

SOME VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT

"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle." (Winston Churchill)

"A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul." (George Bernard Shaw)

"Government is the great fiction through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else." (Frederic Bastiat, French Economist, 1801-1850)

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys." (P.J. O'Rourke)

"Talk is cheap—except when Congress does it." (Unknown)

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." (Will Rogers)

"Do not let anyone claim the tribute of American patriotism if they ever attempt to remove religion from politics." (George Washington from his Farewell Address to the nation.)



The Worker

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Righteousness Exalts a Nation

Proverbs 14:34 makes the point that "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." If there is such a thing as righteousness, then Someone sovereign must determine what it is. Humankind has a varied idea of what constitutes righteousness. We could never in a million years agree on what is righteous and what is unrighteous. God, however, is an authority on righteousness, and fortunately for us, God tells us what righteousness means in His holy word. Psalm 71:19 says, "Your righteousness also, O God, is very high, Who has done great things: O God, Who is like unto You!" "All Your commandments are righteousness," says the psalmist in Psalm 119:172. Psalm 98:2 adds, "The Lord has made known His salvation: His righteousness has He openly showed in the sight of the heathen."

It is a mark of a nation in decline that calls evil good and good evil. As Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" The "bad guy" is now the norm; the "good guy" is the potential hypocrite who bears watching and extreme scrutiny.

"Sin is a reproach to any people." What is sin? Again, the Bible defines it: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

Our society is in trouble because God's laws are just as real as the physical laws of science. They are just as real as the law of gravity. A society that is lying and cheating and stealing and promoting what God clearly has called a sin, homosexuality, as a civil right, then that nation is sowing the seeds of disruption and the seeds of its own destruction of everything in it that is solid and that is real. For Jesus Christ is the ultimate arbiter of what is right, what is wrong, and what is true, for He said to Pilate in John 18:37, "You say that I am a king. To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth hears My voice." He also stated earlier in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes unto the Father, but by Me."

The Bible tells us, "By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked." (Proverbs 11:11) "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3) What we can do is turn to God as a people, and trust in Him. God tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If My people who are called by My name 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."

May the Lord bless you, and may He continue to bless us as a people as long as we are a nation turned to Him!

David R. Ferguson, Lakeland church of Christ in Mattoon, IL .http://lakelandchurchofchrist.web

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey
Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
 Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney
Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Sent Out by Christ" Mark 6:7-13

Sunday Evening:

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer John Keaton
 Scripture Hank Tincher
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper
 Message Robby Stocksdale
 Attendant Jeremy Montgomery
 Attendant Fin Burton
 Closing Prayer Clint Smith Sr

PM Service

Song Leader Matt Johnson
 Bible Reading Greg Blanton
 Selection 30
 Prayer Grover Blanton
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton
If you are unable to serve, please call Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511

AM & PM Services

Announcements Jerry Casey
 Lord's Supper Ethan Welch
 Offering Jerry Montgomery
 Usher Brandon Montgomery
 Count Offering Harold Tincher
 Assist Count Art Patrick

There He Built an Altar

Eric Welch

When God revealed Himself to Abram and called him from his country and his family to settle in the land of Canaan, Abram took his family and entered Canaan and came to Shechem where he built there an altar to the LORD....Abram worshiped God (Genesis 12:6-7).

Abram came to Bethel and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD (Genesis 12:8). Abram worshiped God.

He journeyed on to Egypt and spent some time there. He then returned to the Bethel and came to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD (Genesis 13:4). Abram worshiped God.

Finally, when Abram separated himself from Lot, the Lord restated the promise to him. Then Abram "settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD (Genesis 13:8). Abram worshiped God.

Two thousand years later, the Seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:16) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day... (Luke 4:16). Assembling for worship at the synagogue was Jesus' habit every week. Do we not want to be like Jesus as we worship under the new covenant?

We too are children of Abraham by faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:29). Before moving to another city or region, what would spiritually mature Christians do? Wouldn't they search for a church of Christ with which to worship and work? If they are considering a job transfer but cannot find a congregation, wouldn't they either turn it down or at least prepare themselves to evangelize and plant a congregation there? After all, they wouldn't be going "to church;" they are the church. If they are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, wouldn't they search diligently for the nearest meeting place of brothers and sisters? Would this not also apply to those of us who go on vacation?

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read."

Luke 4:16

Hamburg Pike Happenings

Attention Teens: the Elizabethtown, KY youth rally is scheduled for August 14th and 15th. Mark your calendar for this event; more details to follow.

Due to the church's busy schedule this month, the ladies' Bible class will not meet in July. The class will resume its regular schedule the last Saturday in August.

Any ladies interested in participating in a secret sister activity between July and December, please see Stephanie.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"It is an infallible reminder that our greatest hope and faith rests upon two mighty symbols- the cross and the flag; the one based upon those immutable teachings which provide the spiritual strength to persevere along the course which is just and right-the other based upon the invincible will that human freedom shall not perish from the earth."

--Gen. Douglas MacArthur

"It is freedom itself that still hangs in the balance, and freedom is never more than one generation from extinction." (Ronald Reagan)