



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 43

September 27, 2016

Number 39

Forest Hill Church of Christ

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: 901-751-2444
Info Line: 901-531-8849

www.foresthillcofc.org
jsanders@foresthillcofc.org

Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan
Warren Davenport
Gregory D. Mangrum
Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
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.

HOME OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL
OF PREACHING
www.msop.org

Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism
Good News Today
Gospel Broadcasting Network
House to House, Heart to Heart
Kakinada, India
Murmansk, Russia
Singapore
Tanzania, East Africa
Truth for the World

Free Bible Correspondence Course
Email: fnbiblecourse@gmail.com

God, the Founders, and the Purpose of Human Government (Part 3)

Dave Miller

As tensions increased between the Americans and Britain, the First Provincial Congress of Massachusetts issued a letter to newly appointed British military Governor Lieutenant General Thomas Gage, appealing to him to cease and desist from the hostile preparations being made, which included the construction of military fortifications at the entrance to Boston. The letter, dated Thursday, October 13, 1774, contains a reminder of the proper purpose of government:

Your excellency must be sensible that **the sole end of government is the protection and security of the people**. Whenever, therefore, that power, which was originally instituted to effect these important and valuable purposes, is employed to harass, distress, or enslave the people, in this case it becomes a curse rather than a blessing.²⁰

In "A Bill for Proportioning Crimes and Punishments," Thomas Jefferson offered a further description of the purpose of human government:

Whereas, it frequently happens that wicked and dissolute men, resigning themselves to the dominion of inordinate passions, commit violations on the lives, liberties, and property of others, and, the secure enjoyment of these having principally induced men to enter into society, government would be defective in **its principal purpose**, were it not **to restrain such criminal acts**, by inflicting due punishments on those who perpetrate them.²¹

Prominent Founder John Adams stated the purpose succinctly in these words: "Property must be secured, or liberty cannot exist."²² The state constitution of Massachusetts, believed to be largely the work of Adams, provides a more extensive definition of the purpose of government in its Preamble:

The end of the institution, maintenance, and administration of government, is **to secure the existence of the body politic, to protect it, and to furnish the individuals who compose it with the power of enjoying in safety and tranquility their natural rights, and the blessings of life**: and whenever these great objects are not obtained, the people have a right to alter the government, and to take measures necessary for their safety, prosperity and happiness.²³

Though Thomas Paine fell into disrepute in the 1790s all across America when he published *The Age of Reason*, nevertheless, he was a significant Founder at the beginning. His wording of the purpose of government was given in his treatise *The Rights of Man for the Use and Benefit of All Mankind*:

Government is nothing more than a national association; and the object of this association is, the good of all, as well individually, as collectively. Every man wishes to pursue his occupation, and to enjoy the fruits of his labours, and the produce of his property, **in peace and safety**, and with the least possible expence. When these things are accomplished, all the objects for which government ought to be established, are answered.²⁴

(continued on page 2)

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

Another Founding era preacher, Dan Foster of Connecticut, articulated the same sentiment in his “A Short Essay on Civil Government.”

For ‘tis for the good of the state and people, that every one and the whole community, may enjoy their persons and properties **free of all molestations, invasions, rapines and invasions whatsoever**, that civil government is erected; and these great ends must be kept in sight and direct.... Our proposition asserts that the people have a natural and inherent right to appoint and constitute a [government] over them, **for their civil good, liberty, protection, peace and safety.... to defend and secure to the people the quiet and peaceable enjoyment of their persons and properties.**²⁵

Harvard graduate and Founding era preacher from Duxbury, Massachusetts, Charles Turner, delivered an election sermon before the Massachusetts-Bay government in 1773, declaring:

God would have His civil ministers to prove, *a terror to evil works; to punish evil doers*—by salutary laws, honestly and honorably executed, **to save the state from foreign injurious invaders...and to prevent the peoples suffering, from one another, as to life, property, or any of their rights.**²⁶

These citations could be multiplied extensively. They may be summarized in the words of the *Declaration of Independence* which the Founders crafted to articulate clearly the infringements of the British government under which they lived:

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. That **to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men**, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely **to effect their Safety and Happiness.**²⁷

(from *Reason & Revelation*, September 2016)

(to be continued)

Five Part Harmony

Dan Jenkins

I was about six years old when I first heard of the words “soprano, alto, tenor and bass.” At the old West Huntsville church building, a brother from Tennessee, A. J. Vetito, conducted the first of several singing schools at the church. By the end of that week, we all knew “do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do.” We all could sing the scale and learned so many new songs. The singing at that congregation vastly improved in these annual schools.

I learned to listen to all the various parts and how they harmonized. There is nothing which sounds more beautiful to me than blending voices in praising God.

In the sixth grade I began attending Christian schools. The first was in Athens, Alabama, and the second was in Huntsville. I am so thankful for the choruses at both of these schools where I grew in my appreciation for singing in worship. I owe to one of the choral directors, Wayne Hemingway, an even greater debt. He constantly emphasized understanding the words of songs and their meaning. In fact, before we learned a new song we would spend time discussing what we were trying to say to each other as we sang. He even did this for older songs and I soon learned that while I had known the music of those songs, I did not know the song’s meaning!

You see, there is another aspect of singing harmoniously that has nothing to do with “do, re, and mi.” Look carefully at Ephesians 5:19. Our use of music attached to psalms and hymns and spiritual songs is not emphasized. Paul said, “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody made with the voice, but the melody made in the heart!”

Now look at the passage again. The verse does not say making melody in your hearts (plural)! It is singular. In the Greek, the word “your” is plural (congregational), but the heart is singular. There is the harmony of every individual heart, as we sing with one heart to the Lord. In Colossians 3:16, the text speaks of hearts, but the emphasis in Ephesians is on the singular heart we bring before God. God does not care how skilled you are in harmonizing “do, re, mi”! We do not just blend our voices, we blend our hearts.

Look at singing as it ascends to heaven and enters the throne room of heaven. Do we really think that God judges our singing based on four part harmony? The melody that sweetens heaven is that fifth part harmony when it comes from the one heart of His people. Let’s learn all we can about four part harmony, but may we never fail to place the right emphasis on the harmony of our souls as we worship our Maker!

(from *West Walker Welcomer*, Sept. 11, 2016)

NORTH SIDE GREETERS

Greg and Christa Mangrum (Front)
Steve and Sarah Ulrich (Side)

October 2016

Coordinating Elder: Keith McAlister

SOUTH SIDE GREETERS

(Front) Irwin and Lisa Thomas
(Side) Lyle and Nikki Summitt

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Joe Baxter</i> <i>Vada Grider</i> <i>Isaac McLaurin</i> <i>Jessica Manning</i>
2 <i>Pati Wright</i> <i>Jerry Manning</i>	3 <i>Steve Ulrich</i>	4	5	6	7 <i>Haritha Gootam</i> <i>Harry Green, Jr.</i>	8 <i>Michael Clarke</i> <i>Peggy House</i> <i>Towanna Hoard</i>
9 <i>Aspen White</i>	10	11 <i>Neil Bennett</i> <i>Jason House</i>	12 <i>Fritzi Rickles</i> <i>Julia Ferguson</i>	13	14 <i>Andrew Berch</i> <i>Brandon Tibbits</i>	15 <i>Celicia Grider</i> <i>David Richardson</i>
16 <i>Halle Phillips</i>	17 <i>Kendall Barnes</i> <i>Helen Newsom</i>	18	19	20 <i>Leta Fay Anderson</i> <i>Sam Rickles</i>	21 <i>Ted Brooks</i> Fall Family Night	22
23 <i>Clarine Justice</i> <i>Marylon Green</i>	24 <i>Pat Allmond</i> <i>Helen Sharp</i>	25	26 <i>Karen Fairley</i>	27 <i>Daniel Hayes</i>	28 <i>Jude Everson</i>	29 <i>Harold Mangrum</i>
30	31 <i>Mary Elliott</i> <i>Makenzie Jones</i>					

The Forest Hill News
Forest Hill Church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

Address Service Requested