February 2006

We Are A Christian Nation

Clarence Holland

Liberty University, cholland@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/educ_fac_pubs

Recommended Citation

Holland, Clarence, "We Are A Christian Nation" (2006). Faculty Publications and Presentations. 50.
http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/educ_fac_pubs/50
We Are A Christian Nation!

ACSI Galveston Conference
February 2006
I present this material and make available all materials at no cost to you, your church, or school in hopes you will use them. My prayer is many of you take issue with this growing national concern and present to your civic groups, youth groups, parents and guardians of your children, the Truth of what has been called “separation of Church and State”.

My concern is;

“When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”

Judges 2:10

Edited by
Dr. Jeffrey S. Crawford
Senior Pastor
Grand Avenue Baptist Church
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Much has been said in recent years regarding the placement of the Ten Commandments in public view. With the removal of Judge Roy Moore as the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in November of 2003, the debate has come to a head. Because of Judge Moore’s insistence on displaying the Ten Commandments in the foyer of his court building, he has been deemed unfit to serve on the bench in Alabama. For many Christians, the Moore issue has become a flash point spurring new and aggressive arguments in favor of recognizing the Judeo-Christian heritage that the United States of America was founded upon. Most, if not all, of the material presented in this booklet has been omitted from the history texts in elementary, secondary and undergraduate institutions in America. Fortunately, the thoughts, intent and even the actual words marking the founding of the United States have not been completely lost. **The purpose of this presentation is to present a sampling of these quotes and facts in a succinct fashion that is easily accessible to the reader for use in their community.** I am confident that the material presented herein will encourage, enrage, and in some cases, spur to action the reader. While it is left to the conscience of the reader to decide what to do with this information, it is my conviction that this material should not be forgotten, but heralded as the Truth of American Heritage. There was a time in this country when it was considered admirable for a Christian young person to pursue a career of service as a politician. Today, we tell our Christian young people to avoid politics at all costs. Clearly, this was not the intention of our founding fathers, or I believe, our Father in heaven. The time has come for Christians to re-enter the public square of ideas.

-- Dr. Chick Holland, Ed.D
Graduate Professor, Liberty University.
January 31, 2006
Judge Alito Confirmed to the United States Supreme Court
Washington, DC – “Just moments ago Samuel Alito, Jr. was confirmed by the Senate 58-42 as the 110th Justice of the United States Supreme Court. He will be officially sworn in today. His ceremonial swearing in will be tomorrow at 4:00 pm. In his first official event, Judge Alito, now Justice Alito, will attend tonight’s State of the Union address with Chief Justice John Roberts.”
The Supreme Court convenes again on February 17 with the Justices in conference. Justice Alito will begin hearing oral arguments on February 21.

Mathew D. Staver, President and General Counsel of Liberty Counsel, stated: “We are thrilled that Justice Samuel Alito is now a permanent member of the United States Supreme Court. We applaud President Bush for keeping his campaign promise to appoint Justices who respect the Constitution and who will interpret the law, not legislate from the bench. Justice Alito is such a Justice. Justice Alito respects the rule of law. The Supreme Court is finally headed in the right direction. Now we believe that the Supreme Court can lead by example and once again regain the respect that is due our Third Branch of government. When the High Court issues decisions based purely on ideology, using international law or subjective sociological perceptions, it loses the respect of lower court judges, and most importantly, it loses the respect of the American people.”
There were major issues in his confirmation hearings. More than 700 hundred questions were asked of him, more than any other justice nominee in the history of the Supreme Court.

Why? What were the issues? Are we concerned about the process?
Chief Justice Roy Moore – 
*Alabama Supreme Court*

Removed from office 
Nov. 14, 2003
Roy Moore explicitly explains that “as the chief justice of the state’s supreme court, I am entrusted with the sacred duty to uphold the state’s constitution. I have taken an oath before God and man to do such, and I will not waver from that commitment” (Moore, 2003).

Chief Justice Moore also provides his personal conviction to prevent “imposing their will on the people of a state, and no judge has the constitutional authority to forbid public officials from acknowledging the same God specifically mentioned in the charter documents of our nation, the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution” (Moore, 2003).
A simple examination of the architecture of the United States Supreme Court building itself will reveal a plethora of Judeo-Christian art work. It is difficult to understand why the U.S. Supreme Court retains this architecture while at the same time finding similar displays around the country unconstitutional.
In light of the fact that it was the United States Supreme court that upheld the dismissal of Judge Moore, it is wholly ironic that the front door of the court is engraved with an image of the Ten Commandments.

Close-up of the front door to the **United States Supreme Court**
Moses holding 2 stone tablets written in Hebrew. Commandments 6 and 10 are visible.

Solomon as a figure of wisdom and justice

South Wall of the United States Supreme Court
West Wall of the United States Supreme Court

"The Powers of Good"

"The Powers of Evil"

Angel – signifying Divine Inspiration

Serpent – signifying corruption
“To consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions [is] a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy. Our judges are as honest as other men and not more so. They have with others the same passions for party, for power, and the privilege of their corps... and their power the more dangerous as they are in office for life and not responsible, as the other functionaries are, to the elective control. The Constitution has erected no such single tribunal, knowing that to whatever hands confided, with the corruptions of time and party, its members would become despots. It has more wisely made all departments co-equal and co-sovereign within themselves.”

Letter to William C. Jarvis, 1820

• The three branches of government are based on Isaiah 33:22 “For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us”
The mantra of “separation of Church and State” is cited time and time again as the rational for removing all references to Christianity from the public square. The following quote could easily be recognized as something coming from groups such as the ACLU. However, it is shocking to realize the true source of this quote.

“In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the church... is separated from the State, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of antireligious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.”

- Constitution of the Soviet Union
It is surprising to many to learn that the words “separation of Church and State” appear no where in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights. In fact, the First Amendment actually reads as follows:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....”

- The First Amendment

The purpose of the First Amendment is clearly to protect the church from government. It was NOT designed to protect the government from the church which is the notion that is pushed so aggressively today. It has three areas we must understand:

To pass constitutional “muster” a government practice must have:
A secular purpose; A primary focus which neither advances nor inhibits religion; and No excessive government entanglements with religion.
Principal's Office

I said the "S-H" word.

I said the "F" word.

I said "Christmas."
The words of the founding fathers themselves testify to the kind of government and the kind of country they intended for the United States to be.
“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

- Patrick Henry
“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of a Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

- John Jay, First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
"The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it tied together in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

John Quincy Adams received an appointment as Ambassador to Russia at 14 years of age testifying to the brilliance of this man even in his early years.
"Of all the habits and dispositions which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars."

This statement has been removed from American history books and it would be rare to find it in any for at least the last 30 years.
Political Science professors at the University of Houston - 1973

10 Year Study examining the origin of significant quotes from the Founding Fathers

• They identified 3,154 quotes that had significant impact on the founding of America.

• The three men MOST quoted by the founding fathers were: Henry Blackstone, Montesquieu, and John Locke.

• What is interesting is the number of times the founding fathers quoted the Bible.
10 Year Study examining the origin of significant quotes from the Founding Fathers

• The Bible is quoted 4 times more often than Montesquieu,
• 12 times more than Henry Blackstone,
• 16 times more than John Locke.
Political Science professors at the University of Houston - 1973

10 Year Study examining the origin of significant quotes from the Founding Fathers

• 34% of all the quotes were directly from the Bible,
• Another 60% of the quotes were from men who were using the Bible to arrive at their own conclusions,
• This means that 94% of the most significant quotes as related to the founding of America had their origins in the Bible.
“Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof.”

--Leviticus 25:10

We have countless examples tying our Judeo-Christian heritage to the founding of our country. One such example is the Liberty Bell. The inscription on the Liberty Bell is from the Book of Leviticus.
Blackstone's Commentary on the Law, introduced in 1758, became the law textbook for lawyers for 160 years, and the Supreme Court quoted from it to settle cases. It explains:

• The three branches of government are based on Isaiah 33:22
  “For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us”

• The separation of powers is based on Jeremiah 17

• The tax exemption for Churches is based on Ezra 7:24
  “Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.”
It is no secret that the United States Supreme Court has been responsible for removing public prayer from public school along with Bible reading. They have also taken an active role in ruling against passive displays such as the Ten Commandments. Since the United States Supreme Court has taken such an active role in ruling on the constitutionality of religion in public life, it is interesting to note their own words in court cases going back to the early years of the Union. Remember that, for the purposes of precedent, it is standard procedure to quote previous court cases when making new rulings. The concept of “precedent” is key in our court system nation-wide. It is common practice to go back and look at what the court has said previously before making new rulings. This is to ensure that the court stays consistent.
A Philadelphia school wanted to teach morals without using the Bible. The Court said "Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament, be read and taught as a divine revelation in the schools? Where can the purest principals of morality be learned so clearly or perfectly as from the New Testament."
"Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind, and it's impossible that it should be otherwise: and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian."

The court also quoted 87 different historical precedents to back up its decision, from the Founding Fathers, Acts of the Founding Fathers, Acts of Congress, etc, etc.
There was a man who made attacks on Jesus in such a blasphemous way that his case made it to the Supreme Court and the court ruled: "Whatever strikes at the root of Christianity tends manifestly to the dissolution of civil government."

They reasoned that if you attack Jesus, you have attacked Christianity, and if you have attacked Christianity, you have attacked the foundation of the United States, therefore an attack on Jesus or Christianity was equivalent to an attack on the foundation of the United States.
“By our form of government the Christian religion is the established religion, and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed on the same equal footing.”
Prayer and Bible Reading

At the time of the court rulings of 1962-63, surveys showed that only 3% of the population didn’t believe in God or religion.

This was the first time in our history where 3% became the majority – where the rest of us had to lived according to what 3% of the population wanted.
The Consequences

The 22 word “unconstitutional prayer” asked for God’s favor in four areas:

• Us (students)
• Parents (families)
• Teachers (schools)
• Country (nation)

Let’s look at what has happened since we stopped asking for God’s favor in these areas as part of our public school system:
The Consequences

Students:

1. Before 1963, pregnancies in girls ages 15 through 19 years had been no more than 15 per thousand for 15 years. After 1963, pregnancies increased 187% over a 15 year period.

2. For younger girls, ages 10 to 14 years, pregnancies since 1963 were up 553% over a 15 year period.

3. Before 1963, sexually transmitted diseases among students were 400 per 100,000. After 1963, they went up 226% in the next 12 years.
The Consequences

Parents - (families)

1. Before 1963, divorce had been declining for 15 straight years. After 1963, divorces increased 300% each year for the next 15 years.

2. In the 15 year period since 1963, unmarried people living together was up 353%.

3. In the 15 year period since 1963, single parent families went up 140%.

4. In the 15 year period since 1963, single parent families with children went up 160%.
The Consequences

Teachers - (schools)

1. The educational standard of measure has been the SAT scores. SAT scores had been going along rather steady for many years before 1963. After 1963 they took a rapid decline for 18 consecutive years, even though the same test had been used since 1941.

2. In 1974-75 the rate of decline of the SAT scores decreased, even though they continued to decline. That was when there was an explosion of private religious schools. There were only 1000 Christian schools in 1965. Between 1974 to 1984 they increased to 32,000 in number.

   In checking with the SAT Board it was found that indeed the SAT scores for private schools were nearly 100 points higher than public schools. This is where scores were nationally for public schools prior to 1963.

3. Of the nation's top academic scholars, three times as many come from private religious schools, which operate on one-third the funds as do the public schools.
One could ask why there exists such a difference in test scores between public schools and private religious schools. In both schools, math is still math, science is still science, and history is still history. But one marked difference is the insertion of Christian principles where the public school system has abandoned such principles. And in schools where Christian principles are taught, test scores are typically on the level of test scores in public schools prior to 1963; a time when such principles were allowed in the public school system. For Christian schools, it’s as if nothing has changed. But for public schools, everything has changed.
The Consequences

Country - (nation)

1. Since 1963, violent crime has increased 544%.

2. Illegal drugs have become an enormous and uncontrollable problem.

3. The nation has been deprived of an estimated 100 million citizens through legal abortions just since 1973.
In 1801 the Danbury Baptist Church of Connecticut heard a rumor that the Congregationalist Denomination was going to be installed as the National Denomination. This disturbed them, as well it should.
The Danbury Baptists wrote a letter expressing their concerns to, then President, Thomas Jefferson. In response to their concerns, President Jefferson wrote a letter back:
Gentlemen,
The affectionate sentiments of esteem and approbation which you are so good as to express towards me, on behalf of the Danbury Baptist association, give me the highest satisfaction. My duties dictate a faithful and zealous pursuit of the interests of my constituents, and in proportion as they are persuaded of my fidelity to those duties, the discharge of them becomes more and more pleasing.
Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church and State.
Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties. I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common father and creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association, assurances of my high respect and esteem.

Thomas Jefferson
Jan. 1, 1802.
When viewed in its proper context, it is clear what Thomas Jefferson was saying. The phrase “separation of church and state” refers to congress not establishing a national denomination. The phrase has nothing to do with prohibiting Christian expression in public life as has become the contemporary interpretation of the phrase.

If it had truly been the intent of the founders to separate Christianity from public life, it would be difficult to explain the following statements from Congress:
The House Judiciary Committee on March 27, 1854 reported: *Had the people during the revolution, had any suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that revolution would have been strangled in its cradle.*
The report continued: "At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the Amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, but not any one sect. In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity. That was the religion of the Founders of the Republic and they expected it remain the religion of their descendants."
The Rest of the Story

Response of the House of Representatives to attempts to separate church and state:

And finally, the report concluded, "The great, vital and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and the divine truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ."
It would be difficult to imagine such words coming from Congress today. It would be equally unimaginable to the Congress of the founders, the rhetoric coming from today’s representatives and senators.
Separation or Censorship

1965 - The Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional for a student to pray aloud.

1967 - The Supreme Court declared a four line Nursery rhyme used by a K-5 Kindergarten class was unconstitutional, even though it didn't contain the word "God."

The Court said: "If someone heard it, it might cause someone to think of God."
A "passive display" could be something along the lines of a wall hanging or a picture, which doesn't require that you pay any attention to it unless you want to. There was a passive display of the Ten Commandments hanging in a school hallway with no requirement to read it.

The Court said: "If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any affect at all, it will be to induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps.. to venerate (respect) and obey the commandments; this is not a permissible objective."
This is incredible! The court has just said that we don’t want children reading the Ten Commandments because they might obey them. Look at what the Commandments say…things like don’t lie, don’t steal, etc. What sort of logic dictates that such things are not a “permissible objective?”

The court needed to be reminded of the words of James Madison...
"We have staked the whole future of American civilization not on the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."
"The reason Christianity is the best friend of government is because Christianity is the only religion in the world that deals with the heart."

-- Thomas Jefferson
"We have no government armed with power which is 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
We would do well as a nation to heed the words of Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 6:16

"Thus says the Lord, Stand at the crossroads and look, And ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it: Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'"
In Terms of the Industrial World America has Become the World Leader In:

- DIVORCE,
- TEENAGE PREGNANCIES,
- VOLUNTARY ABORTIONS,
- ILLEGAL DRUGS,
- ILLITERACY
Consider these requirements according to the Delaware Constitution of 1776. Most states had similar language in their constitutions.

"Everyone appointed to public office must say: 'I do profess faith in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ his only son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God and blessed forevermore: and I do acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be given by divine inspiration.'"

Notice it did not recognize one denomination over another or require you to belong to any particular denomination. But it did require that you understand God's principles and God as authority.
"As nations cannot be punished or rewarded in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects Providence punished National sins by National calamities."

-- George Mason
DOES A NATION ANSWER TO GOD?

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN - JUNE 17, 1787

"We need God as our friend not our enemy. We need him to be our ally not our adversary. We need to make sure that we keep God's concurring aid."

He then called for regular daily prayer.
DOES A NATION ANSWER TO GOD?

Inscription on the THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

"Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice can't sleep forever."
DOES A NATION ANSWER TO GOD?

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

When Lincoln was asked if God was on his side in the Civil War, he replied: "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on my side. My great concern is to be on God's side."
DOES A NATION ANSWER TO GOD?

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"Whoever will introduce into public affairs the principles of Christianity will change the face of the world."
"The Church must take right ground in regard to politics. Politics are a part of a religion in a country and Christians must do their duty to the country as part of their duty to God. He will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics."
Citations for America’s Christian Heritage

   **Both sources 1 and 2 come from the Office of the Curator – U.S. Supreme Court
Resources for Further Study

1. www.wallbuilders.com

2. “Sounding Forth the Trumpet” – Peter Marshall and David Manuel

3. “The Light and the Glory” – Peter Marshall and David Manuel