

Politically Incorrect

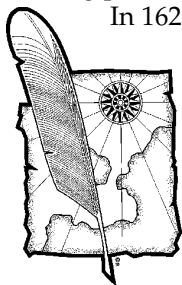
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"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalms 9:17).

Recently I had the opportunity to speak to a group of fifth graders at a public school in a nearby town. One of the teachers had asked me to discuss the value of friendship, character and integrity with these children.

Due to the political climate of our day, one is not allowed to quote from the Bible in the public schools, because it might offend some atheist. On June 19, 1963, the United States Supreme Court decided to ban the reading of the Bible in public schools. Trying to develop a lecture on integrity and character without quoting from God's word is no easy task. My frame of reference is the Bible – without it, one is like a ship at sea without a compass.

Since I could not refer to the Bible, I decided to quote from our founding fathers, the men who helped shape this nation. To my dismay, I soon found out that this would not be possible. You see, our founding fathers are not "politically correct." It seems as though these men could not speak or write without invoking the name of God. Though some of these men had a strange concept of the nature of God, they were aware of His ever abiding presence.



In 1620, before setting foot on what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts the 102 settlers on board the *Mayflower* signed a covenant. This covenant, known as *The Mayflower Compact*, enabled them to elect officers, pass laws and admit new

voting members. It was signed by every head of a family, every adult bachelor, and most of the hired manservants aboard the *Mayflower*.

The first paragraph sets forth their reason was wanting to settle in the new land: "In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc., having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honour of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, doe, by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick..."

Can you believe it? The pilgrims wanted the "advancement of the Christian faith." Obviously the American Civil Liberties Union would not be pleased with such a flagrant attempt by these people at imposing their morals on others.

William Penn, the founder of the city of Philadelphia wrote, "If we will not be governed by God, then we will be ruled by tyrants."

Most Americans are familiar with **Patrick Henry's** famous line, "Give me liberty or give me death!" However, the earlier part of his oration is often forgotten. In a fiery speech on March 23, 1775, delivered to the Second Virginia Convention, he begged for the colonies to band together and throw off the yoke of British oppression. "Sir, we are not weak, if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against

us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us." Henry must have read what the prophet Daniel told King Nebuchnezzar: "the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses" (Daniel 4:25).



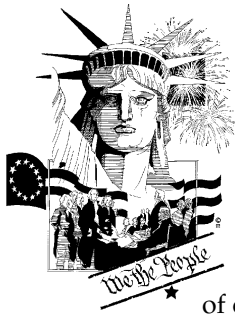
Maybe I could quote from the *Declaration of Independence*. Well, this would not work either. **John**

Hancock and the other signers wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Didn't they know how offensive they sounded to the atheists and agnostics when they referred to our Creator? Didn't they know that using the words "right" and "life" might be confused with "Right to life"? I can almost feel the ground shaking as the herd from the National Organization of (liberal) Women approaches.

The Articles of Confederation were agreed to by Congress in 1777 and in force after its ratification by Maryland in 1781. These men actually had the nerve to pay homage to God and give Him thanks for their liberty. They wrote, "And Whereas it hath pleased the Great Governor of the World to incline the hearts of the legislatures we respectively represent in Congress, to approve of, and to authorize us to ratify the said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union."

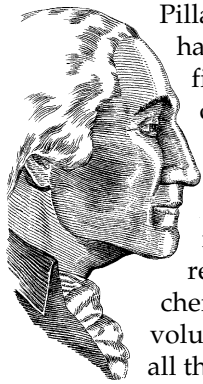
Article Seven of the *United States Constitution* ends with these



words:
 "Done in
 Convention by
 the Unanimous
 Consent of the
 States present
 the Seventeenth
 day of September
 in the Year

of our Lord one
 thousand seven hundred and
 eighty-seven..." How insensitive!
 Didn't these men know they would
 be perceived as a group of anti-
 Semites? The Jews do not believe
 that Jesus Christ is Lord.

On September 19, 1796, **George Washington** gave his famous *Farewell Address* as he prepared to leave office. His view of religion and its role in politics is worth considering. "Of all the dispositions and habits 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 of human
 happiness, these
 firmest props of the
 duties of men and
 citizens. The mere
 politician, equally
 with the pious
 man ought to
 respect and to
 cherish them. A
 volume could not trace
 all their connections

with private and public felicity. Let
 it simply be asked where is the
 security for property, for reputa-
 tion, for life, if the sense of reli-
 gious obligation desert the oaths,
 which are the instruments of
 investigation in Courts of Justice?
 And let us with caution indulge the
 supposition, that morality can be
 maintained without religion.
 Whatever may be conceded to the
 influence of refined education on
 minds of peculiar structure, reason
 and experience both forbid us to
 expect that National morality can
 prevail in exclusion of religious
 principle."

With the end of the Civil War in
 sight, **Abraham Lincoln** gave his
 second inaugural address on March
 4, 1865. Lincoln explained the
 fallout from the war was not
 anticipated by either the North or
 the South. "Neither
 party expected for
 the war, the magni-
 tude or the duration
 which it has already
 attained. Neither
 anticipated that the
 cause of the conflict
 might cease with or
 even before the conflict
 itself should cease.



Each looked for an
 easier triumph, and a result less
 fundamental and astounding. Both
 read the same Bible, and pray to
 the same God, and each invokes
 His aid against the other. It may
 seem strange that any men should
 dare to ask a just God's assistance
 in wringing their bread from the
 sweat of other men's faces, but let
 us judge not that we be not judged.
 The prayers of both could not be
 answered. That of neither has been
 answered fully. The Almighty has
 his own purpose."

In 1917 **Theodore Roosevelt**
 wrote an article titled, "Going To
 Church." The article was published
 in *Ladies' Home Journal*. I do not
 have the room here to reprint the
 entire article, but will note his first
 paragraph. "In this actual world a
 churchless community, a commu-
 nity where men have abandoned
 and scoffed at or ignored their
 religious needs, is a community on
 the rapid downgrade. It is perfectly
 true that occasional individuals or
 families may have nothing to do
 with church or with religious
 practices and observances and yet
 maintain the highest standard of
 spirituality and of ethical obliga-
 tion. But this does not affect the
 case in the world as it now is, any
 more than that exceptional men
 and women under exceptional
 conditions have disregarded the
 marriage tie without moral harm to
 themselves interferes with the

larger fact that such disregard if at
 all common means the complete
 moral disintegration of the body
 politic." The entire article can be
 found in Bill Bennett's masterpiece,
The Book of Virtues.

Those at the forefront of the
 "political correctness" movement
 have to be careful in quoting **Dr.
 Martin Luther King, Jr.** In his
 famous *Letter from Birmingham City
 Jail*, he likened his plight to that of
 Old Testament prophets. "But more
 basically, I am in Birmingham
 because injustice is here. Just as the
 prophets of the eighth century B.C.
 left their villages and carried their
 'thus saith the Lord' far beyond the
 boundaries of their



hometowns,
 and just as the
 Apostle Paul
 left his village
 of Tarsus and
 carried the
 gospel of Jesus
 Christ to the far
 corners of the
 Greco-Roman
 world, so am I

compelled to carry the gospel of
 freedom beyond my own home-
 town. Like Paul, I must constantly
 respond to the Macedonian call for
 aid." Some elementary school
 textbooks even fail to mention that
 Dr. King was a preacher.

This article is not intended to be
 a political statement. I simply long
 for the day when our courts no
 longer consider Jehovah to be
 unconstitutional.

As we see the wicked flourish-
 ing in our society we are reminded
 of the words of Jehovah in the long
 ago to His people Israel: "If My
 people who are called by My name
 will humble themselves, and pray
 and seek My face, and turn from
 their wicked ways, then I will hear
 from heaven, and will forgive their
 sin and heal their land" (2 Chron.
 7:14). Our land needs healing – not
 of the body but of the soul.

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but
 sin is a reproach to any people"
 (Proverbs 14:34). Ω