

The

LAMP

Your Word is a Lamp unto my Feet, and a Light for my Path. Psalm 119:105

July 2011

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Westside Church of Christ  Bloomington, Indiana

The Floundering Fathers?

God is in control. I hear that a lot. Usually when I am trying to convince people to get involved in the saving of America. I confess that it is frustrating.

We Christians admire those with a passion for Christ. But a passion for Christ is as worthless as a three dollar bill. It is a complete waste of time and energy. Unless of course you act upon that passion.

"God is in control" has become a mantra for those who don't want to get involved and would rather sit back and "let God handle things". That sort of "faith", as we might wish to think of it, would be a good thing if it were based on Biblical principles, but, no matter what you think, it just ain't so.

Every year at this time, my beloved wife watches the classic musical "The Music Man". One of the many reasons we enjoy it so much is that it reminds us of a much simpler time— a time when God was still the foundation of this once great country.

It is just not possible to look at American history and tradition and not see that God was inextricably woven into the fabric of the Republic. Take for example the oath of office which is taken by elected officials.

The oath of office to which most government officers are sworn, whether it be legislative or judicial, ends with "So help me God". This includes the President of the United States. This oath is used as a bond, holding those sworn *legally* accountable for their actions while in office.

Should we remove this ending from the oath and just hope that they will do the right thing because they are such a nice

person and look good on TV? When we are in a court of law, should we not ask a witness who is about to give testimony to swear under oath, "The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth", and then omit "So help me God", which is meant to hold them accountable to a higher authority?

While we are at it, shall we burn all the U.S. currency and re-mint every coin so that we can remove the phrase "In God We Trust"? Since the birth of our nation, our country has *always* been deeply rooted in God- interwoven throughout as our way of life; personally, publicly, fraternally and *politically*. Our relationship with a God founded government is a character trait as patriotic as any other identifying mark that you can associate with our United States of America. In fact, it is more than just a character trait— it is *who we are!*

George Washington once said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible. Do not *ever* let anyone claim to be a true American patriot if they ever attempt to separate religion from politics."

Most historians regard George Washington as one of our greatest leaders. Could George Washington have felt this way, and known something then that we now regard as useless and intrusive in our land of the free, and home of the brave?

We are no longer coming to a time when God is threatened with removal from the fabric of our nation— we have arrived.

Since 1947 there has been a systematic, deliberate *elimination* (*not* a separation!) of the Creator from that which He

has created.

Even as recently as 20 years ago it was totally unthinkable that the 10 commandments would ever be removed from public view, and yet, you will now risk going to jail if you post them in a "public" place.

I remember trying desperately to warn people that the day was rapidly approaching when our motto "In God We Trust" would come under attack. I was called a "kook" and a "right wing extremist". I was told that "God is in control". And now today, the government has ordered that "Under God" be removed from the pledge of allegiance.

Now the point of all of this is to try, once again, to convince everyone to get involved. It is fine to have passion for God and to believe that He is in control. But I can find NO Biblical evidence of Him ever accomplishing *anything* while His people just sat around and waited for Him to do something.

Often I find myself thinking of Mordecai. A phrase from the book of Esther has haunted me from the very first time I read it. Chapter 4 and beginning in verse 13, Mordecai addresses Esthers reluctance to get involved. He says, "*.....Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*"

God is in control, and He deliberately planted us in this here and now for "just such a time as this." You cannot separate "Church and State" without losing both.

One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.



Prayer Needs:

Al's brother, **Roland**, is going through a troubling time and needs our prayers.

John's cousin, **Penny Abel**, has a brain tumor (a glioblastoma) and is not responding to chemo.

Emily Kluesner is due home soon. We hope.

Please also remember to pray for **Max Horrocks** and **Christopher Gagnon** that they might return to the Lord.

A special thanks to **Sandy** for her loving care of our building! She will be missed.

Perpetual Prayer List

This month's perpetual prayer list contains a couple of new names. Please be sure to add them to your prayer list. These are people whom we need to remember regularly and often, in addition to those listed above who have new issues and concerns. Please bring the following names before God:

- Alex Chambers
- Mia Cook
- Jack Horrocks
- Max Horrocks
- Louise Johnson
- Bette Oney-Self
- Leroy Provines
- Sharron Smith
- Jeff Whittington
- Ashley Wood

Times are tough, and getting tougher. Let's all join together and make sure that our brethren's needs are being met.

Some might be too embarrassed to ask for help. They shouldn't have to ask— we should know what is going on in the lives of those we love the most.

We serve an awesome God, and He is so good to give us what we ask for so much of the time. Remember that we should praise Him whether he answers our prayers the way we would like or not.

Verse of the Month:

Romans 12:3

“³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Erin 6th

Bob 8th

John & Sherry 9th

Phil 19th

Trudy 20th

Alex 20th

Sierra 23rd

Sharron 31st

Building Cleaning This Month:

Sandy

Communion Prep For July:

?

WWW.
WSIDECOC
.ORG

KID STUFF



Animals in the Bible



L B H T O M E H E B V G
K M R N W E B R K D R B
M N O C L A F A T O E M
V I B T C D B R T V T A
L E T Z T M D H N E S L
E A T N N R D E E R O R
C H A B A B O O N N O E
L D S G W E D Q G Q R D
L L O I F A X R R T N D
V N Y J F R J H I M K A
N R D O N K E Y Z B T V
N L T N A H P E L E L C

Created Just for the great kids at the Westside Church of Christ

Adder

Bee

Dog

Falcon

Ant

Behemoth

Donkey

Fish

Baboon

Bird

Dove

Lamb

Bat

Cattle

Dragon

Lion

Bear

Deer

Elephant

Rooster

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

PART 2

Exodus 20:4-5 contains the 2nd commandment. The NIV regards it thusly: ⁴ *“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.”* ⁵ *“You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me...”*

The second commandment concerns the ordinances of worship, or the way in which God will be worshipped, and so it is fitting that God Himself should appoint them. As do nearly all of God’s laws, this one makes perfect sense: we are totally forbidden to express the likeness of God in any physical form. This makes sense because we, having never seen the creator, can only make a “guess” as to His appearance.

Although the commandment speaks primarily to any image worshipped in place of God, what is lost is that we are equally prohibited from making any image of the true God as well.

Isaiah 40:18 contains the obvious from God: ¹⁸ *“With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken Him?”* Verse 25 takes it even a step further: ²⁵ *“To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?” says the Holy One.*

We are forbidden to make images of God in our fancies, as if He were a man as we are. Our religious worship must be governed by the power of faith, not by the power of imagination.

Secondly, they were not to bow down to them - show any sign of honor to them, much less serve them by sacrifice, or any other act of religious worship.

When they paid their devotion to the true God, they were not to have any image before them for the directing, exciting, or assisting of their devotion. This seems perfectly logical to us today, but several millennia ago, it was a radical prohibition. Even though the worship was designed to terminate in God, it would not please Him if it came to Him through an image.

Interestingly enough, the most ancient law-givers among the “heathen” forbade the setting up of images in their temples. For example, it was forbidden in Rome by Numa (a Pagan

prince), yet *commanded* in Rome by the Pope—a supposed “Christian” bishop. The use of images in the church of Rome, to this day, is so plainly contrary to the letter of this command, that in all their catechisms- which they put into the hands of “their” people—that they leave out this commandment altogether! So the third commandment they call the second, the fourth the third, and so on. In order to fill out their list and insure that there are 10 commandments, they divide the tenth commandment into two! They should go into marketing.

Our Lord Jehovah, the God, is a jealous God, especially in things of this nature. In this commandment, He makes perfectly clear the care he has for His own institutions, his displeasure with idolaters, and that He resents every thing in worship that looks like, or leads to, idolatry.

There is something else that we have forgotten over the millennia: So serious is a violation of this commandment, that God causes the visiting of the violators iniquity upon his children, his children’s children, all the way down to the third and fourth generation!

On the other hand, for those who keep this commandment, God’s unbridled favor flows like a river. This reward can be found in Ex 20:6 which says, *“...⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.”* What an awesome reward!

The second commandment then, though the letter of it is only a prohibition of false worship, does include a precept of worshipping God in all those ordinances which He has instituted.

Just as the first commandment requires the inward worship of love, desire, joy, and hope, so this commandment requires the outward worship of prayer and praise, and the solemn attendance to His word.

His mercy will extend to thousands- much further than the wrath promised to those that hate Him, for that reaches only but to the third or fourth generation.

Next month we will look at the 3rd commandment together and hopefully gain new insight into its meaning and practice. In the mean time, let’s work on the first two.

For Our Guests:

What to Expect During Today’s Worship Service

Singing

We sing “a cappella” (without any instruments). This may be new to you, and if you are wondering why we do it this way, feel free to ask any of us. We encourage you to join in, even if you don’t know the songs. But don’t feel obligated; you are welcome to just sit and listen.

Lord’s Supper

Communion is an important part of our worship each and every week. This is a celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. In this simple memorial, we remember the sacrifice He made for our sins.

Offering

The work here at Westside is supported by the free will offerings of our members, as directed in scripture. You are not expected to make a donation, just pass the basket to the person sitting next to you.

Preaching

The sermon will be 30-35 minutes long, and will be grounded on scripture. Should you have any questions about what is taught here, please ask! We love to talk about our awesome God. After the sermon, an invitation will be given for those who desire to be Baptized. At this time, we will stand and sing a song. Please do not feel uncomfortable; you will not be singled out in any way.

Expected of you:

Nothing! We are honored that you chose to be with us today. Please take a minute after services to let us say hello to you!

Welcome to the Westside Church of Christ!

1301 Enterprise Ln.
Bloomington, Indiana 47403
Neil Tremblett, Preacher

812-360-1399

Sunday Morning Bible Study — 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship — 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship — 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 P.M.

You are most welcome— please join us!