

## AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

10/1/2017

In our lifetime we have fought to keep our Christian Heritage because the state has dared to intrude into unforbidden territory. We have Scriptural reasons to demand that our belief system should be off limits to government intrusion.

### I. A GOOD KING IS SEEN. (II CHRONICLES 26)

A. Uzziah became king at the age of 16. (II Chron; 26:1)

1. His reign lasted 52 years. (II Chron; 26:3)
2. For a period of time he did that which was right. (II Chron; 26:4)
3. In the days of Zachariah he sought the Person of God. (II Chron; 26:5)

B. God helped Uzziah against his enemies. (II Chron; 26:7)

C. As king he had his hand in many projects.

1. He built towers in Jerusalem. (II Chron; 26:9,10)
2. He dug wells. (II Chron; 26:10)
3. He had a great amount of cattle. (II Chron; 26:10)
4. He was involved in husbandry. (II Chron; 26:10)

D. Uzziah was a great military man.

1. Those in charge of his military numbered 2600 men. (II Chron; 26:13)
2. Uzziah had a standing army of over 300,000 men. (II Chron; 26:13)

E. He was an inventor of weapons to be used against the enemy;. (II Chron; 26:15)

### II. A GOOD KING DESTROYS HIMSELF.

A. Uzziah became prosperous and lifted up with pride. (II Chron; 26:16)

1. Notice what contributed to his condition;

- a. He became famous. (II Chron; 26:8)
  - b. He misappropriated the blessings of God. (II Chron; 26:7,15)
- 2. Uzziah failed to understand a Biblical truth; "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)
- B. Uzziah did not respect the boundaries God had established.
  - 1. Priests only were to offer incense in the House of God.
  - 2. Uzziah tried to usurp the office of the priest; (II Chron; 26:16)
  - 3. Those who understood this move to be wrong;
    - a. The priests; (II Chron; 26:17-18)
    - b. God. He sent leprosy to Uzziah (II Chron; 26:19,20)
  - 4. Uzziah was cut off from the house of the Lord; (II Chron; 26:21)
- C. The facts are clear in this illustration;
  - 1. The state has no business posturing into Holy things.
  - 2. God has set boundaries in His creation which are to be obeyed.
- II. TWO REALMS TO BE OBEYED ARE SEEN.
  - A. The distinction is found in Mark 12:17.
    - 1. The question asked; "Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not" V.14
    - 2. The answer of Jesus is given; "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." V.17
  - B. Christians are obligated to obey the state when it acts within the limits of the things that are Caesar's.
  - C. When Caesar invades the sanctuary and the things which belongs to God the Christians have a duty to resist.
- III. ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE UNRIGHTEOUS DECREES ARE NOT TO BE OBEYED
  - A. The King of Egypt told the midwives to kill the male children when they were born. (Exodus 1:15,16) The midwives refused to do so!

- B. The authorities told the early disciples not to teach nor preach about Jesus; (Acts 5:28,29) They refused the decree and kept on preaching!

### III ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE UNRIGHTEOUS POLITICAL LEADERS ARE TO BE CONFRONTED.

#### A. Samuel confronted Saul; (I Samuel 15:22-23)

1. Saul disobeyed God in keeping the best of the animals whom God said to destroy. (I Samuel 15:3,8,9)
2. Saul also spared the life of King Agag whom God said to destroy.
3. Samuel chastised Saul for his disobedience and reminded him that he had lost his kingdom as a result of his actions. (I Samuel 15:22,23)

- B. Elijah confronted wicked Ahab over his Baal worship and was called the one "That troubleth Israel" (I Kings 18:17)

- C. Nathan confronted David for his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah. (II Samuel 12:7)

### IV. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO BE SALT AND LIGHT

- A. Note what our Lord said about salt; "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of man." (Matthew 5:13)

1. Salt stings
2. Salt burns
3. As salt, Christians are to help preserve our society.

- B. Note what our Lord said about light; " Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. (Matthew 5:14)

1. Light reveals what is contained in darkness
  - a. This world is given to darkness
  - b. The political system is dominated by darkness

c. The Christian has the responsibility to speak light into that darkness

2. Light gives directions

a. The lost world is stumbling along in darkness without direction.

b. We as Christians having received Light are to give out light.

V. TODAY MORE THAN EVER WE ARE CALLED UPON TO STAND

A. Nathan Hale was a spy for the Continental Army.

1. He volunteered for an intelligence-gathering mission in New York City but was captured by the British.

2. Hale was sentenced to die by the British

3. A British Soldier fills us in on the details; "On the morning of his execution," continued the officer, "my station was near the fatal spot, and I requested the Provost Marshal [William Cunningham] to permit the prisoner to sit in my marquee, while he was making the necessary preparations. Captain Hale entered: he was calm, and bore himself with gentle dignity, in the consciousness of rectitude and high intentions. He asked for writing materials, which I furnished him: he wrote two letters, one to his mother and one to a brother officer. He was shortly after summoned to the gallows. But a few persons were around him, yet his characteristic dying words were remembered. He said, 'I only regret, that I have but one life to lose for my country.'

B. My (Ron Baity) religious freedoms have been challenged in the past few years.

1. As a Police Chaplain I was called into the office of the Chief Of Police and told not to pray in the Name of Jesus.

2. I was asked by the North Carolina Legislature to open there session for a week in prayer.

a. When I arrived to pray I was asked not to pray in the Name of Jesus

b. I explained my Biblical position and was told I could pray once but no more. I prayed once and closed by prayer "IN THE NAME OF JESUS"