



**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd.
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: (901) 751-2444
Fax: (901) 751-9711
Info Line: (901) 531-8849
www.foresthillchurch.org

Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan
Floyd M. Hayes
Harold D. Mangrum
Leonard Watson

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit
Matthew Martin, Associate
Douglas Alvarenga, Hispanic

VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A..M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

**HOME OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL
OF PREACHING**

www.msop.org

Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism
Gospel Broadcasting Network
Iglesia de Cristo (Getwell)
In Search of the Lord's Way
Kakinada, India
Manila, Philippines
Murmansk, Russia
Truth for the World
Words of the Master (Memphis
Time Warner Cable ch17)

Volume 33

July 4, 2006

Number 26

**THERE HE GOES AGAIN
BARRY M. GRIDER**

Former President Jimmy Carter has written a new book entitled, *Our Endangered Values*. I like the title of the book, for indeed, many of us are concerned about America's values. However, in his book, Carter spends most of his time blasting those who believe in the Genesis account of creation, the right to life, and that marriage ought only to be between a man and a woman. He goes on to condemn the Southern Baptist Convention of which he was a member for many years. Carter is unhappy that the SBC continues to believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible and continues to refuse to allow women to serve in leadership roles. While some may be surprised by what Carter writes in his book, those of us who have listened to his drivel down through the years are not. In fact, as Ronald Reagan said to him in their 1980 presidential debate, we might say also, "There you go again." According to the book, Carter was appalled in 1979, when the president of the SBC (I believe this would have been Adrian Rogers) stood in the oval office and said, "We are praying, Mr. President, that you will abandon secular humanism as your religion." Carter should not have been upset. After all, that is exactly what Carter is promoting in his new book. Sometimes we talk about those who lack values. However, that is not really correct. All have values, it just depends on whose values we will follow. The values espoused by Carter are not biblical, and dare I say, even un-American.

Despite the claims of secular humanists (those intent on removing every vestige of God from the public forum), America was founded on biblical principles. God has spoken, even to the nations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Psm. 33:12).

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people (Pro. 14:34).

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

America has been following the course of secularists like Carter for too long. We have paid a heavy price. Homes are falling apart and schools have been destroyed. Alcohol and drugs permeate our society. Pornographic smut of every kind is readily available, even to young people. Promiscuity is at an all time high. Lying, cheating, stealing, and killing are a common everyday occurrence. The liberal agenda has failed. Along with this our wall of morality and decency has come down. The blessings we enjoy as a nation are residual in nature, left to us because of our Godly heritage, and will end if our country refuses to repent. It is time that those of influence who believe in biblical principles, which have been America's principles, stop being so timid and help us save our culture, our society, and our families.

On this 4th of July, let us follow the admonition of the apostle Paul, who taught us to pray "for all that are in authority" (1 Tim. 2:2) and let us still be the salt of the earth and the light of the world as our Savior has instructed us to be (Mat. 5:13-16).

BUILDING UP AMERICA NEIL RICHEY

During the Revolutionary War, one of America's founding fathers said, "these are strange and troublesome times." The time in which you and I are living are indeed troubling. Troubling because we are at war. War time is the time which can "try men's souls."

Charles Dickens is famous for the words, "it was the best of times, and it was the worst of times." Though I would not say these are the "worst of times," I would agree that today America is certainly being challenged. How can we, as the church, build up America?

We can build up America through prayer.

Charlie Britnell said, "Prayer is the greatest contribution which Christians can make to our national security. Prayer moves the hand that rules the universe. The Christian's influence offers more national protection than all the military might, missiles, and nuclear arsenals of history's most powerful nation. Paul the Apostle reminds us of the value of prayer for our nation and leaders when he says, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

We can build up America through personal evangelism.

Until we truly believe that the world is lost, and appreciate the fact that we are the vessels that God must use to reach the lost, the world will stay lost. Charles Box said, "Indifference is the area of personal evangelism that is probably the chief weakness of Christianity as it faces times like these." Consider these words:

*And when I think that God His Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sins.*

Jesus said, "Go ye...teach all nations..." Brethren, "Go ye" means "Go ME."

We can build up America through Christians.

One Christian can make a difference. We must keep in mind that "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34). Johnny Ramsey once said, "Let me tell you a secret, all the politicians in America put together, all the soldiers in uniform around the world, and all the bombs and missiles and bayonets and soldiers, don't compare with the power of one devoted Christian, and the blessing they can give to the kingdom of God and the world at large."

Though these may be "strange and troublesome times," we can help America overcome if we will recognize the power of prayer, reach people through evangelism, and realize that we, as individual Christians, can make a difference.

THE SEPERATION OF CHURCH AND STATE Matthew Martin

It is a phrase commonly spouted-off by the Godless of our time; used as both a shield to defend the anti-Christian, and a sword to cut down the Christian. Whenever

there is a mention (of any positive value) of God, Christ, the Bible, or any relating topic, in any public forum (outside of the confines of a church building), you can be sure of this: There will always be a God-hating, anti-Christian somewhere crying foul and declaring a "separation of church and state."

What that person (either willingly or otherwise) does not realize is, "separation of church and state" is no more a law than the "separation of bologna and mustard." This writer is a little fed up with political liberals citing the separation of church and state, as if it was the founding principle of this government, and stating it as if it were an understood fact, attacked only by the ignorant of the law.

What does our country's **law** say about the separation of church and state? (*somewhere a cricket chirps*). NOTHING. There is no law explaining that all things religious must be muted from civil affairs. In reality, the **law** almost **prohibits** the separation of church and state. How so? Consider the first amendment of this country's great Constitution:

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.

Excuse me? Surely that's a typo. Surely the very first change made to our constitution by our founding fathers was meant to be an *expulsion* of religion, not an *exaltation*. Surely they *meant* to say "Congress shall separate religion from the state." That *has* to be it. That is what the anti-Christian wants you to think. They ignore the very principles on which this country was founded, and in doing so, try to *rewrite* history. They sit in our universities and teach our children that the founding fathers were *against* organized religion (knowing full well that's a lie).

In the first amendment (as clearly stated above) the constitution plainly says, that the national government would not make a national religion. To what end? To avoid forcing a person to believe or follow a religion that he does not want to believe or follow. A good policy to have—especially since God doesn't *want* people to be forced to follow Him. He wants *willing* believers (Matt. 16:24).

In **reality** (somewhere the anti-Christian rarely resides) the phrase "separation of church and state" is derived specifically from a letter by then-President Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802. It was also referred to in numerous speeches by the President.

The difference in what he was talking about *then* and what the anti-Christian talks about *now* is: Jefferson wanted a wall of separation between church and state so the "state" would not *take over* the "church" (as was the case in England, with the Anglican Church). *Now*, the phrase is used as a means of getting the state to *eliminate* the church (by removing any mention of it in public forums), thus violating the first amendment freedom of the individual to "freely exercise" his religion.

Am I opposed to "separation of church and state?" Not if it is applied in the sense in which it was first mentioned. Regardless, on this fourth of July, I am reminded of my rights as an individual, to freely exercise my religion wherever I want.

THE OLD PATHS

I like the old paths, when
Moms were at home. Dads were at work.
Brothers went into the army.
And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay; Hard work did;
And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook; Dads would work;
Children would behave.

Husbands were loving; Wives were supportive;
And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry; And Men wore the pants.
Women looked like ladies; Men looked like gentlemen;
And children looked decent.

People loved the truth, and hated a lie;
They came to church to get IN, not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded Godly; Sermons sounded helpful;
Rejoicing sounded normal; and crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked; Drinking was evil;
And divorce was unthinkable.

The flag was honored; America was beautiful;
And God was welcome!

We read the Bible in public; prayed in school;
And preached from house to house.

To be called an American was worth dying for;
To be called a Christian was worth living for;
To be called a traitor was a shame!

Sex was a personal word. Homosexual was an unheard of
word. And abortion was an illegal word.

Preachers preached because they had a message;
And Christians rejoiced because they had the VICTORY!
Preachers preached from the Bible; Singers sang from the
heart; and sinners turned to the Lord to be SAVED!

A new birth meant a new life; Salvation meant a changed
life; Following Christ led to eternal life.

Being a preacher meant you proclaimed the word of God;
Being a deacon meant you would serve the Lord;
Being a Christian meant you would live for Jesus;
And being a sinner meant someone was praying for you!

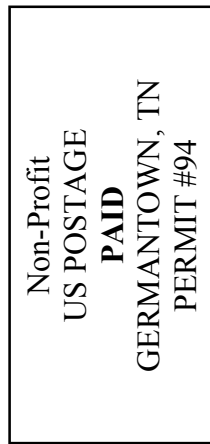
Laws were based on the Bible; Homes read the Bible;
And churches taught the Bible.

Preachers were more interested in new converts, than new
clothes and cars. God was worshipped; Christ was exalted;
and the Holy Spirit was respected.

Church was where you found Christians on the Lord's day,
Rather than in the garden, on the creek bank, on the golf
course, or being entertained somewhere else.

I still like the old paths best.

(submitted by Ed Lyon)



The Forest Hill News
Forest Hill Church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
Germantown, TN 38125
Address Service Requested