



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist
Jordan Pugh, Youth

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.... 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.... 1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

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God, the Founders, and the Purpose of Human Government

Dave Miller

CONCLUSION

It's as if rank and file Americans at the inception of the nation were widely educated in the principles of government and were attuned to the essentiality of government fulfilling its God-assigned responsibilities. Make no mistake: the freedom which they believed was endangered by the usurpations of the British government was not the 1960s "do your own thing" "freedom" which promoted the overthrow of the prevailing social mores in America. Far from it. They would have viewed such "freedom" to be licentiousness and immoral. Rather, they envisioned the freedom that they considered inherent in the creation of human beings by God—the unalienable right to live on the Earth in order to make one's own choices in anticipation of eternity.

When the government loses sight of the function for which it was created, citizens are hampered in their efforts to achieve the purpose for which they were created: to obey God. Tragically, more than ever before in its 230 year history, America is experiencing severe convulsion due to the distortion of the role of government that prevails on virtually every level—local, state, and federal. Government has assumed a measure of control over the lives of its citizens that it has no right to exert, exceeding the limits envisioned by both God and the Founders. Citizens are being threatened, bullied, harassed, and intimidated by government to accept a redefinition of marriage and to embrace gender confusion as normal. They are being pressured to ignore the threat to national security posed by the blanket acceptance of foreigners who disdain the religion of Christ and the values upon which the Republic was built.²⁸ The government has placed Americans under severe, nonconsensual financial burdens.²⁹

It is bad enough that the government has ventured into illicit areas of activity. But, in the meantime, it has neglected, if not forsaken, its central purpose of providing adequate security for its law-abiding citizens. Is it coincidental that prisons are full while the government wages war on religious expression? Ask yourself these questions: Do I feel safer or less safe than at any other time in my life? Do I feel that my life and my property (i.e., home and possessions) are more secure or less secure? In my attempt to live a peaceful, serene, undisturbed lifestyle, do I feel the government is a friend and ally, or is it hostile and part of the problem?

The time has come for the nation to return to its moorings. The time has come for a massive spiritual and moral awakening, lest God say to America what He said to Israel of old: "'Shall I not punish them for these things?' says the LORD. 'And shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?'" (Jeremiah 5:9,29; 9:9).

(continued on page 2)

God, the Founders, and the Purpose of Human Government (continued from page 1)

ENDNOTES

¹ See the DVD *Separation of Church and State?* available at: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/store/Product.aspx?pid=106>.

² For a discussion of the crucial principle of authority, see Dave Miller (2012), *Surrendering to His Lordship* (Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press).

³ Guy N. Woods (1962), *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles of Peter, John, and Jude* (Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate), p. 72.

⁴ John Locke (1821), *Two Treatises of Government* (London: Whitmore & Fenn), Book II, Chapter IX, p. 295.

⁵ Thomas Jefferson noted that the standing sentiment of American lawyers was that “Blackstone is to us what the Alcoran is to the Mahometans”—“Thomas Jefferson to John Tyler, May 26, 1810,” The Thomas Jefferson Papers at the Library of Congress,” <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mjtj.mtjbib020310>.

⁶ Sir William Blackstone (1765), *Commentaries on the Laws of England* (Oxford: Clarendon Press), Book I, Chapter I, 1:120, emp. added.

⁷ Samuel Cooke (1770), *The True Principles of Civil Government, A Sermon Preached at Cambridge, in the Audience of His Honor Thomas Hutchinson, Esq; Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief; The Honorable His Majesty’s Council, and the Honorable House of Representatives, of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, May 30th, 1770* (Boston, MA: Edes and Gill), p. 159, <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/evans/N09097.0001.001?rgn=main;view=fulltext>.

⁸ Samuel Langdon (1775), *Government Corrupted by Vice, and Recovered by Righteousness* (Watertown, MA: Benjamin Edes), p. 23, italics in orig., emp. added.

⁹ Continental Congress (1775), *A Declaration by the Representatives of the United Colonies of North America, Now Met in General Congress at Philadelphia, Setting Forth the Causes and Necessity of Their Taking Up Arms*, Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789, 2:140,156, emp. added, <http://goo.gl/OrJ371>.

¹⁰ Ibid., emp. added.

¹¹ William Jay (1833), *The Life of John Jay* (New York: J.&J. Harper), 2:393-394, emp. added.

¹² Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison (1911), *The Federalist or the New Constitution* (New York: E.P. Dutton), pp. 71-72, emp. added.

¹³ Samuel West (1776), *A Sermon Preached Before the Honorable Council, and the Honorable House of Representatives, of the Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England. May 29, 1776. Being the Anniversary for the Election of the Honorable Council for the Colony* (Boston, MA: John Gill), pp. 13-14, emp. added.

¹⁴ Ritchie and Cook, eds. (1830), *Proceedings and Debates of the Virginia State Convention of 1829-30* (Richmond, VA: Samuel Shepherd), p. 537, emp. added.

¹⁵ Thomas Jefferson (1801), “First Inaugural Address,” The Avalon Project at Yale Law School, emp. added, http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/jefinau1.asp.

¹⁶ William Wells (1866), *The Life and Public Services of Samuel Adams* (Boston, MA: Little, Brown, & Co.), 1:504, emp. added.

¹⁷ *The Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal* (1768), No. 716, Monday, December 19, 1768, p. 1.

¹⁸ Ibid., italics in orig., emp. added.

¹⁹ *The Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal* (1768), No. 679, Monday, April 4, p. 1, emp. added.

²⁰ William Lincoln, ed. (1838), *The Journals of each Provincial Congress of Massachusetts in 1774 and 1775, and of the Committee of Safety* (Boston, MA: Dutton and Wentworth), p. 17.

²¹ Thomas Jefferson (1853), “A Bill for Proportioning Crimes and Punishments,” in *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, ed. H.A. Washington (Washington, D.C.: Taylor & Maury), 1:147, emp. added.

²² John Adams (1805), *Discourses on Davila* (Boston, MA: Russell and Cutler), p. 92.

²³ *Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, “Preamble,” emp. added, <https://malegislature.gov/laws/constitution>.

²⁴ Thomas Paine (1795), *The Rights of Man for the Use and Benefit of All Mankind* (London: Daniel Isaac Eaton), p. 97, emp. added.

²⁵ Dan Foster (1775), *A Short Essay on Civil Government* (Hartford, CT: Ebenezer Watson), pp. 14,27, emp. added.

²⁶ Charles Turner (1773), *A Sermon Preached Before His Excellency Thomas Hutchinson, Esq; Governor: The Honorable His Majesty’s Council, and the Honorable House of Representatives, of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, May 26th. 1773* (Boston, MA: Richard Draper), pp. 10-11, italics in orig., emp. added.

²⁷ *Declaration of Independence* (1776), Library of Congress, emp. added, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/pe.76546>.

²⁸ See Dave Miller (2016), “Should Christians Favor Accepting Syrian Refugees?” *Reason & Revelation*, 36[4]:45-47.

²⁹ Writing ca. 1817, James Madison noted: “The people of the U. S. owe their Independence & their liberty, to the wisdom of desecrating in the minute tax of 3 pence on tea, the magnitude of the evil comprized [sic] in the precedent. Let them exert the same wisdom, in watching against every evil lurking under plausible disguises, and growing up from small beginnings.” If the Founders were outraged over the violation of the principle underlying a three cent tax, they would be incredulous at the extent to which Americans tolerate oppressive governmental taxation without their knowledge—let alone consent (e.g., the tax on cell phone bills that funds free phone giveaways). See “Detached Memoranda,” *The Founders’ Constitution*, ed. Philip Kurland and Ralph Lerner (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press), Volume 5, Amendment I (Religion), Document 64, http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/amendI_religions64.html.

(from *Reason & Revelation*, September 2016)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Danny Braddock Lawayne House
ASSIST: Jack Braddock Brad Bynum
 Bob Gitter Jagger House
 Jerry Manning Edison Ray

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING: Irwin Thomas
A.M. CLOSING: Ty Phillips
P.M. OPENING: Raymond Pipkin
P.M. CLOSING: Daniel Manning

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

RECORD, WEEK of October 2, 2016

BIBLE STUDY: 235
 A.M. WORSHIP: 300
 P.M. WORSHIP: 205
 CONTRIBUTION: \$16,522

OUR SICK

Tom Holland, evangelist, recovering from a broken hip, Centennial Hospital, room 6118, 2300 Patterson St, Nashville, TN 37203.

Carol Stover, sister of Helen Sharp, is home from the hospital. Cards may be sent to: 6199 Minnick-Elbridge Rd, Obion, TN 38240

HOMEBOUND

Bessie Berry Clarine Justice
 Virginia Ditto Ryan McCullar
 Hazel Eskew Helen Palazola
 Tommy & Nell Herndon Jerry & Betty Robbins
 Anita Hopper James Terry
 Albert & Ruth House Velton Trimm

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Caleb Hull & Dale Neil.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED to Don Grisham in the passing of his brother, Douglas Grisham. The funeral was Tuesday, October 4 at 11:00 a.m. in Ripley, MS.

KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, October 23.

LEGACY ESTATES worship service each Sunday afternoon 3:00 p.m. conducted by Forest Hill.

HEARTS & HANDS

TEAM "B" (Warren Davenport) will receive assignments the week of October 9.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' and MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

MONEY MANAGEMENT (9 Week Course) each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the M.O.S.T classroom #405 of the education building. This class is taught by Robert Berch.

BABY SHOWER honoring Alissa Hanna, Saturday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

YOUNG ADULTS BONFIRE & DEVOTIONAL Saturday, October 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Jason & Leah White. The food will be provided.

FALL FOOD DRIVE for the Tennessee Children's Home. A list of needed items is on the bulletin board. Deadline is Sunday, October 9.

FALL YOUTH RETREAT October 14-16 at Chickasaw State Park. Please see Jordan Pugh for details.

MSOP WORLD MISSIONS SEMINAR "Preaching the Gospel to Every Creature," October 14-15. See bulletin board for a complete schedule.

FALL FAMILY NIGHT Friday, October 21.

BABY SHOWER honoring Melissa Brown, Sunday, October 23 after the morning service. Gift cards suggested. Also, they are registered at Walmart.

GRIZZLIES BASKETBALL GAME December 18. All are welcome to join us. Please sign up on the J.C's bulletin board. Tickets are \$20. See Danny or Melinda Braddock if you have questions.

Last week's solution:
And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. I Timothy 5:7-8

CORNERSTONE

Unscramble the letters in each word below to reveal the passage of scripture.

SRIEA, SNIHE; ROF YTH TLIHG SI OMEC, NDA EHT YROLG FO EHT ROLD SI SRNIE NOPU EEHT. ROF, OLHEDB, EHT SSRNKEDA SLLHA VROEC EHT TRHEA, NDA SSROG SSRNKEDA EHT PPOLEE: UTB EHT ROLD SLLHA SRIEA NOPU EEHT, NDA SIH YROLG SLLHA EB SNEE NOPU EEHT. NDA EHT TSNLIGEE SLLHA OMEC OT YTH TLIHG, NDA SNKIG OT EHT TSSRNIHGEB FO YTH SRNIIG.

Solution next week

[Editor's Note: It is a pleasure to be part of a congregation that follows the example of Jesus regarding service. Our thanks to Christine Hart who wrote the following concerning a recent service project. She and her husband, Allan, are great servants of this church.]

The Bible has much to say about servanthood. Our own Savior, Jesus Christ, demonstrated this characteristic many times throughout His life on earth. Some of the young ladies (ages 3 to 8) of the congregation and their guests attended a tea party on October 1st and found out firsthand what being a servant is. Lynn Manning presented a short lesson using a poem about candles to display what type of servant Christians should be in the Lord's kingdom and then she later demonstrated servanthood to them through her interactions with the girls.

The young girls practiced servanthood when they prepared encouragement boxes for some distinguished ladies of our congregation, which will be distributed at a later date. There was time for fun when they were able to design their own tea party hat and picture frame in which they will be able to display a picture taken by Melinda Braddock. Special thanks to the following ladies who helped to further illustrate what a servant is: Leah Connell, Judy Stephens (Leah's mom), Tiffany Howard, Rebecca Connell, Mallory McAlister, Abby Case, MJ Grider, Vada Grider, Sarah Ray, Mary Elliott, and Patsy Deshields. Several of the men assisted in the setup and clean-up of the event: Paul Connell, Allan Hart, Jordan Pugh, and Edison Ray. Last but not least, Anna Ulrich and her mom, Sarah, decided not to wait on being servants as they pitched in during clean up. There are probably others who helped in secret, which some servants prefer to do. Just know that our Lord saw your contribution and will be there on judgement day to recognize you.

Christine Hart

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