

## AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

9/17/2017

There continues to be an onslaught against Christianity in America. Someone has said; "The faith that gave birth to tolerance is no longer tolerated."

### I. What some Presidents have stated about religious freedom;

- A. "From its beginning, the new continent seemed destined to be the home of religious tolerance." (Calvin Coolidge, May 3, 1925)
- B "Those who are attacking religion claim they are doing it in the name of tolerance. Question: Isn't the real truth that they are intolerant of religion?" (Ronald Reagan, August 23, 1984)

### II. ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA

#### A. Persecuted for praying;

1. New Orleans, La—ACLU sued to stop student led prayer. (12/11/01)
2. Virginia—ACLU sued to stop student moment of silence. (10/29/01)
3. Santa Fe, NC—ACLU sued to stop student led prayer before a football game. (12/13/01)
4. Virginia Military Institute---ACLU suite ended the 50 plus year tradition of meal prayer. (01/02)
5. New York—Kindergartner told she could not pray out loud before snack time. (4/12/02)
6. Balch Springs, TX—Seniors told they could not pray over their meals at senior center. (9/03)
7. Seward, Nebraska—Superintendent threatened to fire teacher who asked for prayer at a private meeting because school was anticipating layoffs. (7/02)
8. USA—The IRS said churches can't pray for Bush victory. (10/04)

## B. Persecuted over the phrase; “God Bless America.”

1. Rocklin, CA—ACLU demanded a God Bless America sign be taken down. (10/2/01)
2. East Troy, Wisconsin—Less than a month after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack, the Freedom from Religion Foundation threatened legal action against Prairie View Elementary School because of a sign reading “God Bless America”
3. Cincinnati, OH—Free Inquiry Group opposed God Bless America signs after the 9-11 attack. (11/5/01)
4. Anaheim, CA—Student told he could not wear pin with flag and God Bless America. (10/18/02)
5. Broken Arrow, OK—State Superintendent of Schools had God taken out of God Bless America sign, so sign read Bless America. (9/25/01)

## C. Persecuted over the Ten Commandments

1. Chester, PA—ACLU sued to remove 82 year old Ten Commandment Plaque. (3/6/02)
2. Tennessee—ACLU sued to remove the Ten Commandments from Hamilton and Rutherford County court houses. (5/15/02)
3. Indiana—ACLU sued to stop Gov. O’Bannon from erecting a Ten Commandment monument to replace one that was vandalized.. (2/19/02)
4. Alabama—11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court orders Chief Justice Roy Moore’s Ten Commandment Monument to be removed from the Alabama State Judicial Building. (8/5/02)
5. Murfreesboro Tn. Judge Robert Exhols orders Ten Commandments removed from a display of historical documents displayed in the Rutherford County Courthouse. (6/25/02)

## C. Persecution over Billboards

1. New Orleans, LA—ACLU sued to remove billboard with Jesus is Lord outside of Franklinton.

2. Staten Island, NY—Local Government officials ordered billboards bought by Rev. Kristopher Okwedy of Keyword Ministries taken down because they had a scripture verse that was considered hate speech by homosexuals.

#### D. Meetings receive persecution

1. Waukesha Wisconsin—Good News Club evicted from after school meetings. (5/23/02)
2. Orlando, FL—Rabbi fined for holding prayer gathering inside his home. (3/20/2002)
3. Pittsburgh, PA—Community room cancelled “We the People” event because some religious literature was displayed”
4. City of Terrell, TX—YMCA banned from renting their facility to a church. (10/4/)
5. McKinney, TX—City code prohibits church members from meeting in their pastors home. (7/04)

#### E. Schools receive persecution

1. Plano, TX—Young girl not allowed to pass out pencils with Jesus written on it, while other gifts with secular messages were permitted. (12/04)
2. Fort Worth TX—School District did not allow student to pass out constitutionally protected material on public sidewalks. (2/04)
3. Liverpool, NY—Fourth grader Michaela Bloodgood at Perry Elementary School prohibited from distribution literature with religious message during non-instructional time. (10/28/04)
4. Jefferson County, CO—Elementary school student had her Bible confiscated from the playground when she was caught sharing some verses with a friend. (12/04)
5. Plano, TX—Girl forbidden from inviting friends to Easter event at her church. (12/04)

6. Louisiana---ACLU asks for jail sentence for teachers who pray after court ban (5/18/05)

## II. GREAT LEADERS TAKE TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE PART GOD HAS PLAYED IN OUR COUNTRY.

- A. Thomas Jefferson—April 21, 1803—“His system of morals...if filled up in the style and spirit of the rich fragments He left us, would be the most perfect and sublime that has every been taught by man...Of all the systems of morality, ancient and modern, which have come under my observation none appear to me so pure as that of Jesus.”
- B. Abraham Lincoln—March 4, 1861—“Intelligence, patriotism, Christianly, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty.”
- C. John Tyler—April 3, 1841—“When a Christian people feel themselves to be overtaken by a great public calamity, it becomes them to humble themselves under the dispensation of Divine Providence.
- D. Calvin Coolidge—March 4, 1925---America seeks no earthly empires built on blood and force. No ambition, no temptation, lures her to thought of foreign dominions. The legions which she sends forth are armed, not with sword, but with the Cross. The higher state to which she seeks the allegiance of all mankind is not of human, but Divine origin. She cherishes no purpose save to merit the favor of Almighty God.”

## III. OUR COURTS HAVE UPHOLD OUR NATION AS CHRISTIAN

- A. Maryland Supreme Court, 1799—“By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed upon the same equal footing, and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty.”
- B. Massachusetts Grand Jury 1802—“The laws of the Christian system, as embraced by the Bible, must be respected as of high authority in all our courts and it cannot be thought improper for the officers of such government to acknowledge their obligation to be governed by its rule.”
- C. Without a doubt our nation has turned in the opposite direction.