

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

9/24/2017

It is amazing how our country has changed over the past few years. Sad to say it has not changed for the better.

I. THE EARLY CHURCH STRUCK A NERVE IN ITS SOCIETY

A. They were confronted by "Certain lewd fellows of the baser sort" (Acts 17:5)

1. The issue then as now was over the Person of Jesus Christ; "Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus whom I preach unto you, is Christ." (Acts 17:3)
2. They were accused of turning "The world upside down." (Acts 17:6)

B. Christianity grew because its adherents were not silent.

1. They stood against the evils of their day!
2. Their stand eventually caused the foundations of Rome to crumble!

C. In view of today's social problems Billy Graham said many years ago that Christians are "afflicted with moral laryngitis."

II. SEEING THE EROSION OF OUR SOCIETY MANY PASTORS HAVE HAD MIND CHANGES

A. In 1965 Jerry Falwell said; "Believing the Bible as I do, I would find it impossible to stop preaching the pure saving gospel of Jesus Christ, and begin doing anything else...including fighting communism or participating in civil rights reforms...Preachers are not called to be politicians, but to be soul winners...Nowhere are we commissioned to reform the external. The gospel does not clean up the outside, but rather regenerates the inside."

1. However in 1979 Dr. Falwell formed the Moral Majority.
 - a. He gave a large portion of his life into the political realm.
 - b. The Moral Majority played a pivotal role in getting Ronald Reagan elected President of The United States Of America in 1981.

2. He came to a different understanding of the Christian's civic responsibilities.
- B. Echoes of Dr. Falwells 1965 voice are still mirrored across the evangelical landscape.
- C. Well-known names have criticized the involvement of Christians in political affairs including;
1. Author Cal Thomas who was vice president of Moral Majority from 1980-85
 2. Ed Dobson was a national known author and speaker
 - a. Rev Dobson was at one time an executive for the Moral Majority.
 - b. He changed his stance and rebuffed his previous belief system.
 3. John MacArthur published a book against Christian civic engagement.
- D. I would remind us that the Bible is filled with great men and women who got involved in the politics of their day.
1. Moses stood in the presence of Pharaoh
 2. Nehemiah spoke to a foreign king about the condition of Jerusalem
 3. Esther came to the kingdom for "such a time as this."
 4. Nathan stood in the presence of King David.
 5. Daniel refused the command of the king when he was told not to pray.
 6. Shadrach, Meshach and Abendnego refused the command of the king and would not bow down before his idols.
 7. John the Baptist stood in the presence of the king and preached conviction to him because of his lifestyle.
 8. Paul stood in the presence of Felix; "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, **Felix** trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." (Acts 24:25)

E. Dr. D. James Kennedy of The Coral Ridge Ministries in Fort Lauderdale Florida was a staunch defender of our Judao-Christian freedoms.

1. Dr. Kennedy went to Heaven on September 5th 2007.
2. At his funeral Dr. James Dobson raised the question; “Who will defend the unborn child; who will speak for them? Who will speak for those who are older and no longer productive? Who will plead for the Terri Schiavos of the world who can be starved to death legally for having the misfortune of being disabled? Who has the courage to speak up? Who is going to fight for the institution of marriage...and teach young people the dangers of heterosexual and homosexual promiscuity? Who will, in the next generation, be willing to take the heat when it is so much safer and comfortable to avoid controversy?”

F. May I say at this point in our lesson, Return America has been a staunch defender of our belief system here in North Carolina and has influenced many beyond our state line.

III. THE ALBATROSS AROUND OUR NECKS SINCE 1947

A. In 1947 The Supreme Court ruled in “McCollum vs. Board of Education” that a wall existed between church and state; “In the words of Jefferson, the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect a wall of separation between church and state.”

B. Since then the ACLU until this day has sought to:

1. Remove Ten Commandments displays.
2. Manger scenes from the Public Square.
3. Bibles from public life.
4. Prayer from political gatherings.
5. In short, to purge the Christian religion from public life.

C. History has proven that religion holds nations together.

1. Historians Will and Ariel Durant stated in 1968 “There is no significant example in history before our time of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion.”
2. A Chinese researcher has stated that he and his colleagues; “studied everything we could from the historical, political, economic, and cultural perspective” to understand Western dominance then explained; “At first, we thought it was because you had more powerful guns than we had. Then we thought it was because you had the best political system. Next we focused on your economic system. But in the past twenty years, we have realized that the heart of your culture is your religion; Christianity. That is why the West has been so powerful. The Christian moral foundation of social and cultural life was what made possible the emergence of capitalism and then the successful transition to democratic politics. We don’t have any doubt about this.”

IV. WE HAVE EXAMPLES HISTORICALLY OF GODLESS NATION AND THEIR RESULTS

- A. The short lived French Revolution in 1789-1799 proves that anti-religious establishment does not produce a robust nation.
 1. In their rejection of Christianity they established a calendar without Sundays.
 2. Tens of thousands of their people were guillotined for their faith.
 3. The streets of Paris flowed with the blood of its people.
 4. A nineteenth century French Agnostic stated; “If Rationalism wishes to govern the world without regard to the religious needs of the soul, the experience of the French Revolution is there to teach us the consequences of such a blunder.”
- B. Once religion is removed the path to destruction is an open door.
 1. Lenin, Stalin, Mao, and their fellow communist according to “The Black Book of Communism” are responsible for the death of 100 million people.
 2. The court-ordered departure from our Christian moral framework has resulted in the death of more than 60 million people all of them unborn.