept their lifestyle in a positive way or risk expulsion. Keeton, 24, was pursuing her master's degree in counseling at Augusta State. After her professors learned of her biblical beliefs, specifically her views on homosexual conduct, from both classroom discussions and private conversations with other

"The American government and the Constitution is the most precious possession which the world holds, or which the future can inherit. This is true – true because the American system is the political expression of Christian ideas." – North American Review, 1867.

Faith or Pretense (cont)

always be the foundation from which our prayers originate. So, in essence, our faith is the embryo, the nucleus, and the birthing place of all of our prayers. Our prayers, our lives, and our subsequent actions should be the outspoken declaration of our faith.

“Your faith should be a continuation of your prayers.”

What is interesting here is the hidden continuous future tense. If my prayers are the spoken expression of my faith, then my faith should also be the continuation of my prayers. In other words, my prayers should stimulate an action – the action of continuous faith – in action, until the manifestation of the Lord’s will is seen or experienced.

“Your lives should be a continuation of both.” What an incredibly powerful summary of the fundamental essence of our lives. We live through Him, for Him, and by Him. Faith is the fundamental nature – the very quintessence of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, and our lives should be a continuous extension of His person.

In Heb 11:1 (Ampl) we read, *“Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title-deed) of the things (we) hope for, being the proof of the things (we) do not see and the conviction of their reality – faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”* The Greek word for faith used here is “Pistis”, which means the moral conviction of the truthfulness of God, reliance upon Christ, and the constancy of our profession. According to this passage, our faith is the title deed for what we hope for.

Imagine you receive a letter in the mail one day informing you that you have inherited property somewhere. Included in that letter is also the title deed to that property. That title deed is the proof of your legitimate ownership. So, our faith expressed through our prayers is the title deed of the things we ask for when the Lord initiates our

prayers in our hearts, spirits and then through our minds - which have been renewed by His word.

In Colossians 1:9 (Amplified Bible) the Apostle Paul, writing to the Christians in Colosse, makes a profound statement when he revealed his prayers to God on their behalf. He said, *“asking that you may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom (that is, in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God) and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things.”*

Now let’s go back to the Lord’s word when He said our lives should be a continuation of our faith and our prayers. In essence what He was saying is this: Our prayers – being inspired by the knowledge of His will as the basis of our faith, and our faith being a continuation of our prayers, should be reflected by our words (spoken faith) and consequently by our action filled lives... continuously. In His words the Lord is encouraging all of us to actually LIVE our faith in Him from a foundation of the total and moral conviction in our hearts of the truthfulness of God, reliance upon Christ, and the constancy of our profession.

This is actually the reciprocal of what we all too commonly see happening in the world today. For too long, Christians in this nation have allowed themselves to be gagged, intimidated, and paralyzed by the anti-Christ. Through this word, the Lord is giving us the mandate to rise up as His body, His representatives, and to become offensive instead of being defensive in our faith.

“So, in essence, our faith is the embryo, the nucleus, and the birthing place of all of our prayers.”

The Constitution of the USA is saturated with that same moral and outspoken conviction, and it is the moral and spiritual duty and responsibility of every true

Christian in this nation to actively promote and instill those same convictions in a morally deprived society. There are far too many “CINO’s” (Christian in name only) in our society. We – the Lord’s representatives – are called upon to saturate every level of society with His morals, His standards, and His life-giving laws. We – His people – should be present, active, and participative in every level of society where, through (His) elected officials, the moral intrinsic worth of our faith and consequently that of every institute is established. This is the parable of the yeast in action, and this wonderful opportunity is embedded in the foundation and expressed purpose of our Constitution!

The Lord in His mercy has shown me several snapshots of an unprecedented move of His Spirit coming upon America that will have far-reaching effects across the Northern hemisphere. This move will have its greatest emphasis in the church with a restoration of holiness, sanctification, and dedication. In Luke chapter 18 we read the Lord’s parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge who eventually, because of the widow’s persistency, granted her petition. The widow’s earnestness prevailed. What is important in this parable is the way the Lord ended in verse eight when He asked, *“Yet when the Son of Man comes, shall He find (persistence in) the faith on the earth?”* (Amplified Bible)

What will the Lord find when He comes to visit us? Will He find absolute, action-filled faith amongst His children, or will He find the same pretense of faith from His people that has allowed moral degeneracy and the anti-Christ to instill fear and intimidation every time we express our faith and the Godly values and principles embedded in our Constitution?

When we, God’s people, will live our faith and stand united, America will stand united.

“No King but King Jesus!” -Cry of the American Colonies in 1774 published by the Committees of Correspondence.

Faith or Pretense (cont)

We - God's people - are to drive out the darkness, the immorality and depravity. We are called upon to stand as a unified army just like Joshua's army facing the impenetrable walls of Jericho. When we act as a cohesive whole; when we shout the convictions of our faith – our prayers; when we surround the enemy – through our unification and faith, through the constancy

of our profession, when our lives are a continuation of our faith; then and only then, will we see the glory of the Lord as the walls come crashing down.

The words the Lord spoke to me are extremely timely. Right now, and for the next two years, we have been given a small window of opportunity; so let us unite as God's people. Let our prayers, our faith, our actions and

our lives make a way for the Lord and His coming move to change the course of this nation forever back to God. Let the Son of Man find the faith He's looking for amongst His people!

We the People... God's People!!

Look for our next quarterly issue in April.

If you would like further information about America Reclaimed Ministries, or would like to provide any feedback, questions, or comments about this newsletter, please visit our website at www.americareclaimed.org.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our guest authors, Izak and Michele Bester of Eagle Christian Ministries, International. If you wish, you may contact them on their website at www.eaglechristianministriesint.com

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