

April 2009

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Should Evangelicals “give it a rest?”

Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked.

--Proverbs 25:26 NIV

Things are getting more “prickly” for Evangelicals who love America and want to make a difference. *Newsweek’s* April 13 cover story The End of Christian America, points to recent opinion polls suggesting that ten percent fewer Americans consider themselves Christian than was the case little more than a decade ago. “This is not to say that the Christian God is dead,” says *Newsweek*, “but that he is less of a force in American politics and culture than at any other time in recent memory.”

As if to add two-cents more in disincentives for patriotic-minded evangelicals, President Barack Obama assured the Muslim world during his recent Middle East trip that “America is not a Christian nation.” A view perhaps bolstered by his meteoric rise to power.

Unfortunately, there is ample evidence that America is indeed casting off its Christian moorings. In places like China, Iran and North Korea, Christians risk imprisonment for advocating for the weak and those who have no voice. Now too, in Oakland, California.

Pastor Walter Hoyer of Union City just finished a 30-day jail sentence and paid a \$1,000 fine for holding a sign on public property in front of an Oakland abortion clinic. His sign read: “Jesus loves you and your baby. Let us help you!” Although no clients filed a complaint or testified against Pastor Hoyer, city officials felt such “harassment” can not be permitted.

Interestingly, Oakland started as a genuine law and order community. Its very first resident (1852) was the popular ex-Texas Ranger John Coffee “Jack” Hay. It was a pleasant place to live, to raise a family, and even to concoct Rocky Road ice cream as William Dreyer did in 1929. But Oakland has become a bastion for the lawless. On March 21, four police officers were gunned down in a single incident in America’s fourth most murderous city.

It is no secret that many Christian institutions no longer endeavor to lift Jesus higher for all the world to see. On April 14, the prestigious (Jesuit) Georgetown University covered over the monogram “IHS”—symbolizing the name of Jesus Christ—because it was inscribed on a pediment on the stage in Gaston Hall where President Obama was to speak.” [IHS is a Greek abbreviation thought to be first used in the third century]. “According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, ‘St. Ignatius of Loyola adopted the monogram in his seal as general of the Society of Jesus (1541) and thus became the emblem of his institute.’ The Society of Jesus is the formal name for the Jesuits.” University officials said the White House asked them to cover up all signs and symbols.

In February, the university hosted “Sex Positive Week,” sponsored by feminist and homosexual student clubs at the start of the holy season of Lent. Presentations included “dominance & submission, bondage & discipline, fetishism, and cross-dressing.” On Ash Wednesday, students were treated to “Torn about Porn,” a forum discussing alternative forms of pornography that are “radical and empowering.”

Saturday's finale included a porn film director speaking on "Relationships beyond Monogamy." The speaker has written extensively on *anal pleasures, open marriage and adventures in sex, porn and perversion*.

Loyola (Jesuit) University Chicago decided to go with "Brother to Brother," a film about a homosexual African-American who is transported in time to cavort with the allegedly homosexual writer Langston Hughes. The film is part of a semester-long "Color of Queer Film Series" sponsored by Loyola. (Ibid)

During the holy season of Lent, Seattle (Jesuit) University featured "Transgender Awareness Week" which included a session on allegedly transgender Bible heroes and heroines and "Criss-Cross Day," where students were encouraged to come dressed for the day in their best "gender-bending outfit." (Ibid)

Another shocker for evangelicals this month came by way of the Rev. Rick Warren, author of The Purpose Driven Life, when he said on *Larry King Live* that he has "never been and never will be" an "anti-gay marriage activist." Warren told the host he did not want to comment on or criticize the Iowa Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex "marriage" because it was "not his agenda." He also said he apologized to his homosexual friends for comments he made in October to his church in support of California's Proposition 8. According to church transcripts, Warren told his congregation last October: "Now let me say this really clearly; we support Proposition 8—and if you believe what the Bible says about marriage, you need to support Proposition 8."

Bishop Harry Jackson, Jr., with the High Impact Leadership Coalition, responded, "This man who's been called the next Billy Graham, who I really respect with all my heart and love what he's doing in Africa, is falling into a trap that is emblematic of the problem that the entire church is facing in this generation. And that is that we love the applause of men more than we love the work of God and the gospel."

Jackson says he is devastated by Warren's change of mind because he is so well known and admired in the Christian community and followers are going to think, "Well, this is not...my mission—it's not...my purpose. I don't have to stand for truth."

The Believer's Bible Commentary on Proverbs 25:26, says, "*When good men bow down before the wicked, when they compromise, yield, or fail to stand up for the right, it is like a muddied spring or a polluted well. You go looking for purity and cleanliness and are disappointed.*"

Clearly, Rev. Warren has confused and discouraged friends by suggesting he voted for Prop 8 before he voted against it. But evangelicals were heartened this week by young Carrie Prejean, Miss California, who isn't conflicted in the least when it comes to marriage. Although fairly certain in her mind that the Miss USA crown was hinged to the next words from her mouth when she was asked about same-sex "marriage," she nevertheless said, "I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised."

Standing for TRUTH has always been controversial, and very often, costly in the extreme. But it has never been a hindrance to the advancement of God's Kingdom. Teddy Roosevelt once said, "There comes a time in the affairs of men when they must prepare to defend, not their homes alone, but the tenets of faith and humanity on which their churches, their governments, and their very civilization are founded."

Is this that time? Or should we just give it a rest?

Rick Forcier

1. Georgetown Says It Covered Over Name of Jesus to Comply With White House Request, Edwin Mora, *CNSNews.com*, 4/15/2009
2. As Lent Begins, 3 Prominent Catholic Universities Celebrate Porn, Promiscuity, *LifesiteNews.com*, 2/26/2009
3. Warren's 'backsliding' on marriage damages church, Jim Brown, *OneNewsNow.com*, 4/9/2009
4. MacDonald, William, 1917—Believer's Bible Commentary, 1989, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Inc., Nashville, TN, pg.856