



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 43

September 20, 2016

Number 38

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 (Part 2)

Dave Miller

On July 6, 1775, one year before declaring independence, the Continental Congress issued a declaration articulating precisely why they felt compelled to take up arms against their mother country. Obviously, they felt the government had gone awry (notice the extent to which they connect the purpose of government with God's will on the matter):

If it was possible for men, who exercise their reason, to believe, that the Divine Author of our existence intended a part of the human race to hold an absolute property in, and an unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodness and wisdom, as the objects of a legal domination never rightfully resistible, however severe and oppressive, the Inhabitants of these Colonies might at least require from the Parliament of Great Britain some evidence, that this dreadful authority over them, has been granted to that body. But a reverence for our great Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common sense, must convince all those who reflect upon the subject, that **government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be administered for the attainment of that end.**⁹

In our own native land, in defence of the freedom that is our birth-right, and which we ever enjoyed till the late violation of it—for the **protection of our property**, acquired solely by the honest industry of our fore-fathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms.¹⁰

The Founding Fathers, *en masse*, believed that the role of government was to protect its citizens.

John Jay was a brilliant Founder with a long and distinguished career in the formation and shaping of American civilization from the beginning. He not only was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774-1776, serving as its President from 1778-1779, he also helped to frame the New York State Constitution and then served as the Chief Justice of the New York State Supreme Court. He co-authored the *Federalist Papers*, was appointed as the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court by George Washington, served as Governor of New York, and was the vice-president of the American Bible Society from 1816 to 1821. Here was his description of the purpose of government:

[W]ickedness rendered human government necessary **to restrain the violence and injustice** resulting from it. To facilitate the establishment and administration of government, the human race became, in the course of Providence, divided into separate and distinct nations. Every nation instituted a government, with authority and power **to protect it against domestic and foreign aggressions**. Each government provided for **the internal peace and security of the nation**, by laws for punishing their offending subjects. The law of all the nations prescribed the conduct which they were to observe towards each other, and allowed war to be waged by an innocent against an offending nation, when rendered just and necessary by unprovoked, atrocious, and unredressed injuries.¹¹

Jay insightfully observed that God instituted human government in order to enact a restraining influence on the propensity of human beings to harm each other.

Alexander Hamilton was another prominent Founder, serving as an artillery Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel/Aide-de-camp to General Washington in the Revolutionary War. He was a member of the Continental Congress, a signer of the *U.S. Constitution*, co-author of the *Federalist Papers*, and Secretary of the Treasury under President Washington. In *The Federalist*, No. 15, dated

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

December 1, 1787, Hamilton asked: “Why has government been instituted at all? Because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice **without constraint.**”¹² Government is intended to constrain lawbreakers.

Another patriot preacher of the Founding era was Samuel West, who served as a chaplain during the Revolutionary War and was an influential member of the Convention that formed the *Constitution of the State of Massachusetts*, and also of the Convention for the adoption of the *Constitution of the United States*. In an election-day sermon preached before the Massachusetts House of Representatives on May 29, 1776, sometimes titled “On the Right to Rebel against Governors,” West noted the role of government:

Men of unbridled lusts, were they not **restrained by the power of the civil magistrate**, would spread horror and desolation all around them. This makes it absolutely necessary that societies should form themselves into politic bodies, that they may enact laws **for the public safety**, and appoint particular penalties for the violation of their laws, and invest a suitable number of persons with authority to put in execution and enforce the laws of the state, in order **that wicked men may be restrained** from doing mischief to their fellow-creatures, that the injured may have their rights restored to them, that the virtuous may be encouraged in doing good, and **that every member of society may be protected and secured in the peaceable, quiet possession and enjoyment of all those liberties and privileges which the Deity has bestowed upon him**, i.e., that he may safely enjoy and pursue whatever he chooses, that is consistent with the public good. This shows that the end and design of civil government cannot be to deprive man of their liberty or take away their freedom; but, on the contrary, **the true design of civil government is to protect men in the enjoyment of liberty.**¹³

Constitution signer, co-author of the *Federalist Papers*, and fourth U.S. President, James Madison, in a speech at the Virginia Convention in 1829, stated: “It is sufficiently obvious, that persons and property are the two great subjects on which Governments are to act; and that the rights of persons, and the rights of property, are the objects, **for the protection of which Government was instituted.** These rights cannot well be separated.”¹⁴ Quintessential Founder Thomas Jefferson pinpointed this same function of government in his second presidential inaugural address, likewise linking God and religion to its purpose:

Let us, then, with courage and confidence pursue our own Federal and Republican principles, our attachment to union and representative government. ... entertaining a due sense of our equal right to the use of our own faculties, to the acquisitions of our own industry, to honor and confidence from our fellow-citizens, resulting not from birth, but from our actions and their sense of them; enlightened by a benign religion, professed, indeed, and practiced in various forms, yet all of them inculcating honesty, truth, temperance, gratitude, and the love of man; acknowledging and adoring an overruling

Providence, which by all its dispensations proves that it delights in the happiness of man here and his greater happiness hereafter—with all these blessings, what more is necessary to make us a happy and a prosperous people? Still one thing more, fellow-citizens—a wise and frugal Government, which shall **restrain men from injuring one another**, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. **This is the sum of good government**, and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicities.¹⁵

Declaration signer Samuel Adams, considered the “Firebrand of the Revolution” and “The Father of the American Revolution,” was vociferous in his pronouncements of the proper role of the government. In his monumental “Rights of the Colonists,” he explained:

Government was instituted for **the purposes of common defence**.... [T]he grand end of civil government, from the very nature of its institution, is **for the support, protection, and defence** of those very rights; the principal of which, as is before observed, are **Life, Liberty, and Property.**¹⁶

Writing in the *Boston-Gazette* on Monday, December 19, 1768 under the pseudonym “Vindex,” Adams expounded that “the only true basis of all government [are] the laws of God and nature. For government is an ordinance of Heaven, design’d by the all-benevolent Creator, for the general happiness of his rational creature, man.”¹⁷ Alluding to the “fundamental principle of nature and the constitution, that what is a man’s own, is *absolutely* his own, and that no man *can* have a right to take it from him without his consent,” Adams maintained:

It is against the plain and obvious rule of equity, whereby the industrious man is intitled [sic] to the fruits of his industry: It weakens the best cement of society, as it renders all property precarious: And it destroys **the very end for which alone men can be supposed to submit to civil government**; which is not for the sake of exalting one man, or a few men, above their equals, that they may be maintained in splendor and greatness; but that each individual, **under the joint protection of the whole community**, may be the Lord of his own possession, and sit securely under his own vine.¹⁸

So to Adams, the purpose for a community of people to form a government is to create “joint protection” for all citizens as each exerts his own efforts to prosper. Adams’ allusion to each person being enabled to sit under his own vine is taken from the Old Testament prophet Micah (4:4). That same year, in a letter sent by the Massachusetts House of Representatives to their agent in London, Dennis DeBerdt, the purpose of government is identified in the words: “**The security of right and property** is the great end of government.”¹⁹

(from *Reason & Revelation*, September 2016)

(to be continued)

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE: Steve Allmond Phil Houston
ASSIST: Kalon Brown Paul Connell
 Caleb Hull Gene Kuehn
 Billy Rodgers Marv Sowell

PRAYERS

A.M. OPENING: Francis Fairley
A.M. CLOSING: Nick Aubrey
P.M. OPENING: Robert Jeter
P.M. CLOSING: Evan 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 September 18, 2016

BIBLE STUDY: 235
 A.M. WORSHIP: 300
 P.M. WORSHIP: 210
 CONTRIBUTION: \$16,151

OUR SICK

Velton Trimm, Christian Care Center, Room 212.

Mike Miller, former KA/FH member and grandson of Robert & Sue Moore, has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. Cards may be sent to: P. O. Box 32, Brookland, AR 72417.

ILL AT HOME: J. D. Crowe and Bertha Draughon.

REQUESTED PRAYERS: Jagger House.

HOMEBOUND

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

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, September 25.

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

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO Cindy Owens and family in the passing of her grandmother, Esta Lee Lamberth. The funeral will be Wednesday, September 21 at 11:00 a.m. at Shackelford's Funeral Home in Selmer, TN.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' and MEN'S CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at Cracker Barrel for breakfast September 27 at 8:45.

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.

LADIES EVENING BIBLE STUDY Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the break room of the education building.

HEARTS & HANDS REORGANIZATION LUNCHEON Sunday, September 25 after the morning service. All are invited to stay for this covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall. **ZONES 3 & 4** are responsible for set-up and clean-up. **ZONE 6** is responsible for supplying drinks and set-up, serve and clean-up the drink area.

FLU SHOTS Sunday, September 25, after the morning service in the fellowship hall. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

GAME NIGHT & COOK-OUT for all ages, Saturday, October 1. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

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

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.

FALL FAMILY NIGHT Friday, October 21.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Helen Sharp on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Sterling Grace Sharp born September 13, weighing 8 lb. 10 oz.

Last week's solution:

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him. Proverbs 20:6-7

CORNERSTONE

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

ROF EHT ROLD WLLI TON SROKFEA SIH PPOLEE ROF
 SIH TRGEA SNMEA' SKEA: USEECBA TI THHA SPLEEDA
 EHT ROLD OT MKEA YUO SIH PPOLEE. VRROOMEE SA
 ROF EM, OGD ROIFDB TTHA I USOLHD SNI TSNIGAA
 EHT ROLD NI SNIGECA OT YRPA ROF YUO: UTB I WLLI
 THECA YUO EHT OOGD NDA EHT TRIHG YWA: YONL
 RFEA EHT ROLD, NDA VSREE MIH NI UTTRH WTIH LLA
 YURO TRHEA: ROF SRONIEDC WOH TRGEA TSNIHG EH
 THHA ONED ROF YUO.

Solution next week

Far East World Evangelism

Billy Bland

Four Seas Bible College Singapore: Brother Peter Chin and the faculty continue to provide vital, sound Biblical instruction to those who come to Four Seas Bible College in order to learn the Word of God. Concerning the new students at Four Seas, brother Chin wrote, "We have nine new students for the First Year class of 2016. They are Kiran Babu (India), Jerusalem Bacaznte, James Medez, Jimmy Bolo, Riviena Abubu, Elsie Olivo (Philippines), Chen Enchao (China), Tammy Gani (Malaysia) and Nguyen Thi Kim Yen (from Vietnam, who joined us during the second term in April). Unfortunately, bro. Kiran had to terminate his studies in April as his mother suffered a stroke and he is required to return and tend to her needs." It is wonderful to reach so many different countries with the Gospel.

China & Singapore: Lord willing, in November I will be headed back into China and then on to Singapore. In China I will meet with a brother who is a graduate of Four Seas and who works with a congregation. After being with them a week, I will then go to Singapore and preach in a Gospel Meeting with the Lim Ah Pin congregation, preach Sunday morning service at the Jurong congregation, and speak during the Four Seas Bible Lectureship.

Murmansk, Russia: Brother Ilya is teaching and preaching above the Arctic Circle in Murmansk, Russia. Although a difficult work, it continues to bear fruit. Regarding a campaign conducted back in March, Ilya wrote, "Roman Markov, our dear brother and preacher from Sochi (south of Russia), came to help us on March 10 and stayed until March 30. It was so good to see him again. Roma did a good job in helping us hand out invitations and do letter boxing. He also preached on Sundays and 2 times during the gospel meeting. Especially I enjoyed his lesson on wrong and right ways of interpreting the Bible. Unfortunately, many people use wrong approaches in trying to understand and explain Bible passages (preconceived ideas, taking verses out of context, etc.). We deal with such problems almost every day when we talk to people. So, the lesson was very urgent and fitting. We had approximately 8-10 people present every night." (Note: Roma is a graduate of the school we conducted in Murmansk. BB)

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