

## AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

10/8/2017

America has moved far from her inception. Today we look once again at the mind set of those who went before us verses the though pattern of today.

### I. CENSORING OF PASTORS SINCE 1954

- A. For over 60 years the federal bureaucrats have sought to censor what a pastor preaches from the pulpit.
- B. The part of the tax code which penalizes the pastors is The Johnson Amendment put in place by late President Johnson also known as Section 501c(3) of the Tax Code.
- C. Every election cycle liberals come out of their closets to scare religious institutions and warn them that if they provide political talk from their pulpits they could;
  - 1. Risk intrusive IRS audits
  - 2. Incur steep fines
  - 3. Jeopardize the churches tax-exempt status
- D. Recently in Houston Texas the lesbian Mayor subpoenaed the sermons from some local pastors and demanded they be sent for examination since they had preached against homosexual lifestyles.
  - 1. Pastors came together in Houston and opposes her ungodly demands
  - 2. Instead over 1000 Bibles were sent to her office.
  - 3. Over 50,000 signatures were sent to her office opposing her request.
- E. President Donald Trump by Executive Decree has placed the Johnson Amendment on hold momentarily.
- F. A bill has been introduced in Congress called "The Free Speech Fairness Act (HR 781) to repeal the Johnson Amendment. The bill would;
  - 1. Roll back the unconstitutional elements of the Johnson Amendment.

2. Allow political speech in our pulpits once again.

G. Recently over 4000 liberal preachers have petitioned congress not to repeal the Johnson Amendment.

## II. THE BIBLE IN OUR MILITARY

A. During World War I thousands of American soldiers were given pocket Bibles

B. President Woodrow Wilson wrote the following forward in the Bibles;

The Bible is the Word of Life. I beg that you will read it and find this out for yourselves, -read, not little snatches here and there, but long passages that will really be the road to the heart of it.

You will find it full of real men and women not only, but also of the things you have wondered about and been troubled about all your life, as men have been always; and the more you read the more it will become plain to you what things are worth while and what are not, what things make men happy,-loyalty, right dealing, speaking the truth, readiness to give everything for what they think their duty, and, most of all, the wish that they may have the approval of the Christ, who gave everything for them,-and the things that are guaranteed to make men unhappy,-selfishness, cowardice, greed, and everything that is low and mean.

When you have read the Bible you will know it is the Word of God, because you will have found in it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty.

C. General John J. Pershing also wrote a preface to the Holy Scriptures;

"To the American Soldier aroused against a nation waging war in violation of all Christian principles. Our people are fighting in the cause of Liberty.

Hardships will be your lot, but trust in God will give you comfort; temptation will befall you, but the teachings of our Savior will give you strength. Let your valor as a soldier and your conduct as a man be an inspiration to your comrades and an honor to your country.

D. The New York Bible Society had Theodore Roosevelt write a message in a pocket New Testament & Psalms for the soldiers;

"The teachings of the New Testament are foreshadowed in Micah's verse (Micah vi. 8): 'What more does the Lord require of thee than to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?'

DO JUSTICE; and therefore fight valiantly against the armies of Germany and Turkey, for these nations in this crisis stand for the reign of Moloch and Beelzebub on this earth.

LOVE MERCY; treat prisoners well, succor the wounded, treat every woman as if she was your sister, care for the little children, and be tender to the old and helpless.

WALK HUMBLY; You will do so if you study the life and teachings of the Saviour.

May the God of justice and mercy have you in His keeping.

- E. On January 25, 1941 President Franklin Roosevelt wrote the prologue of a special Gideon's edition of the New Testament and Book of Psalms

"As Commander-in-Chief, I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States.

Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration.

It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul.

1. This Bible was distributed to millions of World War II soldiers
2. They were glad to receive the Word of God and received it with thanksgiving

- F. The Pony Express riders had to travel as lightly as possible. However the American Bible Society gave Bibles to the Pony Express riders.

- G. A Soldier's Prayer Book, compiled in 1861, contained the prayer:

"Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued,

and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

H. In 1917, the Army and Navy Service Book contained this prayer:

"Almighty and Merciful God and Father, we humbly beseech Thee to visit all those who have forsaken the Christian faith and to reveal unto them their error, so that they may receive the Truth of Thy Holy Word, and walk in the Way that leadeth unto eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen."

I. The Army and Navy Service Book in 1948 contained the following prayer

"We beseech Thee, O God, for all prisoners and captives, and all who suffer from oppression, that Thou will manifest thy mercy toward them, and make the heart of man merciful as thine own; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

J. During World War II, the Allied Commander in Italy, General Mark W. Clark, composed the following prayer:

"O God, who knowest the duties that be ahead of us, and the weaknesses that easily beset us, prepare us for the unknown immediately before us.

We do not pray for immunity from risks; we pray for courage to face risks.

We do not ask to be spared from danger; we ask for strength to face danger resolutely.

Grant that we may be able to finish that which Thou hast granted us the wish to begin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

K. On OCTOBER 4, 1982, President Ronald Reagan signed a Bill making 1983 the "Year of the Bible": "Now, therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, in recognition of the contributions and influence of the Bible on our Republic and our people, do hereby proclaim 1983 the Year of the Bible in the United States. I encourage all citizens, each in his or her own way, to reexamine and rediscover its priceless and timeless message."

1. It was not unusual in our nation to quote Scripture.

2. Now it is unusual and many are prosecuted for doing so!