

(9-23-12)

LAST STAND FOR LIBERTY!

WHY BAPTIST? - SERIES

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Revelation 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee **an open door**, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast **kept my word**, and hast not denied my name.

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

"Freedom of conscience, unlimited freedom of mind, was, from the first, the trophy of the Baptists."
(George Bancroft, *History of the United States*, Vol. II., 1852; pp.66-67)

"The Constitution's not complete...And lo! the grandest Trophy past, Their noblest triumph is the last...Their glory's now at last attained, As inch by inch the Baptists gained...**O Baptists here your duty see, To hold your land and Liberty; These fields you won must cultivate...Three things our God will never bless: 'Tis Ignorance, Sloth and Stinginess...**"

(G. A. Lofton, *The Baptist Trophy*, 1876)

"On the 4th of June, **1768**, John Waller, Lewis Craig, James Childs, &c. were seized by the sheriff and hailed before three magistrates, who stood in the meeting house yard, and who bound them in the penalty of one thousand pounds, to appear at court two days after. **At court they were arraigned as disturbers of the peace**; on their trial, they were vehemently accused, by a certain lawyer, who said to the court, 'May it please your worships, **these men are great disturbers of the peace, they cannot meet a man upon the road, but they must ram a text of scripture down his throat**'...They offered to release them if they would promise to **preach no more** in the county for a year and a day. This they refused; and, therefore, were sent into...jail. As they moved on, from the court house to the prison, through the streets of Fredericksburg, they sung the hymn, 'Broad is the road that leads to death, &c.'...Waller and the others continued in jail **forty-three days**...While in prison **they constantly preached through the gates**. The mobs without using every exertion to prevent the people from hearing, but to little purpose. Many heard, indeed, upon whom the Word was in power and demonstration...After their discharge, which was a kind of triumph, Waller, Craig [etc.]...resumed their labors with redoubled vigor..."

(David Benedict, *A General History of the Baptist Denomination*, 1813)

Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the **Laodiceans** write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, **that thou art neither cold nor hot**: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art **lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will **spue thee out of my mouth**.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

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Luke 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.
36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may **be accounted worthy to escape** all these things that shall come to pass, and **to stand** before the Son of man.

"A new survey by the Barna Research Group finds that most Protestants do not tell others about Jesus...Also, **a majority of adults who attend Baptist churches**, which are known for their evangelistic focus, did not witness in the last year."
(*AgapePress*, July 11, 2001)

"...slightly less than one out of every four [adult Christians]...shared their faith in Jesus Christ with a non-Christian in the past twelve months." (Barna, 2003)

"Whites were less likely to share their faith than were people from the two largest racial groups."
(Barna, 2005)

"Young adults...are less likely to engage in means that their generation finds offensive, such as street preaching or moral confrontation."
(Barna, 2005)

"*Churchgoers Believe in Sharing Faith, Most Never Do...*[In] a recent study of church-going American Protestants...LifeWay Research found...**61 percent** have not told another person about how to become a Christian in the previous six months...25 percent say they have shared their faith once or twice...The survey also asked how many times they have personally, 'invited an unchurched person to attend a church service or some other program at your church?' Nearly half (48 percent) of church attendees responded, 'zero'..."
(www.lifeway.com, 2012)

"Election Season 2012: Dear Religious Leader, As Election Day draws near, candidates and their supporters may seek help or endorsements from your house of worship...The First Amendment protects the right of all Americans, religious leaders included, to speak out on religious, moral and political issues. However, houses of worship and other nonprofit entities classified under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code are barred from endorsing or opposing candidates for public office and may not intervene directly or indirectly in partisan campaigns. Any activity designed to influence the outcome of a partisan election [two or more separate parties] can be construed as intervention...a special 'Political Activity Compliance Initiative' has been created to educate houses of worship about the law...I urge you to be especially wary of so-called 'voter guides'..."
(The "Rev." Barry W. Lynn, Executive Director, Americans United for Separation of Church and State)

Isaiah 29:11 And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:
12 And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.
16 Surely **your turning of things upside down** shall be esteemed as the potter's clay...
21 That **make a man an offender for a word**, and **lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate**, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.

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The Survey of Religious Hostility in America, Liberty Institute:

"Our Founding Fathers considered religious liberty our 'first freedom,' and the bedrock upon which all other freedoms rest...America today would be unrecognizable to our Founders. Our first freedom is facing a relentless onslaught from well-funded and aggressive groups and individuals who are using the courts, Congress, and the vast federal bureaucracy to suppress and limit religious freedom. This radicalized minority is driven by an anti-religious ideology that is turning the First Amendment upside down...The Obama administration no longer even speaks of freedom of religion; now it is only 'freedom of worship'...when you enter the public square the message is, 'leave your religion at home'...While by no means exhaustive, this survey now presents over 600 incidents of religious attacks and hostility in the United States - most of which occurred within the past 10 years...Examples of the increasing hostility to religion described in this survey include: A federal judge threatened 'incarceration' to a high school valedictorian unless she removed references to Jesus from her graduation speech...The U.S. Department of Justice argued before the Supreme Court that the federal government can tell churches and synagogues which pastors and rabbis it can hire and fire...The State of Texas sought to approve and regulate what religious seminaries can teach...Through the Affordable Healthcare Act ('ObamaCare'), the federal government is forcing religious organizations to provide insurance for birth control and abortion-inducing drugs in direct violation of their religious beliefs...The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs banned the mention of God from veterans' funerals, overriding the wishes of the deceased's families. A federal judge held that prayers before a state House of Representatives could be to Allah but not to Jesus...The University of Texas at Arlington ('UTA') fired two women for privately praying for an absent co-worker after work...Mrs. Colston was banned from handing out religious literature on a public sidewalk in front of a public high school. The school district only allowed her to do so after she filed suit to protect her constitutional rights...a fourth-grade student at Karns Elementary School in Tennessee, was stopped by school officials from holding Bible studies with his peers during recess. A jury found for the school, and the Sixth Circuit affirmed [March 20, 2012]...Attacks on religious liberty in the public arena is perhaps the most widely recognized form of religious hostility in the United States today...The secularist agenda only advances when those who love liberty are apathetic. Let this be a call to stand for religious liberty in these United States."

-Majorities of Tea Party members (72%), Republicans (60%), and seniors (56%), believe that religious liberty is being threatened. But the majority does not believe it is under attack. (Public Religion Research Institute).

"I speak about this subject knowing that my own country's record on human rights for gay people is far from perfect. Until 2003, it was still a crime in parts of our country...**the obstacles** standing in the way of protecting the human rights of LGBT people rest **on deeply held personal, political, cultural, and religious beliefs**...This recognition did not occur all at once. It evolved over time...gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights...Many people, including myself, have experienced a deepening of our own convictions on this topic over the years...This evolution is evident in many places..."

(Hillary Clinton, U.N. Speech, Dec, 2011)

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"California Legislation: SB 1172, Lieu. Sexual orientation change efforts. Existing law provides for **licensing and regulation** of various professions in the healing **arts**, including physicians and surgeons, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, educational psychologists, clinical social workers, and licensed professional clinical counselors. This bill would prohibit a mental health provider, as defined, from engaging in sexual orientation **change efforts**, as defined, with a patient under 18 years of age...The Legislature finds and declares all of the following: (a) Being lesbian, gay, or bisexual is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming. The major professional associations of mental health practitioners and researchers in the United States have recognized this fact for nearly 40 years...sexual orientation change efforts can pose critical health risks...including confusion, depression, guilt...a loss of faith, and a sense of having wasted time and resources...Therefore, the American Psychiatric Association opposes any psychiatric treatment such as reparative or conversion therapy...The Pan American Health Organization, a regional office of the World Health Organization, issued a statement in May of 2012 and in it the organization states: 'These supposed conversion therapies constitute a violation of the ethical principles of health care and violate human rights that are protected by international and regional agreements'...Nothing in this act is intended to prevent a minor who is 12 years of age or older from consenting to any mental health treatment or counseling services...**other than** sexual orientation change efforts..."

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120SB1172

[Gov. Jerry Brown has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto the bill, or it will become law Jan. 1, 2013]

"...Is government replacing God? Are politicians replacing parents?...Consider just a few of the bills, currently on the governor's desk to sign or veto...SB 1476 allows judges to recognize three or more legal 'parents' for a child...co-written by the National Center for Lesbian Rights...In another attack on the family, SB 1172...bans licensed therapists from helping children with unwanted same-sex attractions or confusion..."

(Margaret A. Bengs, *Sacramento Bee*, Sept. 22, 2012)

"[State Senator Ted] Lieu acknowledged that the legislation, SB 1172, would infringe parental rights. But he said that's the point. 'The attack on parental rights is exactly the whole point of the bill because we don't want to let parents harm their children,' he said, according to *The Orange County Register*."

(ChristianPost.com)

"*Texas school bars Bible banners at football games*...For three straight weeks, high school football players in a small southeast Texas town took the field by bolting through large red-and-white banners that hollered **the praises of Jesus Christ**...Christianity and the Bible always had been fundamental to this town of 2,100. But someone complained...[and] a day after receiving a letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation, the superintendent **banned the banners**..."

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/article/Texas-school-bars-Bible-banners-at-football-games-3881249.php>; September 20, 2012)

Psalms 60:4 Thou hast given a **banner** to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.

Psalms 20:5 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will **set up our banners...**

Habbakuk 2:2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and **make it plain upon tables, that he may run** that readeth it.

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