

Pulpit Freedom Sunday 2012

"It is the duty of all nations to *acknowledge the providence of Almighty God*, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor!" –George Washington, founding father

"*We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion*. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other!" –John Adams, founding father

"*And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?* That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever!" – Thomas Jefferson, founding father

"I've lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We've been assured in the sacred writings *that unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it!*" –Benjamin Franklin, founding father

"*Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers*, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers." – First Supreme Court Justice John Jay, served from 1789 to 1795

"*I verily believe Christianity necessary to the support of civil society*. One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the Common Law. There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as laying its foundations." –Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, served from 1812 to 1845

"I looked for the genius and power of America and not until I went to her churches and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand... *America is great because she is good and if America ever ceases to be good America will no longer be great!*" –Alexis de Tocqueville, 1831

"*Faith in (Jesus Christ) goes hand in hand with the highest civilization, and all realize that the more His spirit enters into one's life the better that life becomes*. In the light of this admitted fact, can any one look thoughtfully upon the future of this nation without believing that if His spirit shall become more and more potent, not merely the individual citizens, but the nation as a whole will rise in all the elements of moral grandeur and power? – 1905, U.S. Supreme Court Justice David J. Brewer, "*The United States: A Christian Nation*"

"Whatever we once were, we're no longer a Christian nation... at least not just a Christian nation. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, and a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation and a nation of nonbelievers..." –Barack Obama

The further away from the inception of our country we get the further away our country gets from God! Thru the moral weakness of the church, the immoral minority of our country is distancing us from God in three main areas...

Prayer/Name of Jesus! "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee and beg Thy blessing over us, our parents, our teachers, and our nation." –New York Students daily prayer taken before the Supreme Court in 1962

Since the decision; teen pregnancy has soared, STD's increased 226% in 12 yrs., divorce 300% per year 15 yrs., co-habitations 353%, single-parent families 140%, SAT scores declined for 18yrs (before Religious schools increased 310%), crime 554%, drugs, abortion! –SRA study/ David Barton "To Pray or not to Pray"

Roane County High School, Kingston, Tennessee, Principal Jody McCloud, on *Sept 1, 2000. (3 mos. after Santa Fe ISD ruling)*

"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the National Anthem to honor God and Country. Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law. As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it an alternate lifestyle, and if someone is offended, that's OK. I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity by dispensing condoms and calling it safe sex. If someone is offended, that's OK. I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a viable means of birth control. If someone is offended, no problem. I can designate a school day as earth day and involve students in activities to religiously worship and praise the goddess, mother earth, and call it ecology. I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depict people with strong, traditional, Christian convictions as simple minded and ignorant and call it enlightenment. However, if anyone uses this facility to honor God and ask Him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, Federal Case Law is violated. This appears to be at best, inconsistent and at worst, diabolical. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone except God and His Commandments. Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules which they do not necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be at best, inconsistent and at worst, hypocritical. I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression. For this reason, I shall, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and refrain from praying at this time. However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank God, and ask Him in the name of Jesus to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law----yet."

Santa Fe ISD, June 19, 2000, Student led prayer unconstitutional... Vis-à-vis the "Majoritarian process"
Georgia High school, 2009 (referred to 2000 case)
Kountze High School Cheerleader Banners...

Wisconsin based Freedom from Religion Foundation filed cease order... Liberty Institute got a temporary order... Texas AG, Greg Abbott promised to file a brief if KISD had to go to court! Waiting the results! 2 more weeks

Abortion! Now that we know that abortion funding is in the health care package... What might have begun as a benevolent thought to help 30mil people with health insurance... Has now become *participative infanticide!* Need to do all we can to reverse the law or to stand aside from participation...

Defense of Marriage! President has said he will not enforce the DOMA because he doesn't think it is constitutional... Never had a sitting president not uphold the law and the will of the people... Has the right to an opinion... has the right to try to change the law... But not to pick and choose which laws to uphold while OUR Chief Executive! ***But it's not the politicians that we really have to be worried about...*** How about the man TIME Magazine named as one of the 25 most influential evangelicals in America.

Author and well-known Christian speaker Brian McLaren led a commitment ceremony for his son Trevor Douglas McLaren and his same-sex partner this past Saturday... with traditional Christian elements.

McLaren on McLaren: "I was a good kid, I believed what I'd been told. And as a pastor, I started having gay people come out to me and what became clearer and clearer to me is that their experience was not explained by the theology I inherited. And that it would be unjust to continue to uphold what I'd been taught. Maybe I could say it like this: My call to love God and love my neighbor was in conflict with what I'd been taught the Bible required me to say and do."

There is no conflict between loving God and loving others and telling them the truth in love, in fact it is a conflict of love not to!

That is not a matter of controlling what others do, everyone has God-given human rights to do what they want... The conflict only occurs when people with human rights want to make them "civil/ national" rights!

And that's why it's so important to tear us down as a Christian nation... take away the Christianity and "civil" is up for definition!

SWAIGTDWWIKN?

From now until November 6th Need to be tanking up to power our faith/belief/convictions! Topping off on the Word of God! **R10** Praying w/regularity in the Spirit! **Jude20** Meditating/muttering the word! **Josh1.8** "Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine, don't neglect your gifts, meditate on these things and give yourself to them wholly that your advancement by them may shine for all to see!" **1Tim4.13-15**

From now until November 6th Need to register and prepare to vote and be ready for whatever the outcome of the elections! If we have four more years of judgment from God, must be patient, enduring... "It is required that stewards be found faithful!" **1Cor4.2** If we have four years of mercy, must be diligent to defeat complacency! **Rev3.15,16** Whatever the outcome, the church needs to be the church again!

From now until November 6th Need to shine the light... and salt (flavor and preserve) the future... no matter what! "America is great because she is good!" And that has to be in the good and bad times of our national life! So we must show ourselves faithful! What we do and say will determine other's perception and reception...

Why America is New, Better & Different

1. It is the only nation built explicitly on the reality that people are made in the image of God. That is why the Declaration of Independence says "...that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."
 2. It is the only nation that allows these same people the opportunity to work as long as they want, as hard as they want in any profession that they want.
 3. It is the only nation that still actively exhibits the freedom to worship, freedom to pray, freedom to vote, freedom to speak, the freedom to assembly, and the freedom of press.
 4. America has produced the most compassionate nation in the history of the world. Seventy percent of all aid to third world countries, and 70% of all aid to missionaries, comes from America.
 5. America has produced more advances in technology and inventions than all other countries combined. That is because we have the unique system of free enterprise.
- Why America is New, Better & Different

6. America is the only country that selflessly not only enjoys freedom for herself but wants others around the world to enjoy this freedom, and actively promotes efforts to secure those freedoms for others.

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice... but when the wicked bear rule the people mourn." **Pr 29.2 (KJV)**

"When the righteous become great the people rejoice... but when a lawless man bears rule the people mourn." **Pr 29.2 (Hb)**

"When good men bring tone to society the people rejoice... but when the wicked bear rule the people suffer." **Pr 29.2 (Lit)**

Bring tone!