

TRAGIC TRENDS OF OUR DAY V

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY UNDER ATTACK

By E. L. Bynum

Without a doubt religious liberty is under a relentless and diabolical attack in these United States of America. It is coming from many radical groups and from the Federal Government. Their evident attempt is to control or destroy every expression of religious faith in public life. This is especially true concerning Bible believing Christianity.

Read the following paragraph from a speech by R. R. Reno who holds B.A. degree from Haverford College and a Ph.D. from Yale University.

“Religious liberty is being redefined in America, or at least many would like it to be. Our secular establishment wants to reduce the autonomy of religious institutions and limit the influence of faith in the public square. The reason is not hard to grasp. In America, “religion” largely means Christianity, and today our secular culture views orthodox Christian churches as troublesome, retrograde, and reactionary forces. They’re seen as anti-science, anti-gay, and anti-women—which is to say anti-progress as the Left defines progress. Not surprisingly, then, the Left believes society will be best served if Christians are limited in their influence on public life. And in the short run this view is likely to succeed. There will be many arguments urging Christians to keep their religion strictly religious rather than “political.” And there won’t just be arguments; there will be laws as well. We’re in the midst of climate change—one that’s getting colder and colder toward religion.” –From *Imprimis*, a publication of Hillsdale College.

Our Constitution and Bill of Rights recognizes religious liberty as a God given right of a free people. It was evident that our founding fathers of this nation had a healthy appreciation for Christianity and the free exercise thereof. In recent years we have witnessed a dramatic change in our government and its toleration for Christianity. This comes as a result of our great educational Colleges and Universities being controlled by people who do not believe the Bible or believe in religious liberty. These evolutionists and agnostics have been teaching the students that later on took over the U.S. government. For years these lawmakers and their advisors have been implementing what they have been taught in the schools of higher education.

PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND

The Liberty Bell was completed in 1753 for the Pennsylvania statehouse. On the side of the bell is cast the words taken from the Bible, **Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof Lev. XXV X.** It is on display in Philadelphia, where we had the privilege of seeing in a few years ago. This clearly shows the respect for the Bible and its truth, prior to the founding of this nation.

Bill of Rights

The First Amendment to our constitution reads as follows, “Amendment I. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or

abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This amendment guarantees that the government will not establish a religion or a church, *"or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech."* This means that the government will not prohibit the free exercise of religion nor of free speech.

THE ATTACKS AGAINST RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Now the government has passed a law that requires companies and organizations to buy medical insurance containing payments for birth control, abortions, and other options that are against their religious beliefs. Catholic hospitals and other religious organization have tried to opt out of this requirement without avail. I am not a Catholic – nor could I ever be – but it is not right for the government to try to make them buy insurance to cover abortions and birth control.

The United States Army has blocked the website of the Southern Baptist Convention from government computers, saying the Christian site contains "hostile content." An Army officer assigned to a U.S. base said he tried to access SBC.net from his government computer, but instead, he got a message that said the site was being blocked by "Team CONUS." Team CONUS protects the computer network of the Department of Defense.

This website has since been unblocked, after a storm of protests, but make no mistake the forces behind this movement have not changed in their diabolical plans to destroy religious freedom.

Chaplains in the armed services are restricted in what they can say and how they pray. They must not offend the devil, atheists, infidels, or cults, and the list goes on. I do not see how a military chaplain that is under the control of the powers that be, can be a Bible believer and at the same time be faithful to the Word of God.

ATTACKS AGAINST THE EXPRESSION OF FAITH

The Supreme Court building and other Federal buildings in Washington, D.C. are decorated by words from the Bible. In spite of this, there has been a relentless attack against the display of the Ten Commandments in Court Rooms and public buildings across the country. They have been very successful in removing all expression of faith and the Bible throughout our land. They achieve that by using ungodly courts, which have been packed by judicial appointments made by liberal elected officials.

Prayer and Bible reading has been excluded from the public schools, thanks to these liberals. There is no room for the Christian faith in public schools, yet in certain schools they have Moslem prayer rooms where students can go to pray five times a day. Now many schools have been turned into anarchy and lawlessness. In days gone by it was permissible to read from the Bible and discuss it in classrooms. There are no Ten Commands displayed in classrooms. Pictures of our Presidents have been removed, and patriotism is played down if not removed

entirely.

Prayer at football and other sporting events has been excluded. Players that express faith in God are ridiculed and often suppressed entirely.

ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The homosexual movement has largely taken over the DOJ here are some of their rulings and edicts according to Matt Barber of Liberty Counsel.

Department of Justice ‘Gays’: ‘Silence Will be Interpreted as Disapproval.’ Our sources have provided Liberty Counsel an internal DOJ document titled: “LGBT Inclusion at Work: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Managers.” It was emailed to DOJ managers in advance of the left’s so-called “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month.”

The document is chilling. It’s riddled with directives that grossly violate – prima facie – employees’ First Amendment liberties.

Following are excerpts from the “DOJ Pride” decree. When it comes to “LGBT” employees, managers are instructed: “DON’T judge or remain silent. *Silence will be interpreted as disapproval.*” (Italics mine) That’s a threat. And not even a subtle one.

Got it? For Christians and other morals-minded federal employees, it’s no longer enough to just shut up and “stay in the closet” – to live your life in silent recognition of biblical principles (which, by itself, is unlawful constraint). When it comes to mandatory celebration of homosexual and cross-dressing behaviors, “silence will be interpreted as disapproval.”

This lawless administration is now bullying federal employees – against their will – to affirm sexual behaviors that every major world religion, thousands of years of history and uncompromising human biology reject. Somewhere, right now, George Orwell is smiling.

The directive includes a quote from a “gay” federal employee to rationalize justification: “Ideally, I’d love to hear and see support from supervisors, so it’s clear that there aren’t just policies on paper. Silence seems like disapproval. There’s still an atmosphere of LGBT issues not being appropriate for the workplace (particularly for transgender people), or that people who bring it up are trying to rock the boat.”

Space forbids us from printing the whole article about these directives from the Department of Justice, but to say the least they are chilling and just the forerunner of things to come.

ATTACKS UPON THE BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts have always stood for morality, patriotism, the Bible, and godly living. Now that has been radically changed at the recent National Boy Scout gathering in Texas. Sixty-one percent of the delegates have voted to allow homosexual scouts to belong to that organization. They yielded to the tremendous pressure of the homosexual lobby and this will

surely result in a split in the Boy Scouts. The homosexuals did not start their own scouting movement, but have just taken over the organization.

This same unholy movement intends to force all churches to accept homosexual member and homosexual employees and staff members. In fact they will never be satisfied until they take change of the whole of society. They will not be satisfied until they turn our country into a modern day Sodom and Gomorrah.

ATTACKS AGAINST OUR MILITARY

Since homosexuals have been allowed to openly serve in the military, sexual attacks on men have increased. A recent military report on sexual assault in the military shocked many in Washington and around the nation, but a leading expert on military personnel revealed the prevalence of men assaulting other men is one of the major headlines in this study.

The extended analysis of the report first appeared in Monday's edition of the *Washington Times*. The Defense Department survey of sexual assault in the military during fiscal 2012 estimated 26,000 assaults took place in the armed forces. Nearly 3,000 of them were formally reported. Just more than 6 percent of women reported being victims of assault and 1.2 percent of men said the same. Given the much larger number of men in the military, those numbers suggest 14,000 of the assaults in the Pentagon study happened to men.

Of course integrating men and women in the military has resulted in many sexual assaults on women. The sexual attacks upon men have resulted thanks to the homosexuals being allowed to serve in the military. During WW2, if there were any homosexuals in the army, I never knew it. If any had admitted it, the men in the barracks would have taken care of them.

ATTACKING FREEDOM OF PROPERTY

If you own a duplex and live in one side and want to rent out the other side to a Christian couple, you cannot advertise to do this. If a homosexual couple wants to rent it, and you refuse to do so you are guilty of discrimination. This is only the beginning of ways you can discriminate. Refuse to hire a homosexual to do a job, and you are caught in that trap also.

General William Boykin was invited to speak at West Point Breakfast. He decided it would speak on the importance of leaders seeking God. When the handful of Atheist and Muslim cadets protested, his speech was cancelled.

ATTACKING FREEDOM TO LIVE

The Constitution contains these words. "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." However millions of babies have been butchered in abortion clinics without a chance for life, liberty or happiness. At the same time criminals who have murdered a number of people, cannot be found guilty in the courts of

our land.

TIMES WHEN GOD IS ALL RIGHT

When great tragedy takes place it is apparently all right to invoke the name of God. Ever notice how quickly our leaders turn to God in times of tragedy? How many times after a tragedy occurs, do you see someone say; "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims' families?"

It's almost standard fare, because our leaders understand the importance of going to GOD, especially in times of disaster or great need. But I have a question: Why is God good enough for our leaders, but not for our kids in schools? What about the idea that if we expose children to God going in, we wouldn't have to pray for Him to show up later; after a terrible tragedy?

Leaders will recognize God in times of disaster, but when the disaster is over God is out. God is often accused of being absent when this kind of thing happens. They ask where was God and why did he let this disaster from happening. Of course the truth is that many people don't want God intervening in their lives. We have ruled Him out of our courts, government, schools, military and public life, and then we want to call on Him in times of great crisis.

There are many other ways that God and His will are steadily loses support. While at the same time ungodliness and moral depravity are readily endorsed. ***"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"*** (Isaiah 5:20)

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