

Sunday, July 3. 2016

## **THE MANY FACES OF ISLAM. NOT ALL MUSLIMS ARE THE SAME**

In 2003, about 15% of the world's one billion Muslims were Shia and 85% were orthodox Sunni. There are other factions within Islam. Sufis are found today in Turkey and Syria. The conservative Wahhabis are found in Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Other sects or break-away groups include the Alawis found in Syria and Turkey, the Druze in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Israel, the Ibadhis (Kharjites) in Oman and Africa, the Ahmadiya of Pakistan, and the Zaydis of Yemen.

All of these groups are Muslim. Thus it is very misleading to speak and act as though Islam is monolithic and it is very inaccurate and misleading to group them all together as one Body, even if Islam is one Religion. They all claim to be followers of Allah and Islam. When someone says that Islam is about Love and is non-violent, it is essential too ask: which kind of Muslim? When Christians become excited with reports of Muslim conversions to Christ, again we must ask which kind of Muslim?

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS21432.pdf>

For a very well researched and well-written extensive Essay explaining the History and agendas of various types of Muslims, this article is must reading if we are serious about the subject of Radical Islamism.

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2016/june/1464703200/robert-manne/mind-islamic-state>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:58

Monday, May 9, 2016

## **TRUMP: PRO AND CON ARTICLES WELL WRITTEN**

It is very interesting to read contrary views about Donald Trump. Using the same data [mostly quotes from Mr Trump's speeches], here are two writers who come to opposite conclusions about him. A major reason for this is the matter of definition. One interprets remarks by Mr Trump as sexist, racist or bigoted and labels him as a dangerous, fear mongering demagogue. Mr Trump, he insists, spews hatred and incites violence. The other writer finds none of this in Mr Trump's remarks. How can this be? These writers define "sexist, racist or bigoted", et al, differently and interpret Mr Trump accordingly. They are both very good, persuasive writers. Reader beware.

Their articles illustrate how writers can be very selective, including and omitting material from the same original source that suits their own perspective or bias. Thus their articles reveal more about themselves than they do about Mr Trump.

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2016/04/america-tyranny-donald-trump.html>

<http://www.city-journal.org/html/andrew-sullivans-blind-spot-14431.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:58

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

## **IDENTIFYING ISLAMISTS**

When Donald Trump in December called for "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States," I replied that changing just one word – "Islamists" instead of "Muslims" – would transform his outrageous and dead-end effusion into a politically feasible and operationally viable policy idea. By Islamists (as opposed to moderates), I mean those approximately 10-15 percent of Muslims who seek to apply Islamic law (the Shari'a) in its entirety. Islamists, not all Muslims, are the modern barbarians; they, not all Muslims, must urgently be excluded from the United States and other Western countries.

Source: <http://www.danielpipes.org/16438/identifying-islamists-interrogations>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:48

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

### **Syrians are loving caring people!**

Two recent refugees from Syria, now living in Baltimore, were featured on the front page of yesterday's paper, the Sun. They wanted to assure citizens that they are not a treat in any way. "Syrians are very good people, we are nice people-loving, caring people". They did not qualify this description.

Is not President Assad a Syrian? Are not many of the soldiers fighting in the civil war in Syria, Syrians?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:11

Tuesday, July 14. 2015

## **DEAL? NO DEAL!!**

The agreement signed today ends the economic sanctions regime, permits the Iranians to hide much of their nuclear activities, lacks enforcement in case of Iranian deceit, and expires in slightly more than a decade. Two problems particularly stand out: The Iranian path to nuclear weapons has been eased and legitimated; Tehran will receive a "signing bonus" of some US\$150 billion that greatly increases its abilities to aggress in the Middle East and beyond. Of the administration's accumulated foreign-policy mistakes in the last six years, none have been catastrophic for the United States: Not the Chinese building islands, the Russians taking Crimea, or the collapse into civil wars of Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. But the Iran deal has the makings of a catastrophe. Attention now shifts to the U.S. Congress to review today's accord, arguably the worst treaty not just in American history or modern history, but ever. Congress must reject this deal. Republican senators and representatives have shown themselves firm on this topic; will the Democrats rise to the occasion and provide the votes for a veto override? Read the entire article here:  
<http://www.danielpipes.org/15973/obama-iran-deal-catastrophe>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:27

Friday, June 26. 2015

## **RESPONDING TO THE SCOTUS DECISION RE GAY MARRIAGE**

We lost this one. We and many others made the case to our culture that traditional marriage is God's good design, that this institution, embodied by a man and a woman joining together, leads to social flourishing. But our culture is not convinced. Much to our disappointment, it is now the law of the land to permit other forms of "marriage." The temptation is to go off and sulk in our holy corner. Or to dig in our heels and fight harder. Or to lash out in anger. Or to despair. We can do better. Like taking to heart especially the Beatitudes: read the rest of this good article <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2015/june-web-only/6-things-to-do-after-supreme-court-gay-marriage-decision.html?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:38

Friday, April 17. 2015

### **CRITIZING ISLAM JUSTIFIED**

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/the-critics-of-islam-were-right-an-apology-to-ayaan-hirsi-ali-sam-harris-bill-maher-and-other-so-called-islamophobes-137416/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:27

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

## **CONNECTICUT'S INCREDIBLE, UNJUSTIFIED ATTACK ON INDIANA**

"In case you needed more proof that the recent backlash against religious freedom laws is grounded in pure ignorance, look no further than Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy."

"Malloy, a Democrat, just announced on Twitter that he plans to sign an executive order banning state travel to Indiana due to the midwestern state's recently enacted Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

"I don't know how many staffers, lawyers, and advisers currently work for Malloy, but it's a real shame that not a single one of them told the governor that Connecticut has had an expansive RFRA on the books for over two decades. That's right: Connecticut passed its own RFRA law on June 29, 1993."

<http://thefederalist.com/2015/03/30/connecticuts-governor-doesnt-understand-his-own-states-rfra/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:04

Saturday, March 21. 2015

## **LET THIS GRAPHIC GRAB YOU**

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:38

## **THE STATE ISRAEL IS IN NOW**

If you are a supporter of Israel or care about what it is facing, here is an article that seem both fair and spot on about its situation

[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/03/israeli-elections-israel-future-116266.html?hp=t3\\_r#.VQ2PcOGM7b6](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/03/israeli-elections-israel-future-116266.html?hp=t3_r#.VQ2PcOGM7b6)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:07

Friday, March 20. 2015

**MUSLIMS KILLING OTHER MUSLIMS (SHIA VS SUNNI)**

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/03/20/dozens-dead-in-twin-suicide-attacks-in-yemen/?intcmp=latestnews>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:08

Sunday, March 15. 2015

### **MORE MUSLIM PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS**

Life in Pakistan is increasingly fraught with danger for religious minorities, especially Christians. They have been targeted by extremist Sunni Muslim militants who object to their faith. They are also discriminated against in the wider society where they can often only get menial jobs like garbage collection, and are frequently targets of blasphemy accusations.

[www.foxnews.com/world/2015/03/15/pakistan-church-blasts/](http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/03/15/pakistan-church-blasts/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:59

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

## **IT KEEPS HAPPENING- WE KEEP FORGETTING**

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:49

### **MUSLIM GENOCIDE OF CHRISTIANS 100 years ago this month**

In 1915, leaders of the Turkish government [Muslim] set in motion a plan to expel and massacre Armenians [Christians] living in the Ottoman Empire. Though reports vary, most sources agree that there were about 2 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire at the time of the massacre. By the early 1920s, when the massacres and deportations finally ended, some 1.5 million of Turkey's Armenians were dead, with many more forcibly removed from the country. Today, most historians call this event a genocide—a premeditated and systematic campaign to exterminate an entire people. However, the Turkish government does not acknowledge the enormity or scope of these events. Despite pressure from Armenians and social justice advocates throughout the world, it is still illegal in Turkey to talk about what happened to Armenians during this era.

<http://www.history.com/topics/armenian-genocide>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:41

Friday, March 6, 2015

### **TIMELINE OF THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL**

To understand the situation the Nation of Israel is in currently, we must be familiar with its long History. Here is a chart-  
<http://contenderministries.org/middleeast/timeline.php>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:07

Sunday, March 1. 2015

## **ISLAMISM DEFINED**

More helpful resources to understand Islamism

<http://www.moshereiss.org/west.htm>

<http://www.meforum.org/5059/jihad-root-cause-myth>

<http://www.meforum.org/5060/hatred-as-an-article-of-faith>

<http://www.lapidomedia.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:50

Thursday, February 26, 2015

### **ISLAMIST ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS**

<http://assyrianchristians.com/>

[www.tricities.com/news/article\\_195256f1-1821-59ac-b74c-47bbcd2d2062.html](http://www.tricities.com/news/article_195256f1-1821-59ac-b74c-47bbcd2d2062.html)

[www.nytimes.com/2015/02/25/world/middleeast/monitoring-group-says-isis-has-abducted-90-christians-in-syria.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/25/world/middleeast/monitoring-group-says-isis-has-abducted-90-christians-in-syria.html?_r=1)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:46

### **VERY IMPORTANT DISTINCTIONS ABOUT ISLAM**

About the danger of generalizations and the importance of definitions and specifics

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=8981>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:17

Tuesday, February 24. 2015

### **GLOBAL WARMING REALITIES OR DELUSIONS?**

<http://www.climatechangedispatch.com/the-silence-of-the-scientists.html>

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/2015/01/20/2014-as-the-mildest-year-why-you-are-being-misled-on-global-temperatures-or-why-i-should-have-been-an-engineer-rather-than-a-climate-scientist/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:11

### **ISLAMIST DELUSIONS OR REALITIES?**

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>

<http://www.danielpipes.org/blog/2015/02/what-causes-american-fear-of-islam-and-muslims>

<http://www.meforum.org/5045/white-house-delusions-islamist-realities>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:55

Monday, February 9, 2015

## **ISLAMIST TERRORISM AND CHRISTIANITY**

Good response here to Mr Obama's "high horse" comments comparing Christianity and Islamist Terrorism. What the President said is nonsense  
[townhall.com/columnists/jonahgoldberg/2015/02/06/draft-n1953526](http://townhall.com/columnists/jonahgoldberg/2015/02/06/draft-n1953526)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:34

Thursday, January 29, 2015

## **STARTLING STATS**

How Countries of the world compare in population? Here are surprising maps.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travelnews/11376135/The-world-according-to-population-size.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:32

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

### **WHY DID THE FAR WORSE MASSACRE NOT MAKE THE HEADLINES?**

As media coverage focused on the Paris terror attacks last week, more than 2000 Nigerians were reported to have been killed by Islamist militants. What makes one massacre more newsworthy than another?

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/12/-sp-boko-haram-attacks-nigeria-baga-ignored-media>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:51

### **JE SUIS JUIF**

Jews in a supermarket were murdered by Islamist terrorists on the same day as the non-Jew satirists in their office. Why have millions shouted, "I am Charlie" [from the name of the magazine] and very few people have shouted, "I am Jew"?

<http://www.religionnews.com/2015/01/13/je-suis-juif-not-much-commentary/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:43

Saturday, January 10, 2015

**HOLY WAR- a Controversial Sermon I preached after 9-11 (unedited notes)**

TODAY'S MESSAGE IS IN RESPONSE TO THE EVENTS OF THIS WEEK.  
WE HAD A PRAYER MEETING HERE ON TUESDAY NIGHT.  
WE STARTED BY RECALLING THE GREAT TRUTH: GOD IS ON THE  
THRONE  
THAT MEANS HE IS IN CONTROL AND HE IS GOOD

WE CLAIM THAT BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

THAT TRUTH MUST ALWAYS BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF OUR MINDS

ESPECIALLY WHEN WE FACE ANY KIND OF TRIAL OR TRIBULATION

WE SAY IT WHEN WE SUFFER TRAGEDY OF ANY KIND

WE SAY IT ON THE DEATH OF LOVED ONES-----AT FUNERALS

GOD IS ON THE THRONE-----THAT IS THE FIRST THING TO SAY  
THIS WEEK  
THE SECOND THING TO SAY IS THAT, YES, THERE IS EVIL IN  
THE WORLD  
THERE IS RACISM.....INJUSTICE....VIOLENCE.....AND VIOLENT  
DEATH [2 1/2 MILLION IN CONGO] THERE IS HATE IN THE WORLD. THERE ARE MANY WHO HATE THE USA

BUT- GOD IS ON THE THRONE  
THIS WEEK REMINDS US [AGAIN] THERE ARE BATTLES TO BE  
FOUGHT IN THE WORLD  
PRESIDENT BUSH TELLS US THAT WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK WAS AN  
ACT OF WAR

IF PEARL HARBOR WAS AN ACT OF WAR--A DAY OF INFAMY--THIS  
IS 2X AS TERRIBLE  
THE PRESIDENT IS MOBILIZING NATIONS AND THE MILITARY FOR A  
WAR

THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHO THE ENEMY IS

THE TALK IS ABOUT A TERRORIST LIKE BEN LADEN

BUT PRESIDENT &  
THE NATIONS ARE LOOKING FOR POLITICAL ENEMIES BEHIND HIM

-----FOR TYRANTS AND DICTATORS LIKE SADDAM HUSSEIN

-----FOR COUNTRIES LIKE IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN OR PAKISTAN

cf IN 60'S CHE  
QUEVERA & CASTRO/ CUBA  
OUR LEADERS TALK ABOUT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC STRATEGIES TO  
ERADICATE THESE ENEMIES

BUT THE REAL ENEMY IS  
NOT A MAN OR A NATION

THE ENEMY IS NOT ALL ARABS OR ALL MOSLEMS

WE ARE DEALING W/THE FANATICISM OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

THE MAJORITY OF ARABS & MOSLEMS ARE NOT FANATIC  
FUNDAMENTALISTS  
ALL RELIGIOUS FANATICS [EVERY RELIGION HAS THEM]  
BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE ON GOD'S SIDE-----

THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY  
CONVINCED THAT THEY ARE DOING GOD'S WILL  
ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS ARE CONVINCED THAT AMERICA [WHICH  
INCLUDES ISRAEL IN THEIR MIND] IS EVIL

THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT GOD'S WILL IS THE DESTRUCTION OF  
EVIL

THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT ANY MEANS THAT ACHIEVES GOD'S WILL  
IS JUSTIFIED

THEREFORE, VIOLENCE AND MURDER ARE JUSTIFIED IF THEY ACHIEVE  
GOD'S WILL

BLOWING UP THE TOWERS  
IN NY WAS A RIGHTEOUS ACT

SACRIFICING THEIR OWN LIVES TO DO THIS WAS NOBLE &  
HONORABLE

TERRORISM IS JUSTIFIED IN A HOLY WAR AGAINST THE EVIL  
INFIDELS

THE MAJORITY OF MOSLEMS DO NOT BELIEVE ALL OF THIS  
IRONICALLY, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT FUELS ISLAMIC  
TERRORISM IS THE MEMORY OF CHRISTIAN TERRORISM WAGED AGAINST MOSLEMS DURING THE

CRUSADES OF THE MIDDLE AGES  
THAT WAS ONE OF FACTORS BEHIND THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED  
BY THE MOSLEM SERBS AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN CROATIANS IN THE BOSNIAN WAR  
PEOPLE AND NATIONS HAVE LONG MEMORIES----AND IT HELPS TO  
KNOW AND LEARN FROM HISTORY  
WHAT OUR NATIONAL LEADERS AND WHAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS  
THAT

AT THE ROOT OF TERRORISM IS HATE ----cf EASTERN CONGO  
& SUDAN & ETHIOPIA  
AND THE WORST KIND OF HATE IS THE HATE THAT IS ROOTED IN  
RELIGION

WE ARE DEALING W/RELIGIOUS HATE- -cf BOSNIA & NORTHERN IRELAND &  
MIDDLE EAST  
AND THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN INDIA & IN INDONESIA  
THERE IS A WAR TO BE FOUGHT-----IT IS NOT THE WAR WAGED BY  
ARMIES AGAINST SOME NATION

WE HAVE DONE THAT AGAIN AND AGAIN

PRESIDENT BUSH'S FATHER, WHEN HE WAS PRESIDENT, LED US INTO A WAR AGAINST A MUSLIM  
TERRORIST  
AND AN ARAB NATION

AND NOTHING WAS GAINED

WE WAGED A LONG BLOODY WAR AGAINST RELIGIOUS FANATICS CALLED  
MARXISTS IN VIET NAM AND CALLED COMMUNISTS IN KOREA

AND MANY WOULD ARGUE THAT NOTHING WAS GAINED IN EITHER OF  
THOSE MILITARY ACTIONS EITHER

BUT GOD IS ON THE THRONE  
THERE IS A WAR TO BE FOUGHT-----

A WAR AGAINST  
IGNORANCE-----HATE-----INJUSTICE-----VIOLENCE  
THIS IS NOT A WAR WAGED BY OUR ARMIES AGAINST OTHER NATIONS

IT IS A WAR THAT GOD HIMSELF WANTS TO WAGE AND WIN

IT IS A WAR THAT GOD WILL WIN-----THE VICTORY SHALL BE  
HIS-----THE GLORY SHALL BE HIS

BUT GOD WAGES WAR AND WINS HIS BATTLES BY USING HIS ARMY

AND WHO IS THAT ARMY? WE ARE!-----

THE SOLDIERS IN THE LORD'S ARMY ARE THE SAINTS---ALL  
BELIEVERS----THE CHURCH

OUR WEAPONS ARE NOT BALLISTIC MISSILES

OUR WEAPONS ARE PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

THIS WEEK HAS BEEN A RENEWED CALL TO WAGE THIS WAR

I SHARE EVERYONE'S SHOCK AND HORROR AT WHAT HAPPENED IN  
NY AND DC & PENN BUT I HAD PERSONAL REACTION BEYOND ALL OF THAT  
I WAS KICKING MYSELF FOR BEING HERE IN VT

THE EVENT INSTANTLY REKINDLED A FIRE IN ME TO BE WHERE THE  
MAJOR ACTION IS:  
WHERE POWER IS BEING EXERCISE WHERE MAJOR EVENTS ARE HAPPENING

WHERE PEOPLE ARE MAKING THE BIG  
DECISIONS THAT EFFECT SOCIETY & WORLD

THE EVENT INSTANTLY REKINDLED A FIRE IN ME TO BE WHERE THE  
ACTION IS: A MAJOR CITY

I HAVE BEEN INTENTIONALLY TRYING TO SLOW DOWN AND GET IN  
TOUCH WITH

THE PEACE & QUIET & BEAUTY OF THE MOUNTAINS &  
LAKES

I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET MYSELF INTO SYNC WITH THE PACE OF  
LIFE HERE--TO FIT IN  
I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BE CONTENT WITH MY BLESSINGS HERE\\  
TO AVOID FRUSTRATION & BURN-OUT, I HAVE BEEN LOWERING MY EXPECTATIONS

THIS WEEKS CRISIS WOKE ME UP-----IT HAS REVIVED MY ZEAL

THE ONLY TRUE AND PERMANENT ANSWER TO THE CRISIS IS CHRIST

THIS IS TRUE FOR EACH OF US PERSONALLY

IT IS TRUE FOR OUR COUNTRY

IT HAS BEEN NICE TO SEE FLAGS EVERYWHERE

THIS CRISIS HAS REVIVED OUR SENSE OF PATRIOTISM

THE GULF WAR DID THE SAME THING

THIS IS A GOOD THING-----BUT IT DOES NOTHING TO SOLVE  
OUR WORLD'S PROBLEMS

IF NEWPORT CITY WAS BURNING, AND WE ALL PUT SMOKY THE BEAR  
SIGNS ON OUR LAWN

SIGNS THAT SAY: HELP  
PREVENT FIRE-----AND DID NOTHING ELSE

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE CITY?

THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD SAVE NEWPORT IF IT WERE BURNING IS  
TO FIGHT THE FIRE

THIS CRISIS IN AMERICA HAS RENEWED MY DETERMINATION TO FIGHT  
THE FIRE

I WANT TO SEARCH THE RUBBLE AND  
FIND LOST PEOPLE  
I WANT TO RESCUE PEOPLE IN TROUBLE

I WANT TO CARE FOR THE INJURED AND  
WOUNDED  
I WANT TO COMFORT THE SUFFERING  
& GRIEVING  
I WANT TO GIVE HOPE TO THE DYING  
I WANT TO WORK TO PREVENT SUCH A  
CRISIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN  
HOW CAN I DO THAT? -----WITH PRAYER & PROCLAMATION

WHERE CAN I DO THAT?

I READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT AN EFC CHURCH NEAR THE DISASTER AREA

I WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT THE PASTOR THERE WAS A CHILD  
IN A CHURCH I PASTORED

HE WAS PROBABLY ABOUT 6 WHEN WE LEFT THERE

I HAD TRIED TO MINISTER TO HIS PARENTS WHO WERE GOING  
THROUGH PERSONAL CRISIS  
NOW HE IS THE PASTOR OF AN EFREE CHURCH MINISTERING IN THE  
CRISIS IN NYC

AS I WRESTLED THIS WEEK WITH MY FEELINGS ABOUT ALL OF THIS

I REALIZED AGAIN--GOD HAS PUT ME HERE----TO WORK HERE  
TO BRING CHRIST TO THE CRISIS

VERMONTERS HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT THEY WANT TO HELP NEW  
YORKERS

I REALIZE IN A FRESH, NEW WAY THAT I AM HERE TO CHALLENGE  
AND TRAIN  
XIAN VERMONTERS TO GO AND HELP THE NEW YORKERS WHO  
--ARE BURIED UNDER THE RUBBLE OF  
SIN & GUILT  
--ARE PRESUMED DEAD IN THEIR SINS  
--ARE FILLED WITH DESPAIR &  
DISBELIEF  
--WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN SHATTERED  
BY VIOLENCE----HATE---INJUSTICE &  
CRUELTY  
--WHO HAVE NO HOPE FOR LIVING OR  
FOR ETERNITY  
--WHO NEED JESUS  
ACTUALLY, THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THIS WHO LIVE IN NEW JERSEY--AND  
IN EVERY STATE

WHO ARE THE VERMONT XIANS THAT I WANT TO CHALLENGE AND TRAIN  
FOR THIS RESCUE OPERATION?

-----YOUR CHILDREN

-----YOU TEENAGERS

THE TERRORISTS GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVED IN

CAN XIANS DO ANY LESS?  
ARE TERRORISTS MORE COMMITTED TO THEIR GOD THAN WE ARE?

IF THEY ARE, SHAME ON US  
ARE TERRORISTS MORE COMMITTED TO THEIR VALUES THAN WE ARE?

IF THEY ARE, SHAME ON US  
ARE TERRORISTS MORE COMMITTED TO CHANGING THE WORLD THAN WE ARE?

IF THEY ARE, SHAME ON US  
ARE TERRORISTS BETTER TRAINED THAN WE ARE?

IF THEY ARE, SHAME ON US  
ARE TERRORISTS MORE DETERMINED THAN WE ARE?

IF THEY ARE, SHAME ON US  
WHY SHOULD WE DO LESS FOR OUR GOD AND FOR THE CAUSE OF  
CHRIS

THAN TERRORISTS DO FOR THEIR GOD AND THEIR CAUSE?

IT HAS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES THIS WEEK THAT THE ATTACK ON  
AMERICA IS A WAKE UP CALL TO AMERICANS

WE PRAY THAT IT WILL MAKE PEOPLE SEEK GOD AND RETURN TO THE  
VALUES THAT HAVE MADE US A GREAT NATION

THE CRISIS THIS WEEK IS A WAKE-UP CALL TO THE CHURCH-----TO  
THIS CHURCH

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR  
THE SAFETY AND SECURITY WE ENJOY HERE IN NORTHEAST KINGDOM

BUT WE CAN NOT HIDE HERE

WE ARE CITIZENS OF THE US OF A

IN MANY WAYS WE ARE CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

WE SAW PICTURES OVER AND OVER OF THE DARK, BILLOWING SMOKE  
FILLING LOWER NYC

WE HEARD HOW DARK IT WAS IN THAT SMOKE

WE HEARD OF HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE MAKING THEIR WAY DOWN STAIRWELLS IN THE DARK

WE XIANS ARE CALLED TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD

WE SING: SHINE JESUS SHINE

WELL, JESUS IS SUPPOSED TO SHINE IN US-----HE WANTS TO SHINE  
THROUGH US

WE MUST RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO TRAIN AND EQUIP OUR CHILDREN  
TO SHINE FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

WE ARE NOT TO BE SEPARATISTS-----WE ARE TO BE  
INTEGRATIONISTS

WE ARE NOT TO COWER  
FROM THE CRISIS-----WE ARE TO BRING CHRIST TO THE CRISIS

SOME OF YOU MAY SAY-----COME ON PASTOR, GIVE US A BREAK  
HERE  
WE HAVE OUR BUSINESSES TO RUN, OUR KIDS HAVE SCHOOL-----AND SPORTS  
I KNOW THAT-----BUT IT IS NOT ME YOU HAVE TO TALK TO ABOUT  
THIS

MUSLIM TERRORISTS TRAIN AND THEN INFILTRATE THE WORLD AS  
WARRIORS TO FIGHT A HOLY WAR

ISN'T THAT WHAT ALL WE XIANS ARE CALLED TO DO?

BUT WE ARE NOT CALLED BY ALLAH & HIS SERVANT MUHAMMED

WE ARE CALLED BY GOD ALMIGHTY & HIS SON, JESUS

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS CALL, TALK TO HIM-----HE IS  
ON THE THRONE  
OUR STRATEGY IS NOT VIOLENCE AND THE KILLING OF INNOCENT  
PEOPLE

OUR WEAPONS ARE NOT AIRPLANES USED AS BOMBS

OUR GOAL IS NOT TERROR!

OUR STRATEGY IS LOVE AND SERVICE

OUR WEAPONS ARE PRAYER & PROCLAMATION

OUR GOAL IS LIFE: ABUNDANT & ETERNAL LIFE FOR ALL

OUR BOOT CAMP FOR THE LORD'S SOLDIERS IS PROVIDED BY

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUPS

THAT IS WHY WE NEED ENOUGH SPACE AND EQUIPMENT TO DO THE JOB

OUR TRAINING FACILITIES FOR PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR SPIRITUAL WAR

IS THIS BUILDING AND IT IS TOO SMALL---THAT IS WHY WE MUST  
ENLARGE IT

OUR RECRUITMENT CENTER IS THIS BUILDING AND ESPECIALLY THIS  
10:30 SERVICE

NORTH COUNTRY HOSPITAL IS PUTTING ON AN ADDITION TO BETTER  
SERVE ITS PATIENTS

WE MUST HAVE THE BEST FACILITIES POSSIBLE TO ENABLE US TO  
SERVE SOULS

THE STATE OF VERMONT IS MANDATING THE ADDITION AT THE  
HOSPITAL

JESUS MANDATES OUR ADDITION

OUR WORLD HAS CHANGED THIS WEEK---LIKE IT OR NOT, READY OR  
NOT

THESE ARE VERY SERIOUS TIMES--TIMES OF CRISIS

AMERICA IS AT WAR---THE RESERVE TROOPS ARE ALREADY BEING  
CALLED UP

ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS WILL SOON BE SENT TO WAGE WAR OVERSEAS

THEY ARE GOING TO FIGHT FLESH & BLOOD

THAT IS NOT THE REAL ENEMY

THE REAL ENEMY OF AMERICA IS EVIL AND IGNORANCE

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS CALLED TO WAGE A WAR AGAINST  
THE REAL ENEMY

GOD WANTS TO ACTIVATE US-----

HE HAS PUT US ON NOTICE: NO MORE SPIRITUAL RESERVE

GOD IS CALLING US UP TO ACTIVE DUTY IN A HOLY WAR

HE WANTS TO USE US TO WAGE AND WIN THE WAR

THAT WILL TAKE TIME-----AND PATIENCE-

THAT WILL REQUIRE OUR RESOLVE AND OUR RESOURCES

THE TIME IS NOW

THE CROWDS LISTENING TO THE PRESIDENT SHOUTED "USA.....USA.....USA"

CHURCH NEEDS TO SHOUT: "ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS"... "ONWARD,  
CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS"

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:57

Saturday, December 20, 2014

## **WHICH CHRISTMAS? WHAT IS ADVENT MEANT FOR?**

A long time ago I came to terms with the reality that there are two Christmases. The dominant one is the secular Christmas and the other is the Christian celebration of the Incarnation, the Birth of Jesus, Son of God. Traditionally, the Birth of Jesus is followed by the Twelve Days of Christmas, concluding with Epiphany, which is when the Wise Men arrive [actually 2 years after the birth day].

Advent is the 4 weeks prior to December 25. This ancient Catholic observance has been increasingly common among Protestants, including Evangelicals, but I wonder if they understand what it is for. Traditionally, it is intended to be like Lent. According to most of the traditional songs sung and the Scripture read during Advent, worshipers are looking forward to and preparing for the personal, physical Second Coming of Christ which every eye shall see when it actually happens (Rev 1:1f) It is a time for introspection, self-examination of how we are living. If we really believe this Event shall happen, how would we prepare? Are you ready for to meet Jesus if He were to appear in the sky today? 1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears ... we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

2

Peter 3:11 Since all these things [shall happen] what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

2

Cor 6:16-7:1 For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will [at the Second Coming] make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore... be separate from [ungodly, immoral people], says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing;... 1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:02

Friday, December 12. 2014

## **LET PEOPLE BREATHE**

This is a thought-provoking response to recent reports of violence and torture  
<http://www.churchandculture.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:25

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

## **HANDS UP-DON'T SHOOT! REALLY?**

"Though it has never been confirmed with visual evidence, that image – of Brown with his hands in the air - has gone viral as a symbol of injustice. Protesters across the country marching in the streets chanting, "Hands up. Don't shoot," and "I've got my hands on my head, please don't shoot me dead." Placards have circulated depicting two hands, palms out, as well as hands-raised T-shirts.

"An Associated Press review of thousands of pages of grand jury documents reveals numerous examples of statements made during the shooting investigation that were inconsistent, fabricated or provably wrong. For one, the autopsies ultimately showed Brown was not struck by any bullets in his back."

[http://news.yahoo.com/did-michael-brown-really-hands-shot-172812909.html;\\_ylt=AwrBEiJNJ35UygcADSHQtDMD](http://news.yahoo.com/did-michael-brown-really-hands-shot-172812909.html;_ylt=AwrBEiJNJ35UygcADSHQtDMD)

All of this is a cautionary tale. We see what we want to see, again and again, in all kinds of events. We do the same thing in reading Scripture. This is very humbling and should make us very cautious about making quick judgments. We do not have to be agnostic, but we must not rush to judgment about anything.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:09

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

## **THE DANGER TO A BLACK CHILD IS ANOTHER BLACK**

"Ninety-three percent of blacks in America are killed by other blacks." Rudy Giuliani "The danger to a black child in America is not a white police officer. That's going to happen less than 1 percent of the time. The danger to a black child ... is another black," Giuliani said

"The 2013 FBI Uniform Crime Report, a compilation of annual crime statistics, also shows similar data: 83 percent of white victims were killed by white offenders; 90 percent of black victims were killed by black offenders; 14 percent of white victims were killed by black offenders; and 7.6 percent of black victims were killed by white offenders."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/wp/2014/11/25/giulianis-claim-that-93-percent-of-blacks-are-killed-by-other-blacks/?wpmm=AG0003360> Were is the national rage over this?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:20

## **RESPONSE TO FERGUSON GRAND JURY DECISION**

Elvaton is the name of a main road near our house. For 5 months we have seen that name on the street sign and believed it read "Elvation", like "salvation". Sunday we visited Elvaton Baptist Church and finally saw the light: the fact is that the name is pronounced L-vah-tahn. What our eyes saw on the street sign was different than what was actually written on it. What we were convinced we saw was not what we saw. What we thought it meant was not actually what it meant. We were wrong.

This is like what has happened in Ferguson MO. The outraged feelings of many people were provoked by something they thought they saw, but which in fact did not happen. The evidence contradicted or did not support their feelings, to the contrary. Facts, evidence, are always important. Facts must take precedence over feelings. We tell that to people when we explain the Gospel to them. People are not saved because they feel they are. People can have strong feelings, but those feelings are not justified if not based on facts.

In a blog comment this morning about the Grand Jury decision not to indict Officer Wilson, I read "For many [white people?], this is about an incident [the shooting]. Yet, for many African Americans, it's about a system. It's worth listening to why people [which ones?] are responding differently to the situation in Ferguson."

I understand and accept the reality of systemic injustice. It has always existed, around the world, in every society, involving all kinds of racial, ethnic people groups. BUT this particular "incident" and the "system" are two different things. The facts, the evidence, in this "incident" must not be discounted or dismissed. They are not the "System" in question and they do not justify rioting mobs.

Effective action to change any System requires listening, yes, but more than listening to hearsay or anecdotes. It must involve listening to facts and evidence.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:31

Monday, November 17, 2014

## **CHRISTIANS IN CHINA OUT NUMBER COMMUNISTS**

There are now about 100 million Christians in the world's most populous nation, eclipsing the 86.7 million-strong membership of the ruling Communist party. According to Western intellectual tradition, modernity is supposed to bring secularization but in modern Communist China it has been accompanied by an extraordinary rise of religions formerly banned as "opiates of the masses."

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/a6d2a690-6545-11e4-91b1-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3IfNPJoBZ>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:58

Tuesday, November 11. 2014

## **THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF VETERANS DAY**

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day. Its purpose was to celebrate the end of WWI which began exactly 100 years ago

"Over four years, some two dozen countries would send more than 60 million soldiers to fight. When the guns at last fell silent in November 1918, 10 million men had fallen, and millions more were permanently maimed. Some 7 million civilians had also died, and the physically broken and psychologically scarred were beyond counting. ...contemporaries labeled the conflict the "Great War."

"There were many consequences, probably the greatest was WWII and the political reconstruction of Europe and the Middle East. The war led to ... the establishment of a new invented state, Iraq, created by the British out of Mesopotamia and Kurdish-occupied areas for its oil resources.

The same thing happened ... with the creation of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, which were all part of a great barbecue divided up by the French and British as spoils of [WWI]. The borders had nothing to do with the nature of where the populations lay. The British promised the Arabs autonomy in their area, and also promised the Jews a national homeland in the Holy Land"—and we know what came of that.

### **RESOURCES**

<http://news.syr.edu/100-years-after-wwi-the-lasting-impacts-of-the-great-war-78831/>

<http://online.wsj.com/ww1/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:40

## **THIS IS NOT MEMORIAL DAY- THIS IS VETERANS DAY**

There are currently 320 million Americans

**HOW MANY VETERANS ARE THERE?**

There are currently almost 20 million veterans in the US (1.5 million on active duty)

**What is a Veteran?**

A veteran is defined by federal law, moral code and military service as "Any, Any, Any"... A military veteran is Any person who served for Any length of time in Any military service branch.

**What is a War Veteran?**

A war veteran is any GI (Government Issue) ordered to foreign soil or waters to participate in direct or support activity against an enemy. The operant condition: Any GI sent in harm's way.

**What is a Combat Veteran?**

A combat veteran is any GI who experiences any level of hostility for any duration resulting from offensive, defensive or friendly fire military action involving a real or perceived enemy in any foreign theater.

<http://www.americanwarlibrary.com/whatvet.htm>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:25

Monday, November 10, 2014

## **SOCIALISM OR CAPITALISM?**

The following is an excerpt from an article I just posted on my website, describing 5 areas (fault lines) dividing America. <http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Another Major Fault exists between those who have a Socialist World View and a Free Market Capitalist world view (allowing that there are problems with both and in practice we have a mixed economy). A good illustration is the subject of Climate Change. First it exists. But one group has the faith that Government can and must solve the problem, primarily by its Regulation and Control of Business (ie- a form of Socialism). The other group rejects that role for Government and insists that the primary solution to the problem is individual behavior and private business --and Nature running its course. The same differences are seen in the issues of Poverty, Public Education and Health Care. In these Issues (and in many others) those with faith in a Socialist view advocate various degrees of the involuntary redistribution of private and corporate Property and Regulation by Government to "solve" the problems. Whereas those who have faith in a Market Economy value Personal and Corporate Responsibility as well as Private Property and believe solutions to these problems come through private or local initiatives and entrepreneurship. The latter approach has been an extremely important American Value since the Founding and was dominant until Hoover, FDR and the New Deal of the 1930s.

Behind both Socialist ( Communism and Fascism are variants of Socialism) and Capitalist World Views are different and contradictory views of Human Nature. Socialists tend to believe in the basic goodness and potential for improvement of Human Nature and are optimistic for Progress as long as Government or the Elite behind Government are in control of the Masses (for their own good). This is evident not only in Economic theories but in theories and practices of "Public" (State) Education. Classic Capitalists (the original "Liberals") have a far more pessimistic view of Human Nature and the prospects for Progress. This is evident in their fear of "Big" Government. Their concern is not about size. "Big" means the extensive or increasing control by Government over the Nation, particularly in assuming non-enumerated powers. Article I, section 8 of the US Constitution spells out those powers. Congress may exercise the powers that the Constitution grants it such as Taxation and Military Defense, but always subject to explicit restrictions in the Bill of Rights and other protections in the Constitution. The 10th Amendment states that "The powers not delegated to the United States [Congress] by the Constitution ... are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

The problem here is that these "powers" are defined differently depending on which method is used to interpret the Constitution (see the above discussion) Advocates of the Socialist view use the Living Constitution approach while the Free market Capitalists go with the Original Understanding interpretation. There's the rub!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:12

## **SUPREME COURT TO REVISIT OBAMACARE**

"Once again the Supreme Court will decide whether the Affordable Care Act lives or dies. Defying expectations, the court announced Friday it has agreed to hear a case that challenges the heart of the law: subsidies that help people pay their insurance premiums. In about three dozen states, the federal government runs the online marketplaces (exchanges) where individuals can find health plans.

At issue is a phrase in the law stipulating that subsidies to help those with incomes under 400 percent of poverty are available only in "exchanges established by a state." The authors of the law argue that the rest of the statute makes it clear that subsidies are available not just in state-run exchanges but also in those where the federal government is doing the work of the state.

When the law was written, most people expected that states would want to run their own exchanges. It was a surprise when most opted to let the federal government do it instead."

A surprise? Really? That has been the trend for for 75 years. It also increases the trend towards single-payer universal health insurance controlled by the Federal Government and paid for by our taxes

[BUT] "A decision to strike down the subsidies in federally run exchange states could end up making insurance unaffordable for millions of people and threaten the viability of the law's entire health insurance program."

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/11/07/362315906/in-surprise-move-supreme-court-takes-on-fate-of-obamacare-again>

This would mean Employers would have to provide health insurance as part of an employee's benefits and those millions of uninsured people would have to get work at such companies. Not realistic? Part of the answer is to cut

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

healthcare costs. Also not realistic? Consider this Biblical approach-  
[http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=470:developing-a-biblical-basis-for-health-care&catid=67:life-issues&Itemid=57](http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=470:developing-a-biblical-basis-for-health-care&catid=67:life-issues&Itemid=57)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:43

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

## **ELECTIONS ARE OVER. WHAT SHALL BE NEXT?**

OK, the make-up of Congress will now be very different. The Question is will the divergent and discordant leaders and various groups within Congress make up? Will they compromise and move forward? Will that also be the case in the relationship between Congress and the President?

It remains to be seen what shall happen with the use of Executive Powers in matters such as Immigration and Climate Change and Foreign Policy. And what about the list of Judges and various appointees named by the President and waiting for Confirmation. Of course the problems with Health Care remain. Republicans think they have won a great victory. Not so fast. It remains to be seen what they shall do next. The U.S. Capitol Building is undergoing construction to repair damage and deterioration of its Dome. We all agree Government itself needs to repair the damage and deterioration it has. Shall it now undergo reconstruction? Remember, unless the Lord build the house, the laborers work in vain. (Psalm 127:1)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:26

Saturday, October 25, 2014

### **MEDIA COVERAGE EXAGGERATES EBOLA RISK**

"Transmission of Ebola requires direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person that is showing symptoms. It requires extremely close contact. It's not that easy to transmit at all, which is one of the reasons it doesn't spread quickly and can be contained through modern medicine and precautionary techniques. This is why there's not as great of a risk of an outbreak in a developed country"

<http://www.stratfor.com/video/conversation-us-media-coverage-ebola-exceeds-transmission-risk#axzz3HACKcaee>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:51

Friday, October 17, 2014

## **SERMONS SUBPOENAED**

City seeks sermons to see if they were used for political purposes

<http://www.religionnews.com/2014/10/14/houston-subpoenas-pastors-sermons-equal-rights-ordinance-case-prompting-utcry/>

Update: Houston backs down from request [\[here\]](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:33

Thursday, October 16, 2014

### **WINNERS IN THE WAR AGAINST ISIS**

“Let’s paint a picture of the world right now,” Epstein says. “You’ve got the Europeans worried about what the Russians are doing in their backyard; we’ve got our hands full right now in Iraq; you’ve got the Israelis with their hands full in their region; and then you have the Chinese and Japanese in the South China Sea. As an investor, with this much regional conflict in the world, ..., that can’t be bad.” [!]

The military-industrial complex is in overdrive, with Defense Contractors of all kinds reaping huge profits. As it has so often been in the past, War is profitable and good for the Country or at least for all the businesses and the workers employed in related industries. This article reports where millions of our tax dollars are going in the "war" against ISIS [http://fortune.com/2014/09/13/defense-industry-winner-against-isis/?xid=ob\\_rss](http://fortune.com/2014/09/13/defense-industry-winner-against-isis/?xid=ob_rss)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:28

Saturday, October 11. 2014

## **FLU: GREATER THREAT THAN EBOLA**

The flu may not sound very scary, but it kills far more people every year than Ebola does. The exact number of people who die each year from seasonal flu virus is the subject of much debate, but the CDC puts the average number of annual deaths in the United States somewhere between 3,000 and 49,000.

The large variation in yearly deaths arises because many flu deaths are not reported as such, so the CDC relies on statistical methods to estimate the number. Another reason for this wide range is that annual flu seasons vary in severity and length, depending on what influenza viruses are most prominent. In years when influenza A (H3N2) viruses are prominent, death rates are typically more than double what they are in seasons when influenza A (H1N1) or influenza B viruses predominate, according to the CDC.

A highly contagious virus, influenza sickens far more people than it kills, with an estimated 3 million to 5 million people becoming seriously ill yearly from influenza viruses. Worldwide, the flu causes an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 deaths every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

<http://www.livescience.com/47340-viruses-scarier-than-ebola.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:05

Saturday, August 16. 2014

## **WHAT ABOUT THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS?**

The neglect of the persecution of Christians in the middle east- Why?  
<http://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/08/forgetting-the-christians>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:35

Saturday, May 10. 2014

## **WHAT DOES 'BOKO HARAM' REALLY MEAN?**

The reason given in much of the media for the recent kidnapping of girls in Nigeria, by a group called 'Boko Haram', is that this Islamist group opposes the education of girls. Not true, according to this report (below). Another common error is that the name of the terrorist group means 'Western education is a sin'. This, too, is not accurate, according to this journalist. What is true about the history and original meaning of the name, "Boko Haram", according to the writer, should resonate with Christians concerned about the education of their children in today's world. [See my articles about Christian Education on my website [www.reformedliving.org](http://www.reformedliving.org)]  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Security-Watch/Backchannels/2014/0506/Boko-Haram-doesn-t-really-mean-Western-education-is-a-sin>

"Newman explains that when Britain's colonial government began introducing its education system into Nigeria, seeking to replace traditional Islamic education (including replacing the Arabic script traditionally used to write Hausa with a Roman-based script that they also quickly called "boko") , this was seen as a "fraudulent deception being imposed upon the Hausa by a conquering European force." Rather than send their own children to the British government schools, as demanded by the British, Hausa emirs and other elites often shifted the obligation onto their slaves and other subservients. The elite had no desire to send their children to school where the values and traditions of Hausa and Islamic traditional culture would be undermined and their children would be turned into 'yan boko,' i.e., "(would-be) westerners".

Newman accepts (as can be seen in the passage above) that "boko" is reasonably associated with "Western education" in English translation today. But the actual resistance was to something being imposed by triumphant foreigners. I suspect that an imposition of a Japanese or Chinese or Indian educational system would have been just as boko (in the sense of "bogus") to the Hausa elites of a century ago as the British imposition. And it would probably not go down well today. What a little reading about the group's name reveals is that their desire is not to obliterate non-Islamic education all over the world. Just in their own backyards."

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:16

Thursday, May 8, 2014

### **ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGES**

This is a helpful editorial from Bloomberg View offering practical steps to help America address the issue of Climate Change. I am convinced the evidence for that change is settled- the problem is deciding on measures to adapt to the change. Here are realistic options-<http://www.bloombergtview.com/articles/2014-05-06/good-report-now-about-that-climate>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:56

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

## **LEARNING TO READ SCIENCE ARTICLES WITH A CRITICAL EYE**

A major AP article in our local newspaper today headlines "Science ignorance is pervasive in our society". The reason? "Values and beliefs trump science when they conflict- depressing and upsetting some of America's top scientists."

Think about that claim. Some of America's top scientists do science apart from values and beliefs, as though that is possible! There is no science done that is value free or neutral. Facts are selected and interpreted. That process is not uninfluenced by the beliefs and presuppositions of the human scientists.

The Post below, from the Cornwall Alliance, includes an excellent, helpful article that enumerates the steps involved in judging reports of scientific discoveries. They include accounting for Media Bias, the bias of Scientific Journals and the bias of scientific research funding.

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/articles/read/whats-incredible-learning-to-read-science-articles-with-a-critical-eye/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:14

Monday, April 7, 2014

## **WHO ACTUALLY EARNS MINIMUM WAGE**

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau show that most minimum-wage earners are young, part-time workers and that relatively few of them live below the poverty line. Their average family income is over \$53,000 a year. A hike in the minimum wage primarily raises pay for suburban teenagers, not the working poor. If Congress and the President seriously want to help the working poor, they should look elsewhere.

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/02/who-earns-the-minimum-wage-suburban-teenagers-not-single-parents>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:12

## **MINIMUM WAGE AND ECONOMIC COMMON SENSE**

"Senator Edward Kennedy once called the minimum wage "one of the best antipoverty programs we have." Jared Bernstein, former chief economist to Vice President Joe Biden, thinks "it raises the pay of low-wage workers without hurting their job prospects." Why do those beliefs persist in the face of common economic sense? No legislator has ever overturned the law of demand, which says that when the price of labor rises, the quantity demanded will fall (assuming other things are constant). That same law tells us that quantity demanded (i.e., the number of jobs for low-skilled workers) will decrease more in the long run than in the short run, as employers switch to labor-saving methods of production—and unemployment will increase. The belief that increasing the minimum wage is socially beneficial is a delusion. It is short-sighted and ignores evident reality."

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesdorn/2013/05/07/the-minimum-wage-delusion-and-the-death-of-common-sense/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:08

Monday, March 31, 2014

### **FLOATING THE FLOOD FLIC**

A very positive Evangelical Review of NOAH, the movie from James White.  
<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=5745>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:48

Friday, March 28, 2014

## **DEADLY DUTY**

A major news story here for the last few days has been the death of two firefighters in a massive downtown Boston fire. They are rightly being honored for the sacrifice they made.

To date, 33 firefighters have died this year (Jan - March) in the line of duty. Last year there were 104 total.

Meanwhile, lest we forget (they are not making headlines) 109 US Military died in action fighting in Afghanistan last year. There have been 14 killed so far this year (Jan -Feb)

<http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/>

<http://icasualties.org/OEF/Fatalities.aspx>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:53

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

### **SPEAKING OUT AGAINST TYRANY**

Martin Niemoller was a prominent Protestant pastor who emerged as an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. He often said-

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out--Because I was not a Socialist.Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Trade Unionist.Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-- Because I was not a Jew.Then they came for me--and there was no one left to speak for me.

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007392>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:05

### **HISTORY REDUX: WILL THE WEST LEARN?**

"Immediately after Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria, Adolf Hitler turned his attention to the ethnic Germans living in Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland. First, he demanded the Sudetenland's cession to Germany, gaining relatively easy agreement from British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and his French counterpart Édouard Daladier.

Deeming the issue "a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing," and thus not worth defying Hitler over, Chamberlain and Daladier accepted the occupation by signing the Munich Agreement. In doing so, they strengthened Germany considerably and emboldened Hitler – with catastrophic consequences." [read full story here-]

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/bobo-lo-argues-that-vladimir-putin-s-strategy-bears-striking-similarities-to-hitler-s-in-1938>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:49

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

## **GOD WILL BRING DOWN PUTIN- AND ASSAD AND ALL TYRANTS**

Repost from April 2012-

God judges the Nations. There are now 195 independent Nations in the world. For political reasons, this number is debatable. What ever the tally, God judges all Nations. Matt 20:25

By "judging" we mean He holds them accountable to His own standards and will bless or destroy them accordingly, over time. He does this in History using natural means, as well as other Nations and people movements. Specifically, God will oppose and bring down any and every Nation (Leader or Government) which oppresses its citizens, violating their God-given human rights as defined in His Law.

Isaiah 14:4-6,9-14,24-27;16:6 God will oppose and bring down any and every Nation which occupies or destroys another Nation

Isaiah 14:4,6-17;16:6;18:7;23:8-11; Jer 48; Ezk 31; Hab 2; Amos 1-2; Zech 2; Nahum; Obediah God will oppose and destroy any and every Nation which tolerates evil behavior by itself or its citizens within its borders, especially violence

Gen 6:5-8, 11-13;8:21Isa 13:11;26:21; Jonah 1:2,14;3:4-8; Nahum 1:2,14;3:4,19; Ezekiel 30

In sum, God will bring down any Dictator or Government that claims to be or act like God, ordering the submission, loyalty and obedience of its People in all things. Ultimately, there will be a Judgment Day upon the Second Advent of Christ who will inaugurate His own Kingdom to replace all Nations.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:03

Monday, February 17. 2014

## **GREATEST CONSERVATIVE PRESIDENT?**

I like to think I was named after John Calvin, after all I have a brother named Wesley. But actually, I was named after Calvin Coolidge. This article makes the case for Mr.Coolidge being the greatest conservative President (1923-1929). He was a Congregationalist [and his wife was named Grace and they had a son named Calvin]. But were his policies Christian?

<http://townhall.com/tipsheet/conncarroll/2014/02/17/the-greatest-conservative-president-in-american-history-n1787876>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:12

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

## **SURGE IN HOSTILITY AGAINST RELIGION WORLD-WIDE**

Social hostilities involving religion soared worldwide in 2012, with nearly 3 out of 4 of the world's people (74%) now living in a country experiencing high levels. The surge is stark, given that in 2011 only half of the global population lived in such countries, while the worldwide level of government restrictions on religion remained largely the same between the two years. The latest global findings from the Pew Research Center, released two days before Religious Freedom Day in the United States, show that overall restrictions on religion have reached a six-year high, and Christians are harassed in more countries than any other religious group (though Muslims are a close second).

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2014/january/pew-religious-hostility-reaches-six-year-high-worldwide.html?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:03

Saturday, January 11. 2014

### **IHOP STIFFING SERVERS**

Here is a story of justice served for hard working food-servers at local restaurants.

[http://www.masslive.com/business-news/index.ssf/2014/01/west\\_springfield\\_ihop\\_operator\\_fined\\_100.html#incart\\_more\\_business](http://www.masslive.com/business-news/index.ssf/2014/01/west_springfield_ihop_operator_fined_100.html#incart_more_business)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:23

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

### **SAME SEX MARRIAGE DEBATE UPDATE**

The same sex marriage debate may be coming to an end, in Utah.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2014/january/will-utah-eventually-end-americas-same-sex-marriage-debate.html>?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:00

Monday, January 6, 2014

## **WILSON, WWI AND THE MOVIES**

How President Wilson and WWI greatly impacted movies

[http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/culturebox/2013/12/world\\_war\\_i\\_how\\_the\\_great\\_war\\_and\\_woodrow\\_wilson\\_helped\\_give\\_birth\\_to\\_the.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/culturebox/2013/12/world_war_i_how_the_great_war_and_woodrow_wilson_helped_give_birth_to_the.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:30

Saturday, January 4, 2014

## **MOVIES ABOUT TEACHING**

Stop watching feel-good movies about teachers

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/01/2014-resolution-stop-watching-feel-good-teacher-movies/282741/#comments>

Best movie about teachers

<http://educationrealist.wordpress.com/2012/10/01/best-movie-about-teaching-ever/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:39

## **RECOMMENDED MOVIE REVIEWS**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/january-web-only/2013-movie-picks-nick-olson.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/december-web-only/2013-movie-picks-mark-moring.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:30

Friday, December 20, 2013

## **LEST WE FORGET AS WE CELEBRATE**

Faced with the ongoing civil war in Syria, the natural disaster in the Philippines, and a spreading civil conflict in the Central African Republic, the UN humanitarian agencies are confronting a near perfect storm of political and natural disasters. Add the continuing needs from earlier trouble spots such as South Sudan, Somalia and Haiti, and it appears that the system and donor states are facing near overload. The UN Humanitarian coordinator Valerie Amos has launched the largest ever appeal for \$13 billion in funding to reach 52 million people in 17 countries with essential life-saving aid.

According to the UN umbrella coordination unit the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there are plans for additional help to millions of Filipinos in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, and aid for the Central African Republic "where conflict and displacement have affected the entire population of 4.7 million people." Equally there are significant and ongoing programs in Afghanistan, Sudan, Yemen and Haiti.

Syria remains the eye of the storm. After nearly three years of conflict and over 100,000 killed, there are 2.3 million refugees spread round the region and an additional 6 million displaced internally inside the country. Given that Syria's pre-conflict population was 21 million, this is a dangerously large percentage, basically one in three people inside the country is uprooted from their homes.

The largest refugee outflow has poured into neighboring Lebanon. There are approximately 830,000 Syrians in Lebanon and with the onset of winter the challenges have increased for the vulnerable communities, especially the children. The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) noted that unlike other neighboring states, Lebanon does not have formal refugee camps; rather the refugees are dispersed to 1,600 different locations.

<http://www.worldtribune.com/2013/12/20/un-swamped-by-a-perfect-storm-of-humanitarian-disasters/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:20

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

## **AMERICANS AND CHRISTMAS**

Nine-in-ten Americans say they celebrate Christmas, and three-quarters say they believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. But only about half see Christmas mostly as a religious holiday, while one-third view it as more of a cultural holiday. Virtually all Christians (96%) celebrate Christmas, and two-thirds see it as a religious holiday. In addition, fully eight-in-ten non-Christians in America also celebrate Christmas, but most view it as a cultural holiday rather than a religious occasion.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2013/12/18/celebrating-christmas-and-the-holidays-then-and-now/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:37

## **WHY ST NICK SHOULD REPLACE SANTA**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/december/better-than-santa.html?start=2>

By highlighting St. Nicholas, we can recover an alternative to commercialization and greed, celebrating the life of a true Christian example, who gave of his own, who helped the less fortunate, and who shared the love of Christ.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:32

Sunday, December 8, 2013

## **AFTER MANDELA: MANY LESSONS TO LEARN**

...the reality that the government of South Africa has, in the 20 years since the end of apartheid, not managed to protect its citizens against violent crime, and that, despite significant economic growth, masses of South Africans continue to languish in poverty, shows the limits of politics. Many of Mandela's supporters and admirers have felt that Mandela, for all the good he did, did not do enough to make South Africa a better place yet. Yet it would be a mistake to imagine that any leader, no matter how wise, sincere, or effective, could have single-handedly ensured an even better transition out of apartheid. And it would be as much of a mistake to imagine that all of South Africa's problems—or all the problems of this beautiful but broken world—can be resolved politically.

Politics has limits. Governments can and must restrain criminals and public violence, establish just and effective laws and courts, and shape a public order within which the other spheres of human society may flourish. But not with the best will or instruments can a government and its citizenry bring parents to love their children, make the lazy diligent or the profligate frugal, or accurately anticipate all of the unintended consequences of every legislative or executive effort.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/december-web-only/died-nelson-mandela-south-african-leader-stood-against-apar.html?paging=off>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:04

Saturday, December 7, 2013

## **MANDELA & SOUTH AFRICA REALITY CHECK**

Mandela's hopes and dreams remain largely unfulfilled. South Africa is a nation where racial and economic inequalities still tear through the consciousness of the black majority. Although some progress has been made, the majority of blacks live in poverty, and many still lack basic necessities such as electricity, proper housing and clean water. Education and health care for impoverished blacks remain poor. It is a nation where the economy is still largely controlled by whites and a relatively small group of black elites.

"The cause of Mandela was that he articulated an aspiration for a non-racial democratic South Africa," said Robert Schrire, a political analyst at the University of Cape Town. "But the reality is that as long as whites are identified with wealth and blacks with poverty, genuine reconciliation will never be possible."

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/south-africa-still-struggling-to-fulfill-mandelas-hopes-and-dreams/2013/12/06/95ce7a26-5e80-11e3-8d24-31c016b976b2\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/south-africa-still-struggling-to-fulfill-mandelas-hopes-and-dreams/2013/12/06/95ce7a26-5e80-11e3-8d24-31c016b976b2_story.html)

Another, realistic analysis of Mandela's Legacy is here-

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-12-06/mandela-free-market-legacy-imperiled-by-south-african-inequality.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:41

## **Dec 7- REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR**

Pearl Harbor was a U.S. defeat. In all, more than 2,400 soldiers, sailors and Marines were killed and almost 1,200 wounded, as well as more than 1,000 civilians, most of them by U.S. anti-aircraft artillery shells landing in residential areas. In all, eight battleships were sunk or damaged so badly it took years for them to be repaired. Two, including the USS Arizona, were total losses. In addition, 10 other major ships were heavily damaged. In addition, 165 airplanes were destroyed. Japanese losses numbered 185 airmen and sailors, 29 aircraft, five mini-submarines and a large submarine.

But the Japanese miscalculated. Their primary target, the U.S. Navy's aircraft carriers, were out of the harbor on exercises. And when initial reports of success and fear that a response by U.S. forces was imminent led to cancellation of a planned third strike, the Imperial Japanese navy left largely undamaged the vital fuel tank farms and submarine facility at Pearl Harbor.

The carriers, their vital fuel intact, and the long arm of the submarine fleet would take the war home to the Japanese. What began at Pearl Harbor ended with Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It took almost four years, but Pearl Harbor ended up as a strategic victory for the United States

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/12/06/pearl-harbor-memories-fading/3899443/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:36

Thursday, November 28, 2013

**GOD, A. LINCOLN'S FAITH AND THANKSGIVING DAY-no separation here!**

It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year, defending us with His guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad and vouchsafing to us in His mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, who is of our own household. It has also pleased our Heavenly Father to favor as well our citizens in their homes as our soldiers in their camps and our sailors on the rivers and seas with unusual health. He has largely augmented our free population by emancipation and by immigration, while He has opened to us new sources of wealth and has crowned the labor of our workingmen in every department of industry with abundant rewards. Moreover, He has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage, and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war into which we have been brought by our adherence as a nation to the cause of freedom and humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions:

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November next as a day which I desire to be observed by all my fellow-citizens, wherever they may then be, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe. And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid that on that occasion they do reverently humble themselves in the dust and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the Great Disposer of Events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony throughout the land which it has pleased Him to assign as a dwelling place for ourselves and for our posterity throughout all generations.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:45

Sunday, November 24, 2013

## **HINDU HOLIDAY CELEBRATED IN THE WHITE HOUSE!?**

Diwali is called the Festival of Lights and is celebrated to honor Rama-chandra, the seventh avatar (incarnation of the god Vishnu).

The goddess of happiness and good fortune, Lakshmi, also figures into the celebration. It is believed that she roams the earth on this day and enters the house that is pure, clean, and bright. Diwali celebrations may vary in different communities but its significance and spiritual meaning is generally "the awareness of the inner light".

In Hindu homes around the world, people gather to offer prayers to Sita and Rama, Radha and Krishna, Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, Ganesh, the god of auspiciousness. For many in the Hindu community, Diwali is also the beginning of a new year. A popular greeting around this time is "Shubh Diwali."

This Holiday was recently celebrated at the White House, where Pres. Obama said,

"Here in the United States, Diwali also reminds us that our nation is home to many faiths and traditions, and that our diversity makes us stronger, which is why I'm proud that this year Democrats and Republicans in Congress joined together for the first-ever celebration of Diwali on Capitol Hill. Over the last five years, Michelle and I have been honored to have the chance to observe this ancient holiday, both at the White House and in India, and we wish all those celebrating this weekend a Happy Diwali and Saal Mubarak."

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/05/white-house-diwali-2013-michelle-obama\\_n\\_4214811.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/11/05/white-house-diwali-2013-michelle-obama_n_4214811.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:09

Saturday, November 23, 2013

## **THE PROBLEM WITH CAMELOT**

"This comes to you on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Like most baby boomers, I remember where I was when I heard about it: I was sitting in my 6th grade class when the news came over the school intercom. And like most boomers, I've been deeply shaped by the way Kennedy has been portrayed in the media since. As I matured intellectually, I have learned that the prince of the Camelot presidency was at best an average President, and a subpar husband. Some textbooks, it appears, are now trying to set the record straight for students.

"But I still feel, or want to feel, the aura of the Camelot era. Why? There lies deep in the human soul a longing to be in a society characterized by innocence, idealism, beauty, and hope. When it comes to ultimate things, this yearning is right and good—God given, in fact. But when this yearning falsifies our history and politics, it creates more problems than it solves. New York Times columnist Russ Douthat made this point a couple of years ago:

"The J. F. K. cult matters—because its myths still shape how we interpret politics today. We confuse charisma with competence, rhetoric with results, celebrity with genuine achievement. We find convenient scapegoats for national tragedies, and let our personal icons escape the blame. And we imagine that the worst evils can be blamed exclusively on subterranean demons, rather than on the follies that often flow from fine words and high ideals."

--from the Galli Report Newsletter 11-22-13

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:51

Friday, November 22. 2013

### **GOOD MOVIE REVIEW BLOG**

I recently found a new (to me) serious movie review and cinema discussion website written by a Christian college Professor. Seems to have a lot of good material for the discriminating movie aficionado  
<http://1morefilmblog.com/wordpress/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:15

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

### **THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS: Some Questions**

Today we remember and appreciate an historically important speech delivered in 2 minutes, exactly 150 years ago, by President Abraham Lincoln. It is not part of the Law of our land as the the Constitution is, but it has been, and remains, a Major Document that constitutes America for millions of people. Indeed, the Address is often referred to as part of American Scripture along with the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. (Some would add to these constitutive documents, the Federalist Papers, the Northwest Ordinance, Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a Dream" speech and perhaps the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act!)

Much can be, has been and shall be written about all of these Documents. But in light of the fact that Advent begins on December 1, I thought it appropriate today to notice and comment on phrases in the Address that connect it with the Special Birth, Suffering and Rebirth of a Person

Lincoln writes, "our fathers brought forth ... a new nation, conceived (mentioned twice)" He speaks of our (undivided, antebellum) Nation as a Person, a Baby, conceived and brought forth into the world by our fathers (The Founders) - no mention of who the mother might be, but a case can be made that the "woman" giving birth to America was the Ideology (the dominant Ideas in the Colonial Mind) of the 18th Century. The painful birth-pangs, of course, were caused by the political and economic oppression of the Time, as well as the Revolutionary War itself, which forced the labor.

But this Baby is now (almost 100 years later) a grown Man, going through great suffering and facing death, ie- the Secession and Civil War [the Union was torn asunder and 600,000 troops were to die].

Lincoln concludes his tribute to the Fallen Warriors with a short but powerful Altar Call: "It is for us ... to be dedicated here to the unfinished work ... the great task before us—that...we take increased devotion ... that we here highly resolve ... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth [The logic of the metaphors about a person would lead to "of the Nation or Union", Amen to that, but he says-] "of freedom" [he had earlier said the Nation was conceived in liberty, is that the same as "freedom"? when did that that liberty die? new birth of freedom from what? from Secessionists? from Slavery?] and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, [which people? Southerners and Slaves included? and what kind of Government would that be? (we are a Federal Republic, not a Democracy) shall not perish (?)

It is said the President chose his words very carefully. I added the questions because the meaning of many of his words and phrases are unclear and call for discussion and clarification.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:58

Monday, November 18, 2013

## **HOW TO EFFECTIVELY HELP WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE**

This is a very good article with practical advice on how to help disaster strikes as in the Philippines.  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/november-web-only/how-to-help-after-super-typhoon-haiyan.html?start=2>  
And this article introduces a Christian Research institute with an abundance of resources to help wit this subject-  
<http://www.wheaton.edu/HDI>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:27

## **WHEN THE U.S. WAS AT WAR WITH THE FILIPINO PEOPLE**

With the Philippines in the news these days, featuring the humanitarian aide being given by the US Military, here is a piece of little-known history between the U.S and that Country. As a result of the American victory in the Spanish-American War, the US purchased the Philippines (and Guam and Puerto Rico) in 1898 when William McKinley was President. There was an insurgency led by a Filipino Rebel against America that lasted until 1901. America used 270,000 troops to put down the rebellion at the cost of 4,234 lives and 2,800 wounded (and \$10 Billion in today's dollars). Estimates of the total number of Filipinos who died are between 200 and 600 thousand, most from starvation and disease caused by the warfare. Independence was granted in 1946. [Major Source: The Presidents by Dennis and Peter Gaffney]

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:20

Friday, November 1, 2013

## **HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF MINORITY CHRISTIANS**

With many churches observing the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) this weekend, here's some fresh information that might help direct those prayers. Pew Research recently highlighted the top 10 countries with the largest number of Christians living as minorities. Here's the list (ranked by percentage of Christians, not by total number of Christians):

Nigeria: 78,050,000 Christians (49.3% of population) Ivory Coast: 8,710,000 Christians (44.1% of population) Chad: 4,560,000 Christians (40.6% of population) South Korea: 14,170,000 Christians (29.4% of population) Kazakhstan: 3,970,000 Christians (24.8% of population) Indonesia: 23,660,000 Christians (9.9% of population) Vietnam: 7,170,000 Christians (8.2% of population) China: 68,410,000 Christians (5.1% of population) Egypt: 4,120,000 Christians (5.1% of population) India: 31,130,000 Christians (2.5% of population)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2013/november/idop-2013-international-day-of-prayer-christian-minorities.html?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:49

Monday, October 7, 2013

## **GRAVITY**

Good Review of a stellar movie you can get lost in!!  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/october-web-only/gravity.html?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:02

## **DISTURBING STORIES**

If you missed 60 Minutes last night. check out the three featured stories/videos they presented. All Important. One is very disturbing, another very inspiring and touching and the other very informative.  
[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504803\\_162-57606236-10391709/what-happens-when-the-u.s-disability-fund-runs-dry/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504803_162-57606236-10391709/what-happens-when-the-u.s-disability-fund-runs-dry/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:53

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

## **WHO IS TO BLAME? WE ALL ARE**

Our daily newspaper's lead editorial today and all but one of the columnists damn Republicans in no uncertain terms for the dead lock in Congress- and the Shut-down. It is totally our fault. I respectfully disagree- the President, the Senate and the House all are responsible for the morass and impasse. But so is the public. We elected all these politicians. Most of us probably cast our votes based on two major factors:

1. Ideology: Generally, those who voted Democrat believe people are basically good and when they go wrong or have a hard time in life, it is primarily the result of external circumstances and environment. The major solution to their problems is, then, to change the circumstances and environment. Beginning with late 19th Century- early 20th Century Progressive era, but kicking into high gear with the New Deal in the 30s and and ramped up big time with the War on Poverty and Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, and continuing through this Day, many people have become persuaded that the primary responsibility for making the external changes that improve people's lives falls to the Government. And now, after some 80 plus years of indoctrination about this, they demand that help and depend on it. Hence, among other rights and benefits, they believe the government is responsible for Universal, Gov't mandated and controlled, Health care. Whatever specific issues are being debated, underlying them all is this deeply grounded Ideology.

Conservatives and Libertarians (maybe the other half of all Americans) take the opposite point of view about the purpose of Government. Hence, We the People, are divided and have deadlock. The real struggle is a conflict over Ideology, not only Obamacare.

2. Dependence: Many dumped on Mr Romney for saying, during his run for the Presidency, that 47% of Americans depend on the Federal Government. Whether the percent is accurate or not, millions of us do indeed depend on some form of Government aid. There are tax deductions, exemptions, exceptions and credits. Everyone knows there is much pork in the Budget with all kinds of subsidies, welfare and stimulus monies coming to a town near us. There are entitlements that no one is willing to give up. And now, Health care for everyone, much of it to be paid for by the Government.

If we are truly serious about cutting expenditures or balancing the Federal Budget, all of these things have got to be on the Table. But we who elected our President, Senators and Representatives do not seem to be serious about doing any that. We are as stubborn as the Politicians. They do in fact represent us, including our selfishness or the pursuit of self interest at any expense. Want real change? Change the ideology and give up the dependency. The worst enemy of our Nation is us. Neither side can win- both must be willing to compromise and do it!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:03

Thursday, September 26, 2013

### **THE ABC'S OF OBAMA CARE**

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-09-12/abcs-of-obamacare-a-glossary-for-consumers>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:28

### **EXPLAINING HOW A GOV'T SHUTDOWN WORKS**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/09/24/everything-you-need-to-know-about-a-government-shut-down/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:37

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

## **WHAT IS THE "AMERICAN SCRIPTURE"?**

The States of America officially became the United States of America when the Document binding them together was formally adopted on this Day in 1787 (and ratified in 1789). It was not a Confederation but a Federal Union which made secession of any State from it illegal. To Originalists the Constitution adopted is a nomocratic document, not a teleologic one, ie- it lays out how to order the Nation. It is procedural. To so-called Progressives, the Constitution is meant to help America achieve a goal, a certain kind of Nation. It is interpreted in conjunction with The Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and often- Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (Taken together these have been called the American Scripture). Nevertheless, officially America is a nomocracy- a country under the Law which is the Constitution alone. We celebrate it and pledge to honor and preserve it. I explain why Christians should especially be concerned to do this in several Essays on my website [reformedliving.org](http://www.reformedliving.org) The US Constitution is grounded in the Bible- it incorporates many Biblical Principles.

[http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com\\_sectionex&view=category&id=7&Itemid=57#catid62](http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com_sectionex&view=category&id=7&Itemid=57#catid62)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:38

Saturday, September 14, 2013

## **WHO GETS THE BIGGEST % OF TAX BREAKS?**

Think Corporations get the biggest tax breaks? Think again

-The federal government gives \$1.2 trillion in tax breaks each year -More than 90% of all tax breaks go to individuals, not corporations -Individual tax breaks have grown at seven times the rate of corporate tax breaks

Individual taxpayers are likely to save a total of \$45.8 billion in 2014 because of a provision exempting home sales from capital gains taxes — nearly double the amount from five years before. Non-taxable Social Security benefits will save retired and disabled people \$32.9 billion — up 59% since 2009. And employees will save \$212.8 billion because their employer-provided health benefits aren't taxed — a 47% increase from 2009. ... some popular low-income tax benefits like the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit are, in some ways, worse than welfare spending.  
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/09/14/who-gets-biggest-tax-breaks/2790079/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:48

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

**REVISED: WHAT THE SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHT REALLY IS**

I have just posted a revised and extended article originally published on August 21. Please read it below

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:46

Friday, September 6, 2013

## **THE SYRIA SITUATION EXPLAINED**

If you want or need a good peeling of all the layers of the Syrian onion, here is a most helpful article that does that, complete with maps and music.  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/08/29/9-questions-about-syria-you-were-too-embarrassed-to-ask/?tid=pm\\_pop](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/08/29/9-questions-about-syria-you-were-too-embarrassed-to-ask/?tid=pm_pop)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:40

Monday, September 2, 2013

## **ARGUING AGAINST LIMITED STRIKES ON SYRIA**

"Warfare is a very serious business whose first imperative is to deploy force to win – rather than to punish, make a statement, establish a symbolic point, or preen about one's morality."

See the whole article by Daniel Pipes

<http://www.danielpipes.org/blog/2013/08/arguing-against-limited-strikes-on-the-assad>

What is an Evangelical to think about all this- not simply as a human being or as an American, but as a Christian? What guidance do we get from the Word of God?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:05

## **THE PRESIDENT, THE CONSTITUTION AND WAR POWERS**

The Constitution and the War Powers Resolution set the terms for military engagement. In Article II, Section 2, the constitution says the president is commander in chief of the armed forces. Then, in Article I, Section 8, it assigns the right to declare war to Congress. The last time that actually happened was at the beginning of World War II, when Franklin Roosevelt was president. Since then, presidents have generally initiated military activities using their constitutionally granted powers as commander in chief without having an official declaration of war in support of their actions.

HELPFUL RESOURCES and a reminder on the importance of Definitions

<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2013/aug/30/what-law-and-past-say-about-attacking-syria/>

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/08/30/constitution-allows-obama-to-strike-syria-without-congressional-approval/>

[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/history/h\\_multi\\_sections\\_and\\_teasers/WarDeclarationsbyCongress.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/history/h_multi_sections_and_teasers/WarDeclarationsbyCongress.htm)

<http://news.yahoo.com/obama-s-history-defying-decision-to-seek-congressional-approval-on-syria-143201825.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:53

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

## **REVISED: WHAT THE SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHT REALLY IS**

To hear millions of gun owners repeatedly tell it, the 2nd Amendment guarantees them a "constitutional right" to own and use their guns. Does it really?

Let's look at it again, defining the words and phrases. What did they mean in the 18th Century, the 19th Century and what do they mean in this Century?

A well regulated Militia,  
being necessary to the security of a free State,  
the right of the people  
to keep and bear Arms,  
shall not be infringed.

"The people" [who are these people exactly? surely not every single person] may indeed believe they have a right to keep and bear arms, but the Right in the Second Amendment is concerned with only one use, one purpose, for doing so. The singular Constitutional purpose for the people keeping and bearing arms is to make it possible for them to belong to a well-regulated Militia and the one purpose of a Militia is to maintain the security of the State, eg in Shays' Rebellion in 1786 when farmers in Western Massachusetts mounted an armed rebellion against a Court and freed indebted farmers from their prison. That group of soldiers (an unauthorized Militia) marched on the Armory in Springfield and were repelled as renegades [not simply a groups of Americans exercising their Gun Rights] by an authorized Militia from Eastern Massachusetts called out for that purpose by the Governor.

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.- 2nd Amendment

The Founders were very suspicious of a standing, professional Army (ie- of the United States) such as other Nations had. They did not want one. By "Army" the original 1787 Constitution meant the militia system whereby individual States would organize and train official (well-regulated) Militias that could be called into National Service by the Congress when it deemed the Nation's well-being was threatened, as George Washington did in the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. These were volunteer troops on temporary duty, not a standing or professional Army. Thus per the 2nd Amendment (in the Bill of Rights)"the people" were responsible to keep arms to use them for this purpose as needed for the security of a free State or Nation [in the 18th Century].

Constitution Art 1, Section 8 Clauses 11, 12, 13, and 14.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; To declare War, ... To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years; To provide and maintain a Navy; To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

"[Whiskey Rebellion in 1794 [was an] uprising that afforded the new U.S. government its first opportunity to establish federal authority by military means within state boundaries, as officials moved into western Pennsylvania to quell an uprising of settlers rebelling against the liquor tax. Alexander Hamilton, secretary of the Treasury, had proposed the excise (enacted by Congress in 1791) to raise money for the national debt and to assert the power of the national government. Small farmers of the back country distilled (and consumed) whiskey, which was easier to transport and sell than the grain that was its source. It was an informal currency, a means of livelihood, and an enlivener of a harsh existence. The distillers resisted the tax by attacking federal revenue officers who attempted to collect it.

Enforcement legislation touched off what appeared to be an organized rebellion, and in July of 1794 about 500 armed men attacked and burned the home of the regional tax inspector. The following month President George Washington issued a congressionally authorized proclamation ordering the rebels [not simply a crowd of American Patriots exercising their gun rights] to return home and calling for [authorized] militia from four neighbouring states. After fruitless negotiations, Washington ordered some 13,000 troops into the area, but opposition melted away and no battle ensued."

- Encyclopedia Britannica]

Not a lot changed until 11 States seceded in the mid 19th Century and their Militia went with them and threatened the Union. Northern Militia could not stem the tide and it was time for a Federal Army in the usual meaning of the word. The old Militia System was replaced. There was even a National Draft in 1863 (although many were able to avoid it). When

the Union defeated the Confederacy, Congress was determined to reconstruct even punish, those States that had seceded and that called for the direct involvement of the Federal Army. Their role during Reconstruction was first spelled out and authorized in the First Reconstruction (also called the Military) Act, followed by the 13th Amendment. First Reconstruction Act, also known as the Military Reconstruction Act, March 2, 1867

"It split the states into five military districts, each under the control of a Northern General whose responsibility it was to protect life and property. The First Reconstruction Act also demanded the need for new state delegates and constitutions, the ratification of the Fourteenth amendment, and the provisions of equal rights for each citizen. The most radical aspect of the Act was the enfranchisement of all citizens, except ex-Confederates, and so provided for the coming of black suffrage.

[President Johnson]attempted to veto the bill. He saw ... the danger in the power bestowed on the military commanders. To [him and fellow Southerners] it appeared as if Congress were attempting to establish a military monarchy in the South, in which the will of the commander was law, and in which cruelty against the South could be exercised at a whim. The commander could condemn a person to death without trial, determine the rights of property and the person, and dispose of land and goods. The South considered this their eventual, long feared subjugation to the North." Source: <http://historyengine.richmond.edu>

What is relevant here to our discussion of the Militia is that the concept changed from what the Founders had in mind in the 1st Amendment. Militia continued but evolved into what we know as the National Guard. Books and Articles about the History of the Regular Army in the United States begin with the Militia and follow that development: they are still volunteer citizen soldiers who train are organized and are ready to serve their respective States or the Nation when called upon to do so. Here is a typical account-

"The National Guard, the oldest component of the Armed Forces of the United States and one of the nation's longest enduring institutions, celebrated its 372nd birthday in December of 2008. The National Guard traces its history back to the earliest English colonies in North America. Responsible for their own defense, the colonists drew on English military tradition and organized their able-bodied male citizens into militias.

The Guard doubled the size of the Regular Army when it was mobilized in 1940, more than a year before Pearl Harbor, and contributed 19 divisions to that war, as well as numerous other units including Guard aviation squadrons. More than 138,000 Guardsmen were mobilized for Korea, followed by numerous smaller mobilizations for the Berlin Crisis, Vietnam, and numerous strikes and riots at home. Approximately 63,000 Army Guardsmen were called to serve in Desert Storm, and in the decade since then Guardsmen have seen a greater role than ever before -- conducting peacekeeping in Somalia, Haiti, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Bosnia, and Kosovo. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Guardsmen were called up by both their States and the Federal government to provide security at home and combat terrorism abroad. Today, in addition to its usual state-side requirements and OCONUS peace-keeping missions, the Army National Guard is heavily engaged in both Iraq and Afghanistan."

This is the context for interpreting the 2nd Amendment today. It must be understood, not as it was in Colonial Days, but as it applies today.

"The citizen-soldiers who make up the National Guard have fought in every major American war since 1637. War has changed a great deal since 1637, and today's Guard must be prepared to fight in a high-technology environment, using complex weapons and equipment. The men and women of today's Guard are ready to become full-time professional soldiers if the need arises, whether for federal or state missions just as they did in 1637." Source:

<http://www.arng.army.mil/history/>

If people want to claim a right of individuals to buy weapons for solely private (and usually recreational use), the same as a motor vehicle, they may do so under appropriate laws and regulations. But it seems very obvious to me that the Second Amendment is not the source or guarantee of that right, notwithstanding the decision of the Supreme Court in 2008 and 2010 (Heller and McDonald). If people want to claim their 2nd Amendment Right, they should join the Guard.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:07

Tuesday, August 20. 2013

## **MARCHING FOR FREEDOM**

This week the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, with Martin Luther King Jr, is commemorated. It was billed as a March for Jobs and Freedom. How did that work out? It depends on how we define "Freedom".

I have just posted 3 new Essays about "Freedom", how it has been defined and what it actually is and requires to work out in practice.

<http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:11

Friday, August 16. 2013

## **ISLAM OR ISLAMISM?**

[The Muslim Brotherhood are not simply Muslims, they are radical Muslims, more accurately called Islamists-CF] Islamists loathe the West because of its vast influence over Muslims and its being tantamount to Christendom, the historic archenemy. Islamism inspires a drive to reject, defeat and subjugate Western civilization. Despite this urge, Islamists absorb Western influences, including the concept of ideology. Indeed, Islamism represents the transformation of Islamic faith into a political ideology. Islamism accurately indicates an Islamic-flavored version of radical utopianism, an -ism like other -isms, comparable to fascism and communism. Aping those two movements, for example, Islamism relies heavily on conspiracy theories to interpret the world, on the state to advance its ambitions, and on brutal means to attain its goals.

Supported by 10 percent to 15 percent of Muslims, Islamism draws on devoted and skilled cadres who have an impact far beyond their limited numbers. It poses a threat to civilized life in Iran and Egypt, and not just on the streets of Boston, but also in Western schools, parliaments and courtrooms.

Our killer question is "How do you propose to defeat Islamism?" Those who make all Islam their enemy not only succumb to a simplistic and essentialist illusion, but lack any mechanism to defeat it. We who focus on Islamism see World War II and the Cold War as models for subduing the third totalitarianism. We understand that radical Islam is the problem and that moderate Islam is the solution. We work with anti-Islamist Muslims to vanquish a common scourge. We will triumph over this new variant of barbarism so that a modern form of Islam can emerge.

-written by Daniel Pipes who is president of the Middle East Forum.

<http://www.islamist-watch.org/13878/islam-vs-islamism>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:02

Thursday, August 15, 2013

## **COPTIC CHRISTIANS UNDER ATTACK IN EGYPT**

Christians make up about 8 million of Egypt's population of 80 million and have been victims of Muslim attacks for years. Some Christians were worried when Islamists took over Egypt's government in 2012 and relieved when the military ousted them from power last month. But the ancient Coptic communities here that predate Islam by centuries say they now see a new wave of violence against them since the ouster.

Many Christians participated in massive protests against Morsi at the end of June, and Tawadros sat with a row of officials behind Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi when the army chief gave his speech that overthrew Morsi.

In a 15-minute audio recording posted online earlier this month, al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahri accused Coptic Christians, the military and secular-minded elites of conspiring against Morsi because he is an Islamist.

In Egypt, human rights groups accused Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists of inciting violence. "Copts are paying the price of the inflammatory rhetoric against them coming from some Islamist leaders and supporters of the former president, who accuse Coptic spiritual leaders of conspiring to foment army intervention to remove Dr. Morsi," said Ishak Ibrahim, officer for freedom of religion and belief at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, in a report.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/08/15/egypt-coptic-church-islamists/2640419/>

ALSO READ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:11

Friday, August 2, 2013

## **WHAT PRICE SECURITY?**

Should Evangelicals be very concerned about (and fearful of) the "Surveillance State"? Here is a strong argument that we should be.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2013/july/government-overreach-christian-silence-and-founding-fathers.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:40

Saturday, July 20. 2013

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETROIT'S FALL**

Here is a scathing review of Detroit's Decline from a respected City Planner- "I'm pissed because no one seems to acknowledge the central reason Detroit is filing for bankruptcy now. It has endured abandonment – white flight abandonment – on an absolutely epic scale. Before there was auto industry collapse, before there was a lack of economic diversity, before there was mismanagement and corruption, there was abandonment. People skirt and dance around the issue when they talk about the loss of Detroit's tax base. What Detroit lost was its white people. I've mentioned here on several occasions that the reason I chose the planning profession is because I grew up in Detroit during the 1970's. I looked around and saw a city with an inferiority complex and saw people leaving in droves. My naïve and childish thinking was, "instead of leaving the city, why don't people stay and work to make it better?" Silly of me. Abandonment is the American way. Nonetheless, I view Detroit's bankruptcy announcement positively. It acknowledges that its troubles are far deeper than most realize. It can be the springboard for fiscal recovery, a re-imagining of the city and an actual and complete revitalization. Detroit indeed is in uncharted waters, and its abandonment means that in many respects it could be viewed as a frontier city once again. I would not be surprised if, after restructuring and reorganization, after recapturing its innovative spirit, the city could see growth almost like it did at the beginning of the twentieth century, mimicking what, say, Las Vegas has done for the last 40 years. Even at this dark moment, Detroit has assets that are the envy of other cities. But let no one forget that it is abandonment that brought Detroit to this point.- written by Pete Saunders <http://www.urbanophile.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:26

Monday, July 8, 2013

### **EGYPT'S Coup d'état EXPLAINED**

13 things you need to know about what is happening in Egypt written by Daniel Pipes, a very good resource  
<http://www.danielpipes.org/13054/egypt-coup>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:07

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

## **RESPONSE TO COURT RULING ON DOMA**

"Fifty years ago, Christians comprised the mainstream in America and were fully accepted as a cultural majority. Many during that time did not stand up for those who were weak and marginalized. The "good old days" so often longed for were also times of racial oppression, gender discrimination, and theological confusion. So, pining for those "moral" days of yore is like chasing a mirage. The past simply wasn't that great for many when Christians had more influence.

"Regardless of the ruling from the Supreme Court, your church—as well as mine—has the same mission it did last week: we are to love people and share the Good News of Christ with them. I know it feels like many are reeling from this announcement. As I wrote in November, Christians are increasingly considering the reality that we might be on the losing side of the culture war. In truth, it will take weeks—and possibly months—for us to understand the full weight of this Supreme Court decision. But we should not panic. It does not help to speak in ways that do not honor Christ. The sky is not falling. Jesus is still King and God is still sovereign."

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2013/june/prop-8-doma-and-christian-response.html?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:25

Thursday, June 20, 2013

## **NOONAN NAILS IT**

The U.S. surveillance state as outlined and explained by Edward Snowden is not worth the price. Its size, scope and intrusiveness, its ability to target and monitor American citizens, its essential unaccountability—all these things are extreme.

The purpose of the surveillance is enhanced security, a necessary goal to say the least. The price is a now formal and agreed-upon acceptance of the end of the last vestiges of Americans' sense of individual distance and privacy from the government. The price too is a knowledge, based on human experience and held by all but fools and children, that the gleanings of the surveillance state will eventually be used by the mischievous, the malicious and the ignorant in ways the creators of the system did not intend.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/declarations.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:02

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

## **AMERICANS WASTING TAX DOLLARS ON AMERI-CORPS**

"The government-supported service organization AmeriCorps got a boost from President Obama in April, when he announced a new program to "connect more professional scientists and engineers to young students who might follow in their footsteps." According to a news release, the goal is to place hundreds of AmeriCorps members in nonprofits across the country to mobilize professionals in science, technology, engineering and math "to inspire young people to excel in STEM education."

A lofty goal, to be sure, but not one AmeriCorps is likely to serve well. Judging by the program's track record over two decades—or distinct lack of a track record in several cases—taxpayers have better ways to spend some \$446 million a year."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324063304578525871827319936.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:27

## **FREEDOM THREATENED- FEAR WARRENTED**

"In January the pollsters at the Pew Research Center reported that for the first time a majority of Americans—53%—now agree that "the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms." In January the pollsters at the Pew Research Center reported that for the first time a majority of Americans—53%—now agree that "the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms."

"Consider what people are asked to absorb in the news flow now—some of it political, some not. Beyond the IRS audits and NSA surveillance we have a Department of Justice penetrating press activity protected by the First Amendment, stories about Iran's hackers accessing the control-room software of U.S. energy firms, China hacking into everything, reports last month of cyberthieves siphoning millions of dollars from ATMs, rivers of email spam that fill inboxes alongside constant warnings to protect yourself against phishing and malware by storing industrial-strength passwords on encrypted flash drives, stories in this newspaper about social-media apps that exist mainly to collect your personal data for sale to advertisers.

Books have been written about governments using Web technology to censor and control their populations. What's good and evil, helpful and menacing, comes at us with equal force from the same technologies. "Dual-use" was formerly a phrase used mostly in the military. We're all living in a dual-use world now. Electronic sophisticates say it's all good. Sun Microsystems' former CEO Scott McNealy famously said: "You have zero privacy. Get over it." That's what he thinks. This is a sum-of-all-fears environment tailor-made for eventually producing a public backlash.

Scott McNealy was almost right. Unavoidably, the citizens of the U.S. or any free society will have to reach an accommodation—a modus vivendi—with complex systems created by experts with abstruse knowledge. But if so, those citizens need to be free to talk about the terms of their accommodations. In short, they need to be free to do politics. Effective antiterrorism programs such as metadata surveillance or for that matter efforts to produce progress through genetic manipulation may seem self-evidently good to their proponents. But these technologies [have led to] a politics rife with suspicion and retribution, and most of the people believing the government, for starters, threatens their freedom."

[The issue is power: who shall have control of the technology and the data gathered and how shall the powerful use it? History is very pessimistic about that and warrents our concern, if not alarm- CF]

[http://online.wsj.com/article/wonder\\_land.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/wonder_land.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:10

Saturday, June 8, 2013

### **READING BETWEEN THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINES**

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/susanadams/2013/06/07/the-unemployment-news-is-worse-for-many/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:16

### **AN EXPLANATION OF NSA SPYING**

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-06-07/what-you-need-to-know-to-understand-the-nsa-spying-scandal>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:13

Sunday, May 26, 2013

## **REMEMBERING THE HARVEST OF DEATH**

The Civil War origin of Memorial Day

<http://www.parade.com/15771/joekita/war-and-remembrance-a-look-at-memorial-days-civil-war-roots/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:27

Friday, May 24. 2013

## **FLAGS FOR THE FALLEN**

The annual "Flags-In" ceremony is held ahead of Memorial Day to honor the nation's fallen members of the military. Flags will be placed at more than 220,000 graves.  
<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/arts-and-lifestyle/2013/05/flags-fallen/5707/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:09

Friday, May 10, 2013

### **WHY CASINOS ARE BAD FOR YOUR CITY**

Our local newspaper and elected Officials are very enthusiastic with the Casino proposed for our downtown. They wholeheartedly endorse the project for its economic benefits ("jobs" and tax revenue) Most of those who oppose the coming casino do it on moral grounds (the evils of gambling). Here is a strong argument for opposing it on economic grounds (loss of jobs in the area and loss of revenue and destruction of the City in the long run)-

"...casino building is city-ruining of the highest order. Virtually every serious study that has ever been done of the economic impacts of casinos shows that their costs far exceed their benefits and that they are a poor use of precious downtown land."

"... urban environments thrive on mixed uses, pedestrian traffic, street life, and attractions that feed off one another in an integrated urban fabric. The casino is the antithesis of this."

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/thisisourcity/detroit/why-casinos-are-bad-for-your-city.html?>

<http://www.urbanophile.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:25

Thursday, May 9, 2013

### **CLIMATE CHANGE ARGUMENTS**

Good summary of arguments, pro and con, about Climate Change and its possible causes and remedies.  
<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/an-interpretation-of-data-argu/12036797>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:49

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

## **HOW TERRORISTS EFFECT OUR NATION**

"Whoever was behind [the Marathon] attack killed a few, wounded scores, and scared millions. There's a term for this: asymmetrical warfare. An opponent with inferior resources, manpower, and technology can nevertheless inflict disproportionate damage on an enemy. The ultimate example of this concept, of course, was September 11, 2001, when 19 hijackers spending just \$500,000 — well, you know what they did. But the true impact the 9/11 hijackers had went far beyond the physical damage they inflicted that day. September 11 caused us to burn through trillions on the two longest wars in our history, vastly expand our national security and intelligence bureaucracy, and give up a portion of our civil liberties. And yet for all that: Do you feel safer? What more can we do?"

Here is a thought provoking article with important relevant data-  
<http://theweek.com/bullpen/column/242776/the-lessons-of-boston>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:29

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

### **WHAT PART OF THE BRAIN CONTROLS INNOVATION?**

"A study published in February suggests that our much-lauded prefrontal brain mechanisms for control and focus may actually make it more difficult to think innovatively." But we still need to rely on it.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324020504578398820516033706.html?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:15

### **GREAT SCIENTISTS DO NOT NEED TO DO MATH WELL**

Scientific Discoveries emerge from Ideas, not Math - E.O. Wilson  
[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323611604578398943650327184.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323611604578398943650327184.html?)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:00

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

## **REFUSING TO OBEY THE GOVERNMENT**

"That the First Amendment requires separation of church and state is an erroneous claim. The religion clause bars Congress from establishing a national religion or interfering with citizens' right to exercise their religion. Requiring a business owner religiously opposed to the killing of unborn babies to pay for the killing of unborn babies is a blatant violation.

In another obeying-immoral-laws case, the Roman Catholic owners of Freshway Foods and Freshway Logistics provide health insurance for employees but exclude coverage for contraceptives, abortion, and sterilization. The Obama administration requires the owners to provide such coverage beginning April 1 or face fines. Christian retailer Hobby Lobby faced a similar choice and said it would not obey the law."

[http://www.worldmag.com/2013/03/america\\_s\\_altar\\_of\\_abortion](http://www.worldmag.com/2013/03/america_s_altar_of_abortion)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:35

## **CHRISTIAN COMPANY CONFRONTS COURT**

"Hobby Lobby's lawsuit against the healthcare insurance contraceptive mandate will move forward again after the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to give the case a hearing before the full court. The craft retailer had requested an "en banc" review of the case after a two-judge panel of the 10th Circuit dismissed its lawsuit in December. The company faces potential fines upwards of \$1.3 million a day for not complying with the mandate.

With more than 13,000 full-time employees, the evangelical Christian-owned business is the largest of the for-profit company suits against the mandate, which requires employers to provide coverage of contraceptives as well as drugs that can induce abortions. Hobby Lobby provides contraceptive coverage to its employees, but, because of the owners' beliefs, the company's insurance plan does not include abortifacients Plan B or Ella."

[http://www.worldmag.com/2013/04/full\\_court\\_press](http://www.worldmag.com/2013/04/full_court_press)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:27

Monday, April 1, 2013

### **MAINSTREAM MEDIA MISSES MARCH FOR MARRIAGE**

The Washington Post reported that there were many supporters of so-called "Gay Marriage" in front of the Supreme court last week. Somehow it missed the throngs of supporters of Marriage also in front of the Court.

[http://www.worldmag.com/2013/03/the\\_washington\\_post\\_somewhat\\_misses\\_the\\_march\\_for\\_marriage](http://www.worldmag.com/2013/03/the_washington_post_somewhat_misses_the_march_for_marriage)

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/publiccatholic/2013/03/where-is-the-news-coverage-on-the-march-for-marriage/>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/thousands-flood-dc-to-stand-up-for-marriage/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:16

Thursday, March 28, 2013

## **COURT APPROVES SCHOOL VOUCHERS**

The Indiana Supreme Court has unanimously ruled that the state's school voucher program—the most expansive program of its kind in America—is constitutional despite complaints that much of the money involved goes to religious schools.

According to chief justice Brent Dickson, the voucher program is constitutional because the state funds "do not directly benefit religious schools but rather directly benefit lower-income families with school children." The voucher program provides public assistance for low- and middle-income families to send their children to private institutions, including both religious and non-religious schools. However, the Indiana State Teachers Association has "suggested the program is a backhanded method of funding religious activity," because nearly all of the funds have been directed toward religious schools. But the court's ruling to uphold the program's constitutionality was unanimous.

<http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctliveblog/archives/2013/03/broadest-school-vouchers-in-the-nation-upheld-by-indiana-supreme-court.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:34

Saturday, March 16. 2013

## **POVERTY? THE WORLD IS BECOMING MIDDLE CLASS II**

In 1990, the global middle class – defined as earning from \$10 to \$100 a day – comprised 1.8 billion people, and a clear majority lived in Europe and North America. By 2020, projections say the global middle class will have expanded to 3.2 billion people, with more than half living in the Asia and Pacific region.

By 2030, the U.N. report says, the middle class is likely to comprise 4.9 billion people, with two-thirds in Asia, not only in populous India and China but also in Mongolia, Laos and Bangladesh, among others. At that point, 80 percent of the world's middle class will live in what is now considered the developing world.

Not only are citizens there growing better off, but their governments have amassed ever-greater financial reserves, Malik said. Some \$6.8 trillion in reserves are now in the hands of developing nations, compared with \$3.5 trillion in the central banks of developed countries.

Social policies that empower women, provide more equitable health care and better education are key factors in the expansion of the middle class, the study found. But technology also has been a huge contributor to the expansion of wealth. [I would add: entrepreneurial Capitalism and these are all signs of the Kingdom. -CF]

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/03/14/5263586/un-predicts-huge-expansion-of.html#storylink=cpy>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:58

## **RESOURCE FOR ETHNIC MEDIA**

The post below is written by an editor of the New America Media- an outlet for hundreds of ethnic print media- a good resource to check out

<http://newamericamedia.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:41

## **THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY?**

The center shifts- what the religious world is going to look like: A Muslim Paris and London? and a Christian Latin America and a Secular USA?

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-0317-rodriguez-pope-immigration-religion-20130317,0,4181027.story>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:26

Thursday, March 7, 2013

## **DRONES AND DUE PROCESS**

What "Holder should have said is that the U.S. would only be able to use drones on U.S. soil under the same conditions it might use military force domestically — to stop an invasion by a foreign country or an attack. And it is not because due process somehow allows it, but because the nation is entitled to use military force against foreign attack. So it is not just December 7 or September 11 that uniquely call for military force because the U.S. is responding to an attack on the nation. What about an invasion, as in the War of 1812, or the Civil War, or, on a smaller scale, a situation like the Mumbai terrorist attacks where groups of heavily armed terrorists attacked high-profile, civilian targets not with airliners, but with light arms. If the federal government can use military force, such as troops or helicopters to stop those kinds of attacks, surely it can use drones. But where Holder and this administration are causing fear is because, if they believe the use of drones now, abroad, meet law-enforcement standards, then they believe they could use drones in similar situations domestically to enforce the laws, not to respond to attack. And that is manifestly wrong as a legal matter as well as mistaken as a matter of policy."

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/342335/holder-drones-and-due-process-john-yoo>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:19

Saturday, March 2, 2013

## **OVER REGULATING AMERICA?**

The Washington, D.C., region has long been considered recession-proof, thanks to the remorseless expansion of the federal government in good times and bad. Yet it's only now—as D.C. positively booms while most of the country remains in economic doldrums—that the scale of Washington's prosperity is becoming clear. Over the past decade, the D.C. area has made stunning economic and demographic progress. Meanwhile, America's current and former Second Cities, population-wise—Los Angeles and Chicago—are battered and fading in significance. Though Washington still isn't their match in terms of population, it's gaining on them in terms of economic power and national importance. The federal government's relentless expansion has made Washington, D.C., America's real Second City. ... it's the town of the most important government there is, and that distinction matters. Washington is home to a massive number of embassies and international institutions, of course.

But what solidifies Washington's emerging status as America's new Second City isn't its economic performance or its emerging global-city profile. Both of those are secondary effects of the real change in Washington: the increasingly intrusive control of the federal government over American life. An array of programs—the Sarbanes-Oxley and Dodd-Frank acts governing finance; the government's auto-industry takeover; the EPA's declaration that carbon dioxide is a pollutant—takes regulation to new levels of detail and intrusiveness, even extending to the micromanagement of particular companies. The trend began long before President Obama took office, but its quintessence is Obamacare, an annexation by the federal government of one-sixth of the American economy via 2,000 pages of byzantine legislation, not counting the thousands of pages of implementing regulations still to come.

All this intrusion emanates from the legislative and especially the regulatory machinery in Washington.

[http://www.city-journal.org/2013/23\\_1\\_washington-dc.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2013/23_1_washington-dc.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:09

## **AMERICAN PROSPERITY**

In the current sluggish economic environment, the remarkable history of American dynamism is thus more instructive than ever. America's economic might is rooted in an entrepreneurial culture and a passion for innovation and risk-taking, traits nourished by the nation's commitment to the rule of law, property rights, and a predictable set of tax and regulatory policies. Policymakers have lost sight of these fundamental principles in recent years.

Guy Sorman, a City Journal contributing editor is the author of *Economics Does Not Lie: A Defense of the Free Market in a Time of Crisis*

[http://www.city-journal.org/2012/22\\_4\\_american-prosperity.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2012/22_4_american-prosperity.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:03

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

## **CHINESE CHURCH PERSECUTION**

More about persecution of the Church in China

[http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/february-web-only/persecution-in-china-is-very-real.html?utm\\_source=ctdirect-html&utm\\_medium=Newsletter&utm\\_term=11430839&utm\\_content=157073774&utm\\_campaign=2013](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/february-web-only/persecution-in-china-is-very-real.html?utm_source=ctdirect-html&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_term=11430839&utm_content=157073774&utm_campaign=2013)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:45

Tuesday, February 26. 2013

## **MEDIA HYSTERIA**

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/02/26/sequester-fears-take-mainstream-media-hysteria-to-new-heights/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 22:20

## **IS CHINA TRYING TO ERADICATE THE CHURCH FROM THAT COUNTRY?**

The answer in CT last week seemed to be "yes". This week the answer seems to be "No".

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/february-web-only/china-isnt-trying-to-wipe-out-christianity.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:48

Saturday, February 23. 2013

### **KEEPING THE SEQUESTRATION IN PROPER PROPORTION**

Even during this desultory economic recovery, one industry thrives — the manufacture of synthetic hysteria. It is, however, inaccurate to accuse the Hysteric in Chief of crying “Wolf!” about spending cuts under the sequester. He is actually crying “Hamster!”  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/george-will-the-manufactured-crisis-of-sequester/2013/02/22/d22d4466-7c81-11e2-82e8-61a46c2cde3d\\_story.html?hpid=z2](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/george-will-the-manufactured-crisis-of-sequester/2013/02/22/d22d4466-7c81-11e2-82e8-61a46c2cde3d_story.html?hpid=z2)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:21

### **THOU SHALT NOT LIE, MR LEW**

Thou shalt not lie, obfuscate, be disingenuous, blow smoke or otherwise cover-up the truth. This Commandment applies to everyone, of course, but certainly to politicians making major announcement effecting the National Welfare. When top level Leaders, including the President do this, we are led to mistrust them and become, to say the least, cynical about all that comes out of Washington.

There is a lot of this deception these days about the so-called Sequestration. For example, where did the idea come from in the first place? Democrats are blaming Republicans.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/bob-woodward-obamas-sequester-deal-changer/2013/02>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:16

Saturday, February 16, 2013

### **FACTCHECKING THE SOTU SPEECH**

<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2013/feb/12/fact-checking-state-union/>  
<http://factcheck.org/2013/02/factchecking-obamas-sotu/#.UR-gQ4bsZek>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:03

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

## **ASIANS ARE COMING AND DOING WELL**

Stats for Asian Immigrants

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/asianamericans-graphics/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:19

Tuesday, February 12. 2013

### **SOTU Speech**

Clues as to what to expect in the President's Speech tonight-

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/02/12/first-lady-guest-box-gives-clues-to-obama-state-union-address/>

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/340361/state-union-cheat-sheet-mona-charen>

The only people who will enjoy the Speech will be either political masochists or sadists.

I'm not watching.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:12

Monday, February 11. 2013

### **FACT CHECKING GUNS AND CRIME IN AMERICA**

On average, about 86 people a day are killed by firearms in America, or 31,672 per year, according to the Centers for Disease Control tally for 2010, the latest year available. That year, the CDC counted 19,392 gun deaths by suicide, 11,078 homicides with firearms, 606 deaths by accidental shootings

There is considerable disagreement among researchers, however, on whether the high-rate of U.S. gun ownership has a direct correlation to violent crimes and, if so, what its impact might be. Here's a recent analysis by FactCheck.org that does a good job covering that terrain.- Source: NBC News online

<http://www.factcheck.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:59

Friday, February 8, 2013

## **TO DRONE OR NOT TO DRONE**

"If George W. Bush had told us that the "war on terror" gave him the right to execute a U.S. citizen overseas with a missile fired from a drone aircraft, without due process or judicial review, I'd have gone ballistic. It makes no difference that the president making this chilling claim is Barack Obama. What's wrong is wrong."The moral and ethical questions posed by the advent of drone warfare — which amounts to assassination by remote control — are painfully complex. We had better start working out some answers because, as an administration spokesman told me recently, drone attacks are "the new normal" in the ongoing struggle against terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda." -

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/eugene-robinson-remote-control-assassinations/2013/02/07/4d13e024-715e-11e2-ac36-3d8d9dcaa2e2\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/eugene-robinson-remote-control-assassinations/2013/02/07/4d13e024-715e-11e2-ac36-3d8d9dcaa2e2_story.html)

BUT In defense of the use of Drones-

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/michael-gerson-obamas-drone-policy-is-rooted-in-self-defense/2013/02/06/4f1da2c2-708e-11e2-8b8d-e0b59a1b8e2a\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/michael-gerson-obamas-drone-policy-is-rooted-in-self-defense/2013/02/06/4f1da2c2-708e-11e2-8b8d-e0b59a1b8e2a_story.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:43

## **AMERICANS WHO AIDE AND ABET THE ENEMIES OF AMERICA**

The Rights of Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness [and of Property] mentioned in the Declaration of Independence are not absolute Rights. For example the Constitution gives the Government the Right to kill Americans who are proven guilty of Treason. This Law is relevant to the debate over the killing of Americans openly involved in levying War against the U.S. or while adhering to, aiding and abetting, our enemies [such as al Qaeda]. This Law, by the way, does not break the 6th Commandment in the Law of God, which forbids individuals to murder.U.S.Constitution -Article III, Section. 3. Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

"The Crimes Act of 1790 (or the Federal Criminal Code of 1790), ...defined some of the first federal crimes in the United States ... If any person or persons, owing allegiance to the United States of America, shall levy war against them, or shall adhere to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, and shall be thereof convicted, on confession in open court, or on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act of treason whereof he or they shall stand indicted, such person or persons shall be adjudged guilty of treason against the United States, and shall suffer death.

The Crimes Act was a "comprehensive statute defining an impressive variety of federal crimes." As an enactment of the First Congress, the Crimes Act is often regarded as a quasi-constitutional text. The punishment of treason, piracy, counterfeiting, as well as crimes committed on the high seas or against the law of nations, followed from relatively explicit constitutional authority." Source- Wikipedia

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:26

Friday, February 1, 2013

### **SCANDALS RUINING SPORTS**

The leading sports writer in our local paper and whose opinions I respect, wrote today that scandal and tragedy are ruining sports. He makes a good case.

[http://www.masslive.com/sports/index.ssf/2013/01/from\\_armstrong\\_to\\_a-rod\\_scanda.html](http://www.masslive.com/sports/index.ssf/2013/01/from_armstrong_to_a-rod_scanda.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:35

### **ARE CHRISTIAN ATHLETES ROLE MODELS?**

"Christian Athletes Are Not Role Models. Ray Lewis and Colin Kaepernick are superb football players—that's all. As we come to another Super Bowl, we Christians note that the leaders of each team are devout believers—Colin Kaepernick on the 49ers and Ray Lewis on the Ravens. Like any group with a strong self-identity, we Christians are proud that members of our tribe are star players in this national extravaganza. Not unexpectedly, when Christians become prominent in athletics, we are tempted to turn them into role models

"If you're like me, you want to feel that way about the two devout Christian stars who will take the field this Sunday. But that's a stretch." FOR FULL ARTICLE, SEE-

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-web-only/christian-athletes-are-not-role-models.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:31

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

## **2nd AMENDMENT AND GUN CONTROL**

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

I see absolutely no justification in this Amendment for private citizens to own military style assault rifles or large capacity magazines. Furthermore, the 2nd Amendment is not violated if they are forbidden. In fact, as written and as interpreted according to original intent, the 2nd Amendment supports regulation. For that matter, there are no absolute Rights in the Constitution for anyone, not only would-be gun owners.

Actually many people buy them simply because they like them. The Amendment for them is simply an argument to do what they want to do. And those who use the paranoid argument that citizens must have such guns to protect themselves from a threat of oppression by the Government, seem to forget or deny that the legitimate and far more effective protection comes through voting. We are not a "banana Republic" or a Country like Syria. God forbid. We are A Republic, a representative Democracy! - under the Constitution, to be used as intended by the Founders. Our protection, our security from oppressive, over reaching Govt is in the ballot box, not in bullets.

A good introduction to the meaning of the 2nd Amendment can be found here-

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/beararms.htm>

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/militia-act-establishes-conscription-under-federal-law>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia\\_Act\\_of\\_1903](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia_Act_of_1903)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:11

## **HANDGUNS AND METAL DETECTORS**

One element not being mentioned in the current debate about gun control is the use of handguns. Almost all the shootings around here have involved them. And most all of them had to do with disputes over turf and drug dealing (along with a few bar fights, too). And then there have been robberies which also usually involve handguns.

As to schools, for many reasons, I absolutely do not want every teacher carrying a gun! Most of the crime is out on the streets, not in schools. That is where the major concern should be focused. And the armed assaults in schools here often involve knives. It seems to me, making it impossible for any unauthorized person to enter a school building and having everyone who does enter pass a metal detector upon going through the door would make a school reasonably safe.

HERE IS A WELL RESEARCHED ARTICLE ABOUT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS-

[http://boston.com/community/blogs/crime\\_punishment/2012/12/top\\_10\\_myths\\_about\\_mass\\_shooti.html](http://boston.com/community/blogs/crime_punishment/2012/12/top_10_myths_about_mass_shooti.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:59

Monday, January 28, 2013

## **THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE NRA AND GUN CONTROL**

Today, the NRA is the unquestioned leader in the fight against gun control. Yet the organization didn't always oppose gun regulation. Founded in 1871 by George Wingate and William Church—the latter a former reporter for a newspaper now known for hostility to gun rights, *The New York Times*—the group first set out to improve American soldiers' marksmanship. Wingate and Church had fought for the North in the Civil War and been shocked by the poor shooting skills of city-bred Union soldiers.

In the 1920s and '30s, the NRA was at the forefront of legislative efforts to enact gun control. The organization's president at the time was Karl T. Frederick, a Princeton- and Harvard-educated lawyer known as “the best shot in America”—a title he earned by winning three gold medals in pistol-shooting at the 1920 Summer Olympic Games. As a special consultant to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, Frederick helped draft the Uniform Firearms Act, a model of state-level gun-control legislation. (Since the turn of the century, lawyers and public officials had increasingly sought to standardize the patchwork of state laws. The new measure imposed more order—and, in most cases, far more restrictions.)

The NRA today condemns every one of these provisions as a burdensome and ineffective infringement on the right to bear arms. Frederick, however, said in 1934 that he did “not believe in the general promiscuous toting of guns. I think it should be sharply restricted and only under licenses.” The NRA's executive vice president at the time, Milton A. Reckord, told a congressional committee that his organization was “absolutely favorable to reasonable legislation.” According to Frederick, the NRA “sponsored” the Uniform Firearms Act and promoted it nationwide. Highlighting the political strength of the NRA even back then, a 1932 *Virginia Law Review* article reported that laws requiring a license to carry a concealed weapon were already “in effect in practically every jurisdiction.”

When Congress was considering the first significant federal gun law of the 20th century—the National Firearms Act of 1934, which imposed a steep tax and registration requirements on “gangster guns” like machine guns and sawed-off shotguns—the NRA endorsed the law. Frederick's model law had three basic elements. The first required that no one carry a concealed handgun in public without a permit from the local police. A permit would be granted only to a “suitable” person with a “proper reason for carrying” a firearm. Second, the law required gun dealers to report to law enforcement every sale of a handgun, in essence creating a registry of small arms. Finally, the law imposed a two-day waiting period on handgun sales.

Read the rest of the story here-

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/09/the-secret-history-of-guns/308608/3/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:59

Monday, January 14, 2013

### **CONSERVATIVE RESOURCE FOR CURRENT EVENTS**

For Conservative Evangelical Views on today's News I recommend  
<http://www.worldmag.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:12

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

### **CT'S MOST REDEEMING MOVIES OF 2012**

"Our No. 1 pick, a story of grace and forgiveness, is widely loved ... and loathed. Les Miserables is 2012's most redeeming movie, as voted by Christianity Today's film critics. And depending on your perspective, that's either great news--or just grating. Seems that viewers and reviewers either love or hate the movie, based on the stage play of the same name (which was based on the Victor Hugo novel, also of the same name)."  
[http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-web-only/most-redeeming-films-of-2012.html?utm\\_source=ctdirect-html&utm\\_medium=Newsletter&utm\\_term=11430839&utm\\_content=148726977&utm\\_campaign=2013](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-web-only/most-redeeming-films-of-2012.html?utm_source=ctdirect-html&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_term=11430839&utm_content=148726977&utm_campaign=2013)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:21

Thursday, January 3, 2013

## **AS GOES EUROPE [NOT CHINA or INDIA], SO GOES THE WORLD**

"... what single issue could cause the world to change course. In my view, the most important place to watch in 2013 is Europe.

"Taken as a single geographic entity, Europe has the largest economy in the world. Should it choose to do so, it could become a military rival to the United States. Europe is one of the pillars of the global system, and what happens to Europe is going to define how the world works. I would argue that in 2013 we will begin to get clarity on the future of Europe. The question is whether the European Union will stabilize itself, stop its fragmentation and begin preparing for more integration and expansion.

"People are not being asked to die on a battlefield for the European Union but to live lives of misery and disappointment. In many ways that is harder than being brave. And since the core promise of the European Union was prosperity, the failure to deliver that prosperity -- and the delivery of poverty instead, unevenly distributed -- is not sustainable. If Europe is in crisis, the world's largest economy is in crisis, political as well as financial. And that matters to the world perhaps more than anything else."

[http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/europe-2013-year-decision?utm\\_source=freelist-f&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20130103&utm\\_term=gweekly&utm\\_content=readmore&elq=833ec18b8c4f4a24959a62117ce4de33](http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/europe-2013-year-decision?utm_source=freelist-f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20130103&utm_term=gweekly&utm_content=readmore&elq=833ec18b8c4f4a24959a62117ce4de33)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:42

Monday, December 31, 2012

### **AMERICA WILL SOON BE A PLURALITY NATION**

The term "minority," at least as used to describe racial and ethnic groups in the United States, may need to be retired or rethought soon: by the end of this decade, according to Census Bureau projections released Wednesday, no single racial or ethnic group will constitute a majority of children under 18. And in about three decades, no single group will constitute a majority of the country as a whole.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/13/us/us-will-have-no-ethnic-majority-census-finds.html?hp&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/13/us/us-will-have-no-ethnic-majority-census-finds.html?hp&_r=1&)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:59

### **THE WORLD IN 2030**

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/12/the-world-in-2030-wont-look-anything-like-you-think/266108/>  
<http://www.npr.org/2012/12/10/166895624/the-world-in-2030-asia-rises-the-west-declines>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:55

Friday, December 28, 2012

## **HOW CHRISTIANS SHALL LIVE WITH ISLAMISTS**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/december-web-only/egyptian-christians-face-future.html?start=2>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:49

## **PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN IRAN AND SYRIA**

Christians in Iran have challenged news reports that the death penalty for pastor Yousef Nadarkhani has been annulled, saying that in reality the country's supreme court appears to have added a precondition requiring him to renounce his faith or face execution.

"There has still been no written confirmation of the court's decision on Pastor Nadarkhani's appeal against a death sentence for apostasy, despite efforts to source this," according to a July 5 statement from Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a human rights organization.

Nadarkhani was arrested in October 2009 while attempting to register his church. His arrest is believed to have been due to his questioning of the Muslim monopoly on the religious instruction of children in Iran, the CSW statement said. He initially was charged with protesting; however, the charges against him were later changed to apostasy and evangelizing Muslims.

update: <http://anglicanink.com/article/yousef-nadarkhani-re-arrested>  
<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=news&id=1364&search=>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:52

## **ADOPTION OF RUSSIAN CHILDREN STOPPED**

UNICEF estimates there are about 740,000 children not in parental custody in Russia while about 18,000 Russians are on the waiting list to adopt a child. The U.S. is the biggest destination for adopted Russian children -- more than 60,000 of them have been taken in by Americans over the past two decades. President Vladimir Putin on Friday signed a bill banning Americans from adopting Russian children, part of a harsh response to a U.S. law targeting Russians deemed to be human rights violators.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202\\_162-57561074/putin-signs-bill-barring-adoptions-of-russian-children-by-americans/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57561074/putin-signs-bill-barring-adoptions-of-russian-children-by-americans/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:29

Thursday, December 27, 2012

### **TOP 10 STORIES re RELIGION 2012**

[http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/content/pdf/130101\\_spot\\_newsstories.pdf](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/content/pdf/130101_spot_newsstories.pdf)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:15

### **THE HOBBIT**

The hidden purpose of the Hobbit's Adventure

[http://www.ctlibrary.com/ct/2012/december-web-only/hidden-purpose-of-hobbits-adventure.html?utm\\_source=ctlibrary-html&utm\\_medium=Newsletter&utm\\_term=11430840&utm\\_content=147325717&utm\\_campaign=2012](http://www.ctlibrary.com/ct/2012/december-web-only/hidden-purpose-of-hobbits-adventure.html?utm_source=ctlibrary-html&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_term=11430840&utm_content=147325717&utm_campaign=2012)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:37

Wednesday, December 26, 2012

## **TOP WORLD TRENDS IN 2013**

Top 5 Trends for 2013 according to Stratfor website

The Syrian civil war   Economic and political progress in Mexico   Complexities in Russia's resurgence   China's evolution   Iran's hemisphere of influence and nuclear program

Shall we see the Hand of God in any of these developments? What will be the signs/

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:38

Friday, December 21. 2012

## **MYTHS ABOUT MASS SHOOTINGS**

Here is a very informed and informative article on Mass Killings in America. Sadly the research implies that there is not much we can do to prevent Newtown type events. But much can be done to deter other violent crimes in America. [http://boston.com/community/blogs/crime\\_punishment/2012/12/top\\_10\\_myths\\_about\\_mass\\_shooti.html](http://boston.com/community/blogs/crime_punishment/2012/12/top_10_myths_about_mass_shooti.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:04

## **RANDOM THOUGHTS AFTER LAST WEEK'S SCHOOL SHOOTING**

1. One of the slain teachers is described as being like Jesus, giving her life for her students. Another writer said she could have protected them better if she had a gun and shot the killer. Would that have made her more like Jesus? [If Jesus had had a gun, should he have shot the men who nailed him to the cross? Would that have made him more like "Jesus"?]
2. Many are calling the Shooter a nut job, crazy, evil, demented and despicable, Others are saying he was mentally ill and a good reason to improve mental healthcare services. Which is it? Isn't one of the reasons troubled people do not seek mental health treatment when available the fear of being labeled or stigmatized?
3. Some are decrying the level of violence in our Country. I looked at the reviews of the many movies being shown here this weekend. All had parental warnings for excessive ... violence. Never mind that this weekend most Americans are celebrating the Birth of the Prince of Peace or are at least praying for Peace to All. I wonder how many are hoping Santa will be bringing them video games that feature guns and shooting?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:16

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

### **ISLAMISM AND BLASPHEMY**

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/335716/blasphemy-and-islam-andrew-c-mccarthy#>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:48

### **MEDIA AND THE MASSACRE**

[http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/december-web-only/media-and-massacre.html?utm\\_source=ctdirect-html&utm\\_medium=Newsletter&utm\\_term=11430839&utm\\_content=146431871&utm\\_campaign=2012&start=2](http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/december-web-only/media-and-massacre.html?utm_source=ctdirect-html&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_term=11430839&utm_content=146431871&utm_campaign=2012&start=2)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:34

Thursday, December 6, 2012

**ISLAM or ISLAMISM? MUSLIMS or ISLAMISTS?**

<http://www.meforum.org/3173/islam-islamism-muslims-islamists>

What is the difference? Does it make a difference which name we use?

Other sources for news from the Middle East

<http://www.worldtribune.com/>

<http://dailynewsegypt.com/2012/12/06/mass-resignations-in-protest-at-palace-clashes/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:44

Thursday, November 29, 2012

### **AN INTERESTING SITE: GOOD ARTICLES AND PHOTOS**

a favorite website <http://kudospress.com/serendipity/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:47

### **HELL FIRE or HOLY SMOKE?**

A local Pastor made the headlines here today because he is quoted as saying the great explosion last week on Thanksgiving Day was the wrath of God destroying what had been a Strip Club and surrounding buildings in the heart of our local "Entertainment District". I walked around the area this morning. I gave thanks to God. I saw overwhelming evidence of His mercy. For example one destroyed building I passed was a child day care center nearby. There are normally more than a 100 toddlers there every day- but not that day because it was the Holiday. I guess we see what we look for and we should look for the goodness of God present and active in the midst of the dark acrid smoke rising from our sinful society.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:07

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

### **SHALL HUMANITY BE DESTROYED BY MICRORGANISMS?**

<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/7146>

This article is a long Essay about the future of Humanity and the reasons for its probable demise from factors you probably would not guess. I didn't. It is fascinating and worth the time to read it. It is also a marvelous testimony to the amazing achievements of Humanity and to what could be considered the work of God in Humanity's History. God is not mentioned, but I can see His Hand in the History. It offers reasons for hope for what could be.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:27

### **NEW EVIDENCE FOR EVOLUTION?**

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21628921.500-our-true-dawn-pinning-down-human-origins.html?full=true>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:41

Tuesday, November 27. 2012

## **THE DELUSION AND DANGER OF ROMANTIC NATIONALISM**

This analysis (and its lessons) applies to America and Christian Denominations, too  
<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/gaza-catalonia-and-romantic-nationalism>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:37

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

## **GOV'T SURVEILLANCE OF EMAILS**

After public criticism of proposal that lets government agencies warrantlessly access Americans' e-mail, Sen. Patrick Leahy says he will "not support" such an idea at next week's vote.

[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578\\_3-57552687-38/leahy-scuttles-his-warrantless-e-mail-surveillance-bill/](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57552687-38/leahy-scuttles-his-warrantless-e-mail-surveillance-bill/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:42

## **BEWARE METADATA**

"Every move we make online leaves a trace. This is a lesson former CIA director David Petraeus and his lover, Paula Broadwell, learned in dramatic fashion a few weeks ago after an FBI investigation – begun in response to an unrelated complaint – found email records of their illicit affair.

"Such troubles may seem far from the day-to-day concerns of the average internet user. But federal government searches of user data have been growing rapidly. Last week, Google released its biannual transparency report, which shows that the US government made nearly 8,000 requests for data on its users' accounts over the past six months – one third more than the previous reporting period. Of those requests, 90 per cent were fully or partially complied with."

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn22511-how-metadata-brought-down-cia-boss-david-petraeus.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:34

## **ISLAMIC LAW IN THE USA?**

A constitutional battle over Muslim family law has begun. In November 2010, Oklahoma voters approved a state constitutional amendment banning the use of Muslim Shari'ah and other international laws in its state courts. This was a direct rejoinder to other Western nations allowing Muslim citizens to enforce Muslim marriage contracts in state courts and to resolve family law issues before Shari'ah tribunals without state interference. Oklahoma's citizens wanted none of it, and they voted to ban the use of Shari'ah altogether. Twelve other states are discussing comparable measures.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/november/shariahs-uphill-climb.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:01

## **GLOBAL WARMING WORSE?**

"Five years ago, we were warned that the climate change outlook was bad. In this week's cover feature, read the seven reasons why it's even worse that we thought. Also on newscientist.com this week (or right now for subscribers): the revival of bloodletting to cure a modern malady; how the sun is messing with radioactive decay; and why taking a day off from food could put you on the fast track to longevity."

[www.newscientist.com/special/worse-climate](http://www.newscientist.com/special/worse-climate) Flora Graham, deputy editor, newscientist.com

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:33

Tuesday, November 13. 2012

### **A REVIEW OF NEW SCIENTIST, A MAGAZINE**

"We live in a golden age of science writing, with an embarrassment of riches to choose from. This month ..., we're looking at magazines, starting with New Scientist, the British-based weekly."  
<http://www.booksandculture.com/articles/webexclusives/2012/november/science-magazines.html?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:51

Sunday, November 11. 2012

## **PRAYERS FOR AMERICA AND OUR VETERANS**

Prayers for America and Those Who Serve It (from the Book of Common Prayer)

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail;

O Lord our Governor, ... We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will.

Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; [and we especially are thankful for all those men and women who have been and are now serving "this People" in the Military. Help all of us being so served to be grateful and do our part to pray for and properly respect, support and aid them in the performance of their Service.- added] through Jesus Christ our Lord ... Amen.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:17

## **IN GOD IS OUR TRUST**

Fourth verse of the National Anthem-

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall  
wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:16

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

## **IT IS NOT THE SIZE, IT IS THE POWER OF THE STATE WE NEED TO FEAR**

Many Evangelicals simply do not get it. The Bible warns repeatedly about Government assuming the place and power of God over their lives- the lives of all citizens. Ever increasing State power and control is a great danger to our Faith, our Freedom, our lives. BEWARE

"The centralization of power is one of the most profound factors in American public life. Conservatives and libertarians find it a dangerous tendency, while liberal statist applaud it. The elevation of power decreases the importance of the individual, reduces the importance of competition from the public sphere (states and municipalities face real competitive pressures with one another, while the federal government has no peer) and diminishes the sphere of personal liberty. But it also has a practical electoral effect, as everyone watching the election returns come in last night could see. In swing state after swing state, blue mushroom clouds erupted over red counties as big city political machines turned in their votes. A single metropolitan area of great size can outweigh all the remaining votes of the state, given that not even the reddest outlying county will vote 100 percent Republican."

"The cities don't vote 100 percent Democrat either, but the level of organization that churns out their votes is quietly awesome. All those anecdotal reports of Republican enthusiasm in 2012 were real enough, but overall turnout was much better for Democrats. The urban factor is not unbeatable, but it's very helpful. Those political organizations have very old and deep roots; there is coordination with labor unions, which by definition tend to be very well organized; and people who live in big cities have a certain willingness to accept large-scale government that can be quite different from the rural and suburban mindsets.

"There are also the business realities and economies of scale to consider. Centralization of operations can be a great asset to nationwide business endeavors. Big operations produce cost efficiency that leads to competitive advantage. Buying or producing in volume and selling at a discount is great business model, and modern communications technology has made it more attractive than ever – look at the rise of Internet super-retailers like Amazon.com. Big companies must have headquarters, and those headquarters are not often located in sparsely populated rural areas. Those forces have been at work throughout the industrial era. Looking further ahead, increased fuel costs and greater reliance on public transportation – very much parts of the "transformation" planned for America – will only make location in close proximity to big urban areas more important for Big Business concerns.

"On the national scale, population concentrations have a certain gravitational effect on elections. You've seen all those maps with a sea of big, sparsely populated red states assembled into a losing coalition around denser blue states. That's the nature of the electoral system, and the Electoral College actually brings a greater, and welcome, level of political significance to the smaller states.

"But some of those Big Blue states are also in very bad financial shape – Illinois and California leap to mind. They're even worse off than the federal government is. And for all the talk of leaving basket-case state governments to fend for themselves without bailouts, we all know that's not going to happen, especially not now. Redistribution and the socialization of loss are the operational principles of the New Normal, and they most certainly will be applied to huge, fiscally insolvent treasure troves of highly organized voters.

"That's how inescapable, centralized, redistributive government works. A lot of people end up paying for things they had no control over, their fates determined by entities in which they had no representation. It's likely that a few crisis points will be reached during President Obama's second term, and we'll have some rather spectacular demonstrations."  
<http://www.humanevents.com/2012/11/07/the-central-issue/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:36

## **NOTHING HAS CHANGED**

"The United States held elections last night, and nothing changed. Barack Obama remains president. The Democrats remain in control of the Senate with a non-filibuster-proof majority. The Republicans remain in control of the House of Representatives.

"The national political dynamic has resulted in an extended immobilization of the government. With the House -- a body where party discipline is the norm -- under Republican control, passing legislation will be difficult and require compromise. Since the Senate is in Democratic hands, the probability of it overriding any unilateral administrative actions is small. Nevertheless, Obama does not have enough congressional support for dramatic new initiatives, and getting appointments through the Senate that Republicans oppose will be difficult.

"There is a quote often attributed to Thomas Jefferson: "That government is best which governs the least because its

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

people discipline themselves." I am not sure that the current political climate is what was meant by the people disciplining themselves, but it is clear that the people have imposed profound limits on this government. Its ability to continue what is already being done has not been curbed, but its ability to do much that is new has been blocked."

Read the full article here-

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/elections-gridlock-and-foreign-policy?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:30

Monday, November 5, 2012

## **WHY WE MUST KEEP THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

The Boston Globe recently ran a favorable review of two books about the Constitution- ridiculing those of us who believe in seeking the original meaning of the foundational Law of our Nation. Many media columnists lately have written against the Electoral College using the same ridicule and a lot of sarcasm. Surveys show most Americans would like to get rid of it, which desire shall rise to a crescendo if the current Election ends with the popular vote winner losing to the Electoral college winner! Mark Shields' column in our local paper last week has this title: "U.S. democracy stumbles at gate of Electoral College". He calls the College "a historical mistake" and "absolutely anti-democratic". Please read my entire Essay here- <http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:15

Sunday, November 4, 2012

## **JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES WHAT IS RIGHT**

Tomorrow is Election Day and this is the Gospel Reading today! These are the words of Jesus-  
49 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'  
Some of the area main-line (ie Liberal) churches are holding a community Service tomorrow to pray for unity in America!

54 He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. 55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Some see Hurricane Sandy as a sign of Global Warming and chide the rest of us for not being aware. How about seeing signs everywhere of National Decline? 57 'And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?

This Election there are many issues on the table which concern all of us- employment, immigration, the Afghan War and the Middle East, Trade, Oil, Housing, Abortion, Gay Marriage, Health Care- just to name a few!.. But underneath them all as well as underlining all Offices to be voted on, the Election pits two fundamentally different approaches to Government against each other. To me this is determinative over all else. Which of these two approaches each of us judges to be right shall ultimately determine which candidates we shall chose on Election Day and the Future of America and how all the specific issues shall be addressed. Both approaches (actually, Ideologies) have the same Vision of a Nation of Peace and Prosperity with Economic and Social Justice for all. The very crucial difference is in how this Vision can be accomplished.

We are a seriously divided People. Writing in broad, general but fundamental terms, many (half?) Americans see this Vision as the ultimate Goal of Government, starting from the Federal level. The three primary external authorities for this position do not include the Constitution but are a liberal reading of the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble of the Federal Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The Constitution itself is read in light of these Sources. The major Model for this Vision is FDR's "New Deal", as well as the speeches of JFK, Lyndon Johnson and the civil rights and anti-poverty programs of their proposed "Great Society". People of this persuasion truly believe Government is fundamentally benign (they trust it) as well as absolutely essential to fulfill the Vision on all levels.

Many other Americans are convinced that the Constitution alone is the fundamental Law of the Land and a traditional, conservative (mostly pre-mid 20th Century) reading of it must prevail in its application. This group is convinced that the Federal Government is essential to carry out only those certain, limited duties enumerated in the Constitution. These do not include a mandate to build a Nation of Economic and Social Justice equally for all. The Government is not benign and can not be trusted. This group has an historic fear of Tyranny and Oppression by Government and its Rulers in all its forms. Therefore they constantly advocate for the Constitutional limitations of the Federal Government's powers. They insist it must be constantly held accountable to the Law. Their primary, foremost concern is for Liberty for all. That is the first and most important of all Human Rights. The Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Federal Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address are not part of that Law. Indeed these Documents must be understood according to a conservative, Originalist interpretation of what is the Law. The latter also applies to understanding post-Civil War Amendments to the Constitution. This second group's Vision of a Nation of Economic and Social Justice equally for all is just as strong as that of the first group (above) but it is grounded in, depends on, the every citizen's individual, personal responsibility. The Vision can only be truly achieved, not by Federal Government from the top down but from the bottom up by the people themselves- by the proper functioning of marriages, families, churches, local communities and private enterprise. The primary function of the State is to preserve and protect the political, economic and social freedoms in which the latter can happen. In no way is the State on any level to usurp or replace marriages, families, churches, local communities and private enterprise. The State must respect and protect the sovereignty of each of these Spheres and then, next, the sovereignty of each of the 50 States.

It should be obvious that the first group described above is dominant in the Democratic Party and President Obama. The second group is very influential in the Republic Party and therefore supports Gov Romney. As Jesus said in Luke 12:57 "... judge for yourselves what is right."

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:58

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

## **WHY MANY DO NOT VOTE**

This is an excerpt, the sad part, taken from the full article linked in the post below-

"Why then is the United States so deeply and persistently divided and why does this division rarely lead to unrest, let alone regime change? Let us consider this seeming paradox in light of another fact, namely, that a substantial portion of the electorate doesn't vote at all. This fact frequently is noted, usually as a sign of a decline in civic virtue. But let's consider it another way."

"First, let's think of it mechanically. The United States is one of the few countries that has not made Election Day a national holiday or held its presidential elections on a weekend. That means that there is work and school on Election Day in the United States. In the face of the tasks of getting the kids off to school, getting to work, picking up the kids on the way home -- all while fighting traffic -- and then getting dinner on the table, the urgency of exercising the franchise pales. It should therefore be no surprise that older people are more likely to vote.

"Low voter turnout could also indicate alienation from the system. But alienation sufficient to explain low voter turnout should have generated more unrest over two centuries. When genuine alienation was present, as in 1860, voter turnout rose and violence followed. Other than that, unrest hasn't followed presidential elections. To me, that so many people don't vote does not indicate widespread alienation as much as indifference: The outcome of the election is simply less important to many than picking up the kids from piano lessons.

"It is equally plausible that low voter turnout indicates voter satisfaction with both candidates. Some have noted that Barack Obama and Mitt Romney sound less different than they portray themselves as being. Some voters might figure there is not much difference between the two and that they can therefore live with either in office."

"Another explanation is that some voters feel indifferent to the president and politics in general. They don't abstain because they are alienated from the system but because they understand the system as being designed such that outcomes don't matter. The Founding Fathers' constitutional system leaves the president remarkably weak. In light of this, while politically attentive people might care who is elected, the politically indifferent might have a much shrewder evaluation of the nature of the presidency. "

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:24

## **A SAD BUT REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE OF THE ELECTION**

"The U.S. presidential election will be held a week from today, and if the polls are correct, the outcome will be extraordinarily close. Many say that the country has never been as deeply divided. In discussing the debates last week, I noted how this year's campaign is far from the most bitter and vitriolic. It might therefore be useful also to consider that while the electorate at the moment appears evenly and deeply divided, unlike what many say, that does not reveal deep divisions in our society -- unless our society has always been deeply divided.

"The United States has elected presidents with the narrowest of margins and presidents who had far less than a majority. In many countries, this might reveal deep divisions leading to social unrest. It doesn't mean this in the United States because while the division can be measured, it isn't very deep and by most, it will hardly be remembered.

"The polls say the election will be very close. If that is true, someone will be selected late at night after Ohio makes up its mind. The passionate on the losing side will charge fraud and election stealing. The rest of the country will get up the next day and go back to work just as they did four years ago, and the republic will go on."

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/us-presidential-elections-perspective?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:50

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

## **WHAT GOOD ARE THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES?**

"Monday night's presidential foreign policy debate probably won't change the opinion of many voters. Proponents of President Barack Obama are still convinced that Mitt Romney is a fool and a liar. Proponents of former Gov. Romney have the same view of the president.

"Of course, this is normal in any American presidential race. Along with the eternal conviction that the party in power is destroying the country, we have regarded Abraham Lincoln, during the 1860 election, as a simple-minded country bumpkin with a touch of larceny; Franklin Roosevelt as a rich dilettante and socialist; and Dwight Eisenhower as a bumbling fool who is lazy and incapable of understanding the complexity of the world -- this about the man who, during World War II, led the most complex military coalition on the planet to victory.

"We like to think that our politics have never been less civil than they are today. Given that Andrew Jackson's wife was accused of being a prostitute, Grover Cleveland was said to have illegitimate children and Lyndon Johnson faced the chant "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?" I will assert that the Obama-Romney campaign doesn't even register on the vilification scale".

Read more: [The Purpose of Presidential Debates | Stratfor](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:02

Friday, October 12. 2012

## **MEDIA RESEARCH CENTER**

Helpful Resource about the Media and Politics- <http://www.mrc.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:55

## **VP BIDEN'S DISRESPECTFUL, DISMISSIVE, DISRUPTIVE "DEBATE"**

President Obama in his debate with Gov. Romney seemed to be missing in action. Vice President Joe Biden should have been. He was rude, talked non-stop and did nothing to further the discussion in a serious way. He was like a Cheshire cat with his inappropriate smile, and it was like a political speech without anybody else in the dialogue. Paul Ryan was knowledgeable and tried to have a serious discussion on very important issues. Biden insisted on talking over him. This wasn't a debate. It ended up being a monologue with Biden dominating the time, and cutting off Ryan every chance he could.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/10/11/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:46

Sunday, September 30, 2012

## **THE HIGHTS OF HUBRIS GOES BEFORE THE FALL**

Genesis 11:2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves ...." 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.

A mile-high skyscraper, almost double the height of today's tallest building, may become a reality by 2025 as developing countries splurge cash in an ego-fueled race to construct the world's highest tower. "If you have enough money, I'm sure the human mind can create a lot higher," said Timothy Johnson, an architect and chairman of the Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, in an interview in Shanghai yesterday. "Who are we to say it's good or bad. People want to push higher and higher. That's just human nature, isn't it?"

Five of the world's tallest 20 buildings in 2020 will be located in three countries in the Middle East: the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, according to the council. "What's happening in the Middle East is a bit of ego," said Johnson. "A lot of this is built with oil money. There isn't necessarily the demand, however the people building these want to push human ingenuity."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-09-19/mile-high-skyscraper-possible-by-2025-as-ego-fuels-race>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:38

Saturday, September 29, 2012

## **WHO SHOULD APPOINT THE NEXT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES?**

In voting for the next President, it is important to ask whom he shall appoint to be future Federal Judges, especially Supreme Court Justices. I have heard or read very few people expressing this concern! Lo and behold, our liberal, local newspaper in its lead editorial today does make this point. But, it did not mention what is most important. How shall those nominated interpret the US Constitution? [From previous editorials, I know their answer] We want nominees who shall interpret the US Constitution according to the original understanding of the words and concepts held, not by the Framers (those 55 men who drafted the Document) but by those who ratified the Constitution of 1787 in 1788.

Such Justices shall not interpret the Constitution by the Declaration of Independence of 1776, the Preamble, the Bill of Rights or the Gettysburg Address. And they shall interpret the mid 19th and 20th Century Amendments by the 1787 Document and not vice versa.

Why is this important? Because, according to the Constitution, it is the supreme the Law of the Land.

Article VI This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; ..., shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution;

We do not want Justices and Judges who believe the Constitution is a "Living Document" which must be interpreted through (their) Judicial Review and applied according to the values and needs of a growing, changing Country as determined by themselves.

Which Presidential Candidate shall nominate Justices who shall follow Original Understanding?

Which Candidate shall nominate Justices who follow the Living Document Theory?

Readers shall note the similarities here with the way contemporary Christians approach the Bible

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:11

Friday, September 28, 2012

**POLL: EVANGELICALS VOTE REPUBLICAN**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/september-web-only/will-evangelicals-vote-for-mormon.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:40

**OPPRESSION IN NORTH KOREA**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/september/a-jerusalem-lost.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/september-web-only/flight-from-north-korea.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:17

Friday, September 14, 2012

### **ANARCHY FOLLOWS TOPPLED TYRANTS**

Here are several conservative commentaries to the 9-11-12 attacks on American territories and employees and their analysis of the so-called Arab Spring and US/Obama responses to all this as of today.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/blogs/print/316730>

The Question is: Are these responses and what they propose Christian or Biblical?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:30

Thursday, September 13, 2012

### **ANOTHER RESOURCE FOR TRACKING MEDIA BIAS**

A new site, 4thEstate.net, is tracking media coverage of the 2012 election in hopes of making journalists more aware of the gaps in their reporting. The site collects data from a variety of news stories, analyzes it and breaks it down by topic, newsmaker and sentiment.

"We're really trying to have an impact on the quality of the reporting during the election in a nonpartisan way, and make people think more carefully about the ingredients that are going into their stories," said Bryan Rich, a former TV and radio producer who helps run the site. "We also want to spark conversations in the newsroom."

Rich founded Global News Intelligence, a company that analyzes data for corporations, governments and military clients. This is the first time the company has opened its database to the public on a major policy issue, Rich said. 4thEstate.net has published data that contrasts coverage of President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, how partisan newsmakers are gaining influence, and the most common words that the Obama and Romney campaigns have used when talking about the economy. Rich said the site's posts on the role of gender in election coverage have been especially popular.

This analysis is taken from this website-

<http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/mediawire/177377/4thestate-net-analyzes-election-stories-to-improve-quality-of-journalism/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:42

### **RUN, HIDE, FIGHT**

This article gives very practical advice of what to do if you ever find yourself in a terrorist attack or being threatened by a crazed gunman

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/when-things-go-bad?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:20

Friday, September 7, 2012

## **RECOMMENDED RESOURCE**

"City Journal offers a stimulating mix of hard-headed practicality and cutting-edge theory, with articles on everything from school financing, policing strategy, and welfare policy to urban architecture, family policy, and the latest theorizing emanating from the law schools, the charitable foundations, even the schools of public health. Since urban policy encompasses almost all domestic policy questions, as well as the largest issues of our culture and society, the magazine views its canvas as very broad indeed. The magazine holds itself to the highest intellectual, journalistic, and literary standards, aiming to produce intelligent and absorbing reading for intelligent and discerning readers".  
<http://www.city-journal.org/index.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:50

## **ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE POLITICAL SOLUTIONS**

"Economists may have been latecomers to the halls of political power, but in recent decades they have become indispensable advisers to prime ministers and presidents. Despite the influence economists now wield over public policy, writes H. Woody Brock in "American Gridlock," many of the most pressing problems remain political in nature — and will require political solutions.

"During the past few decades, we have witnessed the advent of an "economics imperialism," in which economists have confidently utilized their analytical prowess to become spokesmen on all sorts of public policy issues — from date rape, to demography, to financial system reform, and to the pursuit of happiness, not to mention the future of the world economy.

"Yet there is a paradox here. Despite the appeal of their models, economists have less and less to say about the most important issues of our time. For these issues are primarily political in nature — indeed political and philosophical — rather than economic."

<http://www.theglobalist.com/storyid.aspx?StoryId=9727>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:47

## **ANOTHER REASON TO VOTE AGAINST THE PRESIDENT**

"There are some very serious issues at stake in this year's election -- so many that some people may not be able to see the forest for the trees. Individual issues are the trees, but the forest is the future of America as we have known it. The America that has flourished for more than two centuries is being quietly but steadily dismantled by the Obama administration, during the process of dealing with particular issues.

"For example, the merits or demerits of President Obama's recent executive order, suspending legal liability for young people who are here illegally, presumably as a result of being brought here as children by their parents, can be debated pro and con. But such a debate overlooks the much more fundamental undermining of the whole American system of Constitutional government." There follows a discussion by Mr Sowell of Mr Obama's use of Executive orders to circumvent Laws. A point missed in most discussions these days is that whoever wins the Presidential Election has the power to appoint Federal Judges and Supreme court Justices and in our Nation today, these people have great power and determine "Rights" and to work with the President in support of his Liberal Agenda. That alone is sufficient reason to defeat Mr Obama

[http://townhall.com/columnists/thomassowell/2012/08/21/issues\\_or\\_america/page/full/](http://townhall.com/columnists/thomassowell/2012/08/21/issues_or_america/page/full/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:39

## **AGREEING WITH MR OBAMA**

Here is a quote from Mr Obama's Acceptance speech at the DNC-

"Ours is a fight to restore the values that built the largest middle class and the strongest economy the world has ever known; the values my grandfather defended as a soldier in Patton's Army; the values that drove my grandmother to work on a bomber assembly line while he was gone."

"They knew they were part of something larger – a nation that triumphed over fascism and depression; a nation where the most innovative businesses turned out the world's best products, and everyone shared in the pride and success – from the corner office to the factory floor. My grandparents were given the chance to go to college, buy their first home, and fulfill the basic bargain at the heart of America's story: the promise that hard work will pay off; that responsibility will be rewarded; that everyone gets a fair shot, and everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules – from Main Street to Wall Street to Washington, DC"

The Devil, as it is said, is in the details or, more accurately, in the definitions. [One of the details often overlooked, at least where I live, where many people support Mr Obama because he is "Black", is that Mr Obama's mother and his grandparents mentioned in this story were White. He is not the first African-American President. Mr Obama is as much White as he is Black! This should be totally irrelevant but it is not for many when it comes to voter support in the voting booth. For the record, I am of the same "Race" as Mr Obama's mother and her parents.]

Ironically, what Mr Obama said before he made the above remarks is Black and White-

"But when all is said and done – when you pick up that ballot to vote – you will face the clearest choice of any time in a generation. Over the next few years, big decisions will be made in Washington, on jobs and the economy; taxes and deficits; energy and education; war and peace – decisions that will have a huge impact on our lives and our children's lives for decades to come."

And then comes the bread and butter line-

"On every issue, the choice you face won't be just between two candidates or two parties. It will be a choice between two different paths for America. A choice between two fundamentally different visions for the future." [emphasis added] Absolutely true! Most of us, regardless of political Party probably share the same Overall Vision for America in general terms. We all want a Prosperous, Secure and Peace-abiding Nation with Liberty and Justice for All. Who could be against such a Hope for America?

I strongly resent and object to the implication that I as a Republican do not share this General Vision for our Nation. The difference which is fundamental is how these Values are defined and especially how they are to be achieved. On this there is a real difference- a real choice for the Voters.

For me, and I earnestly pray that you would agree, the Vision for America is that it will get back to being based on the Constitution (which in turn is based on the Bible and Natural Law which in turn is based on God), interpreted and applied to our Nation according to the original understanding of it held by those who ratified it in 1789. That is the "restoration needed- not a repeat of FDR's New Deal. That means that our Nation in the future shall be a Republic, not a Democracy (controlled by protesting mobs and ruled by Referenda and Special Interest Groups and "People's Movements"), operating under the authority of a limited Federal Government of 3 Branches, respecting the enumerated powers and the system of checks and balances dictated by that Constitution. It shall not be a Nation controlled by Justices and Judges validating the latest Goals of Liberal or so-called Progressives activists in pursuit of an egalitarian, socialist Society. It shall be a Nation that offers and secures equality of Opportunity for all but guarantees Success for none. It shall be a Nation in which all are free to exercise the right to have and control private property, safe from redistributionist schemes of the Government. All shall have the Right to pursue Happiness (Health and Prosperity) within the Law, but to achieve that goal for its Citizens is not the responsibility of the Government.

This is my Vision for America. If Mr Obama has a fundamentally different one (and he does) than voters, including Evangelical Christians, are in fact faced by a clear choice.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:43

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

## **FAULT LINES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY**

"In geology, a fault is a planar fracture or discontinuity in a volume of rock, across which there has been significant displacement along the fractures as a result of earth movement. Large faults within the Earth's crust result from the action of plate tectonic forces. Energy release associated with rapid movement on active faults is the cause of most earthquakes, such as occurs on the San Andreas Fault, California." - Wikipedia

This Summer (2012) I have been reading and re-reading books and relevant chapters in books about the Founding Fathers and Documents and particularly about the US Constitution and its Ratification and Interpretation throughout American History- all fascinating, illuminating- and very discouraging stuff. Over and over, though Presidents and the Country changed through the years, certain Themes that divide our Country came to the fore repeatedly. This paper is not about US History but those Themes. I see them as Fault Lines, which keep us divided and threaten our security, our future existence as a Nation no matter what the Issue of the Day may be.

I recognize, as you undoubtedly do, that Americans Evangelicals are also divided into camps : On political subjects, Evangelical interest ranges from head-in-the-sand Pietists ("What counts is Jesus and my personal, spiritual relationship with Him") - not interested in "politics"- or in History to Neo Calvinists who believe that Biblical Principles are to be preeminent and sovereign over all aspects of life, including Government and Political Policies (some of these folks are Theonomists or Post Millennialists) to Social and Economic Conservative activists (think Tea Party members or Libertarians) who are keenly interested in working to assure America shall be the Christian Nation they believe it was at its Founding to various self-styled Progressive Christian activists who have a lot in common with proponents of the Liberal Protestant Social Gospel and Left wing Politics. Many non-Evangelical Americans are social or economic conservatives or Libertarians or they are "Undecided" or Liberal on the Issues.

Here are Major Fault Lines that come up repeatedly in American History-

The Authority of the Constitution: Living or Static?

The majority of Americans of all types respect the Constitution as The Law of the Land and believe that our Nation exists under that Law- no one is above it.

A few see the Constitution as hopelessly out-dated and a strait jacket on our Nation, preventing a solution to our national problems and want to replace it. But for the majority adhering to the Constitution, there are two basic ways of interpreting it: "Original Understanding" vs "Living Document". The advocates of the Constitution as a living document see it as one that must and can be changed to apply to the ever expanding needs of the Nation. Advocates of the latter view usually read the Constitution in light of the their Liberal or Progressive interpretation of the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Gettysburg Address. (Together, all four Documents form "The American Scripture" for many Americans).

Those who advocate Original Understanding advocate interpreting the Constitution of 1787 as it was understood by those who ratified it (in 1788) and interpret the various amendments added since then, as well as the other "Scripture", accordingly. That these two views exist is exceedingly important to understand. It is The Major Fault Line dividing our political policies and politics today.

The differences between those who see the Constitution as a Living Document and those who hold to the Original Understanding when applying it today can not be settled by reason and logic or history. This is because the differences are based in each interpreter's respective Ideology (which is an unproved or unprovable assumption or controlling view about how the world is supposed to work) . Advocates of The Living Document approach, dominant for some 50 years now, see the the Constitution as a means or instrument to achieve a certain kind of Great Society. They abstract principles of democracy, justice, and equality as they define them from the Constitution. This, they claim, was the original "intent" of the Founders.

Those who advocate the traditional and historic approach of Original Understanding totally disagree. They insist the majority of the Founders had no such progressive, expansive social design in mind and the Constitution is strictly for governing the Government, not the People, restricting it to extremely limited, enumerated (not implied) powers with built-in checks and balances to curb any tendency toward the Government becoming despotic or totalitarian  
Judicial Review: activist Judges vs active Judges.

The advocates of a Living Constitution dislike Judges, especially Supreme Court Justices, who actively insist on making their judgements based on "Original Understanding". The Supreme Court must rule, such Justices insist, on whether or not a particular law under their review is constitutional, ie according to the principle of Original Understanding. They do not make new laws, let alone make public or political policy. That would be the among the duties of the Congress. To the contrary, Activist Supreme Court Justices, who reject the Original Understanding interpretation, feel themselves free to be creative and progressive, making new laws and determining legal policies as they will and as they deem best for the Nation (in keeping with what they believe is the "spirit" of the Living Constitution and what they believe are Principles

of Equality, Democracy, Human Rights and Justice). Notice the difference between "active" (conservative) and "activist" Justices (liberal).

America: Democracy or Republic?

The United States is just that- a union of States who retain certain powers within their individual geographic and political boundaries, but recognize a sovereign or central authority with specific (Constitutionally enumerated powers) but limited authority over them all. This means America has a Federal System of Government. It is not and never was a Democracy in which the Government is directly of the People, by the People and for the People. The People participate in our Federal Government by electing some of their number to represent them in the Executive and Congressional Branches (the Senate and "House of Representatives") of that Federal Government (theoretically-they represent their collective will). The third or Judicial Branch of the Federal Government is not elected by the People and does not represent them, even though they increasingly act as though they do (and the Executive, likewise, increasingly makes Laws by his "Orders" without Congressional or the People's approval). The Justices are appointed by the President with the approval of the Senate (not the Representatives or the People). In other words our National Government is not a direct Democracy.

The actual Rights and Responsibilities of individual States has been an ongoing bone of contention throughout American History, most famously in the secession of some to become the Confederacy of Southern (slave-holding) States. There has always been tension between advocates of States Rights and the Federal Government. Conservatives tend to support the former, while Liberals have been more in favor of the Federal ("Big") Government over States.

Through the years, the very concept of "the People" has changed. In spite of being a collective noun that sounds all-inclusive, it originally meant only elite land-owning Gentry. That Elite group of The People expanded to include wealthy and powerful Bankers and Big Business men (think Rail Roads). For many years, "We the People" included only Men and not Women or Blacks. At times it included only people who met certain economic and social criteria (not, for example, the Irish or Italians immigrants or the Illiterate). Many people have not qualified to be among "We, The People". Those qualifications being decided by the Government- often with political purposes in mind. And more often than not, the power behind The People has actually been Special Interest groups. Today, the slogan of "We The People" often means no more than a number of separate Movements of self interested individuals and parties seeking Rights they insist are due them from everybody else.

World View: Socialism or Capitalism

Another Major Fault exists between those who have a Socialist World View and a Free Market Capitalist world view (allowing that there are problems with both and in practice we have a mixed economy). A good illustration is the subject of Climate Change. First it exists. But one group has the faith that Government can and must solve the problem, primarily by its Regulation and Control of Business (ie- a form of Socialism). The other group rejects that role for Government and insists that the primary solution to the problem is individual behavior and private business --and Nature running its course. The same differences are seen in the issues of Poverty, Public Education and Health Care. In these Issues (and in many others) those with faith in a Socialist view advocate various degrees of the involuntary redistribution of private and corporate Property and Regulation by Government to "solve" the problems. Whereas those who have faith in a Market Economy value Personal and Corporate Responsibility as well as Private Property and believe solutions to these problems come through private or local initiatives and entrepreneurship. The latter approach has been an extremely important American Value since the Founding and was dominant until Hoover, FDR and the New Deal of the 1930s.

Behind both Socialist ( Communism and Fascism are variants of Socialism) and Capitalist World Views are different and internally contradictory views of Human Nature. Socialists tend to believe in the basic goodness and potential for improvement of Human Nature and are optimistic for Progress as long as Government or the Elite behind Government are in control of the Masses (for their own good). This is evident not only in Economic theories and but in theories and practices of "Public" Education (read indoctrination). Classic Capitalists (the original Liberals) have a far more pessimistic view of Human Nature and the prospects for Progress. This is evident in their fear of "Big" Government. Their concern is not about size. "Big" means the extensive or increasing control by Government over the Nation, particularly in assuming non-enumerated powers.

Article I, section 8 of the US Constitution spells out those powers. Congress may exercise the powers that the Constitution grants it such as Taxation and Military Defense, but always subject to explicit restrictions in the Bill of Rights and other protections in the Constitution. The 10th Amendment states that "The powers not delegated to the United States [Congress] by the Constitution ... are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

The problem here is that these "powers" are defined differently depending on which method is used to interpret the Constitution (see the above discussion) Advocates of the Socialist view use the Living Constitution approach while the Free market Capitalists go with the Original Understanding interpretation. There's the rub!

Human Rights: Foundationalist or Post Modern

During the 18th Century much was made of Natural Rights. The majority of the Colonists believed in God-given inalienable Rights (Rights that could not be given away) Although that historic Principle was used occasionally after the Revolution and over the years in US History it no longer carries weight. The dominant view for at least the last Century is that Government determines Human (no longer Natural or God-given) Rights and in recent decades, a Person's

Rights are what the Supreme Court says they are. The belief that anything is absolute is gone (except, ironically, that common belief itself which is an "absolute"). Pragmatism (whatever works) has been the norm for years. The very idea that Human Rights or Laws depend on any external authority (God, the Bible, Nature, the Original Constitution or Tradition) for their validity is totally rejected today in Academic and Legal circles. The concept is called "Foundationalism" and the foundations of our Society as we have known them for centuries (including Christianity) have crumbled. This negative critique of our Nation's Foundations has been going on for generations, especially in our schools depending, of course, on the curricula and the Teachers - first on the graduate level but now down into the lower grades in many Courses, especially in the Humanities (Social Sciences, Literature, the Arts and in the special "Studies" Programs. (Many Academics don't do Truth today, they do "Theories".) The primary Academic Source of all this is a Movement known as Post Modernism. That name is no longer in vogue, but its influence remains and prevails in the minds of educated youth and in popular Culture everywhere.

Conclusion:

Perhaps a Crisis, another World War or Natural Disaster of catastrophic proportion might bring us together as a Nation, one People, united for a time for survival. Other than that I do not see these Fault Lines disappearing, only deepening. We ignore them at our peril. I do see the urgent need for Evangelicals, especially parents and Teachers, to get involved with the Debates about all these matters and to seek what the Bible teaches about them and work to see His Word prevail- at least in the minds of our youth.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:28

Thursday, August 9, 2012

**19 CHRISTIANS KILLED DURING BIBLE STUDY**

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/19-killed-at-central-Nigeria-church-Bible-study-3767445.php>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:08

Thursday, August 2, 2012

## **THE BIG BEEF IS NOT ABOUT CHICKEN**

The main issue to keep in mind in the current controversy about the statement of Chick-fil-A's Founder that he personally believes in the traditional, Biblical definition of Marriage [a view held by millions of Americans] is just that- the man's personal beliefs and the right he has, like the rest of us, to express them. That is what is so scary and disturbing about this. The issue is not about the restaurant he founded. It does not discriminate against anyone who want to eat there.

What we should focus on here is Mr Cathy's personal Right of Free Speech, not Gay Rights. They are two different subjects. The only person who is being condemned here is Mr Cathy and it is his right to his own beliefs that is being attacked. he has not done anything wrong. In fact, Mr Cathy is known for a lifetime of doing much that is good! [See the post below this one]

If anything, the behavior and speech that should be severely criticized is that of those who are so unfairly abusing Mr Cathy and trying to punish him for simply holding a personal point of view with which they disagree by punishing his entire company and its employees who are guilty of absolutely nothing illegal or unethical. Now that is what should trouble us most about this entire Chick-fil-A Incident.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:39

## **HONORING CHICK-FIL-A'S TRUETT CATHY**

Chick-fil-A's Truett Cathy honored for charity, by Sherri Brown, November 20, 2008  
NAPLES, Fla. (BP) — Truett Cathy, founder of the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain, was named the 2008 winner of the William E. Simon Prize for Philanthropic Leadership on Nov. 7. The annual award “honors living philanthropists who have shown exemplary leadership through their charitable giving, highlights the power of philanthropy to achieve positive change, and seeks to inspire others to support charities that achieve genuine results,” according to Philanthropy Roundtable, a national charitable giving association. The award includes \$250,000, to be donated to the charities of the recipient's choice. Cathy, 87 and a life-long Southern Baptist, has led his company to donate more than \$100 million since 1967, when the first Chick-fil-A opened in Atlanta, emphasizing educational scholarships and foster care. “Giving is one of the privileges we have,” Cathy said. “The more I give, the more I have. Very few people recognize the pleasure of giving – especially when you don't expect anything in return.” Cathy has based his business on Christian principles from his first days of running a 24-hour a day restaurant in south Atlanta 61 years ago. He and his brother owned that restaurant and decided from the beginning to close on Sundays. His 1,400 Chick-fil-A restaurants, including the mall sites, all close on Sundays, even though fast-food restaurants traditionally do 20 percent of their business on that day.

“Everybody needs a day of rest and a day to worship if they choose,” Cathy said. “That's the best business decision I ever made. We do more business in six days than our competition does in seven days.”

Living your convictions has been Cathy's theme in his career. Success is simple: good customer service and quality food. Since teenagers comprise a major part of his workforce, Cathy believes part of his mission is to train them to be good employees.

“For a lot of our employees, we give them their first job. We want to help them establish good work habits and good attitudes,” Cathy said.

He teaches kindness and courtesy to his workers. When a customer says “Thank you,” he asks his employees to respond, “My pleasure.” He also requires employees to do all kinds of jobs – including the less desirable ones.

“Clean restrooms are important in the restaurant business. If people see a dirty restroom, they'll think other parts of the building might be dirty. No one is above cleaning a restroom,” said Cathy, who also has invested himself in training children.

Last year he retired from 51 years of teaching Sunday school to 13-year-old boys at his church, First Baptist Church in Jonesboro. The award Cathy received gives him another opportunity to support some of his favorite charities. While Cathy is known for awarding \$1,000 scholarships to Chick-fil-A employees – \$24 million so far – he also established WinShape Foundation, which seeks to foster winning leadership qualities in young people. He also has built 12 WinShape foster homes that provide quality care for children. Chick-fil-A has donated \$100 million to foster care, marriage enrichment, and camp retreats. Cathy will donate his winnings to two Union City organizations: Christian City, a foster care facility, and Southwest Christian Care, an organization that provides respite care.

<http://www.christianindex.org/4979.article>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:59

## **CONNECTED, BUT LONELY**

Sherry Turkle, a professor at M.I.T., has spent the last decade and a half studying how our “always on” lives have changed who we are. Her conclusion?

“We are tempted to think that our little ‘sips’ of online connection add up to a big gulp of real conversation,” she writes. “But they don’t. E-mail, Twitter, Facebook, all of these have their places...But no matter how valuable, they do not substitute for conversation. Connecting in sips doesn’t work as well when it comes to understanding and knowing one another.”

The end result? Loneliness. As Stephen Marche writes, “We have never been more detached from one another, or lonelier. In a world consumed by ever more novel modes of socializing, we have less and less actual society. We live in an accelerating contradiction: the more connected we become, the lonelier we are.”

Check out the very interesting links attached to this Blog

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=3117>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:48

Monday, July 30, 2012

### **MORE ACADEMIC ANTI-CHRISTIAN DISCRIMINATION**

Dr Ben Carson is Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Co-Director of the Craniofacial Center Professor of Neurological Surgery, Oncology, Plastic Surgery and Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Time magazine called him one of the Nation's 29 foremost physicians and scientists. He was invited to be the Commencement Speaker this past Spring at Emory University. Led by four Biology Professors, 160 Faculty and Students protested. Why? Because Carson is an evangelical Christian who also dismisses Evolution. Hence the academic protestors said Dr Carson, he does not understand Science and Critical Thinking!

Source: World Magazine, June 2, 2012 Issue

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:28

Sunday, July 29. 2012

### **TAR AND FEATHERING CHICK FIL A**

This story screams for attention and it is getting it from Left and Right. The Chick is being BBQed  
[http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/07/the\\_left\\_tars\\_and\\_feathers\\_chick-fil-a.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/07/the_left_tars_and_feathers_chick-fil-a.html)

<http://www.anglicansunited.com/?p=13695>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:38

Tuesday, July 24. 2012

### **SELECTIVE SYMPATHIES- UNEQUAL OUTRAGES**

With all due respect for the suffering in Colorado caused by the recent massacre there and fully acknowledging the horrific nature of the perpetrator's evil actions, it does strike me as very strange that Americans do not express anywhere near the same reactions to the far greater extent of the on-going massacres and perpetrators of them in Syria. Why is that? Isn't evil evil wherever it happens? Can we close our hearts (and minds) to something over seas, far away and care only for our own here at home? Does God?

For a good summary overview of what is happening in the Middle East consider. Much to pray about here.  
<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/consequences-fall-syrian-regime?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:52

Monday, July 23, 2012

**JUDGING THE "JOKER"**

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=3068>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 07:37

Tuesday, July 17. 2012

### **REALITY CHECK ABOUT GOV'T**

Enough already with the demand for small government. Our City and State is owned by the Government. It is as God to us- we are utterly dependent on its largess and could not survive without it.  
[http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/cities\\_and\\_towns\\_in\\_massachuse.html](http://www.masslive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/cities_and_towns_in_massachuse.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:12

### **MISGUIDED OUTRAGE ABOUT OUTSOURCING**

Inconvenient truths about outsourcing  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-11/outsourcing-the-campaign->

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:05

### **NEXUS 7 DOUSES KINDLE FIRE**

I know many people love technology and are willing to spend a lot of money to have the latest gadgets. When does this become an addiction? When do things take over our lives and become idols? When does constantly spending money on the latest thing become poor stewardship of the Lord's money (that is what is in our pockets)?  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-11/google-s-nexus-7-tablet-crushes-kindle-rich-jaroslovsky.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:57

Thursday, July 5, 2012

### **MONSTER MOVIE?**

Amazon.com is a wandering black hole swallowing up businesses like Best Buy- scary story  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:36

Wednesday, July 4, 2012

### **PROS AND CONS OF ROBERTS' RULING**

Why conservatives should be pleased with SCCJ Roberts' decision  
<http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/story/2012-07-02/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:50

### **WHAT DO AMERICANS BELIEVE IS THE ROLE OF THE STATE?**

"Nearly six-in-ten (58%) Americans believe it is most important for people be free to pursue their life's goals without interference from the state. Just 35% say it is more important for the state to play an active role in society to ensure that nobody is in need." Which is the Biblical view?

<http://pewresearch.org/databank/dailynumber/?NumberID=1468>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:37

### **IS AMERICA IN DECLINE?**

Where does God fit in to all of this?

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-americas-decline/2012/05/03>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:33

Monday, June 18. 2012

## **WHY THE EUROPEAN CRISIS MUST MATTER TO CHRISTIANS**

Read the first article and follow the two links to other articles that give a good, understandable analysis of what is happening in Europe and why we as Americans must care. You can also find reasons to be thankful for our Constitution and American Federalism. That in turn, if you follow what I have written on my website, gives reasons to be thankful for the Biblical Heritage upon which the United States is founded. We ignore it to our peril.

<http://campaign2012.newamerica.net/content/0143-why-obama-and-romney-dont-want-talk-about-europe>

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/06/12/12\\_signs\\_of\\_the\\_europocalypse?page=0,4](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/06/12/12_signs_of_the_europocalypse?page=0,4)

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/06/10/niall-ferguson-on-how-europe-could-cost-obama-the-election.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:29

## **CALVINBALL**

Here is an explanation of the political game being played in Cairo

[http://lynch.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/06/18/calvinball\\_in\\_cairo](http://lynch.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/06/18/calvinball_in_cairo)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:02

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

### **AMERICA'S MILITARY ACTIONS AND HUMANITARIANISM**

"The invasion of Iraq proved that the actions of a democracy are not necessarily benign and can even be disastrous in terms of their effects on human lives. But all the available alternatives to American leadership -- which includes a large military footprint around the globe -- would be worse."

"America may not be pure. But if you want purity, you'll get anarchy. For a world without America as a great military and diplomatic power would be one far more violent than the present one. World peace is preserved daily out of sight and over the horizon, with American warships patrolling the high seas."

<http://www.stratfor.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:25

### **SIGNS OF DANGER IN EUROPE**

This article is a good explanation of what is happening in the European Union and the issues involved. Why should Christians be concerned? Because the Bible clearly and repeatedly warns of the evils of Totalitarianism. What could develop in Western Europe in the near future is a European Union in which all the sovereign Nations (and their citizens) could well surrender their political control to that of a economic Elite' under the control of one Nation, Germany. Furthermore, the Bible makes it very clear that someday there shall be a one world government and its titular head shall be the Anti-Christ. This idea is ridiculed by many Christians today as Fundamentalist nonsense. Well, keep reading your papers about the European Union with the possibility that the Bible is correct in mind. What is happening there before our eyes could well be prophecy fulfilled.

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/spain-debt-and-sovereignty>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:28

Saturday, June 2, 2012

## **IS U.S. RIGHT IN SUPPORTING ISRAEL?**

Does the Land of Israel belong to the Jews?

Granted that the borders of the "Land" have often changed, but do the Jews have a valid claim over the Arabs to the core area of Israel? Did God give it in perpetuity to the Jews. Is it inalienably their "Land"? Here is some History- God gifted it to Abraham and his descendents, through the line of Isaac and Jacob- Genesis 12:6-7, 13:14-17, 26:1-5, 28:13, et al [Note a People called Canaanites already occupied the Land]

Does this, should this, make a difference to American Foreign Policy?

Joshua (after the Exodus) led the 12 Tribes of Israel from Egypt into the occupied Land around 1250 BC and it remained in Jewish control until 588 BC and then it was conquered in succession by the Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman and (Orthodox Christian) Byzantine Empires until 636 AD.

Muslim Arabs were in control from 636 until 1099. Muslims and Christians fought over the Land for 200 years (the "Crusades"). During this period, the Jewish population was decimated by the invaders or emigrated, mostly into other Mediterranean Countries and Europe.

The Muslim Mamluk peoples of south central Europe (Turkish Eurasian People groups) controlled it from 1291 to 1516 and then the Muslim Ottoman Empire was in control until WWI. The British Empire were officially in control from 1917 until 1948. British Foreign Minister Balfour pledged support in 1917 for establishment of a "Jewish national home in Palestine" but also gave civil and religious rights to non-Jews living there. Jewish immigrants began repopulating the Land. This would increase greatly as Jews became victims of virulent antisemitism and the Holocaust in Germany and Eastern Europe. In the Land, Terrorist acts began between both Jews and Muslim Arab groups in the late 20s into the 40s. The State of Israel was officially proclaimed in 1948. It was immediately invaded by 5 Arab States but successfully repelled them and signed Armistice Agreements with them all.

At the end of six days of fighting in 1967, previous cease-fire lines were replaced by new ones, with Judea, Samaria, Gaza, the Sinai peninsula and the Golan Heights under Israel's control. As a result, the northern villages were freed from 19 years of recurrent Syrian shelling; the passage of Israeli and Israel-bound shipping through the Straits of Tiran was ensured; and Jerusalem, which had been divided under Israeli and Jordanian rule since 1949, was reunified under Israel's authority.

There has been constant strife and conflict between Arabs and Israel ever ever since. Many Christian groups seem to be strongly biased towards the Arabs. Many of the latter (including the Nation of Iran) are sworn enemies of Israel and are officially committed to eradicating Jews from the Land and antisemitism is strong in the Region.

The Question remains: Does the Land known as Israel belong to the Descendents of Abraham (through the line of Isaac, not Ishmael)? If it does, according to the Bible, should Christians support an American Foreign Policy that favors Israel?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:38

Monday, May 28, 2012

## **"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY"**

Today we officially remember those who have died in military action in the service of our Country. Many of them did that needlessly as it turned out because the battle was not really necessary or could have been avoided or happened because of incompetent Officers, bad judgment, poor communication or even lack of essential supplies. Many died because of the self-serving policies of our Government Leaders at the time. Nevertheless, the soldiers took an oath and voluntarily went into harms way and were killed out of duty, loyalty and, in their mind, "for God and Country", right or wrong.

We do not have to agree about the battles fought, we can agree that those who died in them were brave and honorable soldiers. They each did something for America that none of us reading this have done. All told, the freedoms we enjoy today would not have been secured or preserved without them. We are indebted to those who lost limbs and lives for us and we must never forget them. And we must work harder to prevent others from being called to do as they did.

Visit the Veterans Cemeteries near you and at least once in your life visit Arlington National Cemetery and the National War memorials in Washington DC

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:10

Saturday, May 26, 2012

## **REMEMBERING AND HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED AND DIED FOR US**

"Our veterans shouldn't be identified through pop culture as anything but who they truly are—[many of] America's best and brightest. Our society shouldn't allow anyone to depict our veterans [-especially those who have given their bodies, their very lives] as anything but our nation's heroes. Armed Forces Day came and went and Memorial Day is quickly approaching.

Every day needs to be Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. We are fighting the longest war in American history but observing everything taking place today, inside the United States, you wouldn't know it. As Memorial Day approaches, let's not forget our veterans. When May 28th ends, let's continue to remember them throughout the year. Without our veterans we, as a nation, have nothing."

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/05/24/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:45

## **TRYING TO BULLY CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS**

"[C]riticizing the Supreme Court is a consistent refrain from Obama, who began his presidency by scolding the justices. Publicly chastising the court — and now taunting [CJ] Roberts specifically — seems to have two purposes. One is to get under Roberts's skin in the hopes that he'll rule the "correct," if not necessarily "legally correct," way. Two is to lay the groundwork for declaring the court illegitimate if all or part of Obamacare is overturned. Either way, it's politics at its filthiest and is beneath the dignity of the court — and of the White House."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/democrats-put-john-roberts-on-trial/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:41

## **MR OBAMA'S PUBLIC EQUITY SCANDAL**

Despite a growing backlash from his fellow Democrats, President Obama has doubled down on his attacks on Mitt Romney's tenure at Bain Capital. But the strategy could backfire in ways Obama did not anticipate. After all, if Romney's record in private equity is fair game, then so is Obama's record in public equity — and that record is not pretty. Since taking office, Obama has invested billions of taxpayer dollars in private businesses, including as part of his stimulus spending bill. Many of those investments have turned out to be unmitigated disasters — leaving in their wake bankruptcies, layoffs, criminal investigations and taxpayers on the hook for billions. Consider just a few examples of Obama's public equity failures:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/forget-bain-obamas-public-equity-record-is-the-real-scandal/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:38

Friday, May 25. 2012

### **MEDIA BIAS AGAINST RELIGION?**

Evidence of big media's bias against religion that doesn't advance the secular and liberal agenda of the Democratic Party is beyond dispute. Any faith attached to a conservative agenda is to be ridiculed, stereotyped and misrepresented. Islam is a notable exception. The media appear to bend over backward not to offend Muslims.  
<http://jewishworldreview.com/cols/thomas052412.php3>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:25

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

## **STUDENT LOANS 101- IT IS NOT WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD**

"Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree: It would be a mistake to let interest rates on student loans double in July. Especially if they're going to be blamed for it in an election year." Student loans have become a political football in recent weeks, with Democrats and Republicans maneuvering to point fingers in case Congress fails to pass legislation to prevent rates from rising this summer. The rhetoric has created confusion - and perhaps unnecessary alarm - about what's really at stake." Read more here:

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/05/02/3588713/student-loans-101-the-interest.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:40

## **REASONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT: OVERVIEW**

This article seems to give a fair overview of the problems of "Jobs" in America today- "Friday's jobs report was a disappointment even though it showed unemployment falling to the lowest level since shortly after President Obama took office. The trouble is that job creation is abnormally sluggish and nowhere near enough to keep bringing down the unemployment rate." This is hardly news, of course. For months economists have been talking about a jobless recovery. And they point to certain factors as having contributed to the problem — from the severity of the recent recession to the so-called skills gap, a shortage of workers with the training needed to fill the jobs that are available. These factors do help explain why job losses were so bad in the first place and why the unemployment rate reached 10% in 2009, the highest level since 1983. But they don't explain why job creation continues to be so weak."

<http://business.time.com/2012/05/07/why-arent-there-more-jobs/?iid=biz-main-lede>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:18

Tuesday, May 1. 2012

### **TOP FIVE CLICHES LIBERALS USE**

"One of the great differences between conservatives and liberals is that conservatives will freely admit that they have an ideology. We're kind of dorks that way, squabbling over old texts like Dungeons and Dragons geeks, wearing ties with pictures of Adam Smith and Edmund Burke on them. But mainstream liberals from Franklin Roosevelt to Barack Obama — and the intellectuals and journalists who love them — often assert that they are simply dispassionate slaves to the facts; they are realists, pragmatists, empiricists. Liberals insist that they live right downtown in the "reality-based community," and if only their Republican opponents weren't so blinded by ideology and stupidity, then they could work with them."Republicans are just as guilty as Democrats when it comes to reducing arguments to bumper stickers. (Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin has written that "the president's economic experiment has failed. It is time to get back to what we know works.") But the vast majority of Republicans, Ryan included, will at least acknowledge their ideological first principles — free markets, limited government, property rights. Liberals are terribly reluctant to do likewise. Instead, they often speak in seemingly harmless cliches that they hope will penetrate our mental defenses."Here are some of the most egregious examples: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/top-five-cliches-liberals-use-to-avoid-real-arguments/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:42

### **THE TRAIL TO BIN LADEN'S DEMISE BEGAN BEFORE OBAMA**

Jose A. Rodriguez Jr. is a 31-year veteran of the CIA and the author of "Hard Measures: How Aggressive CIA Actions After 9/11 Saved American Lives." [He posted the following-]As we mark the anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death, President Obama deserves credit for making the right choice on taking out Public Enemy No. 1. But his administration never would have had the opportunity to do the right thing had it not been for some extraordinary work during the George W. Bush administration. Much of that work has been denigrated by Obama as unproductive and contrary to American principles. He is wrong on both counts."With some trying to turn bin Laden's death into a campaign talking point for Obama's reelection, it is useful to remember that the trail to bin Laden started in a CIA black site — all of which Obama ordered closed, forever, on the second full day of his administration — and stemmed from information obtained from hardened terrorists who agreed to tell us some (but not all) of what they knew after undergoing harsh but legal interrogation methods. Obama banned those methods on Jan. 22, 2009." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-path-to-osama-bin-ladens-death-didnt-start-with-obama>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:37

Friday, April 27, 2012

### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL RYAN?**

"Liberal critics of Paul Ryan's economic policies frequently accuse him of being heartless. Now some Catholics are pressing the question of whether the Wisconsin Republican's policies are soulless as well. A small handful of Catholic social justice activists descended on Georgetown University's gothic campus to protest Ryan's speech there this morning, unfurling a 50-foot sign that read, "Were you there when they crucified the poor?" Organized by Catholics United, a left-leaning advocacy group, members argued that Ryan's proposed cuts to Medicaid and other welfare programs for the poor go against the teachings of the Church to uplift the poor and downtrodden." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/the-gospel-according-to-paul-ryan>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:22

Tuesday, April 24. 2012

## **A MORAL CESSPOOL**

Jonathan Smith is chief of special litigation in the civil rights section at the Justice Department, which spent two years looking into conditions at Walnut Grove. "To have a prison that's chaotic, poorly run, dangerous, didn't provide services, highly sexualized and highly violent really limits the ability of the state to turn those folks around, and to ensure public safety upon their release from prison," Smith said. Among the conditions described in the report released last month: Prison staff had sex with incarcerated youth, which investigators called "among the worst that we've seen in any facility anywhere in the nation." Poorly trained guards brutally beat youth and used excessive pepper spray as a first response.\* The prison showed "deliberate indifference" to prisoners possessing homemade knives, which were used in gang fights and inmate rapes. The official report about the Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility is scathing. Federal Judge Carlton Reeves wrote that the youth prison "has allowed a cesspool of unconstitutional and inhuman acts and conditions to germinate, the sum of which places the offenders at substantial ongoing risk." Walnut Grove, located an hour's drive east of Jackson, is a 1,450-bed prison that houses inmates ages 13 to 22 who are minors convicted as adults. It is run by GEO Group of Boca Raton, Fla., the nation's second-largest for-profit prison corporation, which posted a profit of \$284 million last year. The Mississippi Department of Corrections pays GEO to manage the prison. [Update: GEO has just announced will no longer run this prison or two others in Mississippi. They have not yet been replaced.]

<http://www.npr.org/2012/04/24/151276620/firm-leaves-miss-after-its-prison-is-called-cesspool>

I wonder how many more such places exist? Where was the State over-site? How did GEO get away with this? This was going on for years. Where were the Christians?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:39

Sunday, April 22, 2012

## **REAPING THE WHIRLWIND**

There was a story in today's newspaper about Walmart Corporation practicing widespread bribery to expand the number of its stores in Mexico. The Company is Mexico's largest private employer with 209, 000 employees. Allegedly they spent millions, mostly to obtain new building permits. Then there were the stories about incredible personal spending sprees of taxpayers' money by staffers of the Government Services Administration, as well as stories about the sex and partying scandal of Secret Service Agents and military officers in Columbia, SA. Last week we had more stories of some American combat troops acting inhumanely in Afghanistan, as well as the growing revelations about wide spread corruption in the Chinese Government with the Bo Xilai affair, involving patronage, bribes and theft of public funds. The list goes on. We could add to it the atrocities being committed in Middle Eastern and African countries between governments and citizens in widespread revolutionary and counter revolutionary movements. Of course, we should also add the economic suicide of European nations and the coming possible dissolution of the EU which is, at root, about materialism and the fruit of the bad seed, the Welfare State, sown by Socialist Governments such as Spain, Greece and Italy. All of this is the tip of the titanic sized iceberg of moral pluralism that will sink Nations in months or coming years. Millions of professed Christians, including many of those involved in the scandals, corruption, violence and decadence we are reading about, obviously do not practice disciplined, righteous lives. They certainly are not living as Christians or for the glory of God. Among other things, we are reaping the whirlwind caused by a world-wide disavowal of Moral Absolutes and the failure of an anemic, spineless Christianity to teach the necessity for people to live according to the Word of God. It is time for the Church to preach and live the "Old Code". I don't mean the one noble knights once swore to uphold, but the one Moses brought down from Sinai with thunder and lightning. Maybe people will again tremble with the fear of God (Exodus 19:16). That is the most contextually relevant thing it can do.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:27

Saturday, April 21. 2012

### **CHUCK COLSON NOW WITH THE LORD**

Today, Chuck Colson "died", leaving a great Legacy to the Glory of God  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/aprilweb-only/charles-colson-aitken.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:38

Tuesday, April 17. 2012

## **CAPITALISM? WHICH KIND ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?**

"Ultimately, it is an unhelpful oversimplification to divide the world into "market capitalist" and "state capitalist" camps. The reality is that most countries are arranged along a spectrum where both the intent and the extent of state intervention in the economy vary. Only extreme libertarians argue that the state has no role whatsoever to play in the economy. As a devotee of Adam Smith, I accept without qualification his argument in *The Wealth of Nations* that the benefits of free trade and the division of labor will be enjoyed only in countries with rational laws and institutions. I also agree with Silicon Valley visionary Peter Thiel that, under the right circumstances (e.g., in time of war), governments are capable of forcing the direction and pace of technological change: Think the Manhattan Project. But the question today is not whether the state or the market should be in charge. The real question is which countries' laws and institutions are best, not only at achieving rapid economic growth but also, equally importantly, at distributing the fruits of growth in a way that citizens deem to be just. [Yes, this is the question Christians must pursue and answer it Biblically! - C.F.] If we are to understand the changing relationship between the state and the market in the world today, we must eschew crude generalizations about "state capitalism," a term that is really not ... valuable today. No one seriously denies that the state has a role to play in economic life. The question is what that role should be and how it can be performed in ways that simultaneously enhance economic efficiency and minimize the kind of rent-seeking behavior -- "corruption" in all its shapes and forms -- that tends to arise wherever the public and private sectors meet. We are all state capitalists now -- and we have been for over a century, ever since the modern state began its steady growth in the late 19th century, ... But there are myriad forms of state capitalism ... "

<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/09/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:59

Saturday, April 14, 2012

## **UNIVERSITY OPPOSES CHRISTIAN CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS**

... Vanderbilt University became the latest institution to investigate religious student groups for discriminatory leadership policies, ... As of November 1, 4 of the Nashville school's 380 student groups remained on provisional status for being noncompliant with its non-discrimination policy. The student newspaper named the groups as Graduate Christian Fellowship, Christian Legal Society (CLS), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Christian sorority Sigma Phi Lambda—all of which require leaders to affirm Christian doctrines. Update is here- [http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctliveblog/archives/2012/04/student\\_coaliti.html?utm](http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctliveblog/archives/2012/04/student_coaliti.html?utm)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:08

Thursday, March 29, 2012

## **PRAYING FOR AMERICA AND THE CHURCH**

Daniel 9

4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: Ah, Lord—the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps His gracious covenant with those who love Him and keep His commands— 5 we have sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly, rebelled, and turned away from Your commands and ordinances. 6 We have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, leaders, fathers, and all the people of the land. 7 Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but this day public shame belongs to us: the men of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem, and all Israel—those who are near and those who are far, in all the countries where You have dispersed them because of the disloyalty they have shown toward You. 8 LORD, public shame belongs to us, our kings, our leaders, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. 9 Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against Him 10 and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by following His instructions that He set before us through His servants the prophets. 11 All Israel has broken Your law and turned away, refusing to obey You.

I know the United States is not the Israel of the Bible. Nevertheless, our Heritage as a Nation begins as a Covenant People of God in New England (read the Mayflower Compact and the writings of William Bradford and other Puritan Colonists)

The Mayflower Compact 1620 In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, ... Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the Presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by Virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the General good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names ... Fundamental Orders of 1639

For as much as it hath pleased Almighty God by the wise disposition of his divine providence so to order and dispose of things that we the Inhabitants and Residents of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield are now cohabiting and dwelling in and upon the River of Connectecotte and the lands thereunto adjoining; and well knowing where a people are gathered together the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people there should be an orderly and decent Government established according to God, to order and dispose of the affairs of the people at all seasons as occasion shall require; do therefore associate and conjoin ourselves to be as one Public State or Commonwealth; and do for ourselves and our successors and such as shall be adjoined to us at any time hereafter, enter into Combination and Confederation together, to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess, as also, the discipline of the Churches, which according to the truth of the said Gospel is now practiced amongst us; as also in our civil affairs to be guided and governed according to such Laws, Rules, Orders and Decrees as shall be made, ordered, and decreed as followeth: 1. It is Ordered, sentenced, and decreed, that there shall be yearly two General Assemblies or Courts, the one the second Thursday in April, the other the second Thursday in September following; the first shall be called the Court of Election, wherein shall be yearly chosen from time to time, so many Magistrates and other public Officers as shall be found requisite: [they] shall have the power to administer justice according to the Laws here established, and for want thereof, according to the Rule of the Word of God; The Articles of Confederation of the United Colonies of New England; May 19, 1643

The Articles of Confederation between the Plantations under the Government of the Massachusetts, the Plantations under the Government of New Plymouth, the Plantations under the Government of Connecticut, and the Government of New Haven with the Plantations in Combination therewith: Whereas we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end and aim, namely, to advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel in purity with peace; and whereas in our settling (by a wise providence of God) we are further dispersed upon the sea coasts and rivers than was at first intended, ... We therefore do conceive it our bounder duty, without delay to enter into a present Consociation amongst ourselves, for mutual help and strength in all our future concernments: That, as in nation and religion, so in other respects, we be and continue one ... by the name of the United Colonies of New England.

And many more- right up through the 18th C Founding Documents

We as a People have had a contentious relationship with God ever since the Founding (His blessings, our rebellion and repentance, His blessings, etc -- like the Israelites of old.) I have no doubt that this prayer offered to God by Daniel is as appropriate and needed by America today [or at the very least, by all those who still claim to be Christians] as it was for the Exiled Hebrews in their 6th C Babylonian-Persian Captivity.

During last Century, years, average Sunday church attendance in America was said to be 40% but a 1998 survey has attendance at 20.4 percent of the population and declining to 15.6 % by 2020

<http://www.theamericanchurch.org/facts/27.htm>[http://hrr.hartsem.edu/research/fastfacts/fast\\_facts.html#attend](http://hrr.hartsem.edu/research/fastfacts/fast_facts.html#attend)[http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/news\\_and\\_notes\\_vol4no1.html](http://hrr.hartsem.edu/about/news_and_notes_vol4no1.html)Of course, among these Christians, as well as among those who are Believers and have dropped out of Church, are many who sincerely love the Lord and seek to serve Him. However, what Daniel says still applies: we "have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by following His instructions [His Laws] that He set before us through His servants the prophets. 11 All Israel has broken Your law and turned away, refusing to obey You." Many Christians are simply thankful to be "saved" or to have "a personal relationship with Jesus" and live as everyone else does in their social-economic class. They are not Theonomists. Many others, especially younger Christians today, are very committed to "making a difference" in the world, especially taking on issues of social injustice and oppression. That is very commendable. But they, too, rarely are Theonomists. That is the serious problem Daniel was praying about. What is Theonomy? Theonomy is not Theocracy. Theonomy literally means the Law of God. Theonomy is the belief that Christians should submit to the Law of God and seek to live their lives according to it. This in no way does it contradict the Gospel of Grace and Salvation by Faith and Grace alone.

I define the Law of God as the first 5 Books of the Bible, the entire Pentateuch, otherwise known as the Torah. The Law begins with Genesis not with the 10 Commandments. Beginning in Genesis, I interpret the Law of God first as universal Principles and Norms given by God (before there was an Israel) for all Humanity to follow. The Decalogue in Exodus codifies them and the rest of the Books of Moses elaborate on them and applies them to the Nation of Israel. The Prophets will call the People of Israel back to the Law, as well as apply sections of it to the Gentile Nations of their day. Jesus and the Apostles do not annul the Law as such, but add further meaning and application of it to the Church. All of this together is the context or prism through which we interpret and apply the Law today, both to the Church and to the Nations. By "Theonomy", I mean obeying this Law, the Torah, so interpreted. By this standard, the Prayer of Daniel is very much on the mark and needed today!

[http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view](http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com_content&view)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:43

Monday, February 20, 2012

## **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE US SPACE PROGRAM**

May 5, 1961 - Mercury Freedom 7 carries Alan B. Shepard, Jr., the first U.S. Astronaut into space, in a suborbital flight. The following February, 50 years ago today, John Glenn would become the first American in space, orbiting the earth. The race was on to reach the Moon! Ironically, Mercury Freedom's ride was happening in the same month as the Freedom [bus] Riders (mostly Black civil rights activists) were being beaten and jailed in Alabama. It often seems we humans excel in Science and Technology and do very poorly in human relations and dealing with social issues such as Racism and Segregation. Why is that? In this case, most Americans were far more worried about the Cold War and winning the space competition with the USSR than they were about who could ride the buses and uses public rest rooms or sit at the counter in a restaurant. Also ironically, these 50 year later, the US no longer has the ability to send astronauts into space, while the Russians do! Also interestingly, the Govt is giving billions of tax dollars to private companies to pick up the abandoned space shuttle program. My wife and I are currently enjoying a fascinating HBO docudrama of the entire US Space program, entitled "From the Earth to the Moon" We recommend it highly!  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/20/uk-usa-space-glenn-idUSLNE81J00Y20120220>  
[http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/about/history/spacehistory\\_toc.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/about/history/spacehistory_toc.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:52

## **MORE LIN-SANITY**

More about Jeremy Lin

His character- <http://www.usatoday.com/sports/basketball/nba/story/2012-02-19/>

His faith <http://www.usatoday.com/sports/basketball/nba/knicks/story/2012-02-19/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 00:22

Saturday, February 18, 2012

**JEREMY LIN: BEATING THE ODDS**

Great story! Important lessons- <http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/story/2012-02-16/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:46

Monday, February 13. 2012

## **SCHOOLS, DEFENSE CONTRACTS AND MILITARY BASES**

We frequently hear Tea Party members and various Libertarians insist Govt is too big and must be cut back. It sounds so simple. Often these folks insist that the Defense Budget must be drastically cut back. Again, sounds simple enough, but the consequences are seriously underestimated. Here are 3 areas for example: schools, defense contracts and military bases. Money supposedly saved on such cut-backs from Peter are going to also hurt Paul. The unintended consequences will mean billions of dollars not going into jobs and local economies and to the State and Federal Govts as taxes. Those who insist on taking from Peter must figure out how to pay Paul first. Responsible decision-making must take unintended consequences and the Big Picture into account! Bumper sticker slogans are not good guides!

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/story/2012-02-12/military-schools-budget-close/53062950/1>

<http://www.defense.gov/contracts/>

[http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/02/chicopees\\_westover\\_air\\_reserve.html](http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/02/chicopees_westover_air_reserve.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:22

## **KEEPING CURRENT ON MOVEMENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF**

I hope you are keeping current on the Middle East crisis and praying about it. Will there be a new war there soon? Will the US become involved militarily?

<http://www.worldnewstribune.com/2012/02/10/third-u-s-aircraft-carrier-group-set-for-march-deployment-to-gulf/>

<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/gulf-s/p27321>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:45

Saturday, February 11. 2012

### **UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S GOING ON IN IRAN**

If you want serious analysis of what is going on in Iran and that region of the world from different perspectives than your local TV news gives you (if they do- everyone here seems focused on the the Grammys, Sensational Murders and Sport Celebrities) try these websites-

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateI01.php>

<http://www.cfr.org/>

and here is good coverage of the very complicate issues involved in Iran from yet another website-

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/10022012-new-version-of-eisenhower-doctrine>

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/11022012-sectarian-strife-looms-in-the-middle-east-analysis/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:52

### **BURNING BOOKS IN THE AMAZON: BIBLIOPHILES BEWARE**

Here is an eye-opening and very disturbing account of how corporate greed and government regulation are killing the book publishing business- and the complicity in that by those who buy e-books.

<http://blog.authorsguild.org/2012/01/31/publishings-ecosystem-on-the-brink-the-backstory/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:07

Friday, February 10, 2012

## **WHEN A GOVERNMENT PLAYS "GOD"- WHAT ARE WE TO DO?**

"Where does a Christian fit in a nation which makes itself god? The Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer answered that the Christian's duty is to resist such a regime. This landed him in a concentration camp and cost him his life. Safe in exile in America, he abruptly returned to Germany. "I have come to the conclusion that I have made a mistake in coming to America. I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of the Christian life in Germany after the war if I did not share in the trials of this time with my people. Christians in Germany face the terrible alternative of willing the defeat of their nation in order that civilization may survive, or willing the victory of their nation and thereby destroying civilization. I know which of these alternatives I must choose. But I cannot make that choice in security." In Germany Bonhoeffer worked with the underground resistance. He helped guide Jews to safety. Believing that Hitler was like a madman "driving a car into a group of innocent bystanders," he joined a plot to kill the Führer. After he was arrested for his aid to the Jews, his role in the plot was discovered. There was little hope he would survive Nazi wrath. Nonetheless Bonhoeffer was personally at peace. Suffering, he said, had become a better key for understanding the world than happiness had ever been. On this day February 7, 1945, he was transferred to the terrible Buchenwald Concentration Camp where many thousands of prisoners died, some under cruel medical experiments. Three months later Bonhoeffer corpse was added to the list of dead. He was hanged days before the allies freed the camp. He had fulfilled his own theology, aptly expressed in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*: "The one thing that matters is practical obedience. That will resolve [man's] difficulties and make him free to become the child of God." "When the government usurps God's place, what is the Christian to do? By his life and death, Bonhoeffer exemplified one solution."

SOURCE: <http://www.christianity.com/ChurchHistory/11630780>

I hold that when the Administration/Government of a Nation "makes itself god", individual Christians must practice non-violent Resistance. At the very least we must not obey such a Government. I have written about this elsewhere on this Blog and in posts on my website. But the Question is: When is a State making itself god? How do we know for sure? What are the criteria for judging where that line is? It will usually be drawn in sections, here and there, over time and not be obvious to most- until finally it is plain to all and then, too late to avoid conflict.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:16

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

## **CHURCHES OUSTED FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NYC**

About 60 New York City congregations are scheduled to be evicted from the school buildings February 12. CT reported in December that the Supreme Court had declined the Bronx Household of Faith's appeal of the city's ban on worship services in public schools. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in June that the NYC Department of Education had the legal right to bar churches from renting school facilities for worship services. Many protests have been staged throughout the city. On Sunday, thousands of protestors marched across the Brooklyn Bridge. As protests continue over New York City's plans to evict churches that meet in school buildings, the state's legislature took a key step toward allowing those churches to stay. A day after embattled New York pastors who use public school buildings to hold off-hours worship services complained that they had little support from the city's mega churches, Redeemer Presbyterian lead pastor Tim Keller issued an op-ed-style letter, saying: "I am grieved that New York City is planning to take the unwise step of removing 68 churches from the spaces that they rent in public schools. It is my conviction that those churches housed in schools are invaluable assets to the neighborhoods that they serve. Churches have long been seen as positive additions to communities. Family stability, resources for those in need, and compassion for the marginalized are all positive influences that neighborhood churches provide. ... "

[http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctliveblog/archives/2012/02/new\\_york\\_senate.html](http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctliveblog/archives/2012/02/new_york_senate.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:14

Monday, February 6, 2012

## **SEEING HOW THE REAL WORLD WORKS**

"There is today an enormous gap between the way many C.E.O.'s in America — not Wall Street-types, but the people who lead premier companies that make things and create real jobs — look at the world and how the average congressman, senator or president looks at the world. They are literally looking at two different worlds — and this applies to both parties. "Politicians see the world as blocs of voters living in specific geographies — and they see their job as maximizing the economic benefits for the voters in their geography. Many C.E.O.'s, though, increasingly see the world as a place where their products can be made anywhere through global supply chains (often assembled with nonunion-protected labor) and sold everywhere."These C.E.O.'s rarely talk about "outsourcing" these days. Their world is now so integrated that there is no "out" and no "in" anymore. In their businesses, every product and many services now are imagined, designed, marketed and built through global supply chains that seek to access the best quality talent at the lowest cost, wherever it exists." These quotes from an article by Thomas Friedman give an important perspective on the world that is missing in both Washington and on Main Street.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/29/opinion/sunday/friedman-made-in-the-world.html?>

It is illustrated by this Blog post by Exxon Mobil<http://www.exxonmobilperspectives.com/2011/10/26/10>

These perspectives effect our everyday lives and the way the Church approaches World Missions

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:17

Sunday, February 5, 2012

## **THE COMING TECH-LED BOOM**

According to Mark Mills, a physicist and founder of the Digital Power Group who writes for the Forbes Intelligence column, and Julio Ottino, dean of the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Northwestern University, we sit “on the cusp of three grand technological transformations.” And what are those three? Big data, smart manufacturing and the wireless revolution. Here’s a quick summary of their significance: 1. Big Data. Processing power and data storage are not only virtually free, but becoming virtually unlimited. The iPhone alone has computing power that puts the 1970s-era IBM mainframe to shame. “The internet is evolving into the “cloud” – a network of thousands of data centers any one of which makes a 1990 supercomputer look antediluvian. 2. Smart Manufacturing. In what is called the “first structural shift” since Henry Ford launched mass production, engineers will soon “design and build from the molecular level...even creating new materials.” This era of “new materials” will explode when combined with 3-D printing (also known as direct-digital manufacturing). Imagine “literally ‘printing’ parts and devices using computational power, lasers and basic powdered metals and plastics.” Then one day, the Holy Grail: “desktop’ printing of entire final products from wheels to even washing machines.” 3. Wireless Revolution. Soon, most humans on the planet will be connected wirelessly. “Never before have a billion people – soon billions more – been able to communicate, socialize and trade in real time.” As the authors of the article note, this introduces both rapid change (e.g., the Arab Spring), as well as great opportunity. That was written by James White. Read the article he references here- <http://online.wsj.com/article>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:46

Friday, January 27, 2012

**CRITICS' CHOICE OF BEST 2011 MOVIES**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/movies/commentaries/2012/criticsawards2011.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:36

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

## **PROPOSED EISENHOWER NATIONAL MEMORIAL A TRAVESTY!**

"Dwight Eisenhower was one of the outstanding leaders of the Western world. He also spent more consecutive time at the center of national and international affairs than any other American of his time: longer than either of the Roosevelts, longer than Henry Stimson, longer than anyone. For 18 years - from the moment in November 1942 when he took command of the Allied Expeditionary Force whose invasion of North Africa began the defeat of Hitler's Third Reich, until Jan. 20, 1961, when he handed the burden of the presidency to John F. Kennedy ...He was supreme commander of the greatest political-military coalition in history, holding it together despite great centrifugal forces (both political and personal) until that coalition won what Eisenhower memorably called its "crusade in Europe" and the "Thousand-Year Reich" was no more. He led an Ivy League university; he helped forge NATO into one of the instruments that prevented another totalitarian power from dominating Europe; he helped keep the Republican party from drifting into the irrelevance of isolationism. Despite the criticisms of the nation's high-cultural and journalistic tastemakers, he was a successful (and crafty) president, one of the few two-term chief executives who left the Oval Office a highly popular man. Americans, now and in the future, ought to know that this country can produce men of such accomplishment. No one will learn any of this, however, from the Eisenhower Memorial that will soon be built in the heart of monumental Washington: unless, that is, Congress moves quickly to force a reconsideration of a historical and aesthetic travesty. The present Eisenhower Memorial design, by postmodernist Frank Gehry, has virtually nothing to do with the Dwight David Eisenhower of history. Plans call for Ike to be memorialized in sculpture as a barefoot farmboy on the Great Plains: not the great wartime leader; not the soldier-diplomat; not the chief executive of the United States who presided over eight years of peace and prosperity. The Gehry conceit seems both obvious and entirely in tune with the postmodern deconstruction of history: There are no great men; there are no great virtues; there is no great striving; nor is there great accomplishment or great service to others." Read the entire Article- [http://eppc.org/publications/pubID.4636/pub\\_detail.asp](http://eppc.org/publications/pubID.4636/pub_detail.asp)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:23

## **OBAMA MISQUOTES, MISUSES ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

In his SOTU Speech, Mr Obama said, "I'm a Democrat. But I believe what Republican Abraham Lincoln believed: That Government should do for people only what they cannot do better by themselves, and no more." "[Barack Obama] didn't get it right," says Harry V. Jaffa, professor emeritus of Claremont McKenna College, senior fellow at the Claremont Institute, and author of two influential books on Lincoln. Professor Jaffa noted that this quotation leaves out a great deal. Jaffa recited the full statement from Lincoln's speech, "The Nature and Objects of Government, with Special Reference to Slavery" (July 1, 1854): Mr Lincoln actually said, "The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves in their separate and individual capacities." "Notice the difference? The emphasis is on the need to have done, not on government doing the action. 'That distinction was missing from his quotation' Jaffa explains. Thomas L. Krannawitter, another Lincoln scholar and professor at Hillsdale College, explains, "Of course, when Lincoln, ... supported what Henry Clay termed the "American System" of internal improvements and protective tariffs, he understood that all economics is political economics, that economics always serves political ends. ... Lincoln's political economics was a means toward limited government, the end of which was the protection of individual natural rights and political liberty, the principles upon which America was founded." Krannawitter continued, "In the Progressive view, the ends of government cannot be limited to protecting natural rights, because nature supplies no rights, and positive rights created by government change over time. Thus limited government is replaced with government of unlimited power and scope, what some political scientists call the administrative state. Rejecting natural justice, the liberal mind concerns itself with "social justice," which at a minimum requires vast redistributions of wealth from the few to the many. As the administrative state itself is the arbiter of what "social justice" on any day might entail, there can be no restraints on its power; the bigger government becomes, the more "rights" will be bestowed on the people." Read entire article <http://biggovernment.com/cjohnson/2012/01/25/exclusive-noted-lincoln-scholar->

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:14

## **FOLLOW THE MONEY**

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

Which Presidents were more wealthy than Romney would be? Washington, Jefferson, Kennedy (if ...)

Which Party Nominees were more wealthy than Romney is? Ross Perot, Steve Forbes, John Kerry

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/post/would-mitt-romney-be-the-richest-president-ever/2012>

By the way, here in the Massachusetts's Senatorial race, running for the "People's Seat", Brown and Warren are close to spending 70 million combined!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:21

Friday, January 13. 2012

## **THE INFLUENCE OF PACS and SUPERPACS ON ELECTION**

"Super PACs are a new kind of political action committee created in July 2010 following the outcome of a federal court case known as *SpeechNow.org v. Federal Election Commission*. Technically known as independent expenditure-only committees, Super PACs may raise unlimited sums of money from corporations, unions, associations and individuals, then spend unlimited sums to overtly advocate for or against political candidates. Super PACs must, however, report their donors to the Federal Election Commission on a monthly or quarterly basis -- the Super PAC's choice -- as a traditional PAC would. Unlike traditional PACs, Super PACs are prohibited from donating money directly to political candidates. As of January 13, 2012, 278 groups organized as Super PACs have reported total receipts of \$32,008,813 and total expenditures of \$25,605,258 in the 2012 cycle." "Campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures are not the only ways that money is used influence public policy decisions. Outside groups spent \$33,978,419 during the 2010 election cycle to run ads, make phone calls, distribute literature and engage in other activities to sway the electorate about candidates and issues. Organizations not directly affiliated with political parties accounted for \$30,642,895 of that amount. A January 2010 Supreme Court decision (*Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*) now permits corporations and unions to make such expenditures from their treasuries directly and through other organizations. The decision allows such activity to take place without complete or immediate disclosure of who funds such communications, preventing voters from understanding who is truly behind many political messages"

<http://maplight.org/us-congress/guide>

<http://www.opensecrets.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:09

## **FOLLOWING THE MONEY IN POLITICS**

"If you want to run for Congress, you need money. A lot of money. To win election, U.S. House members raised, on average, \$1,900 per day, every day, for an entire two-year term—including weekends and holidays. That's \$1.4 million per House member, on average. Winning senators raised \$7.5 million, on average—\$3,400 per day. (These figures are for the 2008 election, from the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics.)" "The main source of this campaign money is interest groups that want something from government. Once elected, politicians often pay back their campaign contributors with special access and favorable laws. This common practice is contrary to the public interest. MapLight's research tools help shine a light on the connection between money and votes, to help citizens hold legislators accountable." "MapLight connects money and votes. We bring together, in one website, the money given to politicians with each politician's votes. We provide data, research services, and online tools that work together to make patterns of money and influence more transparent. Connections between campaign contributions, interest groups and votes that would have required days or weeks of manual research are now available at the click of a mouse."

<http://maplight.org/us-congress/guide>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:56

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

## **NEW ESSAY: WHOM TO CHOSE FOR PRESIDENT**

"For several months now I have been searching the Word to find God-given Principles for my self and, hopefully, for others as well to guide us in how we chose a Candidate for President this very confusing and conflicted year. I have found the study fascinating, but also very complex. Here is a Summary so far. I know the issues people "on the street" talk about have to do with jobs, credit, debt and taxes- the fall-out of the "Great Recession" and how to recover and "get back on track again- Economics. Of course there are many other Issues, from Immigration to the War on Terror and trouble in the Middle East- Foreign Policy. But, underneath all this debate is a more fundamental one: what is to be the purpose and extent of the Federal Government in our lives. Connected most often with that Topic is another: Human Rights. What are they and what does Government have to do with them?"

This is an excerpt from my new Essay at <http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:35

Thursday, January 5, 2012

### **SURVEYING SANTORUM**

Being a social and economic conservative, I find Rick Santorum interesting and worth consideration.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/03/opinion/workers-of-the-world-unite.html>

<http://www.newsmax.com/InsideCover/Santorum-Issues>

I am convinced, as important as "electability" is, voting for the man we are convinced would make an excellent President is the the best way thing to vote. (I am still not sure at the moment who that might be.) I believe a vote "for" is better than a vote "against"

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:40

### **CLASH OF THE CHRISTIAN WEST AND THE MUSLIM SOUTH**

More Christians will be persecuted in 2012 than any year in recent memory. The reason is simple. There is a clash of civilizations between the Muslim world and the predominantly Christian West, and Christianity is moving south toward the heart of the Muslim world. Now for the details: <http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=2194>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:27

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

## **WORDS OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Francis Scott (1779-1843), was a lawyer and a strong and active Christian. He wrote the famous verses of "The Star Spangled Banner" during the battle of Baltimore with the British Army and Navy after they had destroyed Washington D.C., including our Capital during the "War of 1812". Here are the words of the fourth verse of that Anthem which is rarely sung, but should be!! Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand Between their loved home and \_ war's desolation! Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n [God] rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto: "In God is our trust." And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave. The first 3 verses are as follows-

[Key, being held captive, is standing on a British warship and looking toward the besieged Fort after the Attack had stopped and asks the Question of those at his side-] Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? [the night before] Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts [the walls of Fort McHenry] we watched were so gallantly streaming? [flying in the wind] And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, [from the British warships in the harbor] Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there. [Again Key asks] Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave? On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep, Where the foe's haughty host [ships] in dread silence reposes, [they have ceased firing] What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep, As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses? Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam, In full glory reflected now shines in the stream: [The answer-] 'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave. And where is that band [the British] who so vauntingly swore That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion, A home and a country should leave us no more! Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution. No refuge could save the hireling and slave' [impressed British troops] From the terror of flight and the gloom of the grave: And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:09

Monday, January 2, 2012

## **HOW ALL KINDS OF STUFF WORKS**

Very interesting and helpful resource-

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:24

Thursday, December 22, 2011

## **WE ARE STILL IN IRAQ**

Read about our largest Embassy in the world, the 1000s of Americans who work there and the additional 1000s of "contractors" the US employs for "security" there and the billions of tax dollars to maintain all of this.

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20111221-us-diplomatic-security-iraq-after-withdrawal?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:18

## **WHEN IS A TAX INCREASE NOT A TAX INCREASE?**

It's a matter of definitions- again. The media tell us the debate before Congress this week is about increasing taxes on American workers. It is actually about continuing the 2% decrease in payroll taxes approved one year ago. If that decrease in the percentage, temporarily down to 4.2%, is not extended the tax would not be increased, it would return to its previous rate of 6.2 %, which it has been for decades. An actual increase, by my definition, would be if the tax went above the original 6.2 %. But yes, failure to extend would mean more of a worker's current paycheck would be taken by the Govt than workers have been getting this past year. The issue is what effect this adjustment will have on Social Security. These same workers will complain if they have a smaller SS check some day because they were paying less into it. Someone has to use some money from somewhere to make up the billions of dollars lost. The usual answer is that the Govt will make up the difference from the "General Fund". Really? The other issue being debated concurrently is the extension of unemployment benefits. How does the Govt pay for them? Part of the justification proponents give is that giving these Benefits actually increases employment and that helps make up the difference. How's that. Well the unemployed will then have money to spend and that creates jobs or adds to income of other workers. Really? Check out this- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/nancy-pelosis-misfire-on-job-and-tax-cut-claims>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:59

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

## **DECEIVED MASSES MOURN DICTATOR**

"A KCNA dispatch said North Koreans from all walks of life were in utter despair but were finding comfort in the "absolute surety that the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong-un will lead and succeed the great task of revolutionary enterprise." "Chinese state television showed North Koreans crying in the capital of Pyongyang. KCNA reported people were "writhing in pain" after losing the man who in 1994 succeeded his father Kim Il-sung, the North's first -- and officially eternal -- president as leader of the totalitarian state. "An 'endless stream' of soldiers, working people and students visited a massive memorial of Kim Il-sung in central Pyongyang mourning the death of the "Dear Leader" until past midnight. "They are weeping bitterly out of self-reproach and regret that they failed to keep Kim Jong-il in good health," KCNA said. "<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/19/us-korea-north-idUSTRE7BI05B20111219>" Aid agencies have estimated that up to two million people have died since the mid-1990s because of acute food shortages caused by natural disasters and economic mismanagement. The country relies on foreign aid to feed millions of its people. "The totalitarian state also stands accused of systematic human rights abuses. Reports of torture, public executions, slave labour, and forced abortions and infanticides in prison camps have emerged. A US-based rights group has estimated that there are up to 200,000 political prisoners in North Korea. "[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country\\_profiles/1131421.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/1131421.stm) find this reaction of the North Korean people absolutely incredible, but not surprising. They are the latest example of how masses of people can be brainwashed and deceived by their Leaders. (There have been innumerable others throughout History) What else can explain their mourning over a man who was an absolute, oppressive Dictator personally responsible, following in his father's footsteps, for the extreme hardship, poverty, suffering and death of millions of his followers (all the while enjoying a luxurious, indulgent lifestyle at their expense)? This is more evidence that the Bible's prophecies and warning of an Anti-Christ very believable and its warning about Totalitarian Government something to be taken very seriously!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:01

Monday, December 19, 2011

## **REAL CHANGE REQUIRES MORE THAN SLOGANS AND PROTESTS**

It is not so simply. Times Magazine chose the Demonstrators of the world to be their "Person of the Year" last week, but while they definitely got attention and have been influential in their respective Countries, a lot more than noisy protests is required to make real change in a Society. I think many Americans like to think all the uprisings were to achieve something like the "Democracy" we say we believe in. Most media carry that message. But National change requires a lot more than slogans, protests and the demands of minority groups. Here are two articles that give a reality check. They are about Syria but illustrate well the many factors involved in changing any Country's Leadership, Policies and direction. Many deep rooted social, cultural, ethnic factors are involved. Politics, Power and a history of conflict and control of one group over another is involved. We must consider "Regime change" not just the elimination of a Dictator. Often that "Regime" is the Military. And when it comes to American intervention in other Nations, political pragmatism and strategy and even greed come before ethics and morality.

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110504-making-sense-syrian-crisis?>

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20111214-syria-crisis-assessing-foreign-intervention?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:00

Saturday, December 17, 2011

## **THE AFGHAN WAR- LONGER THAN IRAQ- WE ARE STILL THERE**

"The War in Afghanistan, also called the Afghan war, began on October 7, 2001, as the armed forces of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Afghan United Front (Northern Alliance) launched Operation Enduring Freedom. The primary driver of the invasion was the September 11 attacks on the United States, with the stated goal of dismantling the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization and ending its use of Afghanistan as a base. The United States also said that it would remove the Taliban regime from power and create a viable democratic state. A decade into the war, the U.S. continues to battle a widespread Taliban insurgency, and the war has expanded into the tribal areas of neighboring Pakistan." Source: Wikipedia. For excellent commentary on this War and essential lessons not yet learned, read-

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/136882/paul-l-yingling/an-absence-of-strategic-thinking>

"The preludes to the war were the assassination of anti-Taliban leader Ahmad Shah Massoud on September 9, 2001, and the September 11 attacks on the United States, in which nearly 3000 civilians lost their lives in New York City, Arlington, Virginia. and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The United States identified members of al-Qaeda, an organization based in, operating out of and allied with the Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, as the perpetrators of the attacks." A March 2011 Congressional Research Service report notes the following about Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan: 1) Defense Department spending on Afghanistan has increased to \$6.7 billion a month. Troop strength is expected to be at 102,000 for fiscal year 2011; 2) The projected total cost relating to Afghanistan from inception to the fiscal year 2011 is expected to be \$468 billion. The estimate for the cost of deploying one US soldier in Afghanistan is over US\$1 million dollars a year."

The War in Afghanistan is the longest continuous military conflict second only to the Vietnam War (1959–1975) The war in Iraq came later and lasted from 3-03 to 12-11.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:46

## **WE ARE NOT DONE WITH IRAQ**

How the War officially ended-"In October 2011, Iraq's leaders announced that they had agreed on the need to keep American military trainers in the country in 2012, but declared that any remaining troops should not be granted immunity from Iraqi law, a point the United States had said would be a deal breaker. On Oct. 21, President Obama declared that the United States would bring all American troops home by the end of the year, ending a nearly nine-year military engagement that cost the lives of 4,400 troops and more than \$1 trillion, divided the American public and came to define America's role in the world". But it is not really over- The departure of the soldiers is by no means the end of a large American presence. The administration had already drawn up plans for an extensive expansion of the American Embassy and its operations, bolstered by thousands of paramilitary security contractors. It also created an Office of Security Cooperation that, like similar ones in countries like Egypt, would be staffed by civilians and military personnel overseeing the training and equipping of Iraq's security forces. Even without an extension of the deadline after 2011, that office is expected to be one of the largest in the world, with hundreds if not thousands of employees. Officials have previously suggested that keeping American soldiers in this office might not require a new security agreement to replace the expiring one since they would be covered by the same protection offered to diplomats. And the State Department was to assume responsibility for training the Iraqi police, a task that will largely be carried out by contractors. With no American soldiers to defuse sectarian tensions in northern Iraq, it will be up to American diplomats in two new \$100 million outposts to head off potential confrontations between the Iraqi Army and Kurdish pesh merga forces. How the war in Iraq began- "Almost immediately after ousting the Taliban from power in Afghanistan following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 — some argue, even before — President George W. Bush began to press the case for an American-led invasion of Iraq. He cited the possibility that Saddam Hussein still sought nuclear, biological and chemical weapons in defiance of United Nations restrictions and sanctions. Mr. Bush and other senior American officials also sought to link Iraq to Al Qaeda, the terrorist organization led by Osama bin Laden that carried out the Sept. 11 attacks. Both claims have since been largely discredited, though some officials and analysts continue to argue otherwise, saying that Mr. Hussein's Iraq posed a real and imminent threat to the region and to the United States." Read the full article- <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/iraq/index.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:40

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

### **SEEING STARS, MISSING THEIR CREATOR!**

If you are interested in Space Exploration and Astronomy in General complete with extraordinary photography, here are 2 sights to check out!

<http://www.universetoday.com/>

<http://fragileoasis.org/blog/2011/11/coming-back-down-to-our-fragile-oasis-2/>

It is interesting that while there is no mention of God here, these photos and descriptions document His work to me. I appreciate what these Scientists have done, but wonder if they are evidence of Rom 1:18-20. How could they not see the Creator?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:05

### **EUROPE'S NIGHTMARE**

"The European Union is an attempt to build an economic and legal superstructure without a linguistic, cultural, historic and civic base. It was the final of the post-World War II efforts — the United Nations was among the first — to build governments that were transnational, passionless and safe. The desire for a unified Europe is strong, at least among the leadership class and those over 60."But now the inherent flaws are undermining the project. The nations of Europe have been running different kinds of economies and different kinds of democracies, reflecting their diverse histories, values and cultures."... shared identity doesn't exist between Germans and Greeks, or even between French and Germans. It was easy to be European when it didn't cost anything. When sacrifices are necessary, the European identity dissolves away."The mess threatens to bring down the European project and European economies. It threatens to send the world into another global recession. On a superficial level, the fault lies with the current European leadership ... . But the real problems emerge from the technocratic mind-set, from the arrogant gray men who believe they can engineer society, oblivious to history, language, culture, values and place." Hmm, increasingly, sadly, that last sentence describes America!

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/18/opinion/brooks-the-technocratic-nightmare.>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:03

Tuesday, December 13. 2011

## **BLAMING ISRAEL**

This article conveys the current sad state of affairs of the relations between the United States and Israel <http://www.creators.com/opinion/mona-charen/obama-default-mode-blame-israel.html>  
God loves "Israel". Today's Nation of Israel is not the Covenant People in the Bible. It is a secular, democratic State I am not a Dispensationalist and do not believe the Nation of Israel is the People of God today (the Church is). But I respect the History and Heritage of the Jewish People going back to the days of Abraham. The Church is indebted to the Israel of the Bible. Through them to us came our Scripture, our Lord, our Salvation and our Hope. I admire and respect the stubborn commitment of the Jewish people to their God and ours, through millennia of persecution and suffering because of that Faith. I respect that the Jewish people world-wide consider the Nation of Israel their Home, even though there are more Jews living in NYC (and elsewhere) than in the Nation of Israel. God gave the Land to their ancestors. I believe they have an historical, as well as Biblical, right to it which precedes any claim on it by today's Palestinians. I am convinced that the latter as a people are sworn enemies of the Nation of Israel (especially Hamas in Gaza and the Hezbollah in Lebanon) and they are determined to destroy it (or see it destroyed) in concert with Iran. The latter are all anti-Semites in the extreme. I can not be sympathetic to them. Hear the Word of the Lord-Zechariah 2:8 For thus said the LORD of hosts ... regarding the nations that plundered you: Truly, one who touches you touches the apple of my eye. 9 See now, I am going to raise my hand against them, and they shall become plunder for [others].

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:49

Monday, December 12. 2011

## **GLOBAL WARMING TREATY**

In this account of the recent Climate Change Summit notice the call for some Authority to have legal control over all Nations of the world limiting their greenhouse-gas emissions and pollution allowances, hence their economies. Not good. But also note all the vague and soft language used by everyone involved which could mean the proposal agreed upon will come to nothing. Most interesting is the effort to bridge the differences between the Global South and the Global North as well as the key role of China, again, in international issues and the future.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/un-climate-talks-real-world-outcome-will-be-determined-in-asia/>

Here is a good critique of the UN Conference in Durban and its agenda

<http://blogs.cfr.org/levi/2011/12/11/a-misplaced-climate-celebration-in-durban/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:45

Saturday, December 10. 2011

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

The proposed Treaty (yet to be ratified) among the European Nations portends serious trouble for all Nations. Yes, Ireland, Greece and Spain are in financial crisis, but this Treaty gives away much of their sovereignty and will probably not solve their poor credit and great debt problems (which really have political and social roots). This is another short term move with very long-term consequences. Can we imagine our 50 States giving strict control over their separate Budgets to the Federal Government? And unlike us, those Nations are divided by different languages, Geo-political realities and cultures (a problem for centuries). And notice which Nation is calling the shots and will gain power over the others: Germany. I hope Mr Cameron and the UK hold their ground and their independence.

The adoption of the EURO was but a step toward intended political unification of Europe- a vision of many since WWII and not a good one. Watching all this is Russia and China who have great stakes in it all

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the-evolution-of-the-european-union/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:21

Thursday, December 8, 2011

### **PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

The so-called Arab Spring has turned to the Arab Winter in many ways, not the least of which is the freezing up of Religious Freedom, particularly the persecution of Christians by Islamists.  
<http://www.acton.org/pub/commentary/2011/10/19/arab-springs-forgotten-freedom>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:31

### **ELIZABETH WARREN WARNING**

"Professional Progressive", passionate and persuasive Elizabeth Warren is running against our only conservative Republican Senator here in Massachusetts. Polls show her increasing popularity. There is even talk of her as a presidential possibility in the future.

<http://www.boston.com/Boston/metrodesk/2011/12/poll-shows-warren-surging-ahead->

Here is a CT editorial both praising her and spotlighting her major weakness.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/december/notaxpayerisland.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:07

### **ANOTHER EARTH? THANK GOD FOR THIS ONE!**

A discussion of the recent discovery of another planet which might be "habitable" for human life and why this one we live on is, thanks to God.

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=2067>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:47

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS SOURCES**

These are some resources I use for keeping up with Near and Middle Eastern News

[http://www.cfr.org/interactives/CG\\_Iran/](http://www.cfr.org/interactives/CG_Iran/)

<http://www.meforum.org/topics/52/democracy-and-islam>

<http://www.cfr.org/>

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templatel01.php>

<http://nation.com.pk/>

<http://www.dawn.com/>

<http://www.reuters.com/>

<http://www.economist.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:29

## **IDEALISM vs REALISM IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

This very timely analysis of the state of affairs in Egypt is fascinating. It raises many important issues for debate and action going forward. I disagree with some of what the writer says, but find it all very helpful. "The first round of Egyptian parliamentary elections has taken place, and the winners were two Islamist parties. The Islamists themselves are split between more extreme and more moderate factions, but it is clear that the secularists who dominated the demonstrations and who were the focus of the Arab Spring narrative made a poor showing. Of the three broad power blocs in Egypt — the military, the Islamists and the secular democrats — the last proved the weakest." "The idea that the destruction of repressive regimes opens the door for democratic elections that will not result in another repressive regime, at least by Western standards, assumes that all societies find Western values admirable and want to emulate them. This is sometimes the case, but the general assertion is a form of narcissism in the West that assumes that all reasonable people, freed from oppression, would wish to emulate us." Read more: Egypt and the Idealist-Realist Debate in U.S. Foreign Policy | STRATFOR

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20111205-egypt-and-idealist-realist-debate-us-foreign-policy>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:51

## **REMEMBERING PEARL**

"[Today] the country observes the 70th anniversary of the aerial bombing that killed 2,390 Americans and brought the United States into World War II. A larger ceremony to remember all those who perished will be held Wednesday just before 8 a.m. Hawaii time -- the same moment the devastating attack began. Most of the 12 ships that sank or were beached that day were removed from the harbor, their metal hulls salvaged for scrap. Just the Utah and the USS Arizona still lie in the dark blue waters."

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/12/07/pearl\\_harbor\\_survivors\\_return\\_](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/12/07/pearl_harbor_survivors_return_)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:46

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

## **COMMON CORE STANDARDS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

If you are trying to keep up with and understand what the federal Govt is trying to do with education in public (ie-tax-payer funded State) schools, you know about the emphasis these days on testing and meeting standards set by the Govt. The latter include meeting what are called the "Common Core Standards" that States and local school districts are adopting and requiring teachers and students to achieve. (I post often on this subject)"In reality, then, these standards were written by highly educated adults who do not teach children at present and, possibly, never did. Unconnected to the scientific research on children's intellectual and emotional development and the everyday realities of children's needs, interests and behavior, these writers relied only the folklore of academia, fantasizing not only what children should be expected to know and do, but also what adults need to function in actual colleges and workplaces."Unfortunately, what's done is done. Forty-five states plus the District of Columbia have already signed on [the federal Govt can not dictate that they do this, but it is required if the schools want to receive Govt funding] to the Common Core Standards (according to the Standards website), commercial publishers are racing to produce materials aligned with them, school districts are re-writing their curricula, testing companies are creating new tests to measure students competence, and teacher training specialists are offering standards workshops. Even some of the teachers who have lived through No Child Left Behind are resigned to this new swing of the pendulum and changing their classroom practices. The only hope for America's children and its public schools is that parents and teachers will raise their voices for reason, wisdom, and quality education."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/choking-on-the-common-core-standards>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:43

## **LATEST GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE**

Chinese climate negotiators raised the prospect of negotiating a legally binding climate pact at U.N. talks this weekend in South Africa, but the requirements they laid out for reaching that goal might make such a deal hard to reach.  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/chinese-climate-negotiators-raise-possibility-of-global-warming-pact->

Here is a very cynical, critical view of latest effort for a new international Treaty about Global Warming-"Global warming has become the ultimate means for anyone lacking a beneficial product or service to cash in and realize their dreams of wealth through government subsidies and mandates. With the Kyoto Protocol set to expire in 2012, carbon speculators are not about to let their billions (and hoped-for trillions) slip away without a fight."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/nov/29/scary-climate-talks-in-durban/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:17

Sunday, December 4, 2011

## **ROMNEY vs GINGRICH**

Here are the pros and cons laid out: the undesirable against the unelectable

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/12/02/charles-krauthammer-gop-choice-pits-the-undesireable-against-the-unelectable/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:08

Thursday, December 1, 2011

### **GLOBAL WARMING MELT-DOWN**

What can we believe about this?

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/groups-frame-climate-as-a-moral-cause/2011/11/30/gIQAFABdEO\\_story.html?wpisrc=nl\\_cuzheads](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/groups-frame-climate-as-a-moral-cause/2011/11/30/gIQAFABdEO_story.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzheads)

BUT on the other hand-

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2066240/Second-leak-climate-emails-Political-giants-weigh-bias-scientists-bowing-financial-pressure-sponsors.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:51

### **NEGATIVES ABOUT NEWT**

I think Newt Gingrich would do well in debates with Mr Obama. But I have serious doubts about him being our next President. Mona Charen explains some of my own concerns

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/charen112911.php3>

And then there are these considerations-

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/newt-gingrich-offers-big-ideas-for-social-security-medicare-and-judicial-branch/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:44

Friday, November 25. 2011

## **DO NOT BUY TO SAVE THE ECONOMY**

The lead editorial in our local paper today told its readers to embrace Black Friday. It told us how imperative it is that we shop now and everyday. Why? To save jobs, to save the Economy, to save America as two-thirds of our national Economy depends on consumer spending. This same paper has often berated Americans for not saving their money and piling up credit card debt and for buying houses they can not afford. It often runs articles about low unemployment and how so many people are poor these days. So now it is our patriotic duty to run out and spend even more money and pile up even more debt buying a lot of stuff for Christmas that most people do not need just because they are "on sale". One of the Biblical Principles I live by as a Christians is to be a good steward of my money. I do not, on principle, spend money I do not have for things I can not afford or do not need. I will not go into debt because the Economy needs me to or my newspaper Editor goads me to. Another Biblical Principle is to be content with what I have, with my daily bread (basic necessities). Another warns me to flee from avarice and greed. Still another warns me about being Materialistic and not to give in to the sin of conspicuous consumption (keeping up with the Jones or buying stuff to impress others or to improve my "image". If that ruins the Economy so be it; but actually the truth is the opposite. A root reason for our economic problems is that Americans (including Christians) have ignored these Principles, do not live by them and have given in to these temptations. Listen to the Word of the Lord- Mark 10:17 As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 Jesus said to him, ...19 You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" 20 He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." 22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. 23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" 1 Tim 6:6 ... there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; 7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; 8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. 11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; Matthew 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 24 You cannot serve God and wealth. Luke 12:15 And [Jesus] said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." 16 Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" 18 Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:13

## **LEFT-OVER TURKEYS**

I missed having left-over pie for breakfast today. But here is some left over turkey to chew on from George Will. Funny but very sad-  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/feast-on-these-2011-turkeys/2011/11>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:15

Thursday, November 24, 2011

## **THE BEGINNING OF THE NATIONAL DAY FOR THANKSGIVING**

The Call to a National Day of Thanksgiving [and Repentance and Healing]

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued this Proclamation declaring a Day of Thanksgiving for our Nation to observe. Prior to this some States (mostly Northern) observed their own Thanksgiving Day. Here are some excerpts I find especially important and relevant now.

"[Mr Lincoln urges us to appreciate the many blessing we have as Americans that have been given us under the] ever watchful providence of Almighty God.[He goes on to say] In the midst of a civil war of unequaled magnitude and severity, ... [The Nation enjoys and is to be thankful for many things which he then enumerated] "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.I do therefore [invite all Americans to observe] a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens ... offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, [and] they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, ... and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."AMEN

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:40

Friday, November 18. 2011

### **ENOUGH ALREADY WITH THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT!**

OK, we all get it. The demonstrations by the so-called "Occupy Movement" make it clear that there are a lot of mostly young adults unhappy with many things about America. We get it. But beyond that we don't get it. Being against so many different things for no specific reasons and with no specific proposals for solutions of any of them is more than counter-productive. It leads no where except to increased frustration for themselves (and for rest of us who, instead of protesting, are working, responsible taxpayers forced to accommodate them) and the inevitable anger and violence that will follow. This is not Democracy in action, this is the chaos of leaderless Mobocracy. It will not lead to reasonable resolution of any of the placarded problems being shouted by these throngs of very misguided, muddled masses.

Parading down streets, blocking the traffic of other people who are going to work, yelling "Jobs, Jobs" for themselves does nothing to create jobs and certainly spending weeks doing that yelling does nothing to secure real jobs for the protestors. (Temporary jobs created by a benighted Government with taxpayer money to quell such beggary is not the solution.)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:06

### **THE NEED FOR REAL LEADERS**

The need for Government and real Leaders is demonstrated by what is happening in India and argued cogently by in this article by Thomas Friedman.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/16/opinion/whos-the-decider.html?\\_r=1&ref=thomasfriedman](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/16/opinion/whos-the-decider.html?_r=1&ref=thomasfriedman)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:04

Thursday, November 10, 2011

## **SPORTS SCANDAL- IT IS NOT ONLY ABOUT CHILD RAPE**

Of the several articles I have read about the Scandal at Penn State, this one from Sports Illustrated seems to cover the main issues well-as evil as the rapes were, the cover-up was too!"The university is much larger than its athletic teams [and in this case, Joe Paterno].""That was the message the board sent loud and clear Wednesday. From the information contained in a grand jury presentment released Saturday, several powerful people at Penn State appeared to worry more about the brand of the football team than about the safety of a child. Other children -- some now young adults -- have come forward claiming abuse since that 2002 incident. If the charges against Sandusky are true, Paterno, McQueary, Spanier, former athletic director Tim Curley and former vice president Gary Schultz enabled a monster because not a single one of them thought [or decided not] to dial 9-1-1. That is [morally] inexcusable [as well as illegal], and it speaks to a need to change the power structure and the culture at Penn State. For too long, the school and the athletic department have felt they didn't need to answer to anyone. Now, the Pennsylvania attorney general's office and the U.S. Department of Education will come in asking questions the administration can't ignore. People will be held accountable. The findings to come could be ugly, but sunshine doesn't only light the darkest recesses. It also helps heal." [emphasis added by me]

[http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2011/writers/andy\\_staples/11/10](http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2011/writers/andy_staples/11/10)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:40

Monday, November 7, 2011

## **VOTING ON ABORTION- WHAT IS A "PERSON"?**

"Voters in Mississippi will head to the polls Tuesday to vote on a "personhood" amendment that would designate a fertilized egg as a person – a move that would likely have the effect of outlawing abortion and, if you believe opponents, all kinds of other unintended consequences, such as criminalizing abortion and possibly restricting birth control and in-vitro fertilization. It could even criminalize a pregnant cancer patient's chemotherapy, if you believe opponents."  
[the-abortion-rights-powder-keg/2011/11/07/](#)

What do you think? How does a Biblical Christian define a "person"?

A human being comes into existence at the moment of conception. A human being is a person. The Image of God in every human being is what makes us "persons" and gives each of us our infinite value, consists of ways in which we are "like" our Creator. Simply put, we human beings are persons because we have the faculties for reasoning, creativity, morality and communality (living in community with others) and especially, spirituality (living in relationship with God). Although these faculties are only incipient in babies, they are nevertheless real and must be valued, preserved, nurtured and developed. Because we have these God-given faculties, humans have the ability to do marvelous things. But these same wonderful faculties are also radically fractured and limited by sin within from birth (Eph. 2:1-3). The Good News is these faculties, this Image of God within, this person-hood, can be redeemed, restored in Christ and improved by the grace of God and to His Glory. Thus the infinite value of every embryo.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:08

Tuesday, October 25. 2011

## **THE MIDDLE EAST MESS**

The withdrawal of American Troops from Iraq with the chaos in Egypt and Libya, the violent crushing of protestors in Syria and Turkey's attack on the Kurdistan is far from good. It leaves the Middle East in a dangerous mess and Israel in trouble. The probable winner is Israel's sworn enemy- Iran. Here is a good overview of the situation- <http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20111024-libya-and-iraq-price-success?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:48

Monday, October 24. 2011

## **THE GROWING CHURCH IN CHINA- BIGGER THAN IN EUROPE**

Many in the West are aware of the church in China – both above and under ground; projections of its size vary widely, but there is little doubt it is immense – a conservative figure is 60 million. There are already more Chinese at a Christian church on Sunday than in the whole of Europe. One of the great questions of our day is what faith will lead China once Marxism falls. Will it be authoritarianism, a national socialism, a type of Buddhism, or the powerful surfacing of the underground Christian church?

Read the full article here. Check out the references  
<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=1866>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:56

## **WAGING A JUST PEACE**

The argument for keeping Military troops in Iraq is not to wage War against Al Qaeda, but to preserve peace there against Iran's intrusion (as well as help stabilize the entire region, including the well being of Israel)  
[general-calls-iraq-pullout-plan-a-disaster/](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:13

## **ARGUMENT FOR WITHDRAWING OUR TROOPS FROM IRAQ**

This is a good time to review the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since the 5th Century, Christians have used "Just War" Theory to evaluate any war. I wrote about this in 2007 and again almost a year ago. As to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the aggressors are neither Nation. Since 9-11, the enemy has been Al Qaeda and its sometime partner, the Taliban (These are different organizations with different goals.) They were at "home" in both these Countries, but are now primarily operating out of (and often with the support or complicity of) Pakistan. Just War Doctrine says for a war to be just, there must be at least these 3 criteria simultaneously: \*damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain; YES, although both are now using subversive Terrorist attacks rather than traditional military forces \*all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective; YES & NO- both Al Qaeda and Taliban are now using subversive Terrorist attacks to accomplish their respective rather than traditional military forces and the latter sent by NATO countries are the ones proving impractical or ineffective. However, many overt attacks have been covertly prevented apart from normal Military maneuvers and non-traditional methods by Allied Forces are being successful (such as the use of drones) against both Al Qaeda and Taliban. Just War Theory assumes normal military operations between Nations using traditional military methods. \*there must be serious prospects of success Debatable and doubtful. There has been some success using non-traditional methods, but after 10 years, both the Taliban and Al Qaeda are still operational \*the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated Debatable in the long run The defeat of his armies and the cruel tyranny of Saddam Hussein was a very different situation. That war against him and his military was Just, given what we knew at the time. However, the "War" in Iraq now is primarily about forging a new Government and helping its Leaders to build a "new" Nation Those goals as such do not meet the criteria for a Just War and need their own justification. Absent that (which really is a matter of politics), the War in Iraq and probably Afghanistan, should be ended. Taliban does not seem to be interested in anything but dominating in any area except the one in which they are located now. The non-military battle against Al Qaeda and Jihadist Terrorism around the world must go on. Good has been accomplished by our Military efforts. Soldiers and their families did not suffer and sacrifice in Iraq in vain. Whatever happens there in the future will not take their past accomplishment there away.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:29

Sunday, October 23, 2011

## **REASONS WHY TROOP WITHDRAWAL NOT GOOD IDEA**

Sen. Lieberman's Blistering Critique of President Obama's Decision to Withdraw From Iraq  
<http://www.courant.com/news/politics/hc-sen-lieberman>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:57

## **OBAMA WANTED TROOPS TO STAY- IRAQ REFUSED! really?**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister said Saturday that U.S. troops are leaving Iraq after nearly nine years of war because Baghdad rejected American demands that any U.S. military forces to stay would have to be shielded from prosecution or lawsuits. The comments by Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, made clear that it was Iraq who refused to let the U.S. military remain under the Americans' terms. A day earlier, President Barack Obama had hailed the troops' withdrawal as the result of his commitment — promised shortly after taking office in 2009 — to end the war that he once described as "dumb." "When the Americans asked for immunity, the Iraqi side answered that it was not possible," al-Maliki told reporters in Baghdad. "The discussions over the number of trainers and the place of training stopped. Now that the issue of immunity was decided and that no immunity to be given, the withdrawal has started." But continued violence across Iraq, coupled with growing influence by the Shiite power Iran over the government in Baghdad, prompted the Obama administration earlier this year to push to keep thousands of U.S. troops here for years to come.  
[iraq-pm-immunity-issue-scuttled-us-troop-deal/](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:45

## **DON'T BLAME GOD!**

When tragedy and disaster strikes someone (many) always blames God or asks where He was when it happened and why didn't He prevent it. The truth is that many disasters, like the devastation from current floods in Thailand or the unemployment and economic and social collapse of entire Cities and Counties in the US (to say nothing of the same in Europe) are caused by the poor judgement and behavior of human being and could have been prevented by the same people. God is not accountable or to be blamed in any case for such events or their consequences. Here are stories in the news today that offer ample evidence for this conclusion-  
[poor-planning-dooms-bangkok-businesses-in-floods/](#)  
[desperate-us-cities-counties-file-bankruptcy](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:33

Thursday, October 20, 2011

## **FOLLOWING THE MONEY TRAIL**

Progressive and left-leaning Democrats, a major part of Mr Obama's core support group, are being energized, to his delight, by the "Occupy \_\_\_\_\_" Protestors. And who are in the top tier of the Occupy\_\_\_\_\_ " Protestors' targets? Wall St Stock brokers and alleged greedy Big Banks. From whom is Mr Obama getting a large portion of money to finance his re-election Campaign? "Despite frosty relations with the titans of Wall Street, President Obama has still managed to raise far more money this year from the financial and banking sector than Mitt Romney or any other Republican presidential candidate, according to new fundraising data. Obama has brought in more money from employees of banks, hedge funds and other financial service companies than all the other GOP candidates combined ..."

Read the article [obama-has-more-cash-from-financial-sector-than-gop-hopefuls-combined-](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:16

Monday, October 17, 2011

### **A JOBS BILL THAT WON'T DO THE JOB**

Prior to the dedication of the MLK Jr Memorial in DC, Al Sharpton led a nearby Rally of 1000s to demand that Congress regroup and pass Mr Obama's Job Bill (which had recently been defeated). Sharpton and others said the Bill was necessary for jobs and justice for suffering unemployed Americans and something MLK Jr would have wanted. Here is a good critique answering why Congress was right in defeating the Bill and why it would not lead to jobs or help solve the unemployment problem.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-14/what-do-you-call-a-jobs-bill-minus-the-jobs->

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:19

### **BEWARE SHOPPING IN THE MARKET**

Here is an interesting article from a Wall St Journal Columnist that slams Wall St, ie- money managers, especially hedge-fund managers and professional Market Analysts for how, he says, they are ripping off stock holders- all people who sink their money (capital) into stocks and bonds under their direction. He lists 5 groups that he feels could join current OWS protests.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/>

There is a Proverb, "A fool and his money are soon parted". It is not in the Bible, but still seems to be true. Another one says, "Buyer beware!"

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:45

Saturday, October 15, 2011

## **THE HEART OF WHAT'S WRONG ABOUT WALLSTREET**

With all the protests in the air today against greedy capitalists and Wall Street, let us make this very clear: It is Biblical to work, invest and to make profits- the more the better! In fact, God expects it (as I have written many times! See my articles about Economics here

[http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com\\_sectionex&view](http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com_sectionex&view)

The issue is what we do with money that is made. We should add property and all other assets to our income (from all sources) and talk about our Wealth. The issue is how we use our Wealth. Off the top, we will give a portion of it to the State and Federal Government. (See the post below) This also is Biblical. We should give at least 10% to support our Churches and help the Poor among us. This, too, is Biblical. What about the rest? It is for Ministry and Stewardship (fulfillment of the God-given Cultural Mandate (Gen 1-2)

The Occupy Wall St Protestors are angry about greed and waste and exploitation and fraud and dishonesty are wrong. Christians of all kinds can agree that such behavior is wrong and immoral and unethical as well as illegal. And we must insist that greed, waste, exploitation, fraud and dishonesty are wrong and must be protested when committed by the Poor and Middle Class as well as by the so-called Power Elite and Wall Street and the Protestors themselves. All have sinned and fallen short, not just a few! We must also insist that the fundamental solution to such immoral and unethical behavior by anyone, rich, poor or in-between, is the regeneration of people's hearts because that is where all this sinful behavior originates. Jesus said that! Mark 7:21 from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within...Such regeneration is possible, but only by the grace of God working through the Gospel about Jesus Christ. The Government can not make that happen, but Christians can! We can make the regeneration of millions possible by effective saturation evangelism. The action of the angry protestors is a call to such action by all of us who know this Truth!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:47

Thursday, October 13, 2011

## **THE NOT SO RADICAL OCCUPY WALL ST MOVEMENT**

When we were in DC last week we observed a parade and demonstration by local members of the Occupy Wall St Movement. Here is one description by a sympathizer [note: the parade came later] [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dcs-occupy-protest-attracting-only-the-usual-suspects/2011/10/11/gIQAVgYPdL\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/dcs-occupy-protest-attracting-only-the-usual-suspects/2011/10/11/gIQAVgYPdL_story.html) Here is a more helpful critique by David Brooks of the OWSM which offers ideas that are far more radical than the demonstrators offer-  
"The U.S. economy is probably going to stink for a few more years. It is beset by short-term problems (low consumer demand, uncertain housing prices, too much debt) and long-term problems (wage stagnation, rising health care costs, eroding human capital).""Realistically, not much is going to be done to address the short-term problems, but we can at least use this [time] to address the country's underlying structural ones. Do tax reform, fiscal reform, education reform and political reform so that when the economy finally does recover the prosperity is deep, broad and strong." "Unfortunately... Nothing of consequence has been achieved over the past two years. Instead, there have been a series of trivial sideshows. It's as if people can't keep their minds focused on the big things. They get diverted by scuffles that are small, contentious and symbolic. Take the Occupy Wall Street movement." [http://www.taiwannews.com.tw/etn/news\\_content.php?id=1734573](http://www.taiwannews.com.tw/etn/news_content.php?id=1734573)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:23

## **DOES IT REALLY MATTER THAT ROMNEY IS A MORMON?**

"People who say personal conviction, or religious faith, is irrelevant to a presidential candidate are being politically and intellectual naïve. Yes, vote for president on the basis of your estimation of their ability to govern, but don't be misled that religious conviction is irrelevant to the decision-making process inherent within governance." Read full article and the related sources here-  
<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=1816>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:18

## **THE SCANDAL OF THE RED SOX**

"There are worse things than having your baseball team blow a nine-game lead in September. One is having a team that's a disgrace, one you can't stand. That's where the Red Sox are today.  
"This is a scandal, no way around it, and the saddest part is the damage inflicted on the reputations of so many supposed heroes. The lazy, beer-drinking pitchers were named by Hohler to include cancer survivor Jon Lester and former team leader Josh Beckett, along with the villainous John Lackey. Tim Wakefield, arguably the most beloved Red Soxer of all, stands accused of becoming too wrapped up in his own quest for a 200th victory. You don't believe it?..." Read the full article by our favorite local sports writer-  
[http://www.masslive.com/redsox/index.ssf/2011/10/the\\_red\\_sox\\_are\\_not\\_just\\_a\\_dys.html](http://www.masslive.com/redsox/index.ssf/2011/10/the_red_sox_are_not_just_a_dys.html)  
"There are so many things wrong with the Sox at this hour, it's difficult to know where to start. The manager is gone, the general manager is gone, the owners are in hiding, and the players are a loathsome lot totally unworthy of the money and adulation they receive."  
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/sports/2011/10/13/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:14

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

### **ARGUMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE**

The Fundamental Baptist churches I was familiar with in my younger days all used the Scofield Bible and its system of notes that taught Dispensationalism. An important prophecy was that Europe would one day become a United Nation under the Anti-Christ. Here is a fascinating article that presents the case for that United Europe (without mentioning who will run it.) It does not exist politically now. The argument uses the same reasons that thankfully prevailed for creating the United States of America after the Revolutionary War.

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110627-divided-states-europe>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:46

Saturday, October 1, 2011

## **DISCOVERING COLUMBUS AND CELEBRATING HIS DAY & El Dia de la Raza,**

When we lived on the Canadian Border we often had occasion to cross into Quebec, where the predominant language is French. We were in a "foreign" country, only minutes from our house in Vermont. When we have occasion to go anywhere in Springfield, only minutes from our house here in Massachusetts, we often have the same feeling of being in a foreign country because we will be surrounded by people speaking Spanish. I expect the Quebecois to speak French. I expect people in New England to speak English, but that is often not the case in many local neighborhoods, stores, restaurants, schools, medical facilities and all kinds of public events. That is the demographic reality I must accept. But I have not gotten used to feeling like a foreigner in an area I have lived in most of my 73 years, speaking in English, and I honestly do not want to! The United States is now in the middle of Hispanic Heritage Month (9-15/10-15) On October 12, when Americans traditionally observe Christopher Columbus Day, our Hispanic neighbors will celebrate El Dia de la Raza, The Day of our Race (Identity). To quote an article in a local church newsletter we receive (in English) "for the indigenous peoples of the Americas, the arrival of Columbus was the end of their cultures as they had existed before. However, for the Latino community [Dia de la Raza] is the celebration of what resulted- a new culture and identity based on a blend of European, Indigenous and African influences that give us the Latino culture that exists today- a gift to our world". I knew "Columbus Day" has been very controversial for many in recent years- not for me, but for certain multicultural activists in the area. I decided to review the History. Fascinating, but to say "controversial" is great understatement, and very confusing. Whom does one believe? As usual, bias and prejudice is in almost every account of the story. Some writers are absolutely convinced that the dominant White, Male, European History (especially the Age of Exploration and Colonialism) is a narrative of extreme oppression and downright evil aggression, subjugation, exploitation and genocide toward other "Races" and Cultures. To these writers, the latter are portrayed as beautiful, intelligent, creative, innocent victims of "The White Man". To me this ideological perspective (bias) seems to seriously color research, interpretation of historical facts and the resultant alternative Narratives. Admittedly, the authors of the usual, traditional Story have their bias, too. Trying to sort all of this out has been daunting and I make no pretense to having done that. What follows below is a very brief, simplistic overview of a "Territory" that begs for further exploration; but I think it includes the basic essentials to guide further study. To begin with, no one claims that Christopher Columbus was literally the first human being ever to see or find or discover what are now called North and South America! That is an unfair, even silly, popular criticism. If I say I discovered a restaurant or a new recipe, that does not mean or imply no one else has ever known or heard of or frequented that restaurant or used that recipe. All I am saying is that it is new to me. That I found something for myself, does not mean it was lost to everyone else. Columbus was not even the first European to "discover" what we now call North America, Vikings were probably the first, in the 11th Century. The 4 voyages of Columbus took place in the late 15th Century. But long before that, human beings had entered North America and worked their way to the tip of South America. They were the first to literally discover the Americas and the mainstream theory is that these people came from Asia (Siberia). At the height of the last Ice Age, about 17,000 years ago, as the ice sheets advanced and sea levels fell, people first migrated from the Eurasian landmass to the Americas. Also known as The Bering Strait Theory or "short chronology" theory, Land Bridge theory has been widely accepted since the 1930s. This model of migration into the New World proposes that people wandered from Siberia into Alaska, tracking big game animal herds. An exposed land bridge that was at least 1,000 miles wide existed between Siberia and the western coast of Alaska. From the archaeological evidence gathered, it was concluded that this culture of big game hunters crossed the Bering Strait at least 12,000 years ago and could have eventually reached the southern tip of South America by 11,000 years ago. There are at least 5 other Models or Theories that are either variations of the Bering Strait Theory or postulate the possibility of separate migrations from various areas across the Atlantic that populated South America, including one that holds that the earliest settlers in Mexico came from West Africa. As I said, the story is complicated and it becomes more so as we go along. Throughout North America, there were at least 8 "core cultures" with hundreds (?) of related but separate people groups (so-called "Indian Tribes")- there were at least a million people living in "America" by the time Columbus and the Spanish explorers following him arrived (all of whom were looking for a passage to India for trade and gold). Likewise, there were many people groups (and cultures) occupying what we call Central and South America. Migration of all these groups was normal and frequent, which also means competition, war, violence and death by disease and natural disaster was a constant for most of them most of the time (we are talking of 1000's of years here). NOTE: None of these early settlers with Siberian ancestry were Latinos or Hispanics. "Latin America" refers to territories in America where the Spanish or Portuguese languages prevail: Mexico, most of Central and South America, and in the Caribbean, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. Latin America is usually defined as all those parts of the Americas that were once part of the Spanish and Portuguese Empires. Technically, "Latin America" designates all of those countries and territories in the Americas where a Romance language (i.e., languages derived from Latin) is spoken: Spanish, Portuguese, and French, and the creole languages based upon these. Mesoamerica Mesoamerica is a region extending south and east from central Mexico to

include parts of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In pre-Columbian times it was inhabited by diverse civilizations. The history of pre-Columbian Mesoamerica is divided into several periods: Paleo-Indian (first human habitation–3500 BCE), Archaic (3500–2000), Pre-Classic Era (2000 BCE–200 CE) saw the rise of large-scale ceremonial architecture, writing, cities, and states. Many of the key elements of Mesoamerican civilization can be traced back to this period, including the dominance of corn, the building of pyramids, human sacrifice, jaguar-worship, the complex calendar, and many of the gods. During this period, the Olmec civilization developed and flourished at such sites as La Venta and San Lorenzo Tenochtitlán, the Zapotec arose in the Valley of Oaxaca, the Teotihuacan civilization arose in the Valley of Mexico, and the Maya civilization began in modern-day Guatemala and expanded into the Yucatán Peninsula. Important early Maya cities include Kaminaljuyu, El Mirador, Nakbe, San Bartolo, Cival and Takalik Abaj. Classic (200 CE–1000CE) lots of competition, alliances, wars between city-states Post-Classic (1000 CE–1697 CE). Mesoamerica received new immigrants from the north, and although these groups were related to the ancient Toltecs, they had a completely different ideology than the existing residents. The final arrivals were the Mexica, who established themselves on a small island on Lake Texcoco under the dominion of the Texpanecs of Azcapotzalco. This group would, in the following decades, conquer a large part of Mesoamerica, creating a united and centralized state whose only rivals were the Tarascan state of Michoacán. Neither one of them could defeat the other, and it seems that a type of non-aggression pact was established between the two peoples. When the Spaniards arrived many of the peoples controlled by the Mexica no longer wished to continue under their rule. Therefore, they took advantage of the opportunity presented by the Europeans, agreeing to support them, thinking that in return they would gain their freedom, and not knowing that this would lead to the subjugation of all of the Mesoamerican world. The latter portion of the Post-classic Period is generally associated with the rise of the Mexica or Aztec Empire. One of the more commonly known cultural groups in Mesoamerica, the Aztec politically dominated nearly all of central Mexico, the Gulf Coast, Mexico's southern Pacific Coast (Chiapas and into Guatemala), Oaxaca, and Guerrero. By all accounts, the Mayan and Aztec Civilizations (and others) were highly developed and are admired for their science, technology, languages, engineering and art work. To this day, people visit and are fascinated by the ruins of their Temples and Cities. Many indigenous Mayans still live in villages and in urban ghettos today. But there is major debate and strong disagreement about the Culture and Religious practices of the Mesoamerican peoples (particularly the Aztecs) in regard to the amount and meaning of blood from Human Sacrifice, Autosacrifice, the use of Cannibalism as both sacrifice and food, as well the practice of Torture. Spanish explorers left many descriptions of these practices, expressing their great revulsion at them. The Post-Classic Period ends with the arrival of the Spanish and their subsequent conquest of the Aztec between 1519 and 1521

Spanish Conquest Columbus, beginning in 1492 and over the next decade, completed four voyages from Spain that led to general European awareness of the American continents in the Western Hemisphere. Those voyages, and his efforts to establish permanent settlements in the island of Hispaniola, initiated the process of Spanish colonization. Columbus never touched North American land. (One of his soldiers eventually did- Juan Ponce de Leon, "discovered" Florida in 1513 and was killed there in 1521,) Columbus eventually visited what are now called Puerto Rico, San Salvador, Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic once named Hispaniola before the island was divided. It was inhabited by the Taínos, one of the indigenous Arawak peoples. The ship, Santa Maria, went aground and its 34 Sailors were left there at a place named La Navidad. It was the first European Colony in the New World and lasted a year but all were killed and the place destroyed by the Tainos. A year later when Columbus returned he established another colony, Isabela. It was destroyed in a hurricane and he then established Santo Domingo, which and remains the Capital City of the Dominican Republic. The Spanish conquest of the Aztecs happened 27 years after Columbus first arrived. Hernán Cortés [Pizarro], a Castilian, went to Mexico and executed a successful strategy of allying with some indigenous peoples against others and overthrew the Aztec Empire. It was one of the most important campaigns in the Spanish colonization of the Americas. The invasion began in February 1519 and was acclaimed victorious on August 13, 1521, by a coalition army of Spanish conquistadors and Tlaxcalan warriors against the Aztec Empire. Cortez returned to Spain in 1541 and died.

Reasons to Commemorate Columbus Day There is no argument that there were atrocities committed on all sides in the years of conquest to come. It is also true that among the conquering Spanish Conquistadors there were priests and monks who were on a very serious mission, not for Gold or Glory, but to spread the Gospel and make converts of the indigenous peoples to the Catholic Faith. It is very disturbing to think that there were millions of people in the Americas for thousands of years who had never heard of Christ or Salvation through Him. (That is still true of more than 2 billion people alive on the earth today!) Although there were many terrible consequences of the Spanish Conquest of the Americas during this time period, the Gospel (even if in a very primitive form) was spread through out the area. To Christians, this is a very good thing and worth commemorating. The Latino "Race" celebrated on "Columbus Day" did not exist before Columbus. It would most likely never have come into existence without him and the Spanish settlements. To Latinos, who value what that "Race" has become, that is a good thing also worth commemorating.

Thursday, September 15, 2011

## **DIMINISHING NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN AMERICA**

Children now make up less of America's population than ever before, even with a boost from immigrant families. And when this generation grows up, it will become a shrinking work force that will have to support the nation's expanding elderly population — even as the government strains to cut spending for health care, pensions and much else. The latest 2010 census data show that children of immigrants make up one in four people under 18, and are now the fastest-growing segment of the nation's youth, an indication that both legal and illegal immigrants as well as minority births are lifting the nation's population. Currently, the share of children in the U.S. is 24 percent, falling below the previous low of 26 percent of 1990. The share is projected to slip further, to 23 percent by 2050, even as the percentage of people 65 and older is expected to jump from 13 percent today to roughly 20 percent by 2050 due to the aging of baby boomers and beyond. SOURCE:  
-census-share-of-children-in-us-hits-record-low

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:27

## **POVERTY NUMBERS INCREASE IN AMERICA**

The ranks of the nation's poor have swelled to a record 46.2 million — nearly 1 in 6 Americans. The figures are in a Census Bureau report, released Tuesday. Measured by total numbers, the 46 million now living in poverty are the most on record dating back to when the census began to track in 1959. The 15.1 percent tied the level of 1993 and was the highest since 1983. The overall poverty rate climbed to 15.1 percent, from 14.3 percent the previous year. For last year, the official poverty level was an annual income of \$22,314 for a family of four. The official poverty level is based on a government calculation that includes only income before tax deductions. It excludes capital gains or accumulated wealth, such as home ownership. The official poverty rate takes into account the effects of some stimulus programs passed in 2009, such as unemployment benefits, as well as jobs that were created or saved by government spending. It does not factor in noncash government aid such as tax credits and food stamps. Next month, the government will release new supplemental poverty numbers for the first time that will factor in food stamps and tax credits as well as everyday costs such as commuting. Preliminary census estimates show a decline in child poverty based on the new measure but increases in poverty among working-age Americans as well as those 65 and older due to rising out-of-pocket medical costs. Poverty rose among all racial and ethnic groups except Asians. The number of Hispanics in poverty increased from 25.3 percent to 26.6 percent; for blacks it rose from 25.8 percent to 27.4 percent and for Asians it was flat at 12.1 percent. The number of whites in poverty rose from 9.4 percent to 9.9 percent. Child poverty rose from 20.7 percent to 22 percent. Poverty among people 65 and older was statistically unchanged at 9 percent, after hitting a record low of 8.9 percent in 2009. SOURCE: nearly-1-in-6-americans-in-poverty-census-says

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:22

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

### **NEW GLOBAL KILLERS- It's not Germs or Mosquitos**

What's killing us? For decades, global health leaders have focused on diseases that can spread — AIDS, tuberculosis, new flu bugs. They pushed for vaccines, better treatments and other ways to control germs that were only a plane ride away from seeding outbreaks anywhere in the world. Next week, the U.N. General Assembly will hold its first summit on chronic diseases — cancer, diabetes and heart and lung disease. Those account for nearly two-thirds of deaths worldwide, or about 36 million. In the United States, they kill nearly 9 out of 10 people. They have common risk factors, such as smoking and sedentary lifestyles, and many are preventable. This is only the second time the U.N. has taken up a health issue. The previous one in 2001 led to creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, with billions from governments and private groups such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

new-global-killers-heart-lung-disease-

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:41

Friday, September 9, 2011

## **GEOGRAPHY AND THE PAST AND FUTURE OF AMERICA**

Here is a fascinating map and narrative detailing the history, growth, power and future of America as it is connected and influenced by our National Geography. Our economy, even our politics, are very much about our Land and its resources. We are blessed by the Creator of it all.

<http://app.response.stratfor.com/e/es.aspx?s>

And check out this related series that gives you a wonderful aerial view with narrative of our States

<http://www.smithsonianchannel.com/site/sn/show.do?series=701>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:05

## **SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT A PONZI SCHEME, BUT-**

<http://www.ssa.gov/history/ponzi.htm>

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/a-primer-on-social-security/2011/09/08/gIQAAvYkCK\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/a-primer-on-social-security/2011/09/08/gIQAAvYkCK_blog.html)

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<http://www.jeffjacoby.com/10235/a-ponzi-scheme-that-not-the-point>

<http://www.jeffjacoby.com/10242/uncle-sam-i-ous-cant-save-social-security>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 01:00

Thursday, September 8, 2011

## **REMEMBERING THE AMERICAN HOLOCAUST**

If we are supposed to remember "Lessons" from 9-11, there are certainly Lessons from our National Disgrace known here as the Civil War that we should also be remembering. Americans, North and South, slaughtered each other on American soil. America should remember that War every year and mourn and repent the loss of more than 600,000 Americans killed by other Americans in battles and by starvation and disease while in horrible prisons. What unnecessary, insane and evil madness all that was. Will we ever again be at each others throats like that? Remember most of the combatants were professing Christians with, in their minds, a righteous cause. Was that War something God intended to use to bring us back to Himself and our Founding Principles? Why don't we have a Day to remember that War and those who died in it?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:54

## **HISTORICAL OR HYSTERICAL PERSPECTIVE**

A piece of steel girder from one of the Twin Towers came into our City today. The newsreader on TV said it would be part of a Memorial to the only time when our Nation has been invaded by another. And all the newscasts recite the number killed in the attacks of 9-11 with many photos of those who died. Besides the point that we were not invaded by another Nation on 9-11, there were 2976 people killed (not including the Terrorists) and it is important to remember them. Well, the United States mainland was invaded by a Nation in the War of 1812. That would be England! 2,260 Americans were killed in action; 4,505 were wounded; 15,000 (est total.) died from all causes and all Government Buildings and most of Washington DC itself were burned to the ground. Far greater carnage and destruction than 9-11. A good explanation of the War of 1812 can be found [HERE](#) We are told we must never forget what happened on 9-11. How come we do not remember the invasion of 1814? What is the difference? Which did more damage? Here is an eyewitness account of the invasion of Washington-

"the British send a truce party to negotiate with the Americans ...scarcely had the party bearing the flag entered the street, than they were fired upon ... they proceeded, without a moment's delay to burn and destroy everything in the most distant degree connected with government. In this general devastation were included the Senate House, the President's palace, an extensive dockyard and arsenal, barracks for two or three thousand men, several large storehouses filled with naval and military stores, some hundreds of cannon of different descriptions, and nearly twenty thousand stand of small arms. There were also two or three public rope works which shared the same fate, a fine frigate pierced for sixty guns and just ready to be launched, several gun brigs and armed schooners, with a variety of gunboats and small craft. The powder magazines were, of course, set on fire, and exploded with a tremendous crash, throwing down many houses in their vicinity, partly by pieces of the wall striking them, and partly by the concussion of the air whilst quantities of shot, shell, and hand grenades, which could not otherwise be rendered useless, were thrown into the river."While Gleig's regiment was sacking the city, the remainder of the British force marched into the American capital as night approached:"... the blazing of houses, ships, and stores, the report of exploding magazines, and the crash of falling roofs informed them, as they proceeded, of what was going forward. You can conceive nothing finer than the sight which met them as they drew near to the town. The sky was brilliantly illuminated by the different conflagrations, and a dark red light was thrown upon the road, sufficient to permit each man to view distinctly his comrade's face....When the detachment sent out to destroy Mr. Madison's house entered his dining parlor, they found a dinner table spread and covers laid for forty guests. Several kinds of wine, in handsome cut glass decanters, were cooling on the sideboard; plate holders stood by the fireplace, filled with dishes and plates; knives, forks, and spoons were arranged for immediate use; in short, everything was ready for the entertainment of a ceremonious party. Such were the arrangements in the dining room, whilst in the kitchen were others answerable to them in every respect. Spits, loaded with joints of various sorts, turned before the fire; pots, saucepans, and other culinary utensils stood upon the grate; and all the other requisites for an elegant and substantial repast were exactly in a state which indicated that they had been lately and precipitately abandoned. You will readily imagine that these preparations were beheld by a party of hungry soldiers with no indifferent eye. An elegant dinner, even though considerably overdressed, was a luxury to which few of them, at least for some time back, had been accustomed, and which, after the dangers and fatigues of the day, appeared peculiarly inviting. They sat down to it, therefore, not indeed in the most orderly manner, but with countenances which would not have disgraced a party of aldermen at a civic feast, and, having satisfied their appetites with fewer complaints than would have probably escaped their rival gourmands, and partaken pretty freely of the wines, they finished by setting fire

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

to the house which had so liberally entertained them....Of the Senate house, the President's palace, the barracks, the dockyard, etc., nothing could be seen except heaps of smoking ruins."References: Gleig, George Robert, A History of the Campaigns of the British at Washington and New Orleans (1826), reprinted in Commager, Henry Steele and Allan Nevins The Heritage of America (1939); Lloyd, Alan, The Scorching of Washington (1974); Seale, William The President's House, Vol. I (1986).

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:47

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

## **LIBERTY AND FREEDOM IN THE WORLD TODAY**

Freedom and Liberty are major Themes in the Bible. They are defined there as either Spiritual freedom from bondage to the Law, sin, death, devil or as Liberty (liberation) from imprisonment, exile, debt, slavery, enemies, oppression. What do these terms mean when we hear them in the daily news? The basic idea of "Freedom" is the ability to act voluntarily; to will or choose as one wishes in the absence of coercion. Perhaps the killing and violence in Libya is coming to a close. Perhaps the current Ruler of Syria will step down. Perhaps Mubarak in Egypt will be found guilty of corruption and punished. The Western media and most people writing about the "Arab Spring" uprisings have said or hoped all of this is about people (especially discontent young people) who want Freedom such as they think we have in the West. Really? How do we define "Freedom" or "Liberty"? In our Society, "Freedom" is ideally freedom to pursue our own individual good in our own way while not depriving others of the same freedom. Such freedom in Nations with millions of people requires Government, an "order-keeping" State with authority and power to maintain that Liberty while restraining itself. The ideal State maintains liberty for all but violates the freedom of none. Is such Liberty or Freedom the goal being pursued by the demonstrating masses? Will such a State be the outcome? Our political Tradition includes \*representative institutions, \*popular sovereignty, \*social contract, \*elected Rulers, \*limited Powers and \*Government under Law". These are the principles of Government a free people have in America. Is that kind of Government what the people of Egypt are going to have after Mubarak is gone? what Libyans will have after Gadhafi is gone? Actual, true Personal, Economic and Political Freedom for all Citizens is unknown and impossible in Nations which are controlled by an all-powerful King, Dictator or Regime which, by definition, must deny it (even if they pay lip service to some of these ideals). Such Freedom for all Citizens is also impossible to maintain apart from its Biblical and Christian underpinning. The latter are the true and historical sources of true Liberty and such a Government. Peoples around the Globe who want true Freedom must first have Biblical Christianity. And if our Nation does not guard the Christian Heritage that it does have, it will lose the Freedom that is its fruit!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:49

## **THE SUCCESSFUL WAR AND THE UNNECESSARY WAR**

What has been gained since 9-11? What lessons should we learn? Here is what seems to me to be a knowledgeable, realistic and wise assessment of where we are at and should now be going 10 years later.  
<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110905-911-and-successful-war?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:50

Monday, September 5, 2011

## **WHY DO WE LABOR?**

Ecclesiastes 3:22 ... there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work ... Isaiah 2:8 [However, beware worshipping your work] Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:25

Sunday, September 4, 2011

### **WHAT ARE WE REMEMBERING 9-11?**

I do not think any of us will forget what happened on 9-11 ten years ago. But I wonder what the purpose is of the Memorial Services that so many are planning for this week or next Sunday. Are we simply honoring the memory of those who died that day or as a result of that day? Are we honoring those who died as Patriotic Heroes? Those who were killed while at their workplace because of the destruction caused by the airplane crashes are victims not heroes. Those who died or were injured because of their attempts to rescue or help those victims are brave heroes. They all should be remembered, of course!

Are we also going to remember the reason for the destruction that led to the death of these victims and heroes? To do their deaths some justice, to put their suffering and the suffering of their family and friends and the entire Nation into the right perspective, don't we have to acknowledge that the cause was an effort to terrorize and hurt America by radical Muslims? I wonder if we will remember that in the Services this week?

If it is important, as so many say, that we never forget the victims and the heroes of 9-11, it is equally important that we never forget the infamy of those Islamic Terrorists and renew our commitment to whatever it takes to see to it that such infamy by them never happens again. (What will that be?)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:49

Thursday, August 25, 2011

## **IN PRAISE OF A PRO-BUSINESS STATE**

From Cal Thomas-

"According to the Pollina Corporate Real Estate Study: "Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2011," "Virginia is the unquestionable brightest star on the American flag when it comes to pro-business. ... Virginia is truly in a class by itself." Nine other states made Pollina's list. Republican governors lead eight of them. Anyone else see a pattern? Compared to the federal economic picture, Virginia's statistics are astounding: In less than two years, McDonnell's administration reports that it has added 48,200 net new jobs. As recently as 2009, Virginia ranked 35th nationally in jobs created. Significantly, "only 8 percent of net new jobs are government positions." The reason Washington -- and especially the Obama administration -- has difficulty replicating what is occurring in Virginia and those nine other states is because it's incapable of abandoning a failed ideology. When old ideologies have proven bankrupt, they are mostly discarded and replaced with something new that has a better chance of working. But the liberal ideology that government can better care for you than you can care for yourself remains on life support, though clearly it, too, has failed."

<http://jewishworldreview.com/cols/thomas082311.php3>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:49

## **CHINA'S CYBER ATTACKS**

Here is scary story and video of Chinese cyber attacks capability  
state-media-video-candidly-depicts-chinas-developing-cyber-weaponry

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:42

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

### **THE FALSE SPECTER OF "DOMINIONISM"**

I am a Theonomist, believing, like the Puritan Colonists of New England and the Founding Fathers of our Country, that the Laws of our Nation should be based on the Law of God(Scripture). Most Evangelicals would or should agree. (See my Essay on Theonomy at [theonomy-living-by-the-law-of-god](#) )This does not mean I am in favor of a Theocracy in which the Leaders of a Religion must be the Leaders of our Nation. In no way do I advocate that a Church, any Church, should "run" America. The latter is a straw man, sometimes labeled "Dominionism, and posited by secular liberals as a threat to our liberal democratic form of Government. This is wrong-headed thinking by those Liberals who raise the specter, based on false assumptions and accusations. See Michael Gerson's column [a-holy-war-on-the-tea-party](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:59

Tuesday, August 23. 2011

## **BOGUS WARNINGS**

Every month I receive, as I did this morning, at least one "Important! pass this on" mailing from some well-meaning friend. When tempted to do this, first please check <http://snopes.com/>

These "alarming" letters are almost always bogus!! Thanks!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:38

## **ISRAELI-ARAB CRISIS APPROACHING**

"In September, the U.N. General Assembly will vote on whether to recognize Palestine as an independent and sovereign state with full rights in the United Nations. In many ways, this would appear to be a reasonable and logical step. However, when the United Nations votes on Palestinian statehood, it will intersect with other realities and other historical processes. First, it is one thing to declare a Palestinian state; it is quite another thing to create one. The Palestinians are deeply divided between two views of what the Palestinian nation ought to be, a division not easily overcome. Second, this vote will come at a time when two of Israel's neighbors are coping with their own internal issues. Syria is in chaos, with an extended and significant resistance against the regime having emerged. Meanwhile, Egypt is struggling with internal tension over the fall of President Hosni Mubarak and the future of the military junta that replaced him. Add to this the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and the potential rise of Iranian power, and the potential recognition of a Palestinian state — while perfectly logical in an abstract sense — becomes an event that can force a regional crisis in the midst of ongoing regional crises. It thus is a vote that could have significant consequences."  
<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110822-israeli-arab-crisis->

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:34

Friday, August 19. 2011

## **LIBERTY? IS THAT WHAT THE MIDDLE EAST UPRISINGS ARE REALLY ABOUT?**

The basic idea of "Freedom" is the ability to act voluntarily; to will or chose as one wishes in the absence of coercion. Perhaps the killing and violence in Libya is coming to a close. Perhaps the current Ruler of Syria will step down. Perhaps Mubarak in Egypt will be found guilty of corruption and punished. The Western media and most people writing about the "Arab Spring" uprisings have said or hoped all of this is about people (especially discontent young people) who want freedom and democracy such as they think we have in the West. Really? How do we define "Freedom" and "Democracy"? In our Society, "Freedom" is ideally freedom to pursue our own individual good in our own way while not depriving others of the same freedom. Such freedom in Nations with millions of people requires Government, an "order-keeping" State with authority and power to maintain that Liberty while restraining itself. The ideal State maintains liberty for all but violates the freedom of none. Is such Liberty or Freedom the goal being pursued by the demonstrating masses? Will such a State be the outcome? "Democracy" and a democratic Government in our American Tradition is not a Government of the People, by the people and for the People. Never has been. Our political Tradition includes \*representative institutions, \*popular sovereignty, \*social contract, \*elected Rulers, \*limited Powers and \*Government under Law". Is that what the people of Egypt are going to have after Mubarak is gone? Actual, true Personal Freedom for all Citizens is unknown and impossible in Nations which are controlled by an all-powerful King, Dictator or Regime which, by definition, must deny it (even if they pay lip service to some of these ideals). Personal and Social Freedom for all Citizens is also impossible to maintain apart from its Biblical and Christian underpinning. The latter are the true and historical sources of true Liberty and such a Government.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:22

Tuesday, August 16. 2011

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

"The current economic crisis is best understood as a crisis of political economy. Moreover, it has to be understood as a global crisis enveloping the United States, Europe and China that has different details but one overriding theme: the relationship between the political order and economic life. On a global scale, or at least for most of the world's major economies, there is a crisis of political economy. Let's consider how it evolved."Read more: Global Economic Downturn: A Crisis of Political Economy | STRATFOR

global-economic-downturn-crisis-political-economy

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:53

## **WHAT HAPPENED TO THE "ARAB SPRING"?**

This article seems to be an excellent analysis of the situation in the Mid East. It reveals false assumptions of Westerners about the recent "uprisings". It is a serious eye-opening account of political realities and the major difference between America and Arab countries. Worth the time to read.

-re-examining-arab-spring?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:45

Friday, August 12. 2011

## **THE VIEW FROM VERIZON**

In many areas of life (but not all), change is constant and in those areas we must change with the Times or fall behind and lose what you have and there is no recovery. Case in point in today's news- the now violent strike of 45000 Verizon Telephone land line employees who want job security! (the wireless division is booming), the Post Office facing the lay-off of 120,000 (people are using the internet for their "mail"), Borders (e-books are replacing hard covers), Assembly line workers (replaced by computerized robots), print newspapers and magazines (again, being replaced with e-versions on-line), even TVs and Personal Computers are being replaced by smart phones. Of course, the need for change applies to traditional churches, too (becoming irrelevant to youth and young adults). Ever developing Technology drives these changes. But the ever changing interests and perceived needs of people and culture drives the Technology (it is a chicken and egg thing). Here is where the Bible comes in. It should be changing those interests and perceived needs of people. And what it changes them with is God's unchanging Truth. He and His Word remain the same always (although hopefully our understanding of it will always change, too).

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:47

Thursday, August 11. 2011

## **NOT THE WORLD I GREW UP IN ANY MORE**

"The USA is bigger, older, more Hispanic and Asian and less wedded to marriage and traditional families than it was in 1990. It also is less enamored of kids, more embracing of several generations living under one roof, more inclusive of same-sex couples, more cognizant of multiracial identities, more suburban, less rural and leaning more to the South and West. Results of the 2010 Census have been pouring out all year, an avalanche of statistics detailing the population characteristics of states, counties and cities. But the Census represents more than just a current snapshot. The end of the first decade of the 21st century marks a turning point in the nation's social, cultural, geographic, racial and ethnic fabric. It's a shift so profound that it reveals an America that seemed unlikely a mere 20 years ago — one that will influence the nation for years to come in everything from who is elected to run the country, states and cities to what type of houses will be built and where." Read the rest of the article here- <http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/census/> Check out the interactive map.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:04

## **IT IS NOT REALLY ABOUT INTEREST RATES OR CONSUMER CONFIDENCE**

The Bible does not condemn wealth. In fact, God expects us to make as much as we can, as long as we do it honestly and fairly (according to Biblical moral and ethical principles). What matters is what we do with our wealth. Wealth that comes from our honest labor (in a broad sense) paradoxically, is from God. It belongs to God and is meant to be used for God. This is FUNDAMENTAL!. Stewardship of all Wealth (not simply money) is the first Principle of Biblical Economics (including Biblical Capitalism). The second Principle is that "Money (wealth) is for Ministry," for the service of others. Very simple.

The underlying, fundamental reason Nations and millions of people in them are dealing with fiscal crisis is that Governments, Businesses and individuals reject or deny these Biblical Principles. They are seeking, making and using Wealth for wrong and self-destructive (selfish) reasons. What I am saying sounds ridiculously naive, simplistic, totally unrealistic- just plain stupid or ignorant by most people's standards. Be that as it may, what I am saying here is Biblical. That means it is the will of God and that is what matters most to me. That is what should matter most to all Christians, even though it makes us swim against the Tide of the times. That is what makes us the truly radical revolutionaries who could turn the world upside down! Please read the Articles I have written about Economics and posted on my website. [http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com\\_](http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com_)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:33

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

## **DOUBTING THE AFGHAN WAR**

"The crash of a Chinook helicopter that killed 38 U.S. and Afghan troops was probably caused by an insurgent firing a rocket-propelled grenade, U.S. military officials said Monday, describing the attack as a "lucky shot." Investigators intensified their probe into the biggest single loss of life for U.S. forces since the start of the Afghanistan war a decade ago. While military officials played down concerns that their workhorse helicopters had become more vulnerable to attacks by the Taliban, investigators focused on whether it had been necessary to dispatch the Chinook on the risky mission in the remote Tangi Valley of eastern Afghanistan." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/on-afghan-rescue-effort>  
I added the emphasis. This "war" has been going on for 10 years! I am seriously doubting whether the whole war effort (in Afghanistan) is necessary or worth losing any more of our Troops, let alone the money involved.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:47

Monday, August 8, 2011

### **MARINE SERVED IN AFGANISTAN BUT KILLED IN AMERICA**

A police officer in San Diego was killed with a shot to the head while he sat in his patrol car at an intersection yesterday. The shooter was killed himself by other Officers pursuing him afterward. The slain Officer was 36 and a Captain in the Marine Reserves, who had recently come home after finishing a year-long deployment in Afghanistan fighting to defend and preserve Justice and the American Way of Life. Besides the murder, what's wrong with this picture?  
[san-diego-officer-dies-suspect-left-suicide/](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:45

Thursday, August 4, 2011

## **WHO CREATES JOBS?**

"The younger companies are, the more jobs they create, regardless of their size. The popular perception that small businesses create most of America's jobs has been the focus of heated debate for three decades. However, the more telling characteristic for predicting job creation is the age of the firm, not its size, according to a new study by John Haltiwanger, Ron Jarmin, and Javier Miranda. In *Who Creates Jobs? Small vs. Large vs. Young* (NBER Working Paper No. 16300), the researchers conclude that the younger companies are, the more jobs they create, regardless of their size."

<http://www.nber.org/digest/feb11/w16300.html>

<http://blogs.forbes.com/robertlenzner/2011/06/06/the-only-way-to-create-new-jobs-is-to-start-new-businesses>

See the articles I wrote on Biblical Economics posted on my website in the section called Reformation Institute-

<http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:23

## **THE PRESIDENT AND JOB CREATION**

"The private sector is the seedbed for jobs. Of 153.7 million American workers, according to the Department of Labor, only 2.8 million are federal workers, 3.8 million have state government jobs, and 11.1 million are employed by cities and counties. More than 88 percent of all American jobs are in the private domain." Many factors influence economic health and hiring decisions in both small and large businesses. Consumer spending, the housing market, foreign shocks, such as wars and terrorist attacks, and the invention of compelling new products all combine to form the soup of economic activity. Job creation reflects the confidence of hiring managers that consumers will continue to buy their products and that more people engaged in making products and services will lead to long-term profit, justifying the additional costs of expanding the labor force. "Yet if job creation is an economic bet made by many thousands of firms trying to assess future economic conditions, why do politicians persistently claim that they are responsible for job growth?" Historian Thomas Carlyle dubbed economics "the dismal science," yet the field covers the interactions between consumers, companies, traders, bankers, markets, merchants, unions, inventors and laborers that constitute the wonderfully complex set of relationships that make the world go 'round. "If we continue to indulge the overblown claims by politicians that they can do anything more than tinker around the edges of global economic forces, then we only have ourselves to blame for misplaced expectations." [What does the Bible say is the Role of Government and Business?]

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/opinion/2015540325\\_guest08alben.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/opinion/2015540325_guest08alben.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:20

## **TAXING THE RICH- WHAT IS FAIR?**

"President Obama actually told America on national television that it is a nation "with a system in which the deck seems stacked against middle class Americans in favor of the wealthiest few." It is incomprehensible how a man serving as president of these United States could make such a fundamentally false assertion about his own country."... official IRS data showed that for 2007 the top 1% of income earners paid more in federal income taxes than the bottom 95% combined. The top 1% paid 40.4% of all federal income taxes that year, almost twice their share of income. The middle fifth of income earners, the actual middle class, paid 4.7% of federal income taxes. "Moreover, the bottom 40% of income earners as a group paid no federal income taxes that year. They instead received net payments from the IRS equal to 4% of total federal tax revenues. ...Today close to 50% of Americans pay no federal income tax."

<http://blogs.forbes.com/peterferrara/2011/07/28/president-obama-is-no-longer-tethered-to-reality/#more-134>

NOTE: "According to the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, it is true that 38 percent of "tax units" — which can be singles, couples, or families — are projected to have zero or negative income tax liability in 2009. About 60 percent of these households make \$20,000 per year or less."

<http://www.factcheck.org/2008/11/americans-paying-no-taxes/>

The Bible says we must pay taxes. (Romans 13:6) Why? How do Christians measure what is "fair" in the matter of Federal Income taxes? What about all dozens of other (non-income) taxes we pay?

**Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>**

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:51

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

## **SHOULD AMERICA HAVE THE MISSION OF NATION BUILDING IN THE WORLD?**

If the Government's constitutional responsibility is to maintain peace and to protect its citizens (and the Nation) from injustice, physical harm and danger from any quarter and the latter includes maintaining and using Armed Forces for that purpose then, taxing the people for these services is not theft. It is the obligation of citizens to pay for them. However, in as much as the United States is spending billions of dollars toward "State Building" in Iraq, it is time for a national debate and consensus about the Policy of Nation Building? Is this a justified mission of our Government? Is Nation or State building part of the enumerated powers of the Federal Government? Does the Government have a constitutional right to use tax payer money to support this Policy? Definitions, as always, are essential. First, there is a difference between State building and Nation building. "In the American context, some commentators use the term "nation-building" interchangeably with "state-building". However ... the state is the focus of thinking rather than the "nation" (nation conventionally refers to the population itself, as united by identity history, culture and language). The issues debated related to the structures of the state (and its relationship to society) and as result state-building is the more broadly accepted term. In political science 'nation-building' usually has a quite distinct meaning, defined as the process of encouraging a sense of national identity within a given group of people, a definition that relates more to socialization than state capacity.

Similarly, state-building (nation-building) has at times been conflated with military intervention or regime change (again often in the American context). This derives in part from the military actions in Germany and Japan in World War II and resulting states, and became especially prevalent following the military interventions in Afghanistan (October 2001) and Iraq (March 2003). "Read more: <http://www.answers.com/topic/state-building-1#ixzz1TKg0edEj>In this paper, I am using "state building" as defined above. Further, the topic divides into two theories about how to build a "state": from within or from without. State building from without been described as "the use of armed force in the aftermath of a conflict to underpin an enduring transition to democracy." In this sense ... state building describes deliberate efforts by a foreign power to construct or install the institutions of a national government, according to a model that may be more familiar to the foreign power but is often considered foreign and even destabilizing. In this sense, state-building is typically characterized by massive investment, military occupation, transitional government, and the use of propaganda to communicate governmental policy." "It is viewed [by critics] as having overtones of imperialism and colonialism, whereby local populations view the foreign power as an oppressor attempting to impose a foreign system and culture." "Read more: <http://www.answers.com/topic/state-building-1#ixzz1TKgfen1I>For this paper I am using this definition. It seems to be the dominant one for American policy in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is also related to the topic of "Regime Change" and the argument for our intervention in the affairs of a number of Nations. Proponents of state and national building from within use a very different definition. And there is great disagreement over whether either method really works in the long term. Back to my original question: Is external "state building" in other Countries a justified mission of our Government? Is Nation or State building part of the enumerated powers of the Federal Government? Does the Government have a constitutional right to use tax payer money to support this Policy?" "The enumerated powers are a list of items found in Article I, section 8 of the US Constitution that set forth the authoritative capacity of the United States Congress. In summary, Congress may exercise the powers to which it is granted by the Constitution, and subject to explicit restrictions in the Bill of Rights and other protections found in the Constitutional text." "Historically these powers have often been expanded to include other matters through broad interpretation of the enumerated powers by Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States." - Wikipedia In my reading of the Enumerated Powers, I see nothing authorizing "State or Nation Building" as defined here. Only the most broad and free interpretation of the Text can lead to an opposite conclusion. Based on my "original intent" interpretation of the Constitution I conclude the Federal Government is not justified to spend tax dollars and the lives of thousands of our citizens on such a Mission. And this conclusion is in keeping with what the Bible says are the "enumerated powers" of Civil Government.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:05

## **THE EVIL OF PARTISAN POLITICS**

Political Parties We hear a lot about the evils of partisan politics. That is when decisions and votes are made based solely on the perceived or desired best interests of a political Party (or of the power or position of someone in a Party)- not for the Country as a whole nor for the voters back home. Here is a good article examining and questioning the very influential role of political Parties in America. It makes a good case for revamping that role and the major impact for the better that could make in the way our Federal Government works. There is nothing in the 1787 U S Constitution about Political Parties as such. The Founders did not envision them. They are not essential to their plan for how our

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

Government would work. Political Parties did not appear until the 1830's with the campaigns of Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren. Needless to say the Bible does not call for them either. But Scripture does warn of the dangers to the Church of what we would call "partisan politics" when it flourishes there.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/07/how-to-turn-republicans-and-democrats-into-americans/8521/4/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:54

Tuesday, July 12. 2011

### **GETTING THE FACTS STRAIGHT**

Numbers and statistics are being thrown around constantly in news reports. Wildly different claims are being made by politicians and columnists about very complicated subjects. Here are 3 non-partisan websites that are helpful with the facts. <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/> <http://www.factcheck.org/>  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker> Here is a conservative 'fact checker" - <http://www.newsbusters.org/>  
This website is very helpful with its expose' of "Myths" <http://www.washingtonpost.com/2010/07>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:29

Saturday, July 2, 2011

## **AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM**

Do I believe in American Exceptionalism? Of course I do and all Americans should! I do not believe America is perfect. Far from it! It is popular for many, especially on July 4th, to be idealistic and romantic about our Country, overlooking its many faults and shortcomings. On the other hand there are many who denigrate Patriotism and the very concept of American Exceptionalism because they focus, even obsess on, those same faults and shortcomings. No question, the latter are real and must not be minimized. God will severely judge us if we do not address them. It is important to define "American Exceptionalism". I believe it means that the Historic Founding and Constitutional Principles of the United States are exceptional, unique and superior among all Nations. I greatly value the political and economic principles and freedoms of America. I also take pride in its many amazing accomplishments and contributions to the well-being of human beings at Home and around the World (its faults and shortcomings notwithstanding). I value and enjoy the Land itself and the wonderful and varied rural and urban cultural riches that abound here. I have never wanted to live in any other Nation. I do not understand Americans who never travel this Country, but travel abroad and simply "love" other Countries! I am thankful to God that I was born here and I am proud to be an American. America's History and Heritage have unending fascination for me and I believe they should be very important to all who live here and who enjoy the many benefits and opportunities that living here makes possible. I am committed to being involved as a citizen to making this Nation better and to defend, conserve, apply and live up to its Founding and Constitutional Principles. I do not agree with dual-citizenship in other Nations or with Americans who believe being a "Global Citizen" is more important than being an American Citizen. I know there are 194 other Nations and we must seek to live and work in concord with them, but I do not believe they are all equal, especially those which do not share our Founding and Constitutional Principles. I do not believe in the politically correct concept of "Internationalism" when that takes precedence over American Patriotism ("Internationalism" is often code for Other Nations First) This week end and all year, I celebrate American Exceptionalism. May God bless our exceptional Nation!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:37

## **REALITIES OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL IN AFGHANISTAN**

There will be a lot of talk this July 4th Weekend about those who serve our Country in the Military. Included may be a comments about the planned troop withdrawal in Afghanistan. Here is an extensive article of what is involved in doing this- "Afghanistan, a landlocked country in the heart of Central Asia, is one of the most isolated places on Earth. This isolation has posed huge logistical challenges for the United States. Hundreds of shipping containers and fuel trucks must enter the country every day from Pakistan and from the north to sustain the nearly 150,000 U.S. and allied forces stationed in Afghanistan, about half the total number of Afghan security forces. Supplying a single gallon of gasoline in Afghanistan reportedly costs the U.S. military an average of \$400, while sustaining a single U.S. soldier runs around \$1 million a year (by contrast, sustaining an Afghan soldier costs about \$12,000 a year)." Read more: Obama's Afghanistan Plan and the Realities of Withdrawal | STRATFOR <http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110622-obamas-afghanistan-plan-realities->

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:10

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

## **NOT CHRISTIANITY, BUT HUMANITY AT ITS BEST**

One week ago today, a Class 3 Tornado swept through this local area of Western Massachusetts, devastating a wide area almost 40 miles long. Two Class 1 Tornadoes also went through. More than 5000 homes were damaged. In Springfield, mostly down town, 240 buildings have been demolished. Recovery has been around the clock and in the news every day. People are helping people on an unprecedented scale. Everyone repeatedly remarks on the amount of good will being demonstrated by innumerable volunteers in the clean-up effort. It seems every church and most every organization around here is pitching-in to help. The disaster is bringing out the very best in people. It is very, very impressive. It is also not Christian. Many Christians are involved, but so are hundreds of non-Christians. What we have here is Humanity, a demonstration of the best in human nature. There are usually stories in the news of the very worst in human nature in action. All of us are created in the Image of God. That means we all have faculties for being creative, rational, moral, spiritual and communal beings. We are seeing these God-given but human (not Christian) faculties at work overcoming this Disaster. We can not say it is the spirit of Christ at work. No, it is the spirit of Humanity at work. Some of us would say we are seeing "Common Grace" in action. All of this is a very good thing. Non-Christians can do good things. They can be good neighbors giving sacrificially to help others in need in tough times. If the good work was being done between sworn enemies, between people who have a history of hating and killing each other that would be a different story. If such enemies were working together to help each other dig out from under the Rubble, we would have a demonstration of mercy and forgiveness, of reconciliation, in action. We might argue that would be more "Christian". But that is not the case. What we have here for the most part are strangers helping strangers simply because they humans in need. Race, Color and Creed are irrelevant in this effort. That is another good thing to see.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:47

Monday, June 6, 2011

## **BANNING CIRCUMCISION AND PRAYER**

Circumcision and prayer are two of the most ancient, and foundational, religious practices of the world's great monotheistic religions. If these are successfully legislated against in the name of their "harm" to individuals or society, then we have truly entered into a new day of aggressive secularism where the goal is not the protection of religious freedom, but its removal.

This is not about circumcision; it's not about prayer at graduations. It's about the increasingly aggressive attempt to purge faith from the public, and even private, spheres of life.

Read entire article- <http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=1248>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:15

Friday, May 27, 2011

## **THE CHURCH OF O**

Here is another on target analysis of Oprah. I post it as another lesson and warning to Christians  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/april1/1.38.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:34

Tuesday, May 24. 2011

### **AMERICA'S FAVORITE NARCISSIST**

Oprah is a sign of what ails America. It is a sorry and scary scandal that so many Christians are among the millions of TV viewers who enjoy, even admire (worship?) this woman. Here is an on-target review of America's favorite Narcissist. (Narcissism is the dominant social characteristic of our Age)  
[http://www.boston.com/ae/tv/articles/2011/05/24/say\\_goodnight\\_oprah/](http://www.boston.com/ae/tv/articles/2011/05/24/say_goodnight_oprah/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:15

### **AN OVERVIEW OF THE MIDDLE EAST: Seeking God's will**

God has a will for geo-political Nations. He holds them all accountable to His Law and will judge them accordingly. I have posted on this subject in recent weeks. The following very complete overview of the many realities in the Middle East indicate how complex these realities are and why we must seriously pray that our President have wisdom and courage in making his (our) foreign policy decisions. What he has on his plate is overwhelming! His decisions can effect the lives of millions. Why should we be concerned about all this as Christians? Because we are Christians! We seek God's will in all things. We seek His will for our Nation, as well as for all other Nations and peoples. A major problem for those of us who are moral absolutists (those who say- all killing is wrong! all stealing is wrong" all adultery is wrong!, etc ala the Ten Commandments) is that moral absolutes are impossible to always live by in this sinful world. Christians have an understandable difficulty with compromise in complicated and intractable moral situations here at home and certainly in the world. And moral compromise is exactly what is necessary in politics. This is certainly and most dramatically obvious in world politics. That is hard for conservative Christians to swallow. Maybe we should not, but ignoring the problem is not a viable option for us. Read this latest article from Stratfor with all this in mind-  
[http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110523-obama-and-arab-spring?utm\\_source=GWeekly&utm\\_medium](http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110523-obama-and-arab-spring?utm_source=GWeekly&utm_medium)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:55

Sunday, May 15. 2011

### **LATEST EXAMPLE OF HUGE GOVERNMENT WASTE OF OUR MONEY**

Cut Government spending? Every month there is at least one report like this one illustrating both the ineptitude of many Government Programs and their Over-Site, as well as of greed and moral irresponsibility on the part of citizens that cost 100's of millions of dollars of our tax money.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/a-pattern-of-hud-projects-stalled-or-abandoned/  
FOLLOW-UP](http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/a-pattern-of-hud-projects-stalled-or-abandoned/FOLLOW-UP)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/members-of-congress-call-for-probe-of-huds-home-affordable-housing-program/2011/05/17/AFOWrn5G\\_story.html?wpisrc=nl\\_cuzheads](http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/members-of-congress-call-for-probe-of-huds-home-affordable-housing-program/2011/05/17/AFOWrn5G_story.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzheads)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:39

### **SACRIFICING FOR THE GREATER GOOD**

Deliberately flooding 25,000 people out of their homes in the Cajun country bordering New Orleans and Baton Rouge in order to save those Cities from flooding is an extreme example of she often neglected, noble Principle of sacrificing the personal needs of a Few for the greater good of the Many. The only difference is that the sacrifice was not voluntary, but made by the Government. I hope the Leaders, Businesses and Citizens of those Cities appreciate what the Cajun people are going through on their behalf and generously recompense them.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:26

Thursday, May 12, 2011

## **RISE OF THE "NONES" AND STUDYING SECULARISM**

The number of self-identified Christians in America who attend church every week is declining. It is now perhaps less than 20 % Meanwhile the number of people who self-identify as Secularists is steadily increasing.

<http://www.theamericanchurch.org/facts/4.htm>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/26619711/American-Nones-The-Profile-of-the-No-Religion-Population> According to one dictionary, Secularism means indifference to or rejection or exclusion of religion and religious considerations According to an article in Newsweek, Secularism means "not overtly or specifically religious; not ecclesiastical or clerical. This remains its best and most important meaning. In this great experiment that is American democracy, "secular" is the only word we have to describe the idea, handed down by the Founders, that our leaders do not belong to God, they belong to us." This remains its best and most important meaning. In this great experiment that is American democracy, "secular" is the only word we have to describe the idea, handed down by the Founders, that our leaders do not belong to God, they belong to us."

<http://www.newsweek.com/2008/02/16/in-defense-of-secularism.html> Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., opened a center for the study of secularism in September 2005. The Institute holds monthly dinner seminars attended by faculty from a wide variety of departments, and courses developed under its auspices have become popular offerings in humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. The Institute has also held national curriculum-development workshops that have turned into wide-ranging, interdisciplinary discussions.

During its first five academic years, ISSSC sponsored the development of 23 courses by Trinity College faculty. It has also sponsored the development of 13 courses at the Claremont University Consortium in collaboration with Claremont-McKenna College in California. At Trinity and Claremont, the sponsored courses have been prepared by faculty from the following academic disciplines: philosophy, political science, economics, history, international studies, biology, chemistry, computer science, sociology, public policy, cultural studies, fine arts, and the Italian, English, French and German language departments. The Institute has amplified its impact outside Hartford through its sponsorship of national curriculum-development workshops that have drawn faculty from Stanford, Yale, Princeton and Boston universities; Williams, Boston and Hamilton colleges; and other schools. Each year, the Institute chose a different theme for new courses, such as "The Heritage of the Enlightenment" and "The Global Impact of Secular Values."

<http://www.nebhe.org/thejournal/at-trinity-secularism-institute-renews-liberal-arts-curriculum/>

In light of the rising tide of the religious "nones," [people who answer Surveys that ask which Religion are you? with the phrase "None of the above" or simply "None"] one college has decided to be the first to offer a major in secularism. Pitzer College, a small liberal arts institution in Southern California, will offer the major through a new department of secular studies. Professors from a number of departments, including history, philosophy, religion, science and sociology, will teach courses ... Phil Zuckerman, a sociologist of religion and self-described "agnostic-atheist," proposed the new venture. His interest was sparked by the rising tide of secularism both in the United States and around the world. According to the American Religious Identification Survey, released in 2009, the percentage of American adults who say they have no religion has doubled in 20 years, to 15 percent, constituting the third largest religious group in the nation (eclipsed only by Catholics and Baptists). "There are hundreds of millions of people who are nonreligious. I want to know who they are, what they believe, why they are nonreligious," contends Zuckerman. "You have some countries where huge percentages of people – Czechs, Scandinavians – now call themselves atheists. Canada is experiencing a huge wave of secularization. This is happening very rapidly." "It has not been studied," he added. Consider what James Emory White has to say about this and see his suggestions for study of this Subject

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=1137>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:20

Monday, May 9, 2011

## **AN HISTORICALLY INAPPROPRIATE CELEBRATION**

The City of Springfield Mass has kicked off a year long celebration of its 375 Birthday with an Interfaith, Ecumenical Service at the local Roman Catholic Cathedral. The irony in this is that City was settled by a band of Puritans from Roxbury (Boston). Puritans were staunch Protestants and rejected the Church of Rome. They had sought to purify their Church in England of its papist Doctrines and practices in their desire to establish a Church like the one in the New Testament. The Puritan Founder of Springfield, William Pynchon, would be flabbergasted at how his City has "progressed"! However, he may have inadvertently contributed to this "progress". Pynchon wrote a book, "The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption" (1650). In it, he apparently said that Christ's death was not a punishment endured (equivalent to the pains of Hell) to redeem sinners; it was not the painful punishment of an innocent man to satisfy God's wrath against guilty men for their sins. He denied that God would require such a Death. Since Adam's sin was disobedience, Jesus' life of perfect obedience was the sufficient meritorious price of our redemption. Pynchon was reworking what he believed was a major Doctrine of his own church. His work became the first book banned and burned in Boston. After his trial for Heresy, Pynchon felt compelled to say, "But now at present I am much inclined to think that his sufferings were appointed by God for a farther end, namely, as the due punishment for our sins by way of satisfaction to divine justice for man's redemption." He refused to recant or change its contents further than that and rather than face another trial, he returned to England. His son, John, assumed Leadership of Springfield. Having gone up against the Religious Establishment of his day, perhaps Pynchon might have accepted some of the further rejection of Orthodoxy that followed his. But I doubt he ever envisioned an Inter-Faith, Ecumenical Service in a Roman Catholic Cathedral. And I am sure the people gathered here on May 14th will not be celebrating the Puritanism that is the City's Heritage. Source: History of Springfield (pp 79-89) <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ma/county/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:03

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

## **MY CURRENT POSITION ON SO-CALLED ISLAMIC TERRORISM**

There are many organizations and movements that use violent ("terrorist") methods to pursue their goals in the world. Some of these groups claim to be Muslims, but there are a variety of interpretations of what being a Muslim involves beside ascription to a few basic Tenets of Islam. These self-identifying "Muslim" or "Islamist" groups do not agree with each other and are often in conflict with each other. Therefore, blanket descriptions are not adequate to describe them. It is not fair or accurate to describe the Religion of Islam in general and all Muslims as evil or as enemies of America. But some groups definitely are. They must be acknowledged as such. Americans and Christians in particular can not ignore or deny this reality. It seems best to deal with each group for what it actually is based on its programs and activities and either accept or reject it accordingly. Al Qaeda and its affiliates seem bent on the destruction of America and for a number of reasons, most notably for what they see as its intrusion in the affairs of Muslim Countries and for its alliance with Israel. Many Arab Nations and Muslim organizations and peoples seem to share a common hatred for Israel. American Christians, who are often avid supporters of Israel, must come to terms with this reality and be clear about the reasons for that support and the price they and our Country may have to pay for it.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:41

## **BRINGING DOWN USA BY BANKRUPTING US**

Yes, he is dead, but was bin Laden successful? Here is a very different take on what Bin Laden was trying to do. There is a lesson to learn here.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/osama\\_bin\\_laden\\_didnt\\_win\\_but\\_he\\_was\\_enormously\\_successful](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/osama_bin_laden_didnt_win_but_he_was_enormously_successful)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:03

## **NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED OVER THE WEEKEND**

"In spite of the sense of justice and closure the killing of bin Laden brings, however, his death will likely have very little practical impact on the jihadist movement. More important will be the reaction of the Pakistani government to the operation and the impact it has on U.S.-Pakistani relations. To understand the impact of bin Laden's death on the global jihadist movement, we must first remember that the phenomenon of jihadism is far wider than just the al Qaeda core leadership of bin Laden and his closest followers. Rather than a monolithic entity based on the al Qaeda group, jihadism has devolved into a far more diffuse network composed of many different parts." Read more: Bin Laden's Death and the Implications for Jihadism | STRATFOR

[http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110502-bin-ladens-death-and-implications-jihadism?utm\\_](http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110502-bin-ladens-death-and-implications-jihadism?utm_)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:38

## **THE THREE FACES OF al QAEDA**

"al Qaeda has evolved into three different — and distinct — entities. These different faces of al Qaeda include: 1. The core vanguard group: Often referred to by STRATFOR as the al Qaeda core, al Qaeda prime or the al Qaeda apex leadership, this group is composed of Osama bin Laden and his close trusted associates. These are highly skilled, professional practitioners of propaganda, militant training and terrorism operations. This is the group behind the 9/11 attacks. 2. Al Qaeda franchises: These include such groups as al Qaeda in Iraq and al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Although professing allegiance to bin Laden, they are independent militant groups that remain separate from the core and, as we saw in the 2005 letter from al Qaeda core leader Ayman al-Zawahiri to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, there can be a great deal of tension and disagreement between them and the al Qaeda core. These regional franchises vary in size, level of professionalism and operational capability. 3. The broader grassroots jihadist movement: This group includes individuals and small cells inspired by al Qaeda but who, in most cases, have no contact with the core leadership." Read more: Al Qaeda and the Tale of Two Battlespaces |

STRATFOR [http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20081001\\_al\\_qaeda\\_and\\_tale\\_two\\_battlespaces](http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20081001_al_qaeda_and_tale_two_battlespaces)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:36

Monday, April 11. 2011

## **THE VERY UNCIVIL WAR**

Americans are rightly concerned about the troops we are losing in Iraq and Afghanistan fighting Islamic Radicals. The losses so far are approaching 6000 soldiers dead and 33,000 wounded.

<http://usmilitary.about.com/od/terrorism/a/iraqdeath1000.htm>

And we are appalled at the bloodshed in the current wars in Africa and the Middle East. But in contrast, the American Civil War (1862-1865) pitted Americans against Americans (most of them at least nominal Christians) and their blood was shed on our own soil.

Civil War Casualties      Union      Confederacy

Deaths from Wounds      110,070

94,000      Deaths from Disease      249,458      164,000

359,528      258,000      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/us20.cfm>

Total of 618,000 American died from conflict with fellow Americans! Why? There are many major reasons. Slavery is only part of the answer. I am dismayed by all that I was not taught (or did not learn) about the History of our Country.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 00:27

Sunday, April 10, 2011

## **GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

With all the controversy and debate over the Congressional Budget, here is a very informative website that accounts for all the ways our Federal Government spends our taxes. Where does all the money go?

A very good resource is here- using your Bible, which expenditures would you keep? and cut?

<http://www.usaspending.gov/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 23:32

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

## **HUMANITARIAN WAR? IMMACULATE WAR?**

Here is another thought-provoking essay from STRATFOR. This one is about the motives and rationale behind different kinds of wars of intervention. Good reasoning and analysis about various options. There are lessons here that must be learned by the United States and Americans. Food for thought for those of us who want our Country to act according to Biblical Principles.

[http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110404-immaculate-intervention-wars-humanitarianism?utm\\_](http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110404-immaculate-intervention-wars-humanitarianism?utm_)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:16

Friday, April 1. 2011

### **LESSONS ABOUT MIDDLE EAST FROM SYRIA**

If you are trying to understand what is happening in the Middle East and seek guidelines for any position you want to take as a Christians about the issues there, here are valuable Essays about Syria  
<http://www.danielpipes.org/blog/2011/03/syria-after-asad#continued>  
<http://www.meforum.org/555/syria-and-the-united-states-bad-habits-die-hard>  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/syrias\\_reformer/2011/03/31/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/syrias_reformer/2011/03/31/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:56

Tuesday, March 29. 2011

## **GOOD NEWS: IDEOLOGICAL NATURALISM LOSING STEAM**

"From [George] Marsden's perspective, ideological naturalism is losing steam within the academy, with more and more academics recognizing that science, though powerful, has clear limits and that a full understanding of human nature requires some degree of spirituality. Despite the sound and fury of the New Atheists, Marsden feels that, in general, the academy is becoming more open to spiritual concerns." I've seen some evidence on this trend in my own research: The growth of projects like UCLA's Spirituality in Higher Education and the SSRC's Essay Forum on the Religious Engagements of American Undergraduates. Increased awareness and acceptance of the work of Thomas Kuhn and Michael Polanyi on the philosophy of science. Theistic philosophers like Alvin Plantinga becoming part of the philosophical mainstream. Researchers like Elaine Howard Ecklund and Neil Gross finding greater interest in spirituality among university faculty than previously thought. Stanley Fish's prediction that religion is the "next big thing" in the academy. "[The reason for this development?]" The profound postmodern skepticism of the humanities and social sciences undercuts ideological naturalism as well, since all truth claims — e.g. "Science can explain everything" — are interpreted as claims to power. This skeptical stance doesn't necessarily help religious claims, except so far as it exposes problems with ideological naturalism. See entire article and related links here <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:56

## **TRENDS IN CHRISTIAN COLLEGES**

Trends in Christian Colleges away from their Heritage and Original Purpose. Originally, Harvard, Yale, Trinity (Hartford) and Dartmouth were Christian schools grounded in the Veritas of Scripture. They long ago lost that focus and became secular schools. Notice the change in names of these two schools. What do they indicate? Among other things, the Bible importance of the Bible shifts from being central to peripheral. Are they going to follow Harvard and the others above? Providence Bible Institute 1950-1960. Barrington College 1960-1985, merged with Gordon College 1985. In 1889, Adoniram Judson Gordon opened a Bible school named the Boston Missionary Training Institute to train Christian missionaries for work in the Belgian Congo [also known as Gordon Bible Institute]. In 1916, Gordon Bible College. In 1921, Gordon College of Theology and Missions. In 1962, Gordon College and Divinity School. [In 1970, Gordon College [the Gordon Divinity School separated] Mission Statement of Gordon. Still Evangelical, but what is missing?" Gordon College strives to graduate men and women distinguished by intellectual maturity and Christian character, committed to a lifestyle of servanthood and prepared for leadership roles in their homes, workplaces, churches and communities worldwide. To that end, Gordon College, a Christian community of the liberal arts, remains dedicated to: The historic, evangelical, biblical " Values Statement of Gordon. What has been watered down? We expect that all members of the Gordon community: 1. Call themselves Christian by virtue of the grace of God and their commitment to Jesus Christ. 2. Recognize the Bible as the Word of God, fully authoritative in matters of faith and conduct. 3. Have a sincere desire for that commitment to mature both in insight and behavior. Are these Schools going to follow the track of Harvard et al ?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:20

Monday, March 28, 2011

### **MEASURING HUMAN DISASTERS HUMANELY**

Here is a very thought-provoking article about putting the two disasters in Japan in perspective with each other and with other disasters around the globe. Much needed corrective to media coverage.  
[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2011/03](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2011/03)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:29

Tuesday, March 15. 2011

## **GIVING AID TO THE JAPANESE**

My wife and I have been contributing to Samaritan's Purse for years. We believe they are doing worthwhile, important work and can be trusted to be good stewards of the Lord's money."As the death toll mounts and the crisis in Japan deepens from Friday's devastating earthquake and tsunami, Samaritan's Purse is rushing personnel and aid to the grim scene. A 747 jumbo jet is being "

"Working with local Japanese churches and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Samaritan's Purse is distributing food, water, medicine, blankets, weatherproof plastic, and other essential items in communities along the northeastern Japanese coast, where some officials have estimated casualties at more than 10,000. There is no electricity in many regions; the nights are cold; and the suffering is great. Evacuations over nuclear power concerns have only compounded the problems."We will be laboring alongside church partners to show survivors the compassion and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please pray for our teams and for the plight of the Japanese people who are wondering how they will ever put their lives back together."The need is enormous. Your financial support is vital and appreciated. Samaritan's Purse will do all we can to help as many as we can doing it all in the Name of Jesus Christ. Thank you, and God bless you."

Franklin Graham <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:36

Monday, March 14, 2011

### **CUTTING BACK ON ENTITLEMENTS**

Charles Krauthammer has cogent comments here about Social Security

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/03/10/AR2011031005932.html>

He is rebutted here-

<http://www.businessinsider.com/charles-krauthammer-doesnt-understand-how-bonds-work-2011-3>

What should a Christian believe about this?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:20

Sunday, March 13, 2011

## **NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF PUBLIC UNION BARGAINING**

Here is the kind of controversy we get into as a result of "rights" won by public union collective bargaining- outrageous pay is in the "details"

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/03>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:45

Monday, March 7, 2011

### **THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND DEBT: Christian perspectives**

Here is a very interesting overview of proposals from several Evangelical Leaders and organizations about our Federal Debt and the proposed Budget. (See one of them in the post below this one) Also read the comments that follow the CT article for a good discussion of the issues and principles involved  
[http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctpolitics/2011/03/evangelicals\\_is.html](http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctpolitics/2011/03/evangelicals_is.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:45

Thursday, March 3, 2011

## **WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE TYRANTS OF LIBYA & SUDAN**

What is happening in Sudan these days? The people of the southern half of the Country have voted to secede and form a new Nation. What is going on in northern Sudan? "... the decline of U.S. influence ... put an end to the dream of a "New Sudan." [In July 2005] Hard-liners regained the upper hand in Khartoum, and secessionism became the core political value of the south. Since then, the north's freedoms, always tenuous, have been under steady assault. When southern Sudan becomes an independent state on July 9, ... any pretense of civil rights in the north [will cease to exist]. President Bashir says the rump Sudan's future identity will be Arab and Islamist, ignoring the fact that Arabs form a plurality in the north, but not a majority. Today, a ruling party clique presides in God's name over a country that is seventh from the bottom on Transparency International's 2010 Corruption Perceptions Index and spends two-thirds of its annual budget on security. The April 2010 elections that certified Bashir's rule were comprehensively rigged. "The CPA was a gift from the south to the north," Sawi Bitek, an ethnic Nubian elder in the northern city of Wadi Halfa, whose homeland is threatened with inundation by two Chinese dam projects, once told me. "People were crying here when Garang died." The absence of a southern counterweight will be keenly felt throughout the chastened north. Torture of dissidents, illegal land seizures, renewed bombardment in Darfur—it's the kind of situation one might expect to hear the U.S. government shouting about. South Sudan and Darfur have fierce advocates in the West, but it's hard to find many people talking about repression in northern Sudan. The people there have been written off. U.S. policy instead is fixated on bribing and cajoling Khartoum into honoring its commitments to let the south depart in peace. The bargaining chips include the likely removal of Sudan from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, an end to U.S. sanctions, and a possible deferral of Bashir's trial for alleged genocide and war crimes before the International Criminal Court. Scott Gratton, President Obama's Sudan envoy, has been full of praise for Bashir's government" [!] Source: <http://www.slate.com/id/2286851/entry/2286869/>

What does the Bible say about Bashir and Gaddafi (among many others)? God absolutely condemns and will destroy any geo-political Nation or its Leadership that tolerates or promotes injustice within its borders, especially violence against its own people. Here are some Scripture texts that must be read- Gen 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them ... Isaiah 24:3 ... for the LORD has spoken this word. 4 The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; 5 The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; Isaiah 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! 7 Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt. 9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. 11 I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless [tyrants] Jonah 3:4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" 6 The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh..., 8 ...Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Hab 2:8 ... all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them. 9 "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm! 10 You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. 12 "Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! Hab 2:15 "Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink-- you pour out your wrath and make them drunk ... 16 You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, ... The cup in the LORD's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory! 17 The violence done to [your Country] will overwhelm you ...for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

These passages are warnings to Tyrants around the globe. They should be used by the Leaders of the United States in decisions they make concerning Foreign Policy. They should also guide Evangelicals, who claim the Bible to be their final authority for faith and practice, in their decisions as citizens.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:40

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

## **SUPPORTING THE TROOPS IN AFGANISTAN**

A Marine General's very personal story of the sacrifice of his son in Afghanistan. It is a reality check about the 10 year war, those who fight it and why and the rest of us who are not personally involved in the War or who oppose it--"We are in a life-and-death struggle, but not our whole country," he told the crowd. "One percent of Americans are touched by this war. Then there is a much smaller club of families who have given all."He spoke of the anger that some combat veterans feel toward the war's opponents. "They hold in disdain those who claim to support them but not the cause that takes their innocence, their limbs and even their lives," he said.Later, he clarified in an interview that he is opposed to indifference, not dissent. "I just think if you are against the war, you should somehow try to change it," he said. "Fight to bring us home."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/>  
(Also Read the Stratfor article in the post below)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:46

Thursday, February 24, 2011

## **HOW EVANGELICALS HAVE DOOMED DOMA**

The recent announcement that the Obama Administration will no longer defend the Defense of [the definition of] Marriage [as being between males and females] Act known as DOMA has been widely reported. Here is the Boston Globe article.

<http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles>A very good explanation of what is involved in the Administration's decision is made here.

<http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/>Significantly, the writer of the second article (above) agrees with the decision. He argues that DOMA violates States Rights and he also argues, as a Libertarian, that DOMA violates the rights of all individuals, not only of gay individuals. The Government, he says, should stay out of the Marriage business. That is the same argument that many conservatives make about the Government and all businesses.

In formulating our position on this issue, Christians must think Biblically. Gay Marriage advocates see this as another great victory, following soon after the repeal of the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy about gays in the Military. Anti-Gay Marriage advocates see this as a defeat for their cause. Both groups will need to wait and see, but Gay Marriage is not the primary issue here. That issue is the President ordering the Government not to defend a Federal law. The Government will still enforce the Law, but with all the current appeals to repeal it, DOMA will be overturned in time. Congress can mount its own defense of DOMA, but most commentators do not see that happening what with the Economy (and the next Election) being far more pressing upon it. The issue of Federalism vs States Rights is valid and also more pressing in this matter than Gay Marriage as such. The Constitution requires that the laws of States must be respected by the Federal Government (and some States have legalized Gay Marriage). There was a major War fought in America about that in the matter of Slavery. The major issues underlying this entire matter is discrimination and civil rights. Those who persist in arguing about the morality of homosexuality or the necessity of the traditional definition of Marriage for our Society are missing the point. Proponents of Gay Marriage are not defending same sex intercourse. They are arguing against what they see as Discrimination against citizens who want to enter into a Gay Marriage. They are arguing about Constitutional Civil Rights. That is why this whole matter is going to the Courts and will be argued by Lawyers and decided by Judges on that basis. But in the long term, the outcome of social, cultural issues are determined by the dominant or prevailing cultural norms of the day. That is what influences Judges. This is where conservative Christians have their opportunity to be players in this drama. We must demonstrate in our own lives what the Bible teaches about Marriage. We are far from doing that now. Actually by our failures in this, we have set the stage and made it easier for alternative lifestyles, including homosexuality and Gay Marriage to become acceptable and legal. Notably, our support and practice of birth control and planned families (anything we have done that separates sex from marriage and sex from procreation in marriage), as well as our lowering standards about sex outside of marriage and about divorce, has enabled social acceptance of homosexuality. As conservative Christians set the example for Biblical Marriage (and sexual behavior) we will influence the dominant or prevailing cultural norms of the day. Sadly, we are too late to prevent the ultimate rejection of DOMA.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:44

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

## **JUST WAR DOCTRINE REVISITED FOR TODAY'S CONFLICTS**

The classic principles that have guided Christian discussion about war since Augustine (d.430 A.D.) are collectively known as the Just War Doctrine. There are several versions of it, as it has evolved. Some of its ideas go back to the ancient Greeks, but all of them are Humanitarian or Christian Ideals. This paper is my use of it to evaluate the War in Iraq [originally written 2007] It was very helpful and I hope you will find it so, as well."The most authoritative and up-to-date expression of Just War doctrine is found in paragraph 2309 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It says for a war to be just, there must be at least these criteria... at one and the same time:

- \*damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;
- \*all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective; \*there must be serious prospects of success; \*the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. (The power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition.)

Please read my complete Essay at <http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:46

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

## **CHRISTIANS AND LABOR UNIONS**

UNION MEMBERS in 2010 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics-\*Percent of all wage and salary workers who were members was 11.9 percent, \*Private sector workers (6.9 percent)Private sector industries with high unionization rates included transportation and utilities (21.8 percent), telecommunications (15.8 percent), and construction (13.1 percent).\*Public sector workers (36.2 percent)

Within the public sector, local government workers had the highest union membership (42.3 percent) This group includes teachers, police officers, and fire fighters.

The most vociferous opponents of proposals being made by the Governor of Wisconsin (and other States) are public sector union members, especially over the matter of collective bargaining, but also over pension and insurance contributions. It seems private sector members are more concerned with the threat of globalization and their job security. When I read or hear about what specific Public Sector union members demand and how intransigent they are about making concessions for the common good, it seems they can be very self-serving to the detriment of the Community. The major problem, it seems to me, is lack of competition for their jobs and what amounts to a resultant monopoly or what in the private sector is known as a closed shop. Public Sector union members are a far cry from employees in the Private Sector being exploited and made to work under oppressive conditions (virtual slaves) by capitalist owners. That is the group that was well served by the original Labor Movement and Unionization back in the early 20th Century.

Conservatives who espouse a competitive and free market and the rights of private business owners to run their business as the Market demands, or makes possible, are rightly wary of Unions. Members of Public Sector Unions need to recover the idealist principles that gave them the original title of "Public Servants". Christian workers of all kinds need to follow the teaching of their Bibles, eg-Eph 6:5 [Employees] obey your [Managers] with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord. 9 [Managers], do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:01

Monday, February 14, 2011

### **REALITY IN EGYPT- It was not a Revolution!**

"What happened was not a revolution. The demonstrators never brought down Mubarak, let alone the regime. What happened was a military coup that used the cover of protests to force Mubarak out of office in order to preserve the regime. When it became clear Feb. 10 that Mubarak would not voluntarily step down, the military staged what amounted to a coup to force his resignation. Once he was forced out of office, the military took over the existing regime by creating a military council and taking control of critical ministries. The regime was always centered on the military. What happened on Feb. 11 was that the military took direct control."We face this reality. The Egyptian regime is still there, still controlled by old generals. They are committed to the same foreign policy as the man they forced out of office. They have promised democracy, but it is not clear that they mean it. If they mean it, it is not clear how they would do it, certainly not in a time frame of a few months."The week began with an old soldier running Egypt. It ended with different old soldiers running Egypt with even more formal power than Mubarak had. This has caused worldwide shock and awe. ...But we should point out that, in spite of the crowds, nothing much has really happened yet in Egypt. It doesn't mean that it won't, but it hasn't yet. An 82-year-old man has been thrown out of office, and his son will not be president. The constitution and parliament are gone and a military junta is in charge. The rest is speculation."  
"Egypt: The Distance Between Enthusiasm and Reality is republished with permission of STRATFOR." <http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110213-egypt-distance-between-enthusiasm-and-reality>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:34

### **ORIGAMI, MATH AND ENGINEERING & IMAGE OF GOD**

All people are created in the image of God. Among other things that means we all have, in varying degrees, the ability to do abstract thinking and to be creative. A great combination of both faculties is Origami. It is thriving at Harvard because it combines Math and Engineering skills- An influx of talented young folders like Chen has solidified the university's reputation as a hotbed of "extreme" origami, a branch of the ancient art form that draws upon high-level mathematical and engineering skills to create mind-blowing works of art. With a mailing list of 200 members drawn from every segment of the MIT community, the club holds weekly meetings and workshops and sponsors campus-wide competitions that challenge MIT's best and brightest to fold their way to glory  
The burgeoning interest in origami is hardly confined to the MIT campus. Websites like Origami Tube, where scores of how-to folding videos can be found, and Origami Database, which posts model diagrams, viewing galleries, and information on books and other materials, have contributed to the surge. "Between the Folds," an award-winning 2008 documentary focused on origami's most visionary practitioners, has likewise added to its new found cachet. One reason extreme origami has been flourishing at MIT, though, is its mathematical underpinnings — specifically geometry, the branch concerned with shapes, angles, and how they fit together — and structural engineering, which applies to how paper can be manipulated, so that the right-sized flaps are in the right places before folding. Source: <http://www.boston.com/yourtown/cambridge/articles/2011/02/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:54

### **REACHING STUDENTS FOR CHRIST IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE**

I wrote in a post below, and have believed for many years, the most important strategy to changing the world for Christ is reaching and winning University students. Here is more evidence for that view- Asia, Africa and Latin America. Europe and North America are aging; much of the rest of the world is getting younger. "If you look worldwide at the percentage of the population under the age of 30, it's more than 50 percent," says Mike Lopez, director of the International Mission Board's student mobilization team. "That age group is going to make a significant difference, for better or for worse, in the state of global affairs in the future. How are we addressing this in our evangelism strategies?" By 2009, the number of college students worldwide had more than doubled — to 130 million — over the previous 50 years, according to Ken Cochrum, strategist for student-led movements at Campus Crusade for Christ. "If taken as a whole, this generation of college students would constitute the world's 10th-largest country," Cochrum reported in the August 2009 edition of Lausanne World Pulse. Forward-looking governments "have realized that their future depends upon a well-educated population who can compete in today's borderless 'glocal' economy." Those governments, joined by corporations and advertisers, "invest millions of dollars each year attempting to influence students and the choices they will make for the rest of their lives," Cochrum observed. "What about the church? What

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

level of urgency and intentionality do we give to making disciples and building Christ-centered movements among students today?"

<http://worldviewconversation.blogspot.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:48

Sunday, February 13. 2011

## **DEFINING FREEDOM & DEMOCRACY**

The media are carrying stories about the victory of the Egyptian people over their "President". Apparently their Revolution was to secure Freedom and Democracy. That led me to write this post- What is Freedom?1. "Freedom" is the ability of people to act voluntarily and without coercion; the liberty to act on one's own behalf [liberty and freedom are used interchangeably]2. But, since all people want this freedom of will or choice, there must be limits. Otherwise, my freedom can become another person's oppression or loss of freedom3. This potential conflict of interests requires an external authority to maintain reasonable freedom for everyone. That authority is Government [what kind?] 4. Government in turn must be subject to limits, i.e.- a Constitution. BUT Egypt has had a Constitution and a Parliament and Voting, under Mubarak. That did not make for Freedom in Egypt!

5. There must be Law to maintain freedom, but what Law? Who or what determines the Law? Free people must share in common moral principles of right and wrong. They are the foundation of the Law. This moral foundation is essential to ensure that freedom is used morally. What moral principles do Americans [or Egyptians] hold in common?5. After "freedom from" must come "freedom for"! and that is the most important matter in a Democracy- the ethical part. What do we do with out freedom? We are free to ...? Those are ethical questions. The Founders of America strongly believed that the moral character and virtue of the citizens is essential for Democracy. The latter depends upon it. For the Founders, moral character and virtue were derived from the Christian Faith. What will be the moral and ethical foundation for freedom in Egypt?The Corollary: Economic Freedom- freedom of economic opportunity

What is Democracy? the usual characteristic principals are

\*Limited Government, under Law- no Dictators or anyone else acting above the Law\*Limited citizens- all citizens living under the same Law -no mob rule or rule by referenda or "by popular demand", even though that is how the Revolution was conducted\*The Law must be fair and just and applied to all equallyThe above Principals beg the Question: What Law? Who writes it? What is it based on? (For Christians, the answer to that question is the Bible or the Law of God) Everyone agrees the Law in a Democracy must include provisions for the following-\*Majority Rule but with the Civil Liberty or Rights of all respected\*Free and fair Elections- no one ruling without the consent of the Majority of voters\*An Educated Electorate; therefore, mandatory public education\*Political Pluralism (free participation of all Parties in the political process)\*Freedom of Expression (free speech, freedom of the press, etc)\*Freedom of AssociationIs all of this what the Egyptian masses are clamoring for? It seems the most urgent demand is for "jobs" and improved living conditions. Does that mean they are committed to doing the work of creating a Democracy? More pressing, does the current ruling Regime, to which the Military belong, want such Democracy and Freedom for the masses?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:59

Saturday, February 12. 2011

## **WHERE WILL THE NEXT REVOLUTION HAPPEN?**

Here is an interesting interactive map of North Africa and the Middle East. Move your pointer over each country and see what is happening there in comparison to Egypt. Do you see the hand of God in any of this?  
<http://www.nationaljournal.com/unrest-in-north-africa-and-the-middle-east-20110201>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:54

## **ONLY 87 OUT OF 194 NATIONS ARE "FREE"-less every year**

"On January 13, 2011, Freedom House released its findings from the latest edition of Freedom in the World, the annual survey of global political rights and civil liberties. According to the survey's findings, 2010 was the fifth consecutive year in which global freedom suffered a decline—the longest period of setbacks for freedom in the nearly 40-year history of the report. These declines threaten gains dating to the post–Cold War era in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the former Soviet bloc. The latest survey highlights the increasing truculence of the world's most powerful authoritarian regimes, which has coincided with a growing inability or unwillingness on the part of the world's democracies to meet the authoritarian challenge."The survey measures political rights and civil liberties, or the opportunity for individuals to act spontaneously in a variety of fields outside the control of the government and other centers of potential domination. As such, the survey is primarily concerned with freedom from restrictions or impositions on individuals' life pursuits. Read survey results- Key global findings:Free:The number of countries designated by Freedom in the World as Free in 2010 stands at 87, two fewer than the previous year, and representing 45 percent of the world's 194 countries and 43 percent of the world's population.Partially Free:The number of Partially Free countries increased to 60, or 31 percent of all countries assessed by the survey, comprising 22 percent of the world's total population.Not Free:The number of countries deemed to be Not Free remained at 47, or 24 percent of the total number of countries. Nearly 2.5 billion people live in societies where fundamental political rights and civil liberties are not respected. China accounts for more than half of this number.Electoral Democracies:The number of electoral democracies dropped from 116 to 115, the lowest number since 1995. Three countries—the Philippines, Tanzania, and Tonga—achieved electoral democracy status after conducting elections that were regarded as improvements over earlier polls. Declines in Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, and Sri Lanka triggered their removal from the list of electoral democracies. Worst of the Worst:Of the 47 countries ranked Not Free, nine countries and one territory received the survey's lowest possible rating for both political rights and civil liberties: Burma, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Tibet, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=1>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:11

## **WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN EGYPT**

The Media and untold numbers of Egyptians are heralding the advent of Freedom for its citizens and a hope that Democracy is soon to follow. Time for a serious reality check. The only thing that is certain is that Mr Mubarak has resigned office. The people are free from him. That is all. The people of Egypt have never known Freedom as we define it in the United States and its present citizens have lived under Mubarak's Dictatorship for 30 years. How can they know what political and economic Freedom means? And do they realize what a Democracy will require of them? and is that what they really want? What follows here are some excerpts from a reliable source about what has and has not happened in Egypt-  
<http://www.stratfor.com/>

"The cameras love demonstrations, but they are frequently not the real story. The demonstrators who wanted democracy are a real faction, but they don't speak for the shopkeepers and peasants more interested in prosperity than wealth. Since Egypt is a Muslim country, the West freezes when anything happens, dreading the hand of Osama bin Laden. In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood was once a powerful force, and it might become one again someday, but right now it is a shadow of its former self. What is going on now is a struggle within the military, between generations, for the future of the Egyptian military and therefore the heart of the Egyptian regime. Mubarak will leave, the younger officers will emerge, the constitution will make some changes and life will continue."The ideological tenor of the Middle East prior to 1978 was secular and socialist. Today it is increasingly Islamist. Egypt is not immune to this trend, even if the Muslim

Brotherhood should not be seen as the embodiment of that threat. ...what didn't materialize in the streets this time could in the future: an Islamist rising. In that case, the Egyptian military might find it in its interest to preserve its power by accommodating the Islamists. Source: "Egypt, Israel and a Strategic Reconsideration is republished with permission of STRATFOR."

This is a military succession. Mubarak is a former air marshal. All of the leaders of Egypt since it achieved independence in the first half of the twentieth century have been military leaders. The military holds all relevant levers of control in the country. At present, the only thing that has changed is that the specific personality at the top of the organizational pyramid has left (along with his family). Even at their peak, the protesters outnumbered neither the military nor the internal security services, which have roughly 1 million members between them. Compare this to the 1979 Iranian Revolution or the 1989 Central European revolutions when millions of people (in countries with far smaller populations than Egypt's 80 million) turned out to protest. The military had the option of cracking down on the demonstrations, but did not see the benefits of such an option outweighing the costs. In fact, the demonstrations in many ways helped the military apply pressure on Mubarak to force his departure. In showing restraint, the military both co-opted the protesters, and demonstrated to the vast majority of Egyptians that the military could be trusted with the country. There were two audiences — those on the streets where the cameras were focused, and the other being the millions of Egyptians who, regardless of how they felt about Mubarak, did not feel compelled to join demonstrations that were disrupting everyday affairs. And the combination of the relatively small size of the protests and the military's end-goal meant that the situation never rose to the point that the military feared losing control over the environment. As such, this transfer of power is a relatively orderly, internally managed process. The military is now playing a more overt role in managing the state, but the underlying power structure remains intact. It appears that the total number of protesters did not appreciably increase: perhaps only from 200,000 previously to 250,000 today (out of a metropolitan population of about 17 million). While it is significant that large protests are occurring at all in an Arab state where anti-regime protests are normally quickly quelled, the demonstrations simply did not reach critical mass to overwhelm the regime. The protesters, while their numbers have not grown, do have a vote in how this goes. They obviously agitated for a more pluralist system, but the military is not going to be in a rush to meet these demands. If the protesters disperse, then the military will be free to rule as it sees fit. If not, then it will be a contest between their ability to mobilize and the military's ability to constrain them. The balance of forces — for now — is clearly in the military's favor. The powers of both the president and the parliament are now formally in military hands. Now that the military has "given" the protesters what they asked for — for the military to remove the president, the very definition of a military coup in most times and places — it is hard to imagine that the military will be taking a less liberal view of their powers than Mubarak allowed himself. If this follows the patterns of similar evolutions elsewhere, direct military rule means that the parliament will be dissolved (in name if not in fact) and the military will (at least nominally) preside over a transitional system until civilian rule can be reintroduced. But Mubarak's government was never civilian in the first place. There certainly may be some rearrangements of titles and offices, but at its core this is cosmetic. The military was in charge before military rule was declared. The military is obviously in charge now that military rule has been declared. And so it is up to the military to determine what happens when military rule "ends." from STRATFOR email 2-12-11

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:53

Friday, February 11. 2011

## **BEWARE GRUBS AND ROOF-TOP SNOW**

I wrote last Summer about the destruction of most of our yard's lawn by grubs. These tiny but voracious worm-like Beetle larva worked unseen beneath the surface and ruined the grass that looked good until suddenly it turned brown and died. By then, rescue was too late and impossible. I saw that as a metaphor that explains the demise of churches and denominations- the enemy is often within and covert- a warning to all of us, but especially to the naive or ignorant (s I was about grubs) Today's newspaper carries the story of a beautiful local church building that the City has just condemned. Why? The bold front page headline blares: "Termites destroy Church". Here we go again- tiny but voracious, unrelenting forces working within, undetected, can destroy something that looks impregnable and secure. Whether it is our Nation or our church, the enemy that destroys us is often the small things working within and behind the scene over time. I can think of many "grubs" and "termites" doing their work in both places right now. Can you? Another headline that has been in our paper several times this week is, "Building collapses under snow". Dozens of local buildings have come down in the last couple of weeks because of the 2ft or more of heavy snow on their roofs. This is the opposite of the grub story- the enemy in this story is large and very visible. Whether in Egypt or America or in our churches, ruination can come from the top with very visible, oppressive and overbearing Government and its Leaders. Another lesson for all of us, especially the Pollyannas among us.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:02

## **ECONOMIC FREEDOM and POLITICAL FREEDOM?**

"The Tahrir Square uprising "has nothing to do with left or right," said Dina Shehata, a researcher at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies. "It is about young people rebelling against a regime that has stifled all channels for their upward mobility. They want to shape their own destiny, and they want social justice" from a system in which a few people have gotten fantastically rich, in giant villas, and everyone else has stagnated. Any ideological group that tries to hijack these young people today will lose. One of the best insights into what is happening here is provided by a 2009 book called "Generation in Waiting," edited by Navtej Dhillon and Tarik Yousef, which examined how young people are coming of age in eight Arab countries. It contends that the great game that is unfolding in the Arab world today is not related to political Islam but is a "generational game" in which more than 100 million young Arabs are pressing against stifling economic and political structures that have stripped all their freedoms and given them in return one of the poorest education systems in the world, highest unemployment rates and biggest income gaps. China deprives its people of political rights, but at least it gives them a rising standard of living. Egypt deprived its people of political rights and gave them a declining standard of living." That is why this revolt is primarily about a people fed up with being left behind in a world where they can so clearly see how far others have vaulted ahead."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/opinion/09friedman.html?\\_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/opinion/09friedman.html?_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss) So the revolt is not primarily about Democracy or Freedom as such. It is about "jobs" and standard of living and upper mobility out of Poverty, etc. Is it the responsibility of Government to secure or provide these goals for its People? What is the connection between political freedom and economic freedom? Are they inseparable? What does the Bible teach about this?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:14

## **WHOM DOES THE MILITARY SERVE and WHY?**

We conservatives insist the primary responsibility and role of Government is Law and Order. How far does this go? Where is the borderline between maintaining stability and oppressing the People? How does it accomplish this- with the Military? [Remember Kent State?] Does the Military have this role apart from Government? against the Government? What does the Bible teach about this?" The army could stick by Mubarak, whose only strategy seems to be to buy time and hope that the revolt splinters or peters out. Or the army could realize that what is happening in Tahrir Square is the wave of the future. And, therefore, if it wants to preserve the army's extensive privileges, it will force Mubarak to go on vacation and establish the army as the guarantor of a peaceful transition to democracy — which would include forming a national unity cabinet that writes a new constitution and eventually holds new elections, once new parties have formed."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/opinion/09friedman.html?\\_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/opinion/09friedman.html?_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:11

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

### **"BIG BROTHER" NOT NEEDED HERE NOR IN EGYPT**

A few paragraphs from George Will's column today grabbed my attention for further thought-"It is a sign of national maturity - the product of hard learning, from Korea and Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan - that fewer American complainers are today faulting the Obama administration for not anticipating and shaping events in Egypt. Israel, which lives next door to Egypt and has an excellent intelligence service, did not see this coming." "Barack Obama critics who, not content with monitoring his myriad mistakes in domestic policies, insist that there must be a seamless connection of those with his foreign policy. Strangely, these critics, who correctly doubt the propriety and capacity of the U.S. government controlling our complex society, simultaneously fault the government for not having vast competence to shape the destinies of other societies." "...the Egyptian regime is being shaken primarily by nationalists". "An encouraging aspect of the Egyptian protests is the widespread waving of the nation's flag. Western intellectuals, who tend toward cosmopolitanism, tend to disdain the nation-state and nationalism as aspects of humanity's infancy, things to be outgrown. But the nation gives substance and structure to the secular pride and yearnings of the Egyptian people, who are demographically young but culturally ancient. Indelicate American assistance for democratization could cause a recoil from those crowds eager to be proud of an Egyptian outcome."

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/08/AR2011020803316.html?wpisrc=nl\\_cuzhead](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/08/AR2011020803316.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzhead)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:29

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

### **POPULAR SUPER BOWL COMMERCIAL VERY MISLEADING**

One of the most popular Super Bowl commercials was about Detroit, heralding its come-back and projecting it as a really progressive, cool place to live and work. The commercial was really promoting Chrysler automobiles, touting them as American cars made by Americans ("Imported from Detroit") To say the very least, the Commercial was extremely misleading! Detroit is a mess and on the brink of disaster as a City. See this article- [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/02AndChrysler?](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/02AndChrysler?hpid=hp-top-story&hpid=hp-top-story) Apparently people are forgetting that it went bankrupt and needed to be bailed out by the Federal Government. It is indeed American made- i.e.- by taxpayers from across America. The same folks who are being asked to help rebuild Detroit. People seem to be unaware that this "American" car company was bought out by the German Daimler Company and that it is now being bought out again and run by the Italian Fiat Company. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrysler> Like they say, you can't believe everything you see on TV or in Commercials.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:36

Sunday, February 6, 2011

## **PRAYING AGAINST THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN EGYPT**

"Universalists believe all peoples prefer freedom to its absence, which is probably true. But they also believe all peoples define "freedom" in the same way. Is that true? The answer... is no. Judging by the most solid indicators we have -- polling data on Egyptian attitudes from Pew (2010) and University of Maryland/WorldOpinion.Org (2007) -- I would have to say that Egypt is a strictly Islamic religious milieu. These findings reveal a population steeped in the teachings and attitudes of Shariah (Islamic law). For example, Pew tells us 84 percent of Egyptians favor the death penalty for leaving Islam; 95 percent say it's good for Islam to play a big role in politics. The [M/WO] poll shows that 74 percent of Egyptians favor "strict Shariah," Islam does not recognize as valid any religion but Islam. That means that what we in the West hear as "freedom of religion" becomes, in the Islamic context, freedom of Islam. Indeed, as Stephen Coughlin, the brilliant analyst of Shariah, has pointed out to me, citing both the Koran and quoting the classic Sunni law book "Reliance of the Traveler," Judaism and Christianity "were abrogated by the universal message of Islam." That means overruled. Further, it is "unbelief (kufr)" -- grounds for the capital crime of apostasy -- "to hold that the remnant cults now bearing the names of formerly valid religions, such as "Christianity" or "Judaism," are acceptable to Allah Most High." Read the rest of the article here-

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0211/west020411.php3>We should be praying against the Muslim Brotherhood taking control of the coming Egyptian Government. There is a real possibility they might just do that.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 01:41

## **ANTI-SEMITISM IN EGYPT & IN THE ARAB WORLD**

"It is the likelihood that the Muslim Brotherhood will rise to power, not an aversion to Arab democracy that has caused Israel to fear the popular revolt against President Hosni Mubarak's regime. If the Muslim Brotherhood were not a factor in Egypt, then Israel would probably have simply been indifferent to events there as it has been to the development of democracy in Iraq and to the popular revolt in Tunisia. Israel's indifference to democratization of the Arab world has been a cause of consternation for some of its traditional supporters in conservative circles in the US and Europe. Israelis are accused of provincialism. As citizens of the only democracy in the Middle East, we are admonished for not supporting democracy among our neighbors. The fact is that Israeli indifference to democratic currents in Arab societies is not due to provincialism. Israelis are indifferent because we realize that whether under authoritarian rule or democracy, anti-Semitism is the unifying sentiment of the Arab world. Fractured along socioeconomic, tribal, religious, political, ethnic and other lines, the glue that binds Arab societies is hatred of Jews. A Pew opinion survey of Arab attitudes towards Jews from June 2009 makes this clear. 95 percent of Egyptians, 97 percent of Jordanians and Palestinians and 98 percent of Lebanese expressed unfavorable opinions of Jews. Three-quarters of Turks, Pakistanis and Indonesians also expressed hostile views of Jews. Throughout the Arab and Muslim world, genocidal anti-Semitic propaganda is all-pervasive. One of the more troubling aspects of the Western media coverage of the tumult in Egypt over the past two weeks has been the media's move to airbrush out all evidence of the protesters' anti-Semitism. If the media reported on the overwhelming Jew hatred in the Arab world generally and in Egypt specifically, it would ruin the narrative of the Arab conflict with Israel. That narrative explains the roots of the conflict as frustrated Arab-Palestinian nationalism. It steadfastly denies any more deeply-seated antipathy of Jews that is projected onto the Jewish state. The fact that the one Jewish state stands alone against 23 Arab states and 57 Muslim states whose populations are united in their hatred of Jews necessarily requires a revision of the narrative. And so their hatred is ignored. But Israelis don't need CNN to tell us how our neighbors feel about us. We know already. And because we know, while we wish them the best of luck with their democracy movements, and would welcome the advent of a tolerant society in Egypt, we recognize that that tolerance will end when it comes to the Jews. And so whether they are democrats or autocrats, we fully expect they will continue to hate us."

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0211/glick020411.php3>

We should be praying for the welfare of Christians in Egypt, but let us also pray for Jews as well and for the welfare of Israel and against anti-Semitism in the Arab world

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 01:35

## **CITY JOURNAL**

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

Quote from a teacher in a inner city High School- "Here's my prediction: the money, the reforms, the gleaming porcelain, the hopeful rhetoric about saving our children—all of it will have a limited impact, at best, on most city schoolchildren. Urban teachers face an intractable problem, one that we cannot spend or even teach our way out of: teen pregnancy. This year, all of my favorite girls are pregnant, four in all, future unwed mothers every one. There will be no innovation in this quarter, no race to the top. Personal moral accountability is the electrified rail that no politician wants to touch."  
--from the article, "Nobody gets married anymore, Mister", in one of the best magazines about how Cities work and dealing with urban problems.  
<http://www.city-journal.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 00:52

Saturday, February 5, 2011

## **MYTHS ABOUT THE SUPERBOWL**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/03/AR2011020305298.html>  
Check out the other "5 Myths" articles in this series (at the bottom of this article)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:40

Friday, February 4, 2011

### **WHAT TO MAKE OF THE CRISIS IN EGYPT**

Scripture tells us, "God has brought down Rulers from their thrones and has lifted up the humble" (Lk 1:52) Do you think that is what is happening in the Near East? I think I agree with Charles Krauthammer's assessment of the Egyptian crisis. (I say "think" because I have been reading many different interpretations and forecasts)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content>

Also read this

<http://www.stratfor.com/analysis/20110130-the-egypt-crisis-in-a-global-context-a-special-report>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:00

### **WHAT GLOBAL WARMING?**

Half the Globe is now covered in snow and ice. Check out this amazing Map and related data

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1353073/Winter-storm-Map-shows-Northern-Hemisphere-covered-snow-ice.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 06:07

Saturday, January 29, 2011

### **MORE BAD STIMULUS PLANS BY MR OBAMA**

Good argument against a bad idea: Mr Obama's plan to take tax money from all of us to help the very well-to do among us to purchase very expensive cars- and, once again, to help the auto industry  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:55

Friday, January 28. 2011

**OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY-for free!**

For the next few days you have free access to the astonishing historical and lexicological horsepower of the Oxford reference apparatus at oed.com. The free log in and password are "trynewoed." After Feb 5., a subscription to the OED will cost you \$295 a year.

[http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/articles/2011/01/28/a\\_word\\_about\\_dictionaries\\_and\\_other\\_reference\\_books\\_\\_in\\_print\\_and\\_online/](http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/articles/2011/01/28/a_word_about_dictionaries_and_other_reference_books__in_print_and_online/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:35

Saturday, January 22, 2011

## **ROE vs WADE- DECEPTION**

"When the U. S. Supreme Court handed down the Roe v. Wade decision, on this day, January 22, 1973, they hoped to end increasing controversy over a practice which was allowed in limited instances in some states but almost never in others. Instead, their decision polarized the American people and American politics. In its ruling, the court struck down a Texas law which prohibited abortion except when necessary to save a mother's life.'As is usual when a ruling defies custom and popular conscience, the decision could only be achieved through deception. The woman known as Jane Roe (Norma McCorvey, now a Christian and a pro-life advocate) has acknowledged that she perjured herself in her testimony. She also says she was lied to by her counsel. Supreme Court memos show that pro-abortion Supreme Court justices (especially William O. Douglas), knowing they had no precedent, plotted to "finesse" the issue." The ruling flew in face of scientific evidence which increasingly shows that a baby in the womb is very human. With modern technology, premature infants have survived at younger and younger ages."Read the full article here <http://www.christianity.com/ChurchHistory/11630832/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:13

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

## **WHY DO CHRISTIANS LISTEN TO OPRAH?**

As Kitty Kelley writes in her biography, something Oprah used to say was, "I am the instrument of God. I am his messenger. My show is my ministry." From a traditional Christian perspective, Oprah's God is unrecognizable. In Oprah-vision: We're all good, we should not judge each other and morality is relative. This is no Jesus-centered, born into sin and in need of salvation God who both loves and judges. Oprah's genius is that she tapped early into the way many Americans really view God. Less than a third tell surveys this is the might judge who has set the rules for this life and the next. Her message of hope is to believe in yourself, redeem yourself.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/Religion/post/2011/01/> Most Americans know Oprah Winfrey is liberal – and those who ever questioned it got a dose of reality in the last presidential election. What many people don't know is that Oprah's not content to just be liberal – she wants to make America liberal, too. There are two left-wing mantras Oprah lives by, and she repeats them often. One is the idea that when people know better, they do better – which implies that education is all people need to make good decisions. The second is the notion that all people are inherently good. In a recent interview about OWN, her new network, Oprah reiterated her philosophy. "I'm concerned about the bigger overall picture: my belief that people are basically good." In addition to swearing by these mantras, Oprah praises at the altar of moral relativism – where people determine for themselves what is morally right based on how they feel about it. To Oprah, the only commandment that matters is the one she and her ilk made up: Thou Shalt Not Judge. This worldview – that education is the answer to ethical behavior, that all people are intrinsically good, that morality is subjective – is what Oprah's programs are built upon. Her goal isn't to expose actual truth – but truth as she sees it. As Kitty Kelley writes in her biography, something Oprah used to say was, "I am the instrument of God. I am his messenger. My show is my ministry."

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=251017>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:24

Saturday, January 15. 2011

## **PAYING THE PIPER**

"As if states did not have enough on their plates getting their shaky finances in order, a new bill is coming due — from the federal government, which will charge them \$1.3 billion in interest this fall on the billions they have borrowed from Washington to pay unemployment benefits during the downturn.

The interest cost, which has been looming in plain sight without attracting much attention, represents only a sliver of the huge deficits most states will have to grapple with this year. But it comes as states are already cutting services, laying off employees and raising taxes. And it heralds a larger reckoning that many states will have to face before long: what to do about the \$41 billion they have borrowed from the federal government to help them pay benefits to millions of unemployed people, a debt that federal officials say could rise to \$80 billion."

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41086473/>

Many of us have been decried the foolishness of the Federal Government's various stimulus programs, included this one to extend unemployment benefits. The latest one is the cut of employment taxes and then there was all that money given to bail out the American car makers and banks and to help hapless home owners going into forfeiture. Then there is the matter of subsidizing universal health care. The list goes on and the national debt piles up and up. We can not afford these giveaways. Simple as that. The bills are starting to come in. The piper must be paid. I am disgusted with Mr Obama and Congress for the recklessness and irresponsible spending that got the Country into its current economic mess. But I am even more disgusted with all those Americans (including millions of Christians who should know better) who expected it, yea, demanded it. Never mind the inevitable long-range consequences, millions demand immediate gratification of their perceived needs by the Government without caring how their demands would be paid for somehow and someday by someone. Damn the debt! I want a bailout by the Government, people yell. Never mind that much of their financial mess was at least partially of their own making in the first place. Their is going to be much weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:05

## **THE HOOEY OF HOROSCOPES**

Until a few days ago, according to the Zodiac, I was apparently a Twin, i.e.- a Gemini. Today I am a Bull, i.e.- a Taurus. But the Science of Astronomy has revealed the Hooey of Horoscopes.

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41062376/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-science/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41062376/ns/technology_and_science-science/)This means that all who read and depend on the Stars to know who they are and to tell them their future are now confused and at a loss. How can this be? OK, say it is "true", who am I today?

According to [http://www.psychicguild.com/horoscopes\\_zodiac.php?](http://www.psychicguild.com/horoscopes_zodiac.php?) This is what I was yesterday:

Gemini-"Those born under the sign of the 'Twins' are always on the move; thirsty for knowledge and new experiences. Terminally curious and sometimes even mischievous, Geminis are multi-faceted souls who enjoy knowing a little bit of everything but generally not too much about one particular subject. It's just that variety is the spice of their lives!Geminis have also gained the reputation of being the incessant talkers. Those Twins that don't have the 'gift of the gab' are usually talented writers or have a special interest in foreign languages. Geminis lead very unique and unusual lives. The Gemini personality can appear mysterious or detached to others and therefore they are often misunderstood and unappreciated for the talents they offer to the world at large.Geminis ... are multi-dimensionally talented. In money matters, some Geminis are very adept and quick at making it...and spending it too. Many Geminis are involved in international financial wheeling and dealing. They love the adventure and game playing involved in out-thinking other people. Gemini's can be very haphazard about their financial affairs too..." That was what I was. Today, according to the same Zodiac website, I am a Taurus: "Underneath their cool, calm and collected exterior,... Taureans manage to discreetly stay apart from the crowd, even though they have a well-earned reputation for being socialisers. They will let others get close, but only so close as they want them. Some claim that trying to get your point across to a Taurean, should they not want to hear you, is rather similar to talking to the trees – they simply won't budge. And, there is no such thing as an open-book Taurean. Their feelings, fears and desires often run far deeper than anyone around them would guess. The true Taurean remains hidden behind a veneer of day-to-day activities. That's why Taureans are sometimes regarded as snobby, withdrawn, boring, or even sulky.The truth is, when Taureans manage to operate very adequately on their own form of automatic pilot, they can switch off from the world around them very efficiently. And when they do switch off, they are actually gathering in their inner reserves to deal with the outside pressures. Most Taureans like their

creature comforts and hate change because it takes them out of their automatic pilot condition of separating themselves from the world around them." OK, which person am I now? Did a shift in the stars change me? How can Christians believe this stuff?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:53

## **PORT AU PRINCE IS PORT OF PAUPERS AND POVERTY**

Haiti a year later: After billions of relief dollars given, only 5% of the destruction has been removed and more than a million people homeless people are still living in squalor. Why? More than prayers and "charity" are needed!  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:53

## **AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM**

"Congress must begin the process of restoring the national regime and civic culture the Founders bequeathed. This will require reviving the rule of law, reasserting the relevance of the Constitution and affirming the reality of American exceptionalism. The idea of American exceptionalism is obnoxious to progressives, who, evidently unaware of the idea's long pedigree (it traces to Alexis de Tocqueville) and the rich scholarship concerning the idea, assume it is a crude strain of patriotism. America, Tocqueville said, is unique because it was born free - free of a feudal past, free from an entrenched aristocracy and established religion. The American Revolution was a political, not a social, revolution; it was about emancipating individuals for the pursuit of happiness, not about the state allocating wealth and opportunity. Hence our exceptional Constitution, which says not what government must do for Americans but what it cannot do to them. Americans are exceptionally committed to limited government because they are exceptionally confident of social mobility through personal striving."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:48

## **RECOVERING THE POWER OF CONGRESS**

Too many "laws" actually are little more than pious sentiments endorsing social goals - environmental, educational, etc. - the meanings of which are later defined by executive-branch rule-making. In creating faux laws, the national legislature often creates legislators in the executive branch, making a mockery of the separation of powers. And Congress makes a mockery of itself when the Federal Register, a compilation of the regulatory state's activities, is a more important guide to governance than the Congressional Record. Unfortunately, courts long ago made clear that they will not seriously inhibit Congress's scandalous delegation of its lawmaking function to others.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:42

## **"BLOOD LIBEL" AND OTHER POLITICAL METAPHORS THAT MISFIRE**

Here is an accurate answer to the insinuations and accusations shot at Sarah Palin and other Conservatives saying she and others like her are libel for the blood spilled in Tucson. This article is right on target.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:29

Tuesday, January 11. 2011

## **WHAT IF MARY HAD ABORTED HER BABY?**

With the constant cry of "Jobs, More jobs!" and with the unemployed in the daily limelight, let us not forget the more than 1.21 million people who arrive in this Country every single year who will never have or lose a job. They are all the babies who are killed by abortion annually in these "United" States. This is a special irony in as much as most of us in recent weeks have been celebrating the birth of a Child. Thank God no one aborted Him!  
[content/article/2011/01/11/](http://www.calvinfox.com/content/article/2011/01/11/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:46

## **BLAMING CONSERVATIVES**

"It would be merciful if, when tragedies such as Tucson's occur, there were a moratorium on sociology. But respites from half-baked explanations, often serving political opportunism, are impossible because of a timeless human craving and a characteristic of many modern minds. "The craving is for banishing randomness and the inexplicable from human experience." Demystification of the world opened the way for ... a modern characteristic. "A characteristic of many contemporary minds is susceptibility to the superstition that all behavior can be traced to some diagnosable frame of mind that is a product of promptings from the social environment. From which flows a political doctrine: Given clever social engineering, society and people can be perfected. This supposedly is the path to progress. It actually is the crux of progressivism. And it is why there is a reflex to blame conservatives..." [In the assassination of JFK] the culprit was a "climate of hate" in conservative Dallas, the "paranoid style" of American (conservative) politics or some other national sickness resulting from insufficient liberalism. "On Sunday, the NY Times explained Tucson: "It is facile and mistaken to attribute this particular madman's act directly to Republicans or Tea Party members. But . . ." The "directly" is priceless."

Excerpts from George Will- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:59

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

## **EXPLAINING WHY CONFLICT WITH ISLAM CAN HAPPEN**

A syndicated columnist wrote this week that she believes in God but works at keeping her prayers [faith?] private and she wishes that all other "Believers" would do the same in this new year. She is convinced that trouble in the world comes from people expressing their faith publicly, because they often disagree with each other. Others are more moderate about this and put the responsibility for public conflict only on "Believers" who are fundamentalist or extremist in their Faith. And that is because these folks (unlike the moderates) seem to want to force their views on everyone else. Apparently she holds the popular view that God and Social Action/Justice can be separated or there is no connection between Religion and Morality or between Faith and Life.

Fundamentalists or Extremists believe that there is such a connection. The columnist is correct in her observation. This connection often has led to conflict between Fundamentalists of different Religions. For them there is a conflict of world and life views. In the post below, the quoted writer explains that many Muslims see Christianity (and America, which they associate with Christianity) as an enemy of their ethnic or self-identity, of their culture, as Muslims. Their Religion, Islam, is very much connected with every aspect of their Society. Attacking the former is attacking the latter. This literally can make such Muslims fighting mad. Many liberal and contemporary evangelical Christians do not understand the seriousness of this perspective (or seriously underestimate it) because they do not make the connection between their Faith and Society. For many Americans, faith is a private and interior matter, not meant for the "public square". They do not see the problem that many Muslims see, because they assume Muslims share their dualism. This is a serious mistake. Fundamentalist Christians (or very conservative Evangelicals) do see the problem. We are committed to the Lordship of Christ and His Word over all areas of life, including government, economics and the legal system. We can appreciate those Muslims who claim the same authority for their God and His Law. This is a real and dangerous conflict. (Contemporary Evangelicals who claim the Lordship of Christ over all interpret that Lordship primarily in terms of practical, pacifistic works of compassion and service.) Consider the following quote-"Islam is not so much a religion as it is a "way of life." It is a total cultural, religious, political unity. To separate any part of this is heresy. This leads modern Muslims to some shocking conclusions. For example, in the Islamic Republic of Egypt where 10% of the population is Christian, I am told it is not a capital offense for a Muslim to kill a Christian, but it is a capital offense for a Christian to kill a Muslim. Non-Muslims inside Muslim states are dhimmi, that is, second-class citizens. They dwell only in relative freedom because - no matter how many centuries they may have been in that land -- they are now there "by permission" of the Muslim majority." "Americans rightly cringe at some of the rigors of Sharia Law where a woman's testimony in court is worth half that of a man's, where honor killings of children who "stray" are upheld, where a couple accused of adultery can be stoned, and where the faithful are duty-bound to kill those who convert away from Islam. But the larger issue is the merging of religious doctrine and the civil authority. It is why one cannot separate the building of a mosque at Ground Zero from the political statement that is being made - a statement that abjures Islam from any responsibility for 9/11 and turns shame into victory." ---Peter C. Moore, D.D is the former President of Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. He is an Associate for Discipleship at St. Michael's Church, Charleston, South Carolina. <http://www.virtueonline.org/portal/modules/news/article.php?storyid=13150>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:29

## **IS ISLAM REALLY A PEACEFUL RELIGION?**

The following are excerpts from a recent article in Christianity Today- Some argue that Islam is happy to get along peacefully with Christianity if Islam is in the majority, in a position of power. Is that your reading?

My concern about Islam is actually the opposite. When there's a Muslim minority, in my experience, it has more readily gotten along with the Christian majority. It is less likely to stir the pot compared with most minorities. Our concern should be about how political Islam, when it comes to power, treats Muslim minorities. One of the most overlooked and important human rights issues facing us today is the treatment of religious minorities, period. One area where we need to pay the most attention is how Muslim-majority countries treat minorities in their midst both within Islam and within other religions, like Christianity. That is a crisis. We are seeing people, both Christians and Muslims who hold minority beliefs, fleeing Muslim countries at very high rates.

I've come to believe that the most overlooked religious clashes today are those inside religions, not between them. So what does that mean? Well, there are different kinds of conflicts inside of religions. There are, for example, ideological confrontations between progressives and traditionalists, over who's a true believer and who is not. That's no less true in Islam. There are two sections of the Qur'an. There are verses revealed to the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca, and there

are verses revealed to him in Medina, where he was a warrior statesman. The Meccan verses tend to be more peaceful and inclusive. The Medinan verses are more violent; they are about jihad and include verses that strictly prescribe [rules for] people's daily lives. Historically Muslims have paid more attention to the Medinan verses, those later verses, which are more martial in nature. But a group within Islam argues for a more progressive interpretation that gives priority to the more peaceful Meccan verses. Emory University Islamic scholar Abdullahi An-Na'im argues that places where Islam is growing fastest outside of the Arab world have more progressive forms of the faith. So this is a big division within Islam. Or, look at the divisions between Shi'a and Sunnis. Sunnis are the vast majority of the world's more than 1 billion Muslims. Shi'a believe their leaders have to be tied to Muhammad by blood; Sunnis believe that blood is less important than how history has played out. Then you have the Sufis, which compose the majority of African Muslims. The most frightening emerging division within Islam is between the Sufis and the Sunnis, because Sunni hard-liners are getting more aggressive about saying that Sufis are not true believers. There's potential for more bloodshed. Evangelism among Muslims do not understand Christian proselytizing. Even the most conservative Christian evangelists I know understand that in preaching to others, whether it's me or a Muslim, it's giving that person who's hearing the message a choice. It's not about forcible conversion. That message does not reach the Muslim world at all. Muslims understand conversion to be linked to imperialism. Proselytizing by the Christian West is nothing new, and it has never been a friendly experience for them. So they hear the 10-40 window as the obliteration of the Islamic world, and they go nuts. What has led them to believe that Christian evangelism is coercive? Events particularly after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, when Christian missions became explicitly linked to Western imperialism. Missionaries did not understand themselves as agents of imperial powers, and many times they understood themselves to be working against those forces. But that message never reached Muslims. They saw the Christian West as a monolith. In the same way we see Islam as a monolith, they understand the Christian West as a monolith that's out to get them, and it's out to get them in secular ways, through imposing corrupt democratic governments that undermine their Islamic law. We occasionally hear about Christians attacking Muslims, especially in Nigeria and Indonesia. What do Muslims in general consider the greatest recent atrocity perpetrated by Christians against Muslims? The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They perceive those as not the attack of the United States but of a Christian nation? For them there's no difference between the two. Proselytizing for Islam is most frequently bringing fallen Muslims back into the fold. It's usually not across faith lines. That's one thing that gets Muslims up in arms faster than anything. They believe Christian proselytizing to be cultural genocide, an attempt to wipe out their religion, and that's why they respond so aggressively to it. So the issue of evangelization remains really sensitive for Muslims. It's more sensitive than we can understand, because it's tied to the idea of Western imperialism. The two are the same thing to Muslims; they appear to be deliberate attempts to undermine their power and individual and collective identity, to wipe Islam off the world map.  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/december/16.30.html?start=5>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:28

Friday, December 10, 2010

## **JUST WONDERING**

Many, many people openly express contempt for "The Rich", especially if they are CEOs of financial firms. These folks rail against those who amass fortunes and want to "soak" them with income and estate taxes. And yet these same people do not vilify media celebrities like multimillionaire Oprah, whom they worship, and have no problem with the hundreds of millions paid to professional athletes (they actually are happy about that because it could mean "a great season" and a championship or two.) Go figure! We live in one of the poorest cities in Massachusetts and depend upon the largess of Congress for all kinds of funding and stimulus money. We damn the Government for cutbacks in that funding and yet we strongly object to paying taxes and want the ones we do pay to be reduced. This inconsistency applies to the Tea Party people among us, too, who demand smaller government and yet demand more subsidies and the creation of more jobs and benefits by that government. Many here supported the Obama Health care proposals, modeled on the universal health care insurance and coverage offered by Massachusetts, yet they complain because it is increasingly unaffordable. Care itself from doctors and hospitals is harder to come by and premiums are really hurting the businesses and individuals who must pay them.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:17

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

## **VISITING THE MEMORIAL IN PEARL HARBOR**

Yesterday, was the 69th Anniversary of that Day of Infamy, the Japanese attack on our Nation at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. We must never forget, but I wasn't sure what to remember (or write) about it this year. (There is a link to last year's post in the column to your right). We have been to the USS Arizona Memorial twice, where more than a 1100 of our servicemen still lie interred in that sunken ship. Yes, they were military, like my grandson and his father who have both been stationed nearby in the Navy in recent years. But this particular slaughter was unprovoked- a heinous and fatal sucker punch- a desperate move by the military and political leaders of another Nation. As a child I was taught by adults, news stories and especially by the movies that the Japanese were cruel wanton warriors, totally devoid of humanity. It was easy and common to believe the "Japs" were evil. Evil, horrible people guilty of atrocious, dastardly war crimes. There was no doubt, they deserved what was to come to them from us during the War that followed their infamous attack. It was a very odd experience for me was to visit the Memorial, all these years later; and watch original film footage of the Atrocity while surrounded by Japanese people. Almost everyone in the audience was a descendant of those "Japs" that we had hated as children, watching the attack on the screen in silence. There was no conversation, let alone dialogue, about what we were all seeing or about what happened on that Day 69. Peace was eventually made. We have all moved on. Japan is now an Ally Nation and the Japanese people are no longer hated, they are our friends. We drive cars and use equipment they manufacture; we depend on all kinds of electronic products they make.. They live among us and own many "American" companies and businesses. Millions of us depend upon them for our jobs and livelihood. Many of us eat their food in restaurants around the Country. It could be said, the hated "Japs" ultimately won the War. Their descendants, the Japanese, invaded and conquered our Nation and we are fine with that. How did this happen? Was this reconciliation and rapprochement a work of God? Can we see His hand in this and thank Him for it, all these years later? I guess my biggest question on this Anniversary is simply "why" did the War happen in the first place? Was the Hand of God in that, too? What was really going on back then? I know the historical answers. (see below). But hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, as well as troops, suffered terribly or were killed as a consequence of the Attack. The textbook reasons for the it do not adequately explain or justify that reality. Why did it take such horrible violence then to make peace between our Nations now? What lessons did we learn that will help prevent yet another Day of Infamy? After all, isn't that the main reason we remember "Pearl Harbor"

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:49

## **REMEMBERING THE FACTS, NOT THE MYTH re PEARL HARBOR**

I consider myself a Patriot, a man proud and very thankful to be an American. I am convinced that the United States is a very exception Country, still the best in the world. You may feel the same way. But I do not think that any of us believe America is perfect, by a long shot- simply the best. When it comes to explaining the attack on Pearl Harbor, we blame Japan. Our troops were innocent victims of an unprovoked act of aggression by another Nation. The true story is more complicated. It is important that when we remember Pearl Harbor, we remember what really happened that Day and not a Myth.

Then as now, in the 1930's, Countries around the world were going through "tough economic times", the "Great Depression". Japan had become a society united as one around the Emperor and with a strong sense of Nationalism. It was a Country committed to Militarism and Expansion. The latter they believed was essential to their National survival. Then as now, they had no natural resources of their own and were dependent on import of raw materials for the growing industrialization of Japan. They sought those resources by becoming an Empire, invading nearby Nations, including Manchuria, Korea and China. Meanwhile World War II was heating up in Europe and North Africa. There were all kinds of self-serving, double crossing Treaties and Pacts being made between the Germans, Italians, Russians and the Japanese. Churchill and the British were at war with Hitler who was at war with Stalin. Roosevelt had promised the Americans they would stay out of the War. Privately, Roosevelt admired and supported Stalin and wanted to help Churchill. He looked for a way of doing that without declaring War as promised. Japanese expansion gave him the opportunity. Roosevelt ordered an embargo of oil and other natural resources going to Japan. The USA had been their major supplier until that time. This embargo forced Japan to be more aggressive and over run Indonesia and Malaysia to access oil there. The Japanese could see that the major obstacle to their expansion plan was the American Navy. Roosevelt knew that as well. It can be argued that the bait was set. Secretly, but not surprisingly, Japan attacked the US Naval forces stationed in Hawaii. Navy Commanders had warned Roosevelt how vulnerable they were and asked that they be moved. Washington denied the request and seemed to ignore the warning. Japan struck. Our ships were sunk and our sailors were slaughtered. America was outraged. Since Japan had officially struck first, Roosevelt was free to bring a now willing America into the War and to support Churchill and Stalin against Hitler- his plan all along. An

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

interesting footnote: Japan is still totally dependent upon imported oil to survive and now she gets almost all of it from Iran and the Middle Eastern Arab Countries.

For a detailed, full account of the events leading up to the Attack on Pearl Harbor and the role of Mr Roosevelt in it, see <http://www.threeworldwars.com/world-war-2/ww2.htm>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:38

Sunday, December 5, 2010

## **CHRISTMAS IS NOT ABOUT TOYS FOR TOTS OR FREE MEALS**

Many Christians are offended or at least troubled by the spate of signs being posted around the country by Atheist organizations, e.g.- there is a billboard near Broadway in NYC that shows a typical Manger Scene and displays big bold letters that say something to this affect: "We know it is a Myth. 'Tis the Season for Reason. Away with Christmas!" The ironic and terrible truth is that Christians themselves have already contributed to doing away with Christmas! By exchanging the original Christmas Message for sentimental stories about spreading peace and joy in the world, especially by acts of charity and kindness one-on-one and by such community efforts as Toys for Tots and free meals for the whomever wants one. While such acts are commendable, they are doing exactly what the Billboards advocate wherever they have become substitutes for the original Christmas Message. That Message was centered in the Gospel of John 3:16. Ahh, some will say, "God so loved He gave"; yes! and that is what we are demonstrating by these acts of love and charity at this time of the year!. That is the Gospel in action." Oh, no it is not. That is only the first half of John 3:16. Omitting the second half of the verse has the effect of denying the truth of the Gospel. We all know the whole verse says, "God so loved the world that He gave---His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life". If the second half of the verse is omitted and the first part is made the whole and it becomes the "Christian" reason for the Season, the Atheists have won victory. We have handed it to them. Actually, Satan will have won. The world, including all those Tots and the Homeless, desperately needs to hear and believe the second half of John 3:16 and increasingly it is not! The Love was God's motive for giving Christ, not toys and turkeys! And it must be our motive or else, not only will "the real Christmas" be lost, so will millions of people!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:16

## **VOTING NO ON UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION BENEFITS**

It seems the so-called Bush tax breaks will remain in effect for citizens in all income brackets, but only if agreement can be reached about extending unemployment benefits adding 2 year coverage for those who are unemployed and have reached the end of their State benefits. This apparently will be an "unfunded" extension, meaning that the Federal Government does not now have the money to pay for it but will promise it anyway. To me, that is reason enough to vote against it. A basic Biblical and Common Sense financial Principle is that you do not buy something, if you can not have the income to pay for it. Period! Failure to abide by this Principle is a major reason why so many are in their financial mess- including the Government. This is a no-brainer!

An extension of Benefits is actually more Government Stimulus money. We have had far too much of that already. I feel badly for the unemployed, but it is not the Government's responsibility to provide jobs or to support people who do not have them for up to two years. Education and or re-training in new skills, including moving to where jobs are available, is the long range solution, not more Government handouts.

This is not right wing blather. I am not offering simplistic bromides. What I am writing here is both common sense and Biblical. Christians should not have a problem with it. I have followed my own advice. For the record, I have been a hardware store clerk, construction worker, steel mill worker and kiln operator. I have been a clerk in the Labor Department and a Social Worker, an insurance underwriter and a direct care worker in an institution for the mentally "handicapped", a job coach for "handicapped" people (doing mostly a variety of very menial janitorial and factory jobs, often very demeaning or dehumanizing for all - I hated a lot of it. But it including worked as a a printer in a print shop, which I enjoyed. Those positions working with the "handicapped" adults lasted altogether for 19 years) I have also been an Evangelist, Church Planter and a Pastor. We moved often. For the record, I have a College and Seminary education. Also for the record, my wife, also with college and grad school education, and besides being the mother of our 4 children, has done her part by being employed in different jobs through the years. By God's grace, we have worked, like our parents did before us, to support ourselves and our family all our lives. It is the Bible way. It can and must be done and we did not expect the Government to assist us.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:30

Saturday, December 4, 2010

## **EXTENDING TAX BREAKS FOR THE RICH? IS IT BIBLICAL?**

Believing in free-market capitalism, a work hard work ethic and in making profits from your efforts, I believe that those who make money accordingly are entitled to keep or spend as much of it as they want. I am opposed in principle to forced or involuntary redistribution of that earned wealth by any means, including taxation; especially when that is being done by the Government deciding who and how much should go from one group to another. In light of this, I have been trying to understand the current debate on extending Bush Era Tax cuts. The columnists and zine articles contradict each other. Researching the Fact checker Blogs and the Surveys and Polls does not help.. They reveal how complicated the subject is. The easy way out is to go with the simplistic bumper sticker slogans: Soak the Rich, Save the Middle Class. One problem I have with this topic is who defines the economic classes. To those who have a personal income of \$250,000, and think of themselves as Middle Class, those who make a million may be rich. Judging by my own personal income, which is far closer to those in the Poor Class, those who make \$250,000 are rich. The people who make \$250,000, as well as those who are Millionaires, live in a different world (let alone tax bracket) than my wife and I do. The argument that the rich invest money that they personally save from Federal Tax credits into business and that produces jobs for the masses is unsupported by all the surveys and research I have been reading lately. My understanding is that most of the "Rich" make their big money from the stock market (not from tax savings). They make their fortunes from whatever investments (including those abroad in foreign Markets) that will return a profit to them. And yes, they also put a lot of their money into savings to become disposable income for a rainy day. None of this behavior produces all the jobs that people are clamoring for. Those jobs are made available by companies who make corporate profits from their businesses to expand their business enough to hire more employees who, in turn, will enable the company to make more corporate profits and expand even more. (Allowing and enabling companies to do that requires different kinds of tax breaks). Anyway, I am not convinced that tax breaks for the wealthy make that much difference, one way or another, for the economy as a whole. Yes, the Governments could use the additional income that those taxes would bring in from the Rich. That would make the \$250,000 middle class folks happy. And just hearing about the Rich losing their tax breaks will make the Poor feel better. After all, taxing the Rich won't cost the Poor or the Middle class anything and they will go on getting Government programs that keeps them going. Ahh, but not in the long term. In the long term, cuts that really will make a difference are those in Government programs and funding as well as far more responsible spending of the current monies available, a serious decrease in deficit spending, and a truly balanced Budget. All these are the real solutions. Here is the Main Thing: As a Bible Christian, I believe it is Scriptural that people have the economic freedom they need to make as much profit as they can from their labor, as long as they do that following Biblical ethics and as long as they realize the money they make belongs to God and they are accountable to Him for its use. Money earned must be voluntarily distributed or used, by those who earn it, according to the principles of the Bible (which, in a nut shell, teach that money is not for self-indulgence, but for ministry to others). Now that is a program that needs extension!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:48

Thursday, December 2, 2010

## **JUSTICE, NOT REVENGE**

A local man has confessed murdering 10 women in our City. So far he has been convicted for 8 of the murders. For his crimes, the taxpayers will be taking care of him and his needs for the rest of his life in prison. In a nearby town, another man has confessed and found guilty of murdering a woman and her two children after torturing and raping two of them and setting their house on fire. He was given the death penalty, but that will probably require more than 15-20 years of appeals and legal maneuvering before it happens, if it does. There are the inevitable protesters against Capital Punishment every time cases like these happen. There is no question that the legal system has problems and innocent people have been punished. But there is no doubt in any one's mind that these two men are guilty of murder as charged. Their execution would not be a miscarriage of justice. Failure to execute in these two cases would be the miscarriage of justice. Human life is so valuable in God's eyes that the only just action for those who take human life by murder is for the State to take their life. The latter enforces the former. To spare the murderer is to reject or devalue the life of the victim. Justice must be served. Hear the Word of the Lord-And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: ... From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. --Gen 9:5-6

Here is an impassioned argument for abolishing all Capital Punishment. But what it does is document the problems with the Justice System. That the System is broken does not mean we must jettison the System, including Capital Punishment. It means we must fix the System; but God's Word remains firm. We must not reject Capital Punishment on principle. We simply must work to make changes in how it is administered. [opinion/30herbert.html](http://opinion/30herbert.html)?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:37

## **LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS --AND SOULS**

Here is the counsel of Jesus to all the international power-brokers worried about transcripts of things they have said now being revealed on WikiLeaks-"...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."--Matt 12:33 This is good advice we must all remember!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:11

## **TRYING AGAIN**

It has been a month or so and I have not found the time to blog. The other reason there have been no recent posts is that I have been so discouraged or so disgusted with current events that I have felt at a loss about commenting. But here I am and we'll try again.

As usual, today's papers and newscasts have stories of corruption in local and state politics. No one denies that certain elected officials here are guilty of influence peddling and taking bribes from special interest groups and that has effected how they have voted on certain bills or hiring practices. Some of these corrupt "public servants" have been found guilty by investigative committees and some by courts and face jail time.

The additional outrage to me is the popular support these corrupt politicians are getting from the public, particularly their constituents who have benefited by their actions. As long as money and jobs come their way, folks are quite willing to overlook the unethical, let alone illegal, issues involved. I believe this attitude is widespread across the Nation. That is not only disgraceful, but reveals a rot in the moral foundation of our Society itself. There I go again, getting discouraged and disgusted. But better to try lighting the proverbial candle than just cursing the darkness, so I will persevere, Lord willing. Pray for me. Thanks!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:13

Thursday, November 4, 2010

## **DIGGING BENEATH THE SURFACE: THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS**

Recently, Newsweek's Jonathan Alter decided, as the president has decided, that what liberals need is not better ideas but better marketing of the ones they have: "It's a sign of how poorly liberals market themselves and their ideas that the word 'liberal' is still in disrepute despite the election of the most genuinely liberal president that the political culture of this country will probably allow." "Despite"? In 2008, Democrats ran as Not George Bush. In 2010, they ran as Democrats. Hence, inescapably, as liberals, or at least as obedient to liberal leaders. Hence Democrats' difficulties. Responding to Alter, George Mason University economist Don Boudreaux agreed that interest-group liberalism has indeed been leavened by idea-driven liberalism. Which is the problem. "These ideas," Boudreaux says, "are almost exclusively about how other people should live their lives. These are ideas about how one group of people (the politically successful) should engineer everyone else's contracts, social relations, diets, habits, and even moral sentiments." Liberalism's ideas are "about replacing an unimaginably large multitude of diverse and competing ideas . . . with a relatively paltry set of 'Big Ideas' that are politically selected, centrally imposed, and enforced by government, not by the natural give, take and compromise of the everyday interactions of millions of people." This was the serious concern that percolated beneath the normal froth and nonsense of the elections: Is political power - are government commands and controls - superseding and suffocating the creativity of a market society's spontaneous order? On Tuesday, a rational and alarmed American majority said "yes." -written by George Will [HERE](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:35

## **INTERPRETING THE ELECTION RESULTS**

Nothing changed much here in Massachusetts on Election Day. While a revolt against the political status quo prevailed Nation wide, it did not do so here. Almost all incumbents kept their seats, Scott Brown remains the only Republican in our Congressional Delegation. We remain controlled by the very liberal Democrat Establishment. What seems to me to be a good or realistic take on what happened nationwide can be found [here](#)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/03/AR2010110305921.html?wpisrc=nl\\_cuzhead&sid=ST2010110306465](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/03/AR2010110305921.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzhead&sid=ST2010110306465)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:27

Monday, October 18, 2010

### **BETTER THAN BECK, LIMBAUGH AND HANNITY**

When conservative Evangelicals discuss the issues of our times, especially the political and economic ones, many often have acquired their information and perspective on those issues from favorite conservative media commentators and magazines. While this can be helpful, it is far from adequate. These commentators and magazines offer "secular" points of view. Evangelicals should absolutely not be satisfied with that! What we must do first and foremost is to search the Scripture. I like to read or listen to Paul Gigot, George Will and David Brook. They seem very knowledgeable, intelligent, fair-minded and conservative (ie- calm, cautious and cerebral) in what they write and say. They are not alarmist, strident or bellicose. They do not make wild, emotional charges or hurl deleterious remarks at those with whom they disagree. But they do not speak the Word of God. They do not determine what I believe or the position I hold about anything. Do not quote Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity or a host of other conservative commentators for the same reason. Quote the real Authority. What does the Bible say? God has revealed truths and principles about every subject. Quote Him. If these others support what He says, then use them to fill in details or for illustration or application. But the one, only and final authority about political, economic and social issues of our times must be the Word of God. Both conservative commentators as well as the liberal ones can be very misleading or flat out wrong according to the Word.

If we take a position on some hot button topic, it must be because we are able to give the chapters and verses from the Bible that we got it from. That is what I have been trying to do for many years now and I put the results of my studies on my website, <http://www.reformedliving.org/>, particularly in the section labeled Re/Formation Institute. That is why "institute" is in my email address (cfoxinstitute@verizon.net)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:44

Saturday, October 16, 2010

## **HOW CAN I DETERMINE WHO TO VOTE FOR?**

We live in Massachusetts. Liberal Democrats abound here. There has recently been an uptick in the number of Republicans. I am among them. Usually there are no Republican candidates for most offices. In the upcoming Elections there are more than usual. But will I automatically vote for them? They seem to be only negative anti-incumbents. Some seem to be social conservatives. Others are economic or fiscal conservatives. Few are both. I will vote for candidates who have positive and realistic positions to offer. More than that, I will vote only for the Candidates who espouse (are pro-active for) the most Biblical positions on the issues. I will not vote for anyone who supports non-Biblical positions But what positions are "Biblical"? See the Article below about the "Mission for Civil Government".

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:57

Friday, October 15, 2010

## **THE MUSLIM INVASION OF FRANCE**

There was a widely reported argument yesterday on the TV talk show, The View. Two participants walked off in a great huff because Bill O'Reilly said Muslims were responsible for the 911 attacks. The disputants wanted him to say "Extremists". Well, yes, but the extremists were Muslims. Around the Country there is this great PR campaign going on promoting the idea tha isalm is a Peace-loving Religion. I'm sure many Muslims love peace; but from what I have read in the Koran and other Islamic literature, there is plenty of justification given for military violence against non-Muslims in situations that are believed to warrent it.

Here is a lesson from this day in History- [ChurchHistory/11629746/](http://ChurchHistory/11629746/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:31

Monday, October 4, 2010

## **HABLAN ESPANOL?**

According to the US Census there are now more than 307 million people living in the United States. The group growing the fastest is Hispanic or Latino- Spanish speaking people. They number 48.4 million currently. 66% come from Mexico. By 2050, the number is expected to be 132.8 million. Is the Church open to them? a significant number of them are evangelical and Pentecostal Christians already. Perhaps they will open the Church to a new life in the Spirit. <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/hhmcensus1.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:16

## **THE ALLEDGED "MUSLIM" THREAT**

Muslim militants are believed to be preparing for attacks on West By KATHY GANNON

The Associated Press updated 10/3/2010 5:01:09 PM ET ISLAMABAD — Dozens of Muslim militants with European citizenship are believed to be hiding out in the lawless tribal area of northwestern Pakistan, Pakistani and Western intelligence officials say, training for missions that could include terror attacks in European capitals. The plot apparently called for several gunmen to fan out across Germany, Britain and France in hopes of launching attacks similar not only to the Mumbai assault but also to so-called "swarm attacks" that extremists have mounted in Kabul and other Afghan cities. The tactic calls for small teams with automatic rifles, grenade launchers and suicide vests to strike simultaneously at several targets in a city and cause as much havoc as possible before they can be killed or captured. With frequent references to militant Muslims like this in our media, it is not unreasonable for non-Muslim Americans and Europeans to be concerned about all Muslims and cautious about them, inasmuch as we do not know which ones among them might turn out to be terrorists. Of course, we do not believe all Muslims are "extremists" and it would be unfair as well as illogical, to condemn all because of the behavior of a few, but there is this lingering possibility, constantly reinforced by the media, that some Muslims may very well be a threat to our Country. We just do not know which ones and that is the problem. Our fear or suspicion is not about Islam as such. This is not about freedom of Religion. Our suspicion is based on world news about horrible attacks and violence caused by certain groups of people who act in the name of Islam. That is their self-declared identity. The war in Afghanistan is not against Hindus or Buddhists. For that matter, it is not against the Afghans or against any National government, including those that are Muslim States. That could always change, e.g. - we could end up in a war with Iran. That would be against both a Nation and Muslims. Israel and Iran could go to war. That would be war between a Jewish State and a Muslim State. But right now, the major terrorist threat around the world is from people whose self identity is "Muslim". Their acts are done, they claim, in the Name of Allah. They actually have many different countries of origin. Therefore, it is totally realistic and understandable that non-Muslims would have questions about all Muslims and Islam (especially given most of us know little about either). However, there is absolutely no call for, or justification for, any kind of violent or derogatory or hateful treatment of anybody and everybody who indicate they are Muslim. Until individuals are proven to be actual enemies or a danger to our Country, all people among us must be treated with respect. Christians, especially, are bound to love their neighbors no matter what their Religion may be. Why does any of this need to be said? But there is another problem here, too. The possibility of terrorism by some Muslims is being used by some non-Muslims to rationalize their own dangerous behavior toward all Muslims. We must separate reasonable caution about possible terrorism from the arguments that are used to mistreat people who are different from us in clothing, language, Culture or Religion. Perhaps the most common reason given to hate or resent "foreigners" (of all kinds) is perceiving them to be a threat to our jobs. None of these reasons for bigotry or prejudice must be tolerated among Christians (or in our Society at large). The threat of terrorism by some Muslims must not be used to cover up or rationalize unworthy and dangerous attitudes and unlawful behavior toward all Muslims for any of these other purported "reasons".

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:03

Friday, September 24, 2010

## **DOES MERIT PAY FOR TEACHERS WORK?**

On 9/21 articles announcing these research results appeared in many papers  
[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39292210/ns/us\\_news-life/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39292210/ns/us_news-life/)

On 9/24 articles making this announcement appeared in many papers  
[/mass\\_gets\\_27m\\_to\\_try\\_teacher\\_bonuses/](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:17

Thursday, September 23, 2010

### **WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED MOST?**

Here are two very helpful resources about the persecution of Christians around the world. One is an interactive map- <http://www.persecution.com/public/restrictednations.aspx?clickfrom=bWFpbI9tZW51>  
The other gives a list of the top ten Nations that persecute Christians. Of those, 6 are Muslim, 3 are Communist and 1 is Buddhist.

<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20070207/muslim-countries-dominate-open-doors-top-10-persecutors-list/index.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:53

Tuesday, September 21. 2010

## **DOOMSDAY SCENARIOS**

The current 30th Anniversary Edition of Discover Magazine includes an article by it's Editor-in-Chief, listing what he considers are possible Scenarios of Doomsday. The most likely, he says, is this one-GENETICALLY MODIFIED SUPERHUMANS The debate over human germ-line engineering—reworking genes in the sperm and egg to create inheritable new traits—sputtered out early in the last decade after gene therapy had a series of notable failures. The revival of that research (see page 31) suggests it is time to resume the conversation. Soon it could be possible to design babies whose DNA has been rewritten to give them greater mental and physical abilities. Such “trans-humans” might eventually be a true breed apart, able to mate only with others of their kind. In a Hollywood blockbuster, the transhumans would include a cackling villain who turns against his progenitors, but there is no need: If they are truly superior, they might outcompete us by benign means, marking the first synthetic transition from one homi-nid species to the next. Odds: high, since germ-line modification seems nearly inevitable in the long run.

30-ways-the-world-could-end/I am sticking with the Scriptural Scenario: Christ will come again and with Him, New Heavens and a New Earth! That will be Doomsday only for Unbelievers. For the rest of us that will be Glory!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:21

Tuesday, September 14. 2010

### **WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MUSLIMS AND ISLAM?**

Here are two extensive articles published in Christianity Today 10 years ago that can be very helpful today, introducing us to Muslims and Islam in America. Please read both.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/april3/1.40.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/marchweb-only/21.0c.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:55

Saturday, September 11, 2010

## **IS ISLAMOPHOBIA JUSTIFIED?**

The news in print media and on TV are all featuring stories about 9/11. Some ask, "How do we tell children what happened and why? Good question. The commemorations rightfully focus on memories of the almost 3000 that were killed in the Towers and the hundreds of rescue workers who died in that holocaust. The other remembrance is of how united Americans were in the aftermath of the attack, both in their horror and consequent sense of outrage and patriotism. There is almost nothing said now about who did the dastardly deed or why. The killers were Muslims. The mastermind behind the plan is a Muslim (Sheik Khalid. He and his collaborators are in detention in the prison at Guantanamo Bay all these years later). The instigator behind them was Osama ben Laden, a Muslim and his Muslim organization, el Qaeda, both of which are still free and wrecking havoc around the world. The latter were (and still are) aided by another Muslim organization, the Taliban which is stronger than ever. As a result of all that, there have been still on-going wars in Afghanistan and Iraq against Muslims! You can read an extensive review of the 9/11 Event here- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September\\_11\\_attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks)

There is no wonder why Americans cast a wary eye on Muslims. They have at least 3000 reasons to do so. But it is deemed intolerant and wrong by many to be critical of Muslims or their Religion, even though the Terrorists openly claim their Religion as the basis, the rationale, for their evil actions. Many Americans fear or are at least suspicious of Muslims and Islam. This is not unwarranted or unreasonable. Add to the 9/11 attack the many cases of cruelty and murder in the name of Allah perpetuated around the world. In the news just this week are stories of women facing death by stoning in Iran, a Muslim country. My wife has just read the book, *Infidel*, the autobiography of Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a former Muslim who, among other issues, is an activist against the abuse of women in Muslim societies. She has horrible examples. Yes, Americans have cause for concern. But it is fashionable to denounce Islamophobia. We hear that fear comes from ignorance of Islam. I have just listed reasons why the fear of Islam or of Muslims is not necessarily from ignorance. But the best evidence why main street Americans have reason to fear Muslims has just been given this week by the rabid reactions to the proposed burning of Korans by a church in Florida. President Obama himself, Congressional, Military and Christian Leaders all emphatically urged the Florida Pastor not to carry out the planned burning. Why? What motivated this reaction? Fear! Fear of what Muslims would do. Nothing could have demonstrated more clearly that our fears of Muslims are not unfounded. The Imam of the Mosque in NYC even used the fear card. Most Americans oppose the building of the new Islamic Cultural center at ground zero and he has been asked by many to change the location. His reply was extortionary. If we changed the plans, he said, Muslims around the world would be outraged [never mind that millions of Americans are outraged if it is not moved] and who knows what terrible things Muslims might do. "The headlines in the Muslim world will be that Islam is under attack... (there's) the danger of the radicals in the Muslim world to our national security, to the national security of our troops," Rauf said. "If we do move, it will strengthen the argument of the radicals to recruit, their ability to recruit, and their increasing aggression and violence against our country."- Imam Rauf

[/imam-rauf-predicts-violence-in-muslim-world-if-he-does-not-get-his-way/](#) That is a threat. That is extortion. That reveals what we are dealing with and belies the PC position that Muslims and Islam are really good and no threat to anybody. Islamophobia is not ungrounded. This perspective about Muslims and Islam should be an important part of what we remember on this annual day of 9/11 commemorations. It should also renew our determination, as Christians, to spread the Gospel in the Islamic world and among Muslims here in America, too. I agree burning Korans would have been wrong-headed and counter-productive. We do want to destroy Islam and convert Muslims, but we must do that, not out of fear, but out of love of sinners who happen to be Muslims and with prayer and the Gospel, not violence of any kind. (2 Cor 10:4-5)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:49

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

## **BURNING THE KORAN**

A lead article in this morning's Washington Post begins with this paragraph-"The plan by a tiny Florida church to burn Korans on Sept. 11 is drawing condemnation from top U.S. officials and religious leaders, including the White House, the State Department and Gen. David H. Petraeus, who warned Tuesday that it could endanger U.S. troops in the Muslim world."I agree that the Pastor in question should not burn the Koran. But my question is, why is the planned Muslim Center at Ground Zero not drawing condemnation from top U.S. officials and religious leaders, including the White House, the State Department and Gen. David H. Petraeus?Isn't the argument to support the building plan a defense of Freedom of Religion"? Doesn't that cut both ways? Or is this really about fear of the Radical Muslims (and no fear of the Preacher.)?At any rate, the plan to build is legal and all that; it is just insensitive and maybe even a calculated insult to America by the Muslims involved. I do not think "Freedom of Religion" has anything to do with it at all. It is all about location, location, location.PS If the argument for support of the Center in that particular location rests on what is "legal", how come that argument does not have weight with those who support illegal immigrants?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:11

Saturday, September 4, 2010

### **BAMBI HAS BECOME GODZILLA**

Here is a really good column by George Will. It is about why the Environmental Movement ("Go Green") is floundering, but has important observations that are really on target about "change" in our Society.  
</content/article/2010/09/03/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:20

Wednesday, September 1, 2010

## **MAJOR FLAW WITH THE "CONTRACT FROM AMERICA"**

Recently some 450,000 Americans submitted more than 10,000 ideas to a website. These ideas from the public were sorted by popularity and reduced to the top ten. The list with these ideas is now called a "Contract from America". It is being used to qualify candidates for the upcoming Congressional elections. Candidates are being asked to literally sign the Contract and agree to work to actualize the 10 ideas it proposes. In general, the ideas listed offer ways to support individual liberty, limited government, and economic freedom. Sounds good to me. Those are the traditional points of conservative Republicans (although this Contract from America is supposed to be from the grass roots and has Tea Party roots. The most popular demand to be expected from our elected officials, the one garnering the most votes, is this- Protect the Constitution Require each bill to identify the specific provision of the Constitution that gives Congress the power to do what the bill does. (82.03% of the votes from 450,000 citizens) This is admirable and I agree with the words; but what does it mean? As with the Bible, there are several ways to interpret the Constitution, which I have explained several times on this Blog. Which Rules of Interpretation, which Philosophy of Law, shall we follow? And who decides that? Congress, the Supreme Court or a solitary Federal Court Judge as in the same sex marriage case (Prop in California? Unless there is agreement on this matter, the mandate is toothless. Do we want our elected officials to abide by the original intent of the authors of the Document, including all the Amendments? (Not only the authors of the Founding Documents, circa post- Revolutionary War, but the authors of the Post Civil War Documents into the 20th C) Is the Constitution to be interpreted as static, fixed with a single meaning for all time or is it a living document, to be understood according to the values and needs of contemporary America. Many of its Articles and phrases are vague and permit diverse interpretation or application. [Do you see the comparisons with how we interpret the Bible?] For example, much of the current debate over children born to illegal immigrants (are they citizens by being born on American soil?) is shaped by different interpretations of the Constitution. Proponents for each side of the issue do what the Contract from America requests: they "identify the specific provision of the Constitution that gives Congress the power to do what the bill does. In this case the 14th Amendment (post Civil War, not post Revolutionary War). They just do not agree with what that provision means because they use different Rules of Interpretation. Look at the never ending debates about "freedom of speech" or about "gun control" or the "right to privacy". Debaters on these topics all appeal to the 1st Amendment, but that doesn't help because they interpret the words differently. Consider how the Commerce Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3) has been used to support all Civil Rights Laws, Sherman Ant-Trust Act and Interstate Commerce, definitions of Crimes and the Treatment of Native Americans, to name only a few. Debaters all identify the specific provision of the Constitution that gives Congress the power to do what the bill does. They just interpret it by different Rules. What the Contract declares, "Protect the Constitution", sounds good; but it is so simplistic that it is meaningless. This can be said of most the of other nine Ideas in the Contract (in varying degree). I got a phone call today from the campaign office of a local conservative candidate for Congress. She mentioned several of these line items. She had no answer when I asked for details. She just repeated them like a mantra. That won't do!

2. Reject Cap & Trade
3. Demand a Balanced Budget
4. Enact Fundamental Tax Reform
5. Restore Fiscal Responsibility & Constitutionally Limited Government in Washington
6. End Runaway Government Spending
7. Defund, Repeal, & Replace Government-run Health Care
8. Pass an 'All-of-the-Above' Energy Policy
9. Stop the Pork
10. Stop the Tax Hikes

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:37

## **FEDERAL FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY**

Now President Obama appears to have "lost" New York Times liberal economic columnist Paul Krugman. Krugman, who enthusiastically supported the president's redistributionist and stimulus plans, has bowed to the reality that they are not working. Writing in U.S. News & World Report, publisher Mort Zuckerman takes the Krugman view a step further by calling the administration he once supported "The Most Fiscally Irresponsible Government in U.S. History." An economy burdened down with debt because of too much government spending, a health care law that will add new and unknown burdens, expiring tax cuts that will take more money from the private sector for government to waste and abuse, and a stock market unsure and thus unable to fuel the economic engine to propel us out of this recession, is not a "summer of recovery," but a winter of discontent.

Read Cal Thomas full article </cols/thomas083110.php3>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:13

## **FAILURE OF FEDERAL FOOLISHNESS**

Banner Headline in our local paper this morning: "Home foreclosure woes persist", echoing a similiar headline in the Boston Globe. The local article continues with, "...despite the federal Making Home Affordable program designed to keep them in their homes." Mona Charen's column in the same paper is titled "Federal mortgage rescue ends up subsidizing failure." "President Obama has a weakness for thinking in categories. For someone who provokes swoons among liberals for his great intellect, he has repeatedly evidenced an unsophisticated, one might even say simple-minded, view of the world: Workers good; bosses exploitative. Borrowers good; lenders bad. Patients good; insurance companies bad. Again and again, the president and his spokesmen have justified their expansions of government power as efforts to help those who "through no fault of their own" find themselves in difficulties. Many politicians traffic in this kind rhetoric during campaigns, but Obama has institutionalized it in policy. One of those reifications -- the Home Affordable Modification Program -- now stands revealed as a failure." Charen's on target analysis can be read here

[/MonaCharen/2010/08/27/obamas\\_manichean\\_world](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:03

Monday, August 30, 2010

## **PROBLEMS WITH THE BECK RALLY LAST WEEK, Part 1**

First, some Quotes: Beck had explained why he decided to spearhead what was, in many respects, an ecumenical revival. "My role, as I see it, is to wake America up to the backsliding of principles and values and most of all of God," he told the assembled conservative activists. "We are a country of God." "Something that is beyond man is happening," he said, his voice echoing all the way to the Washington Monument. "America today begins to turn back to God." Beck's opening theme, calling the assembled to embrace God and remember the traditional, foundational values of the country, was carried on by the ensuing speakers. Ultimately, however, it was Beck's call for a religious rebirth that dominated. He urged the throngs to "recognize your place to the Creator" and to "realize that He is our king." "He is the one who guides and directs our life and protects us," Beck said, his voice rising. "I ask, not only if you would pray on your knees, but pray on your knees with your door open for your children to see." Quotes from National review online Aug 28, 2010 Religion did take center stage during the four-hour event hosted by the popular radio and Fox News Channel commentator. Beck, who was raised Roman Catholic but converted to Mormonism as an adult, asked the crowd to commit to praying more. "America today begins to turn back to God," he said from a stage in front of the Lincoln Memorial. "Realize that He is our king. He is the one who guides and directs our life and protects us." Quote from World Magazine online Aug 28, 2010 "Do we no longer believe in the individual, and the power of one individual?" Beck demanded. "No!" the crowd adamantly answered. "One man can change the world.... That individual is you!" "Go to your churches, synagogues, and mosques!" Beck said, taking care to include men and women of varying faiths. "Yesterday is gone, tomorrow may never come, but we have today to make a difference." The crowd applauded. Beck was short on specifics, long on platitudes. In a way, the rally today mirrored rallies held for then-candidate Barack Obama in 2007 and leading up to the election of 2008. Both this rally and many of Obama's featured mesmerizing speakers, who chose to inspire audiences by rhetorically empowering them to take matters into their own hands. While Beck's rally emphasized belief in God, Obama's generally emphasized himself as a savior of the American people. This, I believe, was the contrast the talk radio and television personality was trying to achieve. Beck's rally, and the speakers who addressed the crowd, were continually thanking God and Beck for bringing such an inspiring crowd together. Quotes from Weekly Standard online Aug 28, 2010 I have two related problems with all of this. First is the comment "Beck was short on specifics, long on platitudes." This could be said about many, many speeches. The problem is it appeals to emotions and calls for response and action based on simplistic slogans. All types of speakers, Left to Right, use this technique. Preachers do it, too.

If it motivates the masses to do homework, researching the complicated issues of our times and act accordingly- good! If bumper sticker, sound byte code words carry the crowd- terrible! The latter happens all the time. And that is my first problem with this and all such Rallies. I hope the folks at Mr Beck's Rally are not swayed by rhetoric, but many love it. It can be inspiring and we need that. But the word, "inspire" literally means, "to breath on or into, i.e.- to fill with air". That could be "hot air". At any rate, air dissipates and does not last. We need substance to deal with today's complicated issues- meat (well researched and documented facts and substance) to chew on (I tell this to Preachers, as well). The second problem I have with Mr Beck is that, for all of his talk about God, he is a Mormon and the Mormon doctrine of God is not orthodox, Biblical or Christian in the least! I am concerned that this deceives or misleads people. I will write more about that next.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:51

## **PROBLEMS WITH THE BECK RALLY LAST WEEK, Part 2**

Mr Beck spoke passionately at his rally, calling America back to God. The message resonated well with the thousands gathered before him. Many were probably evangelical Christians and they agreed with what Mr Beck was saying. They assumed that what he means by God is the same they mean. However, Mr Beck is a Mormon and the Mormon Doctrine of God is not orthodox, Biblical or Christian in the least! So what did Mr Beck really mean? A visit to a major Mormon website, Mormon.org., is an attractive website that, I am guessing, would belie what I have just written for many. Reading it the "Church of Latter Day Saints" could easily come across as evangelical to many evangelicals. That is because many evangelicals are not well grounded in Doctrine these days, are naive and lack spiritual discernment (very sorry to say!).

The Mormon website begins by saying on the frontpage, "While our backgrounds and experiences are diverse, Mormons are united by a commitment to Jesus Christ. Mormons believe first and foremost that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and the Son of God." But what do they mean by all of this. How do they define these words? An excellent website that is evangelical offers a thorough study of Mormonism and gives its carefully research that makes

clear that Mormonism is, as I have said, not orthodox, Biblical or Christian in the least! There are wonderful, attractive people who are Mormons. That notwithstanding, they are not Christians if they believe in the doctrines of their Church. <http://mrm.org/> That leads to an interesting question: does Mr Beck subscribe to the teaching of Mormonism? Many things he has said give reason to believe that he is actually an Evangelical and does not. This is confusing. What can we believe about Mr Beck's avowed beliefs? This website has a very helpful essay which explores the possibilities. The verdict is not in.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:49

## **SUPPORTING THE MILITARY**

The recent rally led by Glen Beck in Washington featured many tributes to our Service men and women. It is necessary and right that we honor those who serve in our Military Forces and we are happy to do so! They have a God-given mission as an instrument of the Government to protect our Country and defeat the armed forces from other Countries who attack us. In doing this they serve the Lord. Romans 12:3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Repeatedly, through out the Bible, God used armies to do exactly this work. John the Baptist did not denounce or repudiate soldiers who asked him what they should do to get right with God. He simply admonished them to be unselfish and honest in carrying out their mission and not be malcontents. Luke 3:14 [John called people to repent of their sins lest they perish] Soldiers asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." Jesus healed a Centurion's daughter and complimented him for his great faith Luke 7: 2 Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. 3 When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, 5 for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." 6 And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. 7 Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. 8 For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 9 When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." Not a word from Jesus admonishing this soldier to give up his career in the Army. One of the most famous of all Christians in the New Testament was also a Centurion [a commanding officer] We read in Acts 10:1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. 6 He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." 7 When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, 8 and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. (Read the rest of the story). This Soldier became the first Gentile to convert to Christ and become a Christian. Nothing was said to him about giving up the Military. I am proud of my son-in-law who retired after 20 years service to God and Country in the Navy and his two sons who are now doing the same. Yes, we should indeed honor all our Service men and women. But, and this is a big "but", this does not mean that they have always been tasked by their Superiors to always do honorable things. Many soldiers have been used by evil-minded or foolish or ignorant Leaders (military and civilian) to do terrible things in the name of serving God and Country. This is true in every Nation. And those specific acts of war and violence are not to be commemorated with honor. This is not hard to document and Americans should study their History for the evidence. We must never, as Citizens, carried away in the moment by stirring rhetoric, blindly support every dictate that comes from the "powers that be". Some things our military have been required to do through out our 234 year History (including the treatment of Native Americans) have been wrong, even disgraceful (again, read the History books). The troops must obey (although there have been notable examples through out history of those individual soldiers who, for conscience sake, have disobeyed and paid the price for that). But long before the troops go to battle, the rest of us have the responsibility of electing and overseeing the Civilians in the White House and Congress who make the decisions about what our military are sent to do. Many times we have failed to do just that and should hang our heads in shame, instead of putting our hands together in applause. We must use our voices and votes to protest if need be, but we must never mindlessly support all that our Civilian Leaders, whom we elected, chose to do (about anything!)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:29

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

## **MUSLIMS ON THE MOVE**

"Since the 1960s large numbers of Muslims have been migrating to the West. Muslim migration is unusual because of radicals within the community who are deliberately seeking to create dramatic changes in their host societies; they want Islam to gain social, cultural, economic and political power. What is happening in the West is linked to worldwide developments in Islam. Muslims around the globe are regaining their confidence and promoting a resurgence of Islam. Their aim is to establish Muslim control in politics, economics and culture in every country. In this process the Islamic world is growing more assertive and intolerant towards the West. This resurgence of Islam and the increasing power of Islamism (political Islam) strongly impact Muslim communities in the West. In response, the West is gradually changing its structures, laws and customs to suit its Muslim communities."

"In Western Europe, there were only about 50,000 Muslims in 1900. By 1970 the number had grown to 3-4 million, and by 2008 it exceeded 25 million. Forty percent of Rotterdam's population is Muslim. In Brussels the figure is 33 percent and in Marseilles and Malmo 25 percent. Muslims comprise an estimated 20 percent of the population of inner London, 15 percent of the population in Birmingham, and 10 percent in Paris and Copenhagen. Muhammad has become the most common name for newborn boys in Brussels and Amsterdam, and the third most common in England. Muslim populations are growing much faster than non-Muslim ones. This growth is due to continued migration, higher birth rates and conversions. Many Muslim leaders have expressed their vision of an Islamic Europe in the foreseeable future, achieved primarily by demographic changes. Bernard Lewis predicted in July 2004 that Muslims would form a majority in Europe by the end of the 21st century. He repeated his warning in 2007 ..."

Read more [HERE](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:27

Sunday, August 15, 2010

## **POLITICAL DRAMA ON THE FLORIDA COAST**

The President is free to swim anywhere he wants (unless entering the water is declared illegal or unsafe by the Authorities), but he chose to swim in the Gulf water for one reason- to send a message: "Gulf water is now safe. All you tourists come on down and jump in." He is now going on to swim in Long Island Sound, but that will not be to send a message, just to swim. Florida was political drama. Everyone accepts that. Therefore, no one should have any problem accepting the reality that building an Islamic Center at Ground Zero in NYC could also be political drama, meant to send a message. It is not about swimming in the waters of religious freedom. That could be done in many other places, but that would not send a "Message". The Message it sends to me and millions of other Americans is, at the very least, "we do not care what your feelings are about what happened here or what you feel about the Moslems who did it". The Message could be even more ominous.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:45

Saturday, August 14. 2010

## **FACTS, JUST THE FACTS**

Resources to check out political commercials and commentators-  
<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/>  
<http://www.factcheck.org/>  
[http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?\\_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en)

and one to check out all those emails that warn you about something-  
<http://snopes.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:47

## **IN DEFENCE OF ISRAEL**

Part of the main Biblical purpose for Government is the defense of its citizens from attack by external forces. And America justifies preemptive military action as part of that defense. Therefore, we empathize with Israel's plight.  
[/content/article/](#)

And then consider this latest development. What are we, what is Israel, to make of this announcement? All this sounds very ominous.  
[content/article/](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:07

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

## **THE CASE ARIZONA HAS AGAINST THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION**

People sympathetic with illegal aliens think the recent Arizona law against them violates their "rights". Here is an eye-opening, very disturbing article about how the Federal Government is failing to keep Constitutional law and is violating the State and citizens of Arizona. The Bible repeatedly warns us against Government that exceeds its God-given boundaries (which ours is doing everyday). Christians beware!  
<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=542468&obref=outbrain>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:37

Monday, August 9, 2010

## **RADICAL ISLAMISTS**

The issue of building a Moslem Center at ground Zero in NYC is not about Freedom of Religion. We have a Moslem Mosque a few miles from our house. About 500 families belong to it and worship there. No one here has any problem with that because we practice and respect Freedom of Religion. I have no doubt that every knows the proposed building in NYC is primarily not a House of Prayer but is a symbol. What it symbolizes depends on what people believe and feel about the 911 attack by radical Moslem terrorists on the Trade Towers (and the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania)The local Mosque here is not a problem because is not a symbol. The Moslems who run the convenience store at the end of our street are no problem. They are not a symbol of anything, simply hard working shopkeepers. But a building for Moslems to meet at the very spot where other Moslems attacked America is a symbol, a very in your face brazen one because it reminds us all of the atrocity and who committed it. The building should not have been allowed for that reason. That has nothing to do with Freedom of Religion. New York cowardly caved to Political correctness. Liberal Americans must wake up and accept the fact that radical Moslems and groups like the Taliban in Afghanistan are terrorists and a serious threat to America and Western Civilization. We should take this column by Cal Thomas seriously- [calthomas.com/](http://calthomas.com/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:49

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

## **BEING "ANTI" IS NOT ENOUGH**

I have gotten very tired of the same old same old in the news everyday and therefore have not been posting much recently on the old news.

I also realize I have said what I think needs to be said about many issues and that does not seem to have changed the world. So why continue? Well, we can't walk around with our heads in the sand. God does have a Word that applies to all of these current matters and I still want to write about what He has said.

Many of my friends are politically, socially, economically or religiously "conservative". Some are Libertarians and many fit in with the "Tea Party". The problem is that being "conservative" or negative is not enough. We can not just be "anti establishment or "anti" incumbent. Many say we must have change- but very few spell out what the "change" must be? Conservative and secular ideas are not the answer. What does the Bible say about economics and government? What are God's answers, His agenda or will, for solving our social, economic and political problems? That is what we must think about. I try to promote that with my website articles. Please give them a look see.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:02

## **SPENDING OUR WAY TO RUIN**

"A much more rhetorically subdued but nevertheless devastating implicit criticism of current government spending policies came from an even more unlikely source: the Congressional Budget Office, whose director is a Democrat. Without naming names or making political charges, the Congressional Budget Office last week issued a report titled "Federal Debt and the Risk of a Fiscal Crisis." The report's dry, measured words paint a painfully bleak picture of the long-run dangers from the current runaway government deficits. The CBO report points out that the national debt, which was 36 percent of the Gross Domestic Product three years ago, is now projected to be 62 percent of GDP at the end of fiscal year 2010-- and rising in future years." --by Thomas Sowell

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:58

## **UNLEASHED AMERICA?**

"Politically, this period could be akin to the late-1970s. Economic anxiety could produce good and bad ideological effusions. As the economy stutters, people will ask fundamental questions about the nature of our political-economic structures and come up with grand proposals to revive growth. The electorate could shift in ways hard to imagine. In my previous column, I tried to imagine what a moderate Democratic growth agenda would look like. You could call it the Moon Shot Approach. In this approach, government tries to spur economic development first by creating the context for growth with a big infrastructure program and then by focusing subsidies and tax credits on key sectors, like energy research. The Republicans have their own growth agenda. You could call it the Unleash America Approach. The underlying worldview was deftly sketched out in Arthur C. Brooks's book, 'The Battle: How the Fight Between Free Enterprise and Big Government Will Shape America's Future.' " by David Brooks  
[READ MORE HERE](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:54

## **WASTEFUL SPENDING**

"Congratulations are due to the Washington Post. "Top Secret America," its in-depth, multi-part, two-year investigation into the vast network of government security agencies and private contractors is an eye-opener -- obvious Pulitzer bait. Reporters Dana Priest and William Arkin have revealed a "hidden world, growing beyond control." Within this "alternate geography" of the United States, they found some 1,271 government organizations and 1,931 private companies at work on programs related to counterterrorism, homeland security and intelligence in about 10,000 locations across the United States. Over 850,000 Americans have top-secret security clearances. They spend "a gusher of money" that has flowed since 9/11. And -- this will blow your socks off -- the Post found that there is tremendous waste, duplication, and lack of accountability." - by Mona Charen

**Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>**

MORE HERE

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:50

Saturday, July 10, 2010

## **A DISHONEST ARGUMENT**

A Federal Judge ruled this week in Boston that the Federal Law defining Marriage as only the legal union of a man and woman is unconstitutional on the grounds that it violates State Law that legalized Gay Marriage. The latter, he decreed, takes precedence over the former. The Boston Globe agrees. President Obama and key congressional leaders already favor repealing the act, which was approved in 1996 at a time when gay marriage seemed so foreign and disconcerting to most Americans that opponents could use Congress to usurp what had traditionally been a state prerogative — the ability to determine who qualifies for marriage. That usurpation was illegal, and forms the core of Judge Tauro's decision.- Globe Editorial July 10 On the other hand, the Boston Globe is opposed to the new Arizona Law that addresses the problem that State has with illegal immigrants crossing their borders (ironically seeking to enforce Federal Law that is not being enforced by the Feds). In this case it reverses the argument, saying- THE FEDERAL government sets the nation's immigration policy, so it's not appropriate for states to venture forth with their own. That's the thinking behind one key aspect of the Obama administration's sweeping legal assault against Arizona's overly harsh new immigration law.- Globe 7/12 If this is true, and the Federal Government has set the nation's Marriage policy with the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) why is it also not appropriate for states to "venture forth with their own" Law about Marriage? Answer: The inconsistent and hypocritical argument is made because the Globe supports the purported rights of those who chose to be illegal immigrants and of homosexuals who want to be Married. The argument about States Rights versus Federal Rights is not really the issue, but only a ploy to get what the Globe really wants. Many citizens across the Country think the same as the Globe does.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:05

Sunday, July 4, 2010

## **BEING PATRIOTIC**

It has often been said that the United States is a melting pot, with immigrants from many other Nations coming here and blending together to be one people, Americans. This is no longer true. We are now a mosaic of people from other Lands, living here while proudly maintaining their separate National identities and loyalties. A patriotic American will not do that. Patriotism is a love of Country, a pride in its history and heritage. Patriotism is also strong convictions about the founding principles of ones Country and a commitment to preserving them. Patriots are expressive of the love and pride they have for their Nation, but it is also being verbal about those convictions, being committed to them and promoting them. A person may have dual citizenship, but a person can not be a Patriot of two countries at the same time. At the very least, loyalty is divided and often there will be conflicting interests. Love of Country is not the same as love of an Administration of the Country's Government. Because I am patriotic, I strongly disapprove of our current President and the key Leaders of the current Congress. I believe their policies are hurting the Country I love. Love of Country is not endorsement of all that the Country does or trends that are happening in the Country at a particular time. I have serious misgivings about the direction America is going exactly because I am patriotic. Love of Country is not idolatrous worship of Country. I worship only God. My patriotism is because of Him. My pride in America's history and heritage, strong convictions about its founding principles and a commitment to preserving them is grounded in the belief that God has been at work in its history and heritage and that its founding principles of liberty and justice are grounded in the Word of God and are worth voting and fighting for. All that makes me a Patriot!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 01:59

Monday, June 28, 2010

## **CHRISTIANS AND THE OIL CRISIS**

**REAL SOLUTIONS TO THE US ENERGY PROBLEM** We can discuss profits, politics, international policy, negligent Government oversight, special interests, business mismanagement, human error, etc as major causes of energy problems. Discussion frequently includes the subject of human greed. Everyone can agree with that, but very few go deeper and want to deal with the issue of human nature itself that causes the greedy behavior that we see demonstrated everywhere in our world. Human Nature is also the root cause of violence in the streets and bullying in schools. The dark under side of human nature is at the core of all kinds of economic and social problems in our society- always has been. Conservative Evangelical Christians know what the only real solution to that is: Regeneration of human nature through the work of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. Anything else is only, at best, a temporary stop gap measure. We must renew our efforts to spread the Gospel world-wide. But there are important secondary issues that Christians also must address. Following the Bible, the fundamental issue in the debates about developing sources of Energy is the Biblical Mandate God has given to all of Humanity to develop and control all of earth's natural resources. (Genesis 1-2) When God created Adam and Eve, He placed them in Paradise, the Garden of Eden. That Garden was situated in the Wilderness (the entire world was not a Paradise when created) The Mandate was for Adam and Eve and their descendants to cultivate and care for that Garden and also to labor to enlarge it by dominating and controlling that Wilderness. To make matters worse, after the Fall that Wilderness was cursed and would always resist [Man's] efforts to do that, but [Man] must still try to do it. The Wilderness does not exist for its own sake. It must be made to serve the welfare of Humanity. If there are vast deposits of fossil fuels or natural gas they must be developed or controlled to that end. The same with the Sun, water, wind and all other sources of energy. The sticking point is who should do this and how to do this best; developing, conserving and distributing Natural Resources responsibly, without selfishly destroying them. Of course there are innumerable examples of exploitation and waste and not for the benefit of Humanity but for the benefit of some Elite. One of the most egregious examples is what is happening in the Niger Delta of Africa. Read what has been happening there for years, mostly involving the Shell Oil Company. It dwarfs the Gulf Oil Disaster. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/may/30/oil-spills-nigeria-niger-delta-shell> Again, the ultimate problem is the dark side of fallen human nature as we see it manifest in the behavior of Oil Companies. Recent ethnic genocide in Kyrgyzstan is another manifestation [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/17/AR2010061705954.html?wpisrc=nl\\_cuzhead](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/17/AR2010061705954.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzhead) Pastors are supposed to preach the Gospel and teach the Bible. That means the subjects I am writing about here must be the subject of sermons and study groups because these matters are addressed in both the Gospel and Bible. The Church must teach the Cultural Mandate and Christians must live by it. Long term, real solutions to the present world-wide energy problems already exist and require only the will to use them. Long after the Gulf mess is cleaned up, the problems will continue unless these solutions are enacted, beginning with Christians. We are part of the problem. BP has done wrong and it must pay, but they are not the real problem. They are being made a scapegoat, a kicking boy, by grandstanding politicians. The far more important reason for the American problem with oil is our (including Christians) well known dependency or addiction we all have to it. 84% of the oil in the USA goes into making fuel (mostly gasoline and diesel) for our vehicles. (The other 16% goes mostly into chemical products (pharmaceuticals, solvents, fertilizers, pesticides and plastics) If Christians are truly serious about obeying the Bible and its command to be good stewards of natural resource, we must cut our daily use of oil. Seriously increased sales taxes on vehicles and increased fuel taxes (prices at the pump) would motivate us to do that. We should support such increases. We should demand much greater fuel economy of our vehicles. In fact we should switch to more mass public transportation. We should also support serious mass production of vehicles that are powered by electricity or natural gas (real progress in these directions are being made). There are all kinds of economic, political and social obstacles to doing these things, but these measures would go a long way to solving the oil crisis. President Obama did not call on us to such sacrifice in his recent Oval Office speech. Why not? He pushed instead for the adoption of his "carbon tax" or "cap and trade" proposals which mostly effect (restrict) corporations and give his Administration more control over private business and more control over how energy is used in this Country. Many of us believe these measures are not the answer. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/17/AR2010061704209.html?wpisrc=nl\\_cuzhead](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/17/AR2010061704209.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzhead) Like everyone else when it comes to this issue, Christians are selfish, lazy and very materialistic. This is evidence of that fallen human nature. Most of us do not connect the energy crisis with living as Christians. We love our vehicles and use and depend on our cars and trucks as much as any non-Christian does. (Realistically, many of us currently must use our vehicles for our employment and that is not going to change soon.) The sale of gas guzzling cars and trucks is on the increase in recent months but Christians do not have to be among the buyers. Simply put, most Christians are not being good stewards of the Earth and are wasting oil. Lots of it. We have too many cars and drive them too fast and too far. This is something we could change immediately, if we wanted to. Why don't we? It will effect our lives, including where we live, work, shop and what we do in our leisure time. But that is the price that must be

paid to cut down on oil consumption. What else can we do? Biblical Christians are conservationists, people who advocate or strongly promote preservation and careful management of natural resources and of the environment for the sake of human beings. We do not worship Gaia (Mother Earth) or "hug trees". We believe human beings are the highest form of all living things and totally unique among them. Biblical Christians are not ideological Environmentalists, persons who are concerned with the maintenance of ecological balance, seeing all living things as equally important members of an ecosystem that includes the entire planet which is itself a living thing; working to preserve that ecosystem. At the very least, we could support drilling for oil in far more shallow and safe water, eg.- off the Pacific Coast, or on land in the interior of Alaska. Here the trouble is getting beyond the objections of Environmentalists. The latter must accept some responsibility for BP having to drill 1000 feet below the Gulf of Mexico. (Of course, deep water drilling itself is done around the world. It is very lucrative business and taps into great oil deposits found there) In the long run, if Christians are serious about solving the energy problem as part of obeying the Cultural Mandate, we must also support the safe development and use of major alternative sources for energy, such as nuclear power and natural gas. These would also reduce dependency on coal, as well as on oil.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:52

Tuesday, June 1. 2010

## **MISSING THE CHRISTIAN ORIGINS OF AMERICAN PRINCIPLES**

In the article below about "Patriotism", I write about the founding principles of our Country, referring to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution (and the Bill of Rights). We recently visited the magnificent Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. [question: if a building like that was rightly created to honor, store and preserve books, indicating their value to our Country and Civilization, what kind of building best reflects how we honor and value God and His Word?] Among many fascinating resources (a student could spend weeks going through all that can be seen) is the personal library of Thomas Jefferson, some 5000 volumes. Adjacent to this display was another documenting the origins of the ideas in our Founding Documents. I could find no reference to God, the Bible or Christian Doctrines in what was displayed. The impression given was that the sources of our Principles were totally secular in origin. That truly troubled me and so I am working on compiling the evidence for the argument that indeed God, the Bible and Christian Doctrine were key sources of our Nation's founding Principles. Others have already done this, but their work is not well known. I want to get the story straight and written down for my own benefit and for others who are not familiar with the material and might find my work helpful. Not to tell this part of the story is a serious sin of omission by the Library, with grave consequences for the future of America.

By the way, if you think security is tight at airports, D.C. looks like a City under seige and places like the National Library and the Congressional Building swarm with police and they rigorously enforce many regulations. I appreciate the need for security measures but, as a free Citizen, I was very uncomfortable with the rigid and ubiquitous scrutiny everywhere we went.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:31

Monday, May 31, 2010

## **FORT McHENRY- A MUST SEE!**

An absolute must see is Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD. Watching the short movie in the Visitor's Center which depicted the decisive Battle there in the War of 1812 (during which our Capital in DC was burned down) was instructive and inspiring. Hearing the Naval Academy's Men's Chorus sing the National Anthem while viewing the flag flying over the fort, as it was seen on the day of the Battle, was very emotional and patriotic experience. Going into the Fort we were treated to a very dramatic recital and explanation of our National Anthem by a Park Ranger, as he unfolded a replica of the massive star spangled banner seen by the British enemy ships in the harbor after their attack. The flag was spread on the parade ground (it is huge) and then many of us from the crowd present refolded it together. (A smaller flag was flown during the battle itself. The much larger one was raised to send the message to the British that we were still there, undefeated, after their bombardment of the Fort through the night.) In the post below are all the words of the Anthem. What we hear at sports events is only the first stanza, which is really a question asked. The answer to it comes in the next 3 stanzas, which we never hear. The last stanza is especially important.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:45

## **ALL THE WORDS OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave? On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep, Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes, What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep, As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses? Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam, In full glory reflected now shines on the stream: 'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave. And where is that band [the British] who so vauntingly swore That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion A home and a country should leave us no more? Their blood has wiped out their foul footsteps' pollution. No refuge could save the hireling and slave From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave: And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave. Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand Between their loved homes and the war's desolation! Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto: "In God is our trust." And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave! (emphasis added)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:38

Monday, May 3, 2010

## **PRESIDENT OBAMA PROCLAIMS DAY OF PRAYER FOR NATION**

There are two groups that have problems with this for different reasons. Atheist Groups and Bloggers denounced the annual National Day of Prayer because they do not believe in prayer and certainly not a Government endorsed Day of prayer. A Federal Court Judge has agreed and says the Government endorsement is unconstitutional. Religious Leaders generally endorse the Day, as they all believe in Prayer and the need to pray for our Nation. But the Day is meant to be Interfaith and Ecumenical and so Muslim Leaders (and others) oppose the inclusion of Franklin Graham, co-chairman of the Event, because of his strong, negative criticisms of Islam, the Religion. "The Council on American-Islamic Relations ...has called on congressional sponsors of the National Day of Prayer event on Capitol Hill to rescind Graham's invitation to speak at the May 6 gathering"

"The Military Religious Freedom Foundation, on behalf of Muslim military personnel and defense department staff, had demanded in a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates that Graham be disinvited from speaking at the Pentagon prayer event." (Actually it was the Chaplains Office that invited Mr Graham to participate at the Pentagon). For all of their disagreements, America's founders found ways to pray together, and virtually all of them believed that the nation's civic leaders should encourage prayer. We would do well to spend this year's National Day of Prayer following Washington's admonition to beseech God to "pardon our national and other transgressions" and to give thanks to "that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be." Read the History of the National day of Prayer extending back to the Founding

article It is a sad commentary on our Nation, founded as a Christian Nation (yes, it was) when members of another Religion, antithetical to Christianity, and Citizens who deny the very existence of God Himself, can bring enough social pressure to curtail our National Observance of Prayer to our God and threaten to actually make it illegal through the Courts. Here is Franklin Graham's response to the controversy. <http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/23193597/detail.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:32

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

### **ARIZONA'S NEW IMMIGRATION LAW**

Here is a very good article by George Will in defense of the new Arizona law and about the hypocrisy of its naysayers

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:21

Monday, April 26. 2010

## **BANNING LAPTOPS FROM CLASSROOMS**

"The trend of laptop-banning seems strongest at law schools, where discussions and understanding the material are vital to getting past the dreaded first year. Georgetown University Law Center professor David Cole bans laptops, as does University of Memphis law school professor June Entman. George Mason University law professor Michael Krauss has banned laptops for five or six years now. The way his first-year law-school classes are taught, Krauss said, is by asking questions for students to answer in discussion. Distractions and the Internet aren't Krauss's concern in banning laptops; the reason for the ban is that laptops have "become a substitute for thinking." The material in a law class requires a lot of thought to help understand concepts, and students who type verbatim what is said in class into their notes aren't giving themselves any time to absorb and analyze" [emphasis added]

**MORE HERE**

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:09

Saturday, April 17, 2010

## **HOW ARE WE GOING TO PAY FOR OBAMACARE?**

Here are two articles about the real possibility of a values added tax (VAT) on just about everything- scary stuff

HERE

HERE

The Bible warns about what Kings will do to their subjects, especially with unjust taxes!

Read 1 Samuel 8:6-19

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:23

Sunday, April 11. 2010

## **PAYING THE PIPER**

Reality check- the costs of bailouts and Obamacare  
HERE  
HERE

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:58

Monday, April 5, 2010

## **COUNTING THE NUMBERS**

Hispanic people will apparently will be the big winners coming out of the new national Census. Almost half of all the Nation's Congressional Districts are now made up of at least 30% Minorities and the majority of the minorities are Hispanic. My wife and I live in an area which has a large percent of Puerto Ricans (and many people from Latin America as well). In Florida, there are many Cubans and, in the Southwest, many people who are Mexican. Of course, many areas of the Country have Spanish speaking citizens with a variety of national origins. The point here is that the number of Hispanics is growing fast and helping to change how we look, sound and eat- and how we do church. But to drive through (or go to church in) the local affluent suburbs around Springfield, one would never know this is happening. (In fact, driving through those suburbs, one would never know we are in "tough economic times" either.) The many white ostriches who still have their heads in the sand are soon going to have to lift them out and learn to like parrilladas and tampiquenas (beside fajitas, tacos and salsa)  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:29

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

## **THE EVIL OF "HEAR NO EVIL, SEE NO EVIL"**

It is another dismal, dreary and very damp day here. The morning news featured the horrific story of the bullying that led to the suicide of a 15 year old girl in the toney town of South Hadley, home of Mount Holyoke. Nine teenagers have been charged with (in so many words) tormenting her to death with incessant verbal and physical bullying over a 4 month period. It remains to be seen what this will amount to, but at least the DA is making a statement and the Legislature is drafting an appropriate Law (word is that it will have no teeth to it, After all, "kids will be kids.") My outrage here is over the fact that this was common knowledge in the school (to students and Staff) and no one did anything about it. The adults have not been charged with any criminal behavior. But allowing this to go on, in my book, is very "criminal", if not legally, morally.

[da\\_charges\\_9\\_teens\\_faults\\_school\\_officials\\_in\\_s\\_hadley\\_bullying\\_case/](#)

Through the years, during Lent, I have driven by churches with 3 crosses on their front lawn and the words of Lamentations 1:12 posted before them.

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see if there is any suffering like mine..."Of course, the church is calling attention to the crosses of Calvary and the brutal murder of Jesus there and the apathy or indifference to that by most people driving by. These words can also be directed to those who passed by Phoebe Snow as she suffered- "Is this nothing to you?" Shame on them!But as I thought about this, I realized that here are all kinds of horrible, terrible things happening to people around the world today to which we are indifferent. Good Friday is coming and we remember the innocent suffering of Jesus on his cross, singing somber songs and offering prayers, rightly saying "mea culpa".We should also pause to think of the millions elsewhere who are innocent victims of brutal oppression nailed on crosses of their own. We may not be personally responsible for hanging them there, but to walk by and do nothing should also lead us to say "mea culpa", which means, "my fault", i.e.- I am guilty of sin by doing this-. It is morally wrong to pass bye. That should motivate us to take action on their behalf and not be like the "good" students and Staff of S.Hadley High

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:49

Friday, March 26. 2010

### **PAYING THE PIPER or "FEEDING THE BEAST"**

OK, we now have a form of "Universal Health Care". How will it be paid for? The VATman cometh!  
"Liberals have long complained that Reagan's strategy was to starve the (governmental) beast in order to shrink it: First, cut taxes -- then ultimately you have to reduce government spending. Obama's strategy is exactly the opposite: Expand the beast and then feed it. Spend first -- which then forces taxation. Now that, with the institution of universal health care, we are becoming the full entitlement state, the beast will have to be fed. And the VAT is the only trough in creation large enough." Read more from this very chilling column-  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/25/AR2010032502406.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:30

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

### **FROM GEORGE WILL- "PROMOTING DEPENDANCY"**

"As America's teetering tower of unkeepable promises grows, so does the weight of government, in taxes and mandates that limit investments and discourage job creation. America's dynamism, and hence upward social mobility, will slow, as the economy becomes what the party of government wants it to be -- increasingly dependent on government-created demand. Promoting dependency is the Democratic Party's vocation. The party knows that almost all entitlements are forever, and those that are not -- e.g., the lifetime eligibility for welfare, repealed in 1996 -- are not for the middle class. Democrats believe, plausibly, that middle-class entitlements are instantly addictive and, because there is no known detoxification, that class, when facing future choices between trimming entitlements or increasing taxes, will choose the latter. The taxes will disproportionately burden high earners, thereby tightening the noose of society's dependency on government for investments and job creation." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/22/AR2010032201528.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:41

### **FROM DAVID BROOKS- "WHAT'S NEXT?"**

"The essence of America is energy — the vibrancy of the market, the mobility of the people and the disruptive creativity of the entrepreneurs. Today, America's vigor is challenged on two fronts. First, the country is becoming geriatric. Other nations spend 10 percent or so of their G.D.P. on health care. We spend 17 percent and are predicted to soon spend 20 percent and then 25 percent. This legislation was supposed to end that asphyxiating growth, which will crowd out investments in innovation, education and everything else. It will not. The second biggest threat to America's vibrancy is the exploding federal debt. Again, Democrats can utter the words of fiscal restraint, but they don't feel the passion. This bill is full of gimmicks designed to get a good score from the Congressional Budget Office but not to really balance the budget. Democrats did enough to solve their political problem (not looking fiscally reckless) but not enough to solve the genuine problem. Nobody knows how this bill will work out. It is an undertaking exponentially more complex than the Iraq war, for example. But to me, it feels like the end of something, not the beginning of something. It feels like the noble completion of the great liberal project to build a comprehensive welfare system. The task ahead is to save this country from stagnation and fiscal ruin" <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/opinion/23brooks1.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:31

### **FROM CAL THOMAS- "BALONEY"**

"Pork is the preferred metaphor in Washington for misspending. But last weekend, pork took a backseat to baloney, which was present in abundance as President Obama and House Democrats tried to convince the public — and themselves — that their takeover of one-sixth of the economy is going to improve health insurance and the availability of medical treatment." <http://www.calthomas.com/index.php?news=2868>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:19

Monday, March 22, 2010

### **FAILING TO COUNT THE COSTS**

Many Americans are gullible fools, believing in panaceas, slogans, quick fixes and short term gains with no regard to long care costs and consequences. This describes the people who voted for Obamacare and those citizens who approve of it and think it's a great thing for "America".

They are like Esau who gave up his future inheritance for a bowl of vegetable stew, because he was hungry and having that stew was "better than making no choice at all". (see Genesis 25:29-34)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:32

Sunday, March 21, 2010

**BLARNEY, BALDERDASH and UNMITIGATED GALL (to put it nicely)**

Obama said. "Don't do it for me. Don't do it for the Democratic Party," he added. "Do it for the American people."- Boston Globe headline this morning  
Which American people? - not me! the majority of Americans are protesting loudly that they do not want Mr Obama's version of "Health Care Reform".

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:13

Saturday, March 20, 2010

### **LORD HAVE MERCY**

I have not been posting much lately because I find the daily news on just about every subject to be a source of daily depression. I can not remember another time when I was as discouraged and disgusted with our Country's Leadership and Policies and Society's mores and morals as I am now. I find absolutely nothing good about our current President and Congressional leaders. This is not suprising. We are getting exactly what the majority wanted when they elected Mr Obama. He is a big time, progressive, Roosevelt and Wilson type ideological Liberal Pragmatist. I am glad to see that many other Americans share my dismay and opposition. But I am dismayed that so many Evangelicals do not and are bowing down to worship the State and looking to it to save our Country from its decay and dissolution.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:49

### **TOP BASKETBALL TEAM LOSERS**

NOT ONLY did the University of Connecticut women's basketball team carry a 72-game winning streak into the Division 1 tournament, it also is bringing along a 100 percent graduation rate. In fact, all four top-seeded teams in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division 1 women's tournament, which also includes Stanford, Tennessee, and Nebraska, have a 100 percent graduation rate. The top eight seeds have a graduation rate of 94 percent and the top 16 are at 87 percent. But then there are the Men's teams-  
[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:35

Friday, March 19, 2010

### **"ALICE IN WONDERLAND" IS NOT A CHILDREN'S MOVIE**

I read many movie reviews. As a result, I do not go to many movies. (the few I see I get from Netflix) A woman I know told me Sunday that her young 12ish daughter loved the current Alice in Wonderland movie. I mentioned that it is nothing like the original story and not a good film for children. Another friend standing near by asked if I had seen it. I said no, but told her of the reviews. The ones who liked it enjoyed the cinematography

Here are a few to check out. See for yourself.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/movies/reviews>

[http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/10009599-alice\\_in\\_wonderland/](http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/10009599-alice_in_wonderland/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:49

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

## **THE RELIGION OF GLOBAL WARMING**

Global+warming+religion+First+World+urban+elites/1835847/story.html  
content/article/2010/02/19/AR2010021903046.html  
oped/articles/2010/03/03/gore\_still\_hot\_on\_his\_doomsday\_rhetoric/

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 22:14

Friday, February 26. 2010

### **THE GOD GAP IN FOREIGN POLICY**

Government Policy Makers and Politically Correct Public opinion makers insist on discounting the role of Religion in international affairs, particularly when it comes to Islam. Here is more evidence that this is wrongheaded and foolish.  
[article/2010/02/23/](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:06

### **BEWARE CYBER ATTACKS**

[article/2010/02/17/](#)  
[article/2010/02/16/](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:30

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

## **VOODOO TO THE RESCUE?**

Voodoo to the rescue. Never mind the Christian Missionaries, relief and aid from foreign Nations, millions of dollars from charities and private donation. All are helpful and welcome, of course, but what is really essential to save Haiti is Voodoo. Haiti is Voodoo (80% of it people practice it). All of this from Haitian Government Leaders and the Voodoo Priests quoted in this article. Voodoo is good and all about love and helping others. Critics who suggest anything else, like Pat Robertson, are vilified and ridiculed as ignorant bigots. Well read on-

"One must understand that Haiti is voodoo," said Max Beauvoir, 75, the "pope" of Haitian voodoo and a former biochemical engineer who once worked for Digital Equipment in Maynard, Mass. The United Nations has reached out to the vast and influential network of about 60,000 voodoo priests in Haiti, Beauvoir said. And the priests, firmly entrenched in their displaced communities, are eager to lend a hand. The religion... is a nature-based belief that venerates one's ancestors, calls on their spirits, and promotes a fervent love of family and community. "Do we sacrifice animals? Of course we do," Beauvoir said. Haitian voodoo holds that a single spirit has 16 lives, equally divided between male and female lives. After each death, the spirit returns to the sea, Beauvoir said, where it is cleansed before "a proper body" can be found for the next incarnation. Throughout the cycle, he said, the spirits of the dead are a constant, accessible presence. The dead hold an essential place in voodoo culture. ... in a voodoo sanctuary [there are] "spirit rooms," where human skulls, voodoo dolls, murals of dancing skeletons, and the belongings of the newly dead had been stored. Garlands of flowers hung from chandeliers, paintings of Christian saints adorned the walls, and tall voodoo drums lay stacked for safekeeping in a small, secure room. "This is where we call the spirits," Pierre [another Priest] said. The calamity, Beauvoir believes, is a chance for Haiti's voodoo culture to reassert itself by taking a prominent role in the recovery. "It is inconceivable," Beauvoir said he hopes, "that people will think about Haiti without thinking about voodoo." "Voodoo is our culture, our roots, and our strength," Marc Yves Louis said. "Voodoo is our heart."

Never mind Pat Robertson, what would the OT Prophets say about all this? I say, relief for Haiti must include relief from Voodoo and a new heart for the people through Christ!

[/10/haiti\\_calls\\_upon\\_voodoo\\_priests\\_for\\_help/?page=1](/10/haiti_calls_upon_voodoo_priests_for_help/?page=1)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:55

Friday, January 29, 2010

## **REVIEWS OF MR OBAMA'S SPEECH TO CONGRESS**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/januaryweb-only/14-51.0.html>  
[http://www.eppc.org/publications/pubID.4044/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.eppc.org/publications/pubID.4044/pub_detail.asp)  
<http://www.aclj.org/TrialNotebook/Read.aspx?ID=911>  
<http://www.factcheck.org/>  
<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:43

Thursday, January 28, 2010

## **WHY WE NEED EARTHQUAKES**

In a CT article, Dinesh D'Souza explains "Why We Need Earthquakes". "Without them, he writes, the planet couldn't support creatures like us." Specifically earthquakes, seaquakes, and tsunamis are "the consequence of plate tectonics, the giant plates that move under the surface of the earth and the ocean floor. Apparently our planet is unique in having plate tectonics. Ward and Brownlee show that without this geological feature, there would be no large mountain ranges or continents. Our planet needs plate tectonics to produce the biodiversity that enables complex life to flourish on earth. Without plate tectonics, earth's land would be submerged to a depth of several thousand feet. Fish might survive in such an environment, but not humans."

D'Souza says, "A fresh way of looking at the problem of natural evil and suffering comes from Rare Earth, a 2003 book by Peter Ward and Donald Brownlee that traces the myriad conditions required for life to exist on any planet. In a sense, the authors—an eminent paleontologist and an astronomer at the University of Washington in Seattle—are discussing the "anthropic principle," which specifies the degree to which our planet appears fine-tuned for complex life."

<http://www.ctlibrary.com/ct/2009/may/12.58.html> Here are 3 definitions of the Anthropic Principle (with my emphasis) "Weak Anthropic Principle (WAP): the observed values of all physical and cosmological quantities are not equally probable but they take on the values restricted by the requirement that there exist sites where carbon-based life can evolve and by the requirement that the Universe be old enough for it to have already done so." (The Anthropic Cosmological Principle by John Barrow and Frank Tipler, p. 16) "Strong Anthropic Principle (SAP): the Universe must have those properties which allow life to develop within it at some stage in its history." (The Anthropic Cosmological Principle, p. 21) [http://www.physics.sfsu.edu/~lwilliam/sota/anth/anthropic\\_principle\\_index.html](http://www.physics.sfsu.edu/~lwilliam/sota/anth/anthropic_principle_index.html) The Anthropic Principle is the simple fact that we live in a universe set up to allow our existence. If the universe were any other way, we would not exist, and would hence be unable to make any observations. Since it was introduced by the theoretical physicist Brandon Carter in 1973, the Anthropic Principle has progressively come into vogue among the physics and philosophical communities, providing a simple explanation for some otherwise very perplexing coincidences. For example, why are certain physical constants so oddly fine-tuned? While some people view this as evidence for a supernatural creator, materialists simply observe that if it were any other way, we wouldn't be

[here.](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-the-anthropic-principle.htm) <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-the-anthropic-principle.htm> The argument here is that natural phenomena like earthquakes are just that- natural, God- created phenomena. Human beings could not exist without them and we must learn to exist with them. BUT, my question is why human beings persist in living in those areas that are most prone to the devastating consequences of plate tectonics. We can not avoid them all together, but why do we persist in building our cities where they are most likely to happen? Why do we human beings persist in crowding into massive cities in the first place, such as Port Au Prince, where such destructive phenomena is most devastating? (For that matter, why do people insist on building on flood plains or on the sides of hills where mud slides are very probable or on beach front property where hurricanes are common?) Congregating, being gregarious, building Cities and Civilization is natural and normative for human beings. It is in our DNA. But crowding together in megacities built in dangerous places when there are other options is more than foolish. It is part of another human instinct- rebellion against God. It is the Babel Syndrome: the desire to find security, power and success apart from God. See Genesis 11:1-9. More than that, it is direct disobedience of God's purpose and command for Humanity. God's response to what the people were doing in the City of Babel was to make them disperse over the face of the earth (v.8-9) That was what He had intended humans do when He created them in the first place- "God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...' Gen.1:28. Refusal to do that was the sin of the people gathered in Babel and in massive, megacities cities ever since. Such people have been reaping the terrible consequences.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:52

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

## **LEVIATHAN LOOMS**

The State must serve God and not become God! People who want to follow the teaching of the Bible must oppose large, intrusive, take over and run everything Civil Government. When we vote for any elected position, advocacy of small government in principle by a candidate must be one of the requirements we insist on. If a candidate espouses and champions ever larger Government in principle (never mind the Nanny State, beware the God State!) Bible believing Christians should not endorse or vote for him or her. (The same holds true for the corollary of Big Government: Big Budgets and Deficit Spending) Here are interesting articles about the rise of the Insatiable State Today big government is back with a vengeance: not just as a brute fact, but as a vigorous ideology. Britain's public spending is set to exceed 50% of GDP (see chart 1). America's financial capital has shifted from New York to Washington, DC, and the government has been trying to extend its control over the health-care industry. Huge state-run companies such as Gazprom and PetroChina are on the march. Nicolas Sarkozy, having run for office as a French Margaret Thatcher, now argues that the main feature of the credit crisis is "the return of the state, the end of the ideology of public powerlessness".

[http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=15330481](http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15330481)  
[http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=15328727](http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15328727)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:07

## **"AUDACITY OF THE STATE"**

The Audacity of the State, Bent on Bringing Down Family & Church One of the scurrilous political ads against Scott Brown in the recent Senatorial campaign claimed he was against all hospitals helping rape victims. Actually, he is in support of a so-called "conscience cause" which would allow a medical caregiver in an ER who is pro-life to refuse to help a rape victim have an abortion (i.e. - provide the pill that acts to prevent impregnation) against his or her conscience (which in most cases is also a religious principle). The Bill Brown had sponsored in the State Legislature required any doctor or nurse working in an ER to be on record that they had this "conscientious objection" about this matter and that the Hospital would see to it that an alternative caregiver was available to the rape victim. Brown's Bill was defeated. That story is my introduction to an article in Touchstone Magazine

<http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=23-01-028-f>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:04

## **STATE CONTROL OF CHILDREN**

another portion of the same Touchstone article (above) The ascendancy of the state over civil society, which it ought rather to serve, is virtually guaranteed where the state exercises full control over education—particularly if the goal of education, as one professor boldly asserted in a recent McGill forum, is to release children from the control of their parents. In America, one notes, there have long been advocates of the still more radical idea that children should be regarded as the state's property, to be educated on a compulsory basis according to state needs and requirements.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:02

## **"NATION OF BASTARDS"**

more from the same article (above) To make matters very much worse, the *parens patriae* power has recently received an enormous boost from another feature of the contraceptive society: same-sex "marriage." Though most people have not yet realized it, the advent of same-sex marriage has transformed marriage from a pre-political institution conferring "divine and human rights," as the Roman jurist Modestinus put it, into a mere legal construct at the gift and disposal of the state. The legal terrain has thus changed dramatically, along with the cultural—something I have tried to show in a little book called *Nation of Bastards*. The family is ceasing to be what the Universal Declaration of Human Rights confesses it to be, viz., "the natural and fundamental group unit of society." Replaced by a kaleidoscope of transient

sexual and psychological configurations, which serve chiefly to make children of adults and adults of children, the declining family is ceding enormous tracts of social and legal territory to the state. At law, parent-child relationships are losing their a priori status and privilege. Crafty fools ask foolish fools, "What harm does same-sex marriage do to your marriage, or to your family?" The truthful answer is: Same-sex marriage makes us all chattels of the state, because the state, in presuming to define the substance rather than the accidents of marriage, has made marriage itself a state artifact.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:01

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

### **MORE THAN EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY, IT IS THE POVERTY**

As long as I can remember, Haiti has been the poorest Nation (it is the size of Maryland) in the Western Hemisphere and the favorite place for American Churches and Missionaries to go to serve the Lord- the people are so needy and the place is so close (next door to Puerto Rico and close to Jamaica and the Bahamas- all nice tropical vacation spots.) Nothing has changed. The (half) Island has been mired down in a cycle of political corruption, exploitation, violence, poverty and natural disasters for generations going back 200 years as a Nation and 400 years as a country. (The other half of the Island is the Dominican Republic (twice the size of New Hampshire) which also has serious problems but is far better off in many ways than Haiti.

Yes, the people need Jesus and changed hearts. I believe 80% of the population is Roman Catholic and about 50% practice Voodoo. There are innumerable well-meaning Evangelical Missionaries working there, more than in many other countries with far more people. The Haitians are not among the "unreached" peoples of the world. They have been evangelized many times over.

What the Nation offers is a lesson in reality and the need for Evangelicals to realize that preaching the Gospel alone (along with running orphanages and schools) is not enough to save Haitians or Haiti- nor is the inflow of billions of dollars from the American Government and Charities. There must be real systemic economic and political changes and the people themselves must be involved to achieve that.

Here is a good article by David Brooks with some good suggestions that could make a real difference.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/15/opinion/15brooks.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:12

### **WHY WASHINGTON IS FAILING AND HOW IT CAN IMPROVE**

Here is a tempered and constructive analysis of where we are at in our national political life with very good suggestions for how the Obama Administration can make the most of it and change course  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/19/opinion/19brooks.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:06

### **DAVID BEATS GOLIATH**

"Epic upset" is the headline in today's local paper and that it was- the solid win of the Republican challenger over the Democratic candidate for Senator to replace Ted Kennedy. This was fantastic! Scott Brown will probably become a bigger celebrity than Sarah Palin in Republican circles. But the analysis from many insists this was not a Republican victory. Only 11% of the electorate belongs to the Grand Old Party. It will energize and revive the Party, but mostly it will put the Democrats on notice that they can not have their way and ram initiatives through. The victory was made possible by a large majority of "independents" as well as disillusioned Democrats across the State joining with the Republicans to say no to the way Congressional leaders are going about their business. There is a serious disconnect between them and the rest of us.

Significantly, Mr Brown lost here in Western Mass. The very liberal "progressive" college towns in our "Pioneer Valley" voted overwhelmingly for the Democratic candidate. Their spin is that she lost only because of a poorly run campaign, not because of voter rejection or anger over the issues. It remains to be seen whether this election was indeed a rejection of Mr Obama's initiatives or of the methods being used by Democratic Leaders to push them through. I do not believe the majority of the citizens here have become social and fiscal conservatives. It also remains to be seen how the new Senator will actually do when he arrives in Washington. A major battle has been won, but not the war!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:35

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

## **SEXIST VOTERS**

Some pollsters have projected that a decisive factor in today's Senatorial election may be the "Women's Vote", i.e.- the vote cast by women for a woman candidate because she is a woman.

Many people, including some Evangelicals, are indeed voting for Ms Coakley simply because she is a woman, never mind what she stands for or will do in the Senate. Conversely, this means they are voting against Mr Brown solely because of his gender. (I would even argue that if gender was just one of several reasons to vote for her and against Mr Brown, such a vote was sexist.) Besides being incredibly foolish, voting on this basis of gender is sexist. Such voters protest, "Oh no, it is not sexist!. It is just time we had a woman Senator." No one wants to be labeled "sexist" or "racist".

Here are Dictionary definitions of both words: sexism -discrimination based on gender sexist -discriminatory on the basis of sex racism -discrimination or prejudice based on race.racist -discriminatory on the basis of race The common word in these defintions? discrimination. How is that defined?discrimination -treatment or consideration based on class or category rather than individual meritdiscriminatory -manifesting partiality, preferential treatment based on class or category rather than individual meritPeople who voted today for Ms Coakley solely because she is a woman and therefore against Mr Brown solely because he is a man were being sexist. Gender should not ever be on a list of qualifications or disqualifications for elected office. That is disrimination or preferential treatment (or its opposite) based on sex. That is sexist. The same argument holds for those who voted for Mr Obama solely because of his perceived Race and therefore against Mr McCain because he is White (or even if Race was an important but not exclusive factor). That Mr Obama's election is celebrated for being the "first Black person to become President" when he is not truly a Black man (an African-American) but is actually bi-racial, as much White as Black, makes the racism in the voting even more evident.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:41

## **CHRISTIANS AND VOTING IN MASSACHUSETTS**

My wife and I voted this cold, rainy morning, here in Springfield, Mass. This election for our next Senator has been most unusual, interesting and significant. I am glad we will not have to endure the countless (mostly stupid and foolish, many negative- do people really believe and vote based on these things? aargh! ) TV Ads and the incessant telephone pitches (some from out of State) about the issues and these candidates after today. But of course, those issues will continue. I have always been dismayed that equally sincere Christians disagreed about the War between the States and about Slavery and State Rights. So too with today's Election and these issues: the Economy and Jobs, Bailouts and Stimulus Packages, Global Warmin (cap and trade), National Defense (and support for the Afpak Wars), Health Insurance (I refuse to say Health Care Reform, although obviously there is a connection) and, of course, Federal Spending and the Budget Deficit (and various taxing and spending issues). Granted there are nuances and details to debate on all of these matters, but the contrast overall between the Candidates on all these matters is very clear and Christians disagree with each other about them.The Politicos didn't need the Primary campaign or to spend the millions of special interest dollars on it, as far as I was concerned. Our AG, M. Coakley proudly claims to stand for and will vote for all the Agenda of the late Ted Kennedy. Her opponent, Scott Brown, says he will not. This is as black and white a contest as you can get. Add to the above topics Abortion and Gay Marriage. Ms Coakley in principle is for them and Brown is against them in principle (another case where there are details to work out). There you have it- a no brainer- a social and economic liberal Democrat and a social and economic conservative Republican. (Currently, all of our Senators and Representatives are Liberal Democrats.) I am persuaded that Bible-Believing Evangelicals should vote for Mr Brown. I did! Why don't many of my Evangelical friends agree with me and do likewise. There are different views here of the Gospel and what the Bible says about how Christians are supposed to live in this world. Why is that?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:09

Tuesday, January 12. 2010

### **LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP**

Tis the season when fools go in where they should fear to tread. The newspapers have the usual stories of people ignoring the signs and walking out on ice and falling through. They should have been careful and anticipated possible consequences.

Of course, members of Congress should do the same. Here is even yet another story that illustrates well the problem of unintended consequences

<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:52

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

### **SOME CHRISTIAN NEWS RESOURCES**

<http://www.worldmag.com/index.cfm>  
<http://www.crosswalk.com/news/>  
<http://www.christianpost.com/>  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:51

### **CONSERVATIVE NEWS RESOURCES**

<http://www.manhattan-institute.org/>  
<http://online.wsj.com/home-page>  
<http://www.weeklystandard.com/default.asp/>  
<http://www.nationalreview.com/>  
<http://www.realclearpolitics.com/>  
<http://www.city-journal.org/>  
<http://frontpagemag.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:40

Monday, January 4, 2010

### **THE FRENCH PROTESTANT COLLEGE OF SPRINGFIELD, MASS**

Apropos to the Post below this one, I searched for the origins of a college here in Springfield. I had heard that it began as a Bible School. Nothing is said about that on the website of American International College. The website and recent articles in the local news put the focus on its growing number of international students. This, the website states, is in keeping with the Heritage of the School. Supposedly, the school at the beginning was, and remains, open to students from around the world and it is proud of that international emphasis. It offers, they say, a good, secular liberal arts curriculum to its growing multi-national, multi-ethnic student body. It also enrolls a large number of minority students from this area.

Well, check out this link yourheritage to a book written by its second President explaining the history and mission of the School. Its original name is a clue: "The French Protestant College". The founders were alarmed about the fast growing numbers of French Roman Catholic immigrants settling in Springfield. Their concern was to evangelize these Catholic newcomers with the Gospel and provide an education that would turn them into Protestants and productive Americans. This is not exactly the politically correct story that is heard today.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:59

### **HOBBY LOBBY AND CHRISTIAN COLLEGES**

Interesting, revealing discussion about the sale of DL Moody's old school. The man who bought it sounds amazing and the objections of some alumni show how far from its Heritage they had gone.

[\\_sale\\_of\\_northfield\\_campus/](#)

The University of Rochester NY promotes its Heritage and totally omits reference to its conservative Baptist beginnings. The list of colleges and universities that have Christian roots is a long one. It is very tragic and sad that they have long ago moved off their foundation, even denying it. This also says a lot about Christianity's major contribution to higher education and its failures to keep the oil in that lamp burning in many schools. Why?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:02

Saturday, January 2, 2010

### **C.S.LEWIS COLLEGE**

Here is exciting news about a new Christian college occupying the beautiful and historic campus of the school that was founded by Dwight L. Moody in Northfield, Massachusetts.  
moodys\_school

The article above does not mention that it will be offering The Great Books Curriculum such as found at St Johns School in Annapolis Maryland. Check out the new College's website.  
<http://www.cslewiscollege.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:01

Monday, December 28, 2009

### **BEST WORDY NERDY WEBSITES**

HERE is a list of marvelous websites, including courses offered at MIT

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:28

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

## **SNOW JOB**

This Cal's snow job was to shovel and clear the snow from our driveway. Cal Thomas writes about the snow job in Congress this week.

<http://www.calthomas.com/index.php?news=2785>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:37

## **CHRISTMAS IN IRAQ**

"Since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, Iraq's Christian minority has faced constant persecution, including dozens of church bombings, executions, kidnappings and forced expulsions, devastating some communities and reducing the overall Christian population by at least 25 percent. "This year ... church officials in Baghdad and other cities say they have received warnings of attacks, forcing them to limit services to indoors and caution followers to keep family gatherings discreet. 'We are in solidarity with the people in Basra,' said Abdel Ahad, pastor of Baghdad's Syrian Catholic Church. "We are afraid. We need to stop the bloodshed. We are going to do our prayers, but we will not celebrate.' " Read the whole article Let us celebrate the Advent of Christ with joy; but, also with thanksgiving for the freedom and safety we Americans have to do so and with earnest prayers for our fellow Christians in Iraq and many other parts of the world who do not.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:27

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

### **SICK "HEALTH CARE" -Politics and Washington as usual**

Everyone agrees that what is being debated in the Senate is not Health Care Reform. More accurately it is about Health Insurance Change. And that small change includes big bucks for special interests.

Partisanship Politics, greed and short-sighted special interests are driving this campaign, using the plight of the uninsured to pad pockets while the Health Care Reform goes uncared and unreformed.

On health-care bill, Democratic senators are in states of denial - [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:19

### **FISCAL FOLLY**

It is insane. The flood is coming and few are protesting or taking noahic steps for survival. We are told signs of doom from global warming are omnipresent and Americans should be very alarmed and take drastic measures to forestall it. I am skeptical about that, but not about the coming deluge because of our Government fiscal folly (by popular demand, no less, including those demanding America spend billions more on the Global Warming problem!). [HERE](#)

We must read [HERE](#) and learn from our Celtic cousins (I don't mean the basketball team)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:04

Sunday, December 13, 2009

### **HANUKKAH- lessons for Christians**

The Jewish celebration of Hanukkah is not a version of Christmas. It is also more than simply lighting a menorah every year- the Festival of Lights. It is more than a day to remember when the Temple in Jerusalem was rededicated after being desecrated. It is a very interesting story involving conquering Emperors and their armies, political intrigue and treachery, murders, violence, persecution and genocide.

It is the story of the strong faith and stand of many Israelites against both liberal, worldly Israelites within and pagan Rulers without. It is about massacres and martyrdom. It is about brave insurgents (guerrilla fighters) who fought against enemy armies to secure both religious and political freedom. It is about men and women who sacrificed their lives for their God and Country. Hanukkah is a Holiday worth knowing about and respecting. It commemorates a story with lessons that all Christians can benefit from.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:10

### **ATHLETES AND COMRADES IN ARMS**

As a Navy Family, it was nice to see the Academy beat West Point in their annual football game last week. At the end of all their games together, the cadets and midshipmen face each other and solemnly sing their school Alma Mater songs. They are rivals on the gridiron, but comrades in the military service of their country. The Navy coach became very emotional in his end of game comments. He spoke of his great respect for all the players and all the uniformed young men and women in the stands, many of whom would soon be seeing active duty, most likely in harms way. We must keep them and our Country, including those who make the life and death decisions up the chain of command to the Top, in our regular prayers. Read the Commander-in-Chief's speech below.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:45

### **EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH IN OSLO**

I am the Commander-in-Chief of a nation in the midst of two wars. I am responsible for the deployment of thousands of young Americans to battle in a distant land. Some will kill. Some will be killed. And so I come here with an acute sense of the cost of armed conflict - filled with difficult questions about the relationship between war and peace, and our effort to replace one with the other. We must begin by acknowledging the hard truth that we will not eradicate violent conflict in our lifetimes. There will be times when nations - acting individually or in concert - will find the use of force not only necessary but morally justified."I know there is nothing weak -nothing passive - nothing naive - in the creed and lives of Gandhi and King. But as a head of state sworn to protect and defend my nation, I cannot be guided by their examples alone. I face the world as it is, and cannot stand idle in the face of threats to the American people. For make no mistake: evil does exist in the world. A non-violent movement could not have halted Hitler's armies. Negotiations cannot convince al Qaeda's leaders to lay down their arms. To say that force is sometimes necessary is not a call to cynicism - it is a recognition of history; the imperfections of man and the limits of reason. "Whatever mistakes we have made, the plain fact is this: the United States of America has helped underwrite global security for more than six decades with the blood of our citizens and the strength of our arms. The service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform has promoted peace and prosperity from Germany to Korea, and enabled democracy to take hold in places like the Balkans. We have borne this burden not because we seek to impose our will. We have done so out of enlightened self-interest - because we seek a better future for our children and grandchildren, and we believe that their lives will be better if other peoples' children and grandchildren can live in freedom and prosperity. So yes, the instruments of war do have a role to play in preserving the peace."I believe that force can be justified on humanitarian grounds, as it was in the Balkans, or in other places that have been scarred by war. Inaction tears at our conscience and can lead to more costly intervention later. That is why all responsible nations must embrace the role that militaries with a clear mandate can play to keep the peace."I understand why war is not popular. But I also know this: the belief that peace is desirable is rarely enough to achieve it. Peace requires responsibility. Peace entails sacrifice. That is why NATO continues to be indispensable. That is why we must strengthen UN and regional peacekeeping, and not leave the task to a few countries. That is why we honor those who return home from peacekeeping ... we honor them not as makers of war, but as wagers of peace."

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:38

Friday, December 11. 2009

## **LATEST EFFORT TO REDISTRIBUTE WEALTH and the EPA**

"One of the major goals of the Copenhagen climate summit is ... the transfer of hundreds of billions from the industrial West to the Third World to save the planet by, for example, planting green industries in the tristes tropiques. Politically it's an idea of genius, engaging at once every left-wing erogenous zone: rich man's guilt, post-colonial guilt, environmental guilt. But the idea of shaking down the industrial democracies in the name of the environment thrives not just in the refined internationalist precincts of Copenhagen. It thrives on the national scale, too. "

from a very good article by Charles Krauthammer

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:52

## **SAGE SARAH SPEAKS SENSE**

"Climate-gate," as the e-mails and other documents from the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia have become known, exposes a highly politicized scientific circle -- the same circle whose work underlies efforts at the Copenhagen climate change conference. The agenda-driven policies being pushed in Copenhagen won't change the weather, but they would change our economy for the worse."

Read Sarah Palin's entire article

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:39

## **THOSE E-MAILS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING**

"... the hacked e-mails are not irrelevant. They reveal another sort of warming -- an overheated academic world in which hard science melts into politics." -from a good column by Mike Gerson (see below)"Some prominent climate scientists involved in these e-mail exchanges have clearly abandoned a profession for a cause. They appear to exaggerate their public certainty on disputed issues, shade the presentation of information for political effect, tamper with the peer-review process, resist reasonable requests for supporting data and urge the destruction of e-mails to avoid embarrassment. Other scientists in these e-mail chains resist these abuses. But the dominant voices are ideological. The attitude seems to be: Insiders can question, if they don't go too far. Outsiders who threaten the movement are "idiots." If we view these professionals as politically motivated, we no longer trust the information or judgments they provide. This professional objectivity is precisely what the hacked e-mails call into question. Some of these scientists are merely activists, deeply invested in a predetermined outcome. They assume that political change is the goal; the scientific enterprise is the means -- like a political ad or a campaign speech. But without trust in disinterested, scientific judgments on climate, most non-scientists will resist costly, speculative, legislative actions. When the experts become advocates, no one believes the experts or listens to the advocates. It is an irony of the first order. Having accused others of a "war on science," it is climate scientists who are assaulting the authority of science more effectively than anyone else."

article by Michael Gerson

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:33

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

## **LESSONS FROM PEARL HARBOR**

We recently watched the 1970 movie TORA TORA TORA. It is a well-documented, well-staged reenactment of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which we commemorated yesterday. It was a Japanese-American production worth seeing for its historically reliable story, as well as for major lessons to be learned and applied today. The movie revealed terrible blunders and human errors on both sides, but especially on the American side. In a few words: lack of preparation, ignorance, power and personal struggles between key people on both sides (Army & Navy, Politicians/Bureaucrats and Military, decisions makers in Washington and Hawaii), major mis-communications or failures to communicate for a variety of reasons- all with devastating and deadly consequences for the troops involved, the two combatant Nations, WWII and the world itself. The Bible warns Christians to be aware of the strategies of Satan and to be prepared for his assaults. America was caught, on various levels, unaware of Japanese military, economic and political strategies developing behind the scenes of diplomacy. What was known was either misinterpreted or ignored. I can see many applications for these lessons in today's world, including within the Church. Satan is still prowling and looking to attack and will! Tora Tora Tora means Tiger Tiger Tiger. Consider 1 Peter 4:8-9

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:05

Monday, November 9, 2009

## **CRYING WOLF TOO OFTEN ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/06/AR2009110603075.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:56

### **1.2 TRILLION+ BY by 5 VOTES?!**

Most of the daily news is enough to make me apoplectic and I have a difficult time writing about it- where do I start, what should I say? There is the Global Warming debate, Education Reform and the Afpac War. There are the continuing Government giveaways and bailouts using our tax monies along with the concurrent greed, graft and waste involved. You know the list and are probably also being driven to despair. Lord have mercy! But I am encouraged by being reminded of the collapse of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago. Good things thought impossible can and have happened. On the proposed health care "reform", here are articles I found helpful- [HERE](#)

[HERE](#)

[HERE](#)

[HERE](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:20

Saturday, October 31. 2009

## **RESOURCES TO GET BEHIND THE HEADLINES**

I have been spending most of my time recently studying and writing on Theological topics and for Sermons. I remain keenly interested in "the News". Here are some helpful resources if you want to really dig in to current topics in the media-

<http://www.cpjustice.org/content/about-center>  
<http://www.brookings.edu/>

<http://www.aei.org/home>

<http://www.heritage.org/>  
<http://www.centerforajustsociety.org/>

<http://www.ncpa.org/about/national-center-for-policy-analysis-history>

<http://www.eppc.org/about/>  
<http://www.acton.org/research/links/index.php>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:33

Friday, October 30, 2009

### **BEING HOODWINKED BY HALLOWEEN**

This blog post is spot on about Halloween. Some Christians defend the Holiday, but...  
<http://www.serioustimes.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:47

### **IDEALS vs REALITIES**

This article conveys well what is involved in politics. It is a hard lesson to learn for die hard Idealists who want to fight for their principles at all costs, but also want to make a difference in the long run in our pluralistic Society.  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/28/AR2009102804556.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:40

Friday, October 2, 2009

### **WARNINGS ABOUT WARMING**

Curtailing Global Warming and Hurting the Poor

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/27/AR2009092701444.html?sid=ST2009093003640>

Global Warming Cooling Down

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/30/AR2009093003569.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:13

### **UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES**

Cash for Clunkers is a clunker and signs that Stimulus is sinking

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article>

Sort term fixes with Fed Money are not long term solutions. When will we learn?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:02

Friday, September 18. 2009

### **DOES MR OBAMA LIE?**

The Bible warns about totalitarianism, a civil government so big and inclusive and invasive that it takes over total control of our lives- it plays God. Yet, multitudes of people do not heed the warnings, including many evangelicals. Why? One major reason is that folks do not know how to think logically, critically, and are swayed by clever rhetoric and deceitful speech that persuades them to buy the proverbial "Brooklyn Bridge" (and growing government control of their lives) The church world is awash in such speech (and books) these days under the guise of being relevant. So is the political world. Here is a good analysis of a speech that deceives. As Jesus used to say repeatedly, "let him who has ears, listen."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/17/AR2009091703329.html?sid=ST2009091703353>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:23

Friday, September 4, 2009

## **THE END OF BOOKS?**

The ideas and attitudes mentioned in this article and the trend they portend are very disturbing and very wrongheaded  
[http://www.boston.com/news/education/k\\_12/articles/2009/09/04/a\\_library\\_without\\_the\\_books/?page=2](http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2009/09/04/a_library_without_the_books/?page=2)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 06:42

Saturday, August 29, 2009

### **SENATOR KENNEDY'S FUNERAL SERVICE**

We just watched the Funeral Service of Ted Kennedy. I was very impressed with it. Especially touching were the Eulogies given by his sons. Differ as we did on policies, I must say I now have a much greater appreciation, respect and admiration for the man and his family than I did before he passed away. He embodied all that is both dark and bright about being a human being and truly used his privilege and power to serve America and multitudes of people throughout his career of 47 years, as he believed best. We can admire him for doing that without agreeing with how he did it. I share many of his ideals for our Nation, even while I advocate very different methods of achieving them. What I heard today inspires me to work harder to achieve those goals by the methods I believe best, before my time on earth is over.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:25

Thursday, August 27, 2009

## **JUDGING SENATOR KENNEDY'S LEGACY**

Today's Washington Post and the Boston Globe are replete with articles about Senator Kennedy. They recount his life and accomplishments. I am impressed that even very conservative magazines extol the man for his many important and positive attributes and achievements. All seem eager to honor him and to not speak evil of the dead. Impressive. That itself is a tribute to the man- praise from his opponents. Listing all his many accomplishments yields a good outline of what Liberalism is all about. If you want a yardstick to measure the "L" word, Sen Kennedy is it. To many, his accomplishments provide an agenda of goals Christians should pursue: Civil Rights, Universal Health Care, elimination of Poverty, Education Reform, Immigration Reform, Women's Rights, the end of Discrimination, etc. He was the Liberal's Liberal. While giving Sen Kennedy his due respect, how shall we measure him? Our standard is not taken from Conservative columnists or secular commentators. Doing that is a mistake many conservative Evangelicals make. We have only one "pumbline"- the Bible. The public policy goals that are truly Biblical (as I have argued in many Essays on my Website and on this Blog) are as follows. First, promotion and preservation of the health and well-being (life) of all human beings Second, responsible stewardship and development of the natural world and environment Third, preservation and promotion of traditional Marriage and multi-generational Families Fourth, promotion of economic development through free market capitalism (small "c"). This simply means development based on freedom for private ownership and business Fifth, preservation of political freedoms and due process with Justice for all under the Law All five of these Goals stand or fall together. Each is essential and they must be kept in this order. The major difference between Biblical Christians and Liberals of all types is our view of Government. Biblical Christians believe that human nature is "fallen" or "corrupt". Government is instituted by God for specific purposes, but Government is run by human beings, therefore, while we support Government, we do so with great reserve and even suspicion. We do not trust or have faith in Government, as though it were "God". Government can become corrupt and do evil, including mis-spending our taxes, forcing redistribution of our wealth (taking from the rich to give to the poor) and fighting unjust wars and limiting our personal, economic and political freedoms and rights. Civil Government must be limited to its God-given functions of Law and Order under a Constitution.

Biblical Christians believe the primary responsibility of achieving the first four goals above rests with individuals, family, church and local community, not the Civil Government. The Civil Government should not intervene in these spheres. These are areas for private initiative with minimal State involvement. Where to draw the line will always be debatable, but less is better than more

Liberals on the other hand, such as Senator Kennedy, believe that human nature is basically good and have great faith that civil government is the right and best way of accomplishing these goals. They believe government should intervene and be involved in all these areas- more is better than less. They are convinced the Government has this responsibility and is capable of keeping it. It knows and decides what is best for us ("the American People deserve this") whether we agree or not.

History will reveal Sen Kennedy's true Legacy. God will judge it according to His Word.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:02

Monday, August 10, 2009

## **OBAMA HONEYMOON IS OVER**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/06/AR2009080602932.html>  
Good article by Mike Gerson reviewing the President's accomplishments so far

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:16

## **HEALTH CARE: AN IMPOSSIBLE DEBATE**

Interesting how Liberals are so upset and crying foul at Conservatives who are using the Liberals' own tactics to oppose the Health Care [Insurance] policies proposed by the President and Congress. I agree that arguing by shouting sound bytes, bumper sticker slogans, and invectives at one another is very counter productive. I got drawn into such a discussion (albeit muted as it was in a restaurant) last week and I regretted it later. Topics like Health Care Reform are very complicated. I knew that, but....

I'd be glad to discuss it if all participants in the discussion will give the subject the research required and the time necessary to hear everyone out.

Having said that, I do not think civil, even handed discussion is really going to be possible on this subject and many others because deep seated, often unspoken, contrary assumptions, beliefs and personal experiences are at play all around. The person I was discussing health care with simply knows people who have a need for and have a right, he says, to receive medical care now. They can't afford it. Simple. If the Government can provide for them, great! This is the moral thing for the Government to do and Christians should have no problem with it. Period. He is convinced that the proposed single (Government) payer system is the best and he has no worries about costs or about increased medical case management and control by the Government (through some proxy). As someone else said later in the day, "We must have faith in the President and the Government. Without that faith we have nothing".) My Liberal friend dismissed my concerns about all of this as Conservative rant and scaremongering. That's it, end of debate for him. My contrary convictions, experiences and fears are at least just as deep as his. And everyone can muster data and facts for support. Civil, even handed discussion is just not going to happen. The time to take a stand on conservative, Biblical Principles was before the last Election. Many did, but obviously not enough. Now is the time for Conservatives to regroup, getting back to their basic principles, and seek to educate everyone we can in preparation for the next National Elections. By the way, predictions from many sources are that the war in Afghanistan being waged by the current President may well be longer and more costly in money and lives than the war in Iraq. Where are those who condemned George Bush and protested vociferously against "his war"? Will the same folks take to the streets against Mr Obama for "his war"?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:51

## **MAN AND MACHINE BONDING**

On the 60 Minutes TV broadcast last night, we watched a Professional Neuroscientist who is employed full-time running a research lab and publishes highly technical books and papers in his field, sitting next to his wife for the interview, demonstrate how he does all this given the fact that he is totally paralyzed with Lew Gehrig's Disease. He does it all by thought in his head. By thinking alone he is able to make his computer work, including speaking for him. Electrodes attached to his skull and to the PC transmit his thoughts. He could make the cursor move however he wanted it to! Likewise, he could select numbers and letters by thought alone. Another person was able to do the same even faster, because the electrodes in her case have been attached directly to the surface of her brain. They were demonstrating a symbiotic relationship between man and machine, as well as the power of thought. The possibilities for future development are, literally, mind boggling. It was the conviction of all involved in the interviews, that, though the bodies of both these individuals were totally inoperative, this ability for communication through "mind control" was essential to their being "persons".

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:47

## **CASH FOR CLUNKERS**

We own one car and would be glad to replace it with a new one. Ours is 10 years old (1999) with 125,000 miles on it. But it does not qualify for the Government giveaway Program because it is a 6 cylinder Taurus with an average MPG of

23. We maintain it well. And then, we don't qualify either because we do not have enough income to afford a new car, even with the rebate. Oh, well. Guess we will have to save up and buy a used car without the Government's help when the car we have dies. We are so old fashioned.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:32

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

## **GLOBAL WARMING- NO DEBATE?**

President Obama has declared, "There is no longer a debate about whether carbon pollution is placing our planet in jeopardy. It's happening." "No debate? The debate over global warming is more robust than it has been in years, and not only in America. "In April, the Polish Academy of Sciences published a document challenging man-made global warming," Kimberly Strassel noted in The Wall Street Journal the other day. "In France, President Nicolas Sarkozy wants to tap Claude Allegre to lead the country's new ministry of industry and innovation. Twenty years ago Allegre was among the first to trill about man-made global warming, but the geochemist has since recanted . . . Norway's Ivar Giaever, Nobel Prize winner for physics, decries it as the 'new religion.' "Fortune magazine recently profiled veteran climatologist John Christy, a lead author of the 2001 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. With his green credentials, Fortune observed, Christy is the warm-mongers' "worst nightmare - an accomplished climate scientist with no ties to Big Oil who has produced reams and reams of data that undermine arguments that the earth's atmosphere is warming at an unusual rate and question whether the remedies being talked about in Congress will actually do any good."

No one who cares about the environment or the nation's economic well-being should take it on faith that climate change is a crisis, or that drastic changes to the economy are essential to "save the planet." Hundreds of scientists reject the alarmist narrative. For non-experts, a steadily-widening shelf of excellent books surveys the data in laymen's terms and exposes the weaknesses in the doomsday scenario - among others, "Climate Confusion" by Roy W. Spencer, "Climate of Fear" by Thomas Gale Moore, "Taken by Storm" by Christopher Essex and Ross McKittrick, and "Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1,500 Years" by S. Fred Singer and Dennis Avery. The above excerpts are from this excellent article. Follow the links in it- [HERE](#) There was much reason to be fearful of and to reject "cap and trade" legislation. There is much reason to seriously question and reject much of what we hear about so-called "Climate Change" and its alleged human causation (the burning of carbon based fuels)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:47

Friday, June 19. 2009

## **BEWARE THE BEASTS**

Revelation 13 1 The And I saw a beast rising out of the sea,... 2... And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. 3 ... the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. 4 the dragon,... had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying,"Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" 7 ... And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, ... everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb 11 Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth....12 It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast ...14 ...it deceives those who dwell on earth, ... 16 it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. Interpretation: The Beast from the sea is a coming world dictator (actually the titular head of a Totalitarian Government). He (it) will be empowered by Satan (it will be a political system that has become evil). He (it) will have authority over all aspects of life. The Beast from the earth will deceive the masses, leading them to worship the first Beast. This second Beast will use his influence over the masses to persuade them that it is God's will to follow the first Beast. Everyone will and nothing, especially the Economy, will be possible with out the first Beast's stamp of approval. This Scripture came to my mind today as I watched the Chief Religious Leader of Iran persuade the masses before him to follow the President of Iran as their religious duty. This text also comes to mind as I watch developments in Washington with the growing intrusion of our President into all aspects of our national life, putting his stamp on our Economy. And the Religious Leaders of our Country lining up to give their blessing to our President and encouraging Americans to (dare I say) "worship" him or at least support him as a Christian or religious duty. At the very least, we Evangelicals should be concerned and showing far more skepticism and restraint about what they see in Washington unfold in our daily news feeds.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:51

Sunday, May 24, 2009

## **THIS IS NOT VETERANS' DAY**

This is not Veterans Day. That is when we honor all who wear or have worn military uniforms. This is Memorial Day, when we officially honor and give thanks, as a Nation, for those in our Armed Forces who have died serving our Country in our various wars. In speeches on this Day, we tend to make them all heroes and say they all gave their lives defending our freedoms. We want to believe that. The truth is that the story of their bloody deaths is not always so sanguine. We are talking about more than 600,000 deaths in 10 wars. The great majority, perhaps 500,000 of them, happened in WWII and the Civil War combined. The latter Conflict, of course, was on our own soil and between Americans on both sides. Many have died, in all 10 wars, not for freedom, but while obeying (as good and loyal soldiers) the self-serving and political purposes, often foolhardy and ill-advised, of their Civilian and Military Leaders. As Christians, we worship the Lord, who is never wrong. As citizens, we do not worship our Leaders and need to be realize that they often can be wrong. The simplistic motto, "our country right or wrong" sounds good. We like to believe in "America", we must believe in "America"; but death and taxes ("right and the wrong") are often determined, not by "America", but by a particular Administration. As citizens, we would be wise to suspect and question such Authorities. Soldiers do not have that option. That word, "freedom" also needs review. At best, we can say the troops who died, did so to protect us from real or perceived threats to our Nation, i.e.- from attacks by forces of Evil, by Dictators and Tyrants. Ideally, they died to keep us from being eventually over run and oppressed by such forces from abroad and thus to preserve our political, economic, religious and personal freedoms here at Home. It is necessary to question whether, in fact, this is always the case. We would be wise to learn from knowledge gained, after wars are over. Sometimes perceived dangers were not always real or true dangers. We also would be wise to question how it is that soldiers are asked to die for "freedoms" when civilians take them for granted or do not want them (e.g.- the freedom to vote) and our Government sometimes works to limit them. All that said, anyone who puts on the Uniform (whatever their motive) knows that there is a real possibility of being in harm's way some day, some where. They do so knowing that the Administration may ask them to do things which could get them killed. We respect them for their decision. Most Americans have never made that decision. They sign up knowing that next year they may be among those their Nation honors on Memorial Day as having died for their Country. We salute them and thank God for those who have gone before them, all the way back to the Revolutionary War. Without their marching into the battles, right or wrong, we would not be able to live the life of our choosing today. That is the bottom line. We are indebted to them. We rightly honor them this week-end and always.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:45

Monday, May 11. 2009

## **WHAT IS AT STAKE IN APPOINTING A JUSTICE TO THE SUPREME COURT**

One of the most important considerations voters must have in mind, when they decide on a candidate for President, is what kind of person (including how they will interpret the Constitution) will their candidate if elected appoint to the Supreme Court. That opportunity has arrived for Mr Obama. Here is the first of a series of very good articles on what is involved, written by Thomas Sowell. Read all of them- the issues are that important!  
[http://townhall.com/columnists/ThomasSowell/2009/05/05/empathy\\_versus\\_law](http://townhall.com/columnists/ThomasSowell/2009/05/05/empathy_versus_law)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:19

Sunday, May 10, 2009

## **THE END OF CAPITALISM? OF FREEDOM?**

In "Democracy in America," Alexis de Tocqueville anticipated people being governed by "an immense, tutelary power" determined to take "sole charge of assuring their enjoyment and of watching over their fate." It would be a power "absolute, attentive to detail, regular, provident and gentle," aiming for our happiness but wanting "to be the only agent and the sole arbiter of that happiness." It would, Tocqueville said, provide people security, anticipate their needs, direct their industries and divide their inheritances. It would envelop society in "a network of petty regulations -- complicated, minute and uniform." But softly: "It does not break wills; it softens them, bends them, and directs them" until people resemble "a herd of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd."  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/08/AR2009050803163.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:02

Saturday, May 9, 2009

## **APPENDAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT**

"Obama overflows with advice for Americans who he thinks need admonitions such as "wash your hands when you shake hands" and "cover your mouth when you cough." He also advises that this is a good time for Americans to put their hygienic hands on the steering wheel of a new car. He hopes buyers will choose American cars. A sensible person might add: Buyers should choose cars made by the Ford Motor Co. This is so because Ford has, so far, avoided becoming an appendage of the government. And because the national interest will not be served by GM and Chrysler flourishing. It might cost taxpayers more in the short run, but in the long run it will be less costly for the country if the government finds its confident plunge into industrial policy so unpleasant that, sadder but wiser, the incumbent professors and others will flee from such adventures in extracting sunbeams from cucumbers" -George Will  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/06/AR2009050603320.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:01

Monday, April 27, 2009

## **TRANSFORMATION BY DECEPTION**

"You never want a serious crisis to go to waste," said Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. "This crisis provides the opportunity for us to do things that you could not do before." "Things. Now we know what they are. The markets' recent precipitous decline is a reaction not just to the absence of any plausible bank rescue plan, but also to the suspicion that Obama sees the continuing financial crisis as usefully creating the psychological conditions -- the sense of crisis bordering on fear-itself panic -- for enacting his "Big Bang" agenda to federalize and/or socialize health care, education and energy, the commanding heights of post-industrial society. Clever politics, but intellectually dishonest to the core. Health, education and energy -- worthy and weighty as they may be -- are not the cause of our financial collapse. And they are not the cure. The fraudulent claim that they are both cause and cure is the rhetorical device by which an ambitious president intends to enact the most radical agenda of social transformation seen in our lifetime."

[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/03/a\\_dishonest\\_gimmicky\\_budget.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/03/a_dishonest_gimmicky_budget.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:02

Friday, February 20, 2009

## **WRITING TO HELP WITH WHAT IS WRONG**

I have not been posting to this Blog lately for three reasons:1. Busy writing sermons for supply preaching2. Busy with writing an extensive Essay for my website3. Disengagement with current news events. Almost everything I read about in the news, especially coming out of Washington, is just far too distressing and upsetting to me. Engaging it with this Blog is futile. I feel like I am watching the Titanic of our Nation sinking and I am helpless to do anything. I pray that God will have mercy and intervene. With Him there is Hope. I am turning my energies to study and write of things other than the obama-nation before me. I hope and pray these other things I write will help with what is wrong in the long run.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:25

Thursday, January 29, 2009

### **WORDS OF WISDOM #1- Keep America a Republic**

1. America is a union of States, a Federation, and as a Federal Nation we are a Republic with three branches of representative government to provide a system of checks and balances. We are not a Democracy. This government is not meant to be run directly by the people through the use of referenda. At the other extreme, we are not designed to be a government run by one person (a President or people who are serving that President) or by one Party of which he is the Head. But at the last national election, the masses seem to have gladly given one man and one Party carte blanche to run America as they see fit. They have undermined the Republic.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:35

### **WORDS OF WISDOM #2- Beware Big Government**

2. Have Christians never heard of 666? Don't we still expect the anti-Christ? The warnings are still in the Bible. The anti-Christ is the totalitarian State and by extension, the Man who runs it. I am not saying Mr. Obama is the anti-Christ, but the way the masses are blindly putting their faith and hope in him to "save America" explains how someone can and will become the anti-Christ someday. We do not know who he will be, so we should at least have some reticence about betting the farm on Obama. Bible believing Christians should fear Totalitarianism and be very, very wary of development in that direction. They should not be on the Big Government band wagon.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:33

### **WORDS OF WISDOM #3 Beware rumors of WMD**

3. Many of the folks who are supporting Obama are the same people who damned President Bush for getting us into the Iraqi by, allegedly, lying to us about Weapons of Mass Destruction. At the time, many believed the WMD might be real. It turned out they were not. That doesn't mean Mr Bush lied, simply that he was wrong. Well, Mr Obama could be wrong about our economy (when he says how bad it is and how long this badness will continue). He is strongly warning us that unless we follow his plan to war against certain economic enemies that threaten America, we are doomed. He is calling us to action based on his own version of WMD. It could be that his reasons for action will prove wrong, too. Maybe what he is threatening us with don't exist. He could also be wrong about what he claims to be the solution. In fact, many economists predict that the current Recession could well work itself out within a year without the Government doing anything, let alone putting us in astronomical debts for generations to come.)We should not succumb to alarmist tactics and fear or to extortion or to acting out of guilt or out of plans for personal or future political gain. We should have back bone and refuse to be railroaded or bulldozed into possible calamitous actions, particularly those that are against Biblical Principles, let alone, common sense.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:30

### **WORDS OF WISDOM #4 Beware the Pied Piper**

4. We keep hearing of "terrible economic times". Really? Many Americans have been grossly over extended in their debts, their reach far outstretching their grasp. They have bought houses and vehicles that were been grossly over priced and far bigger than needed. Many people have been greatly overpaid for what they do. If people have more than they need but do not have less than they need, that is not bad. If people have less than they want, but do not need, that is not bad either. Lenders and borrowers alike have behaved badly and now must pay the Piper. (The poem about the Pied Piper is very apropos- <http://www.indiana.edu/~librcsd/etext/piper/text.htm>)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:27

### **WORDS TO THE WISE #5 Forget the "American Dream"**

5. We keep reading about the American Dream. Immigrants are willing to make great sacrifices to come here to pursue that Dream. What it is? Usually, it is defined in terms of monetary success- freedom and opportunity to make it in business and being able to own all kinds of stuff and enjoy the materialistic "good life". That is not a Christian dream. It is not what we are about. We dream of the Kingdom of God on earth and of seeing God in heaven. No Christian should be knocking him or herself out to pursue the American Dream. If our next President wants to really help us, he should be preaching education, hard work, frugality, saving and living a simple, compassionate, healthy and responsible life. Hmmn, Pastors should be preaching the same thing. Christians should be raising their children with those ideals. We don't need handouts or bailouts. We need new values which are really the old values. We need to stop being a hedonist, materialistic, self-indulgent people. That is the Recovery Plan that will work in the long run.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:26

### **WORDS TO THE WISE- #7 Keep the Spheres separate**

7. Government was ordained by God for Law and Order, to preserve and protect citizens from crimes and threats of every kind on their lives. We pay taxes for this service, but that is all. Scripturally, Marriage, Family, Education, Religion, Business and Civil Government are separate, sovereign Spheres. They are to cooperate with each other but not usurp, interfere with or oppose each other. We must underwrite Government for the purposes God assigned to it and none other. Economically, the Bible would have us support responsible stewardship of the earth's natural resources, private property and free market capitalism. Instead, I see Christians gladly looking to Mr Obama and Government to increasingly take control of all these Spheres. Shame on us. We live and die under the banner of Christ the King and His Law. If Mr Obama and our Government will do the same, they have our loyalty. Not otherwise.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:21

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

## **THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS**

The devil is in the details. Mr Obama's well crafted and well delivered speech today presented a menu of nice sounding generalities, but few specifics. That is understandable. It remains to be seen what comes next, but I agree with the various commentators who noted the new President is a pragmatist. That has already been noted many times in his selection of nominees for the Cabinet and his circle of Advisers. Pragmatists are those who disavow being controlled by any particular ideology or principles, but who instead go with what ever works. Pragmatism is akin to the view that the ends justifies the means to achieve them. Mr Obama did say we would not sacrifice our values in achieving our goals in matters of foreign policy. Time will tell what he means (Mr Bush had the same objective but, I imagine, he meant something very different). Our new President has our prayers (Scripture commands it). He will need them. And so will the very ambitious and strong minded Mr Biden, Mrs Pelosi and Mr Reid and the Clintons (both of them) standing next to the new President. We have inaugurated all of them today, and many like them, not just Barak Obama. International Peace and Prosperity for all, freedom and opportunity for all, harmony and "brotherhood" of all are high sounding objectives. But they must be defined. Every one can cheer together such goals, but be very divided by what they mean and how to accomplish them. Our goals as a Nation must be goals that God sets for us and the means of achieving them must be according to His Word. Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. There were many prayers during today's ceremonies, but the Lord's words remain true- Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you? 47 I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. 48 That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house."

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:57

## **YEA FOR TRADITION**

Wow, a speech which was powerful and effective without power point. There were no visuals, no film clips. All the speakers, including the pray-ers and the poetess demonstrated the power of the naked spoken word. As someone who enjoys and believes in preaching, I am thrilled when the power of words and a well delivered speech is demonstrated, especially when we are told they are outmoded and ineffectual means of communicating today. Nonsense! Long live the spoken word. Maybe if preachers would stop using and relying on visuals aids and spend more time perfecting the craft of writing and speaking, they would discover anew the wonder of good preaching in the service of God's Word. We also noted the frequent reference to the importance and necessity of old and tried absolute values and virtues. Yes! And the music, wonderful, uplifting choral music, offering traditional patriotic songs in four-part harmony. No screeching and gyrating like the elebrities do who perform at the Super Bowl half time shows.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:33

Sunday, January 18. 2009

## **COLOR BLIND?**

Monday is Martin Luther King Jr Day. He had a dream for a color-blind society, but supposedly also advocated affirmative action. That is a contradiction to me (kind of "have your cake and eat it to" thing). There can be no doubt that most people who are excited about the Inauguration of Barak Obama as President this week are not color blind. People around here, our local newspapers as well as TV news and magazines and columnists across the Nation everywhere are hailing this event as historic exactly because they all perceive the Mr Obama as Black, the first African American Man in America, with its history of slavery and racism, becoming President and (arguably) the most important and powerful person in the world. Barak Obama is not an African American, he is bi-racial; but he and his family are seen as "Black" or African American. That is what matters to the public. I don't care what he looks like. Almost half of American voters did not vote for him, including me. My vote had absolutely nothing to do with his perceived racial identity. I did not vote for Mr Gore or Mr Clinton either. They are "White"- that is irrelevant. These men are all Liberal Democrats. It is that simple. I voted against their politics and values and agenda. I will watch parts of the Ceremonies because they are important, but I will not be cheering.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:47

## **IS IT ALL FOR THE BIRDS?**

We just watched the Cardinals beat the Eagles. Funny how so many people can be cheering wildly and others be deeply upset with the out come and it all meant nothing to me. I just watched. OK, bring on the Steelers and Ravens. Since the Patriots are out, I don't really care about the Super Bowl. But since we have family who live in Maryland, we are rooting with them for Baltimore all the way. And the commercials during the game kept promoting big trucks that can pull big boats. If these really are tough economic times, who has the money for either? A columnist I read today wondered why, with our soldiers making huge personal sacrifices fighting against Terrorists overseas most Americans are just sitting on the sidelines, watching and not making any sacrifices at all to win that war. Most actually want our new President and Government to cut our taxes, put money into our pockets and provide greater services to prevent us from facing any hardships. Maybe I should get into the excitement of the Game and buy that truck!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:26

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

## **POSTPONING REALITY**

A good column by one of my favorite commentators on the Economy, Thomas Sowell, as well as his annual recommendations for "best books" of the year <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NzBjODIzNzg1Yzk4NzExOGVhNzc0NmM1NDQ0MmUzYjA=http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NzQ0YTA4ZDdiZWQ4N2M3MGRmMTY0NDEwOTgyMDJhMWM=>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:40

## **PREVIEWS OF THINGS TO COME**

Here are 3 good analyses of what is probably coming with the new President- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/11/AR2008121102951.html> [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/12/opinion/12brooks.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/12/opinion/12brooks.html?_r=1) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/12/AR2008121203278.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:43

Sunday, December 14, 2008

## **BAILOUTS**

50 local high school dropouts have been given free tuition and books at a local College, using money given by Bill Cosby. These are teens who couldn't bother to attend High School. They dropped out. They may graduate from college and be successful- or they may not. My feeling is that this another unfair bailout. These teens have not earned it and do not deserve it. It is not fair to the teens who work hard to graduate from High School and qualify to make it into college and who are now working at least one job to help pay for it. Pragmatists will say the ends justifies the means. That is a terrible principle. That is also a repudiation of the good principle that hard work is necessary to make it, but it pays. It is saying, "Hey, don't bother- drop out. Working is for suckers. Some one will bail you out." Sound familiar? This is the wrong message this program sends to teens and teaches something that is helping to perpetuate many of our social problems.

All welfare should be means tested, including this program for HS drop-outs. Recipients of any bailout must be deserving and truly needy and not only financially. They must also demonstrate sustained and good faith effort to make it in HS to qualify for college, as well serious effort as to find and hold down employment to help pay for it. Young people like that should be helped if they seek it. Scholarships are good, but they should be meritorious. Churches report increased attendance these days and that is attributed to "economic tough times" Many are becoming unemployed. Many more are fearful for their future and need financial help. And so they turn to Religion? Are they repenting of their greed and an indulgent, wasteful life style? Are they really turning to God from their sins for forgiveness of those sins and the salvation of their souls or for another kind of personal bailout to tide them over temporarily? Would they be turning to God if their lives were unaffected by the economic downturn? Will they return to their wasteful, indulgent ways when the Recession ends and times get better? Do they expect God to bail them out with out any kind of restructure of the way they operate every day? Do they want God's help with out accepting His oversight and regulation of their values and behavior from here on out? God can not be fooled or extorted. Sinners truly repentant of their sins who turn their lives over to Christ are welcome into the Kingdom. Poseurs perish. Even more Americans are pinning their hopes, not on God, but on the new political Messiah. Their hope for solvency and financial security is not prayer but policies of the next President and his multibillion dollar bailout programs. Like the \$69 an hour union auto workers in Detroit who would not budge an inch or make any concessions whatsoever to help them keep their jobs, but rather expect the rest of us taxpayers, most of whom don't come close to their pay and benefits, to do that for them. We are accountable for our behavior and the consequences of our choices. Many of us have chosen [granted not everyone] to become over extended, never thinking we would get caught, not believing we would have to pay the piper (our creditors). Our eyes were bigger than our stomachs, our reach greater than our grasp. Old clichés that are still true. We chose not to change, not to prepare for hard times we could have seen coming. Washington will not save us- temporary bromides, sure; but not real solutions. That is going to require regeneration of our hearts- not a change in our life style, but a transformation of our life. I guess we should all go to church and then on down the saw dust trail to the sinners bench where we plea, not for money, but for mercy.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:23

Thursday, December 11, 2008

### **SKEPTICISM ABOUT "GLOBAL WARMING"**

The green movement keeps growing. Keanu Reeves has been making the rounds on talk shows touting his latest movie with the knowing nods of approval from the celebrity interviewers. His character is a space creature come to earth to make us halt global warming. The warming is caused by human beings polluting the atmosphere. He brings judgement and death to those who perpetuate that warming. The earth is rapidly facing extinction if the purported warming continues and its demise is our doing. Well, here is another of many websites that most have never heard about in the popular media which tells a different story by climate scientists who disagree with what is supposed to be the majority

report[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2008/12/07/skepticism\\_on\\_climate\\_change/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/12/07/skepticism_on_climate_change/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:21

### **THE TRUTHS ABOUT THE AUTO INDUSTRY WE ARE NOT HEARING**

Every newscast trumpets the woes of what is repeatedly called the US Auto Industry. It is failing and must, we are assured, absolutely must, be bailed out by taxpayers. Baloney! Read this article and help dispel the myths. We are not hearing the truth. What we are hearing are the whines of the Big 3 auto assemblers in Detroit and their disingenuous attempt to extort more undeserved tax payers money. We are not hearing the truth about the US Auto Industry. [http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/06\\_07/b3971057.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/06_07/b3971057.htm)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:08

Sunday, December 7, 2008

## **SEMPER FI**

On the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, an "attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike conducted by the Japanese navy against the United States' naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii resulting in the United States becoming militarily involved in World War II. The attack consisted of two aerial attack waves totaling 353 aircraft, launched from six Japanese aircraft carriers. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battleships (two of which were raised and returned to service late in the war) and damaged four more. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, and one minelayer, destroyed 188 aircraft, and caused personnel losses of 2,402 killed and 1,282 wounded..."

[Almost one year later] Eric Ken Shinseki [a Japanese-American] was born in Hawaii on] November 28, 1942. [He was to become] "the 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, serving from 1999 to 2003. He is the first Asian [Japanese] American to be a four-star general and the first to lead one of the five U.S. military services." Today, Pearl Harbor Day, President-elect Obama announced Gen Shinseki as his nominee to be head of "the Department of Veterans Affairs. [The VA] provides federal benefits to US veterans and their families. The agency is the second largest of the 15 Cabinet departments and offers health-care, financial assistance, and burial benefits programs. More than 60 million people - veterans, their family members, and survivors of veterans - are eligible for the VA's benefits (a few of children of Civil War veterans still draw benefits). Selected benefits include education assistance, home loans, life insurance, and vocational rehabilitation." Source: Wikipedia One of the women in the Bible study my wife attends is a Japanese American. During WWII, as a youth, she was forced to live in an Internment Camp in California because of her ethnicity. Actually, thousands of Japanese American citizens were denied their constitutional rights and were interred (actually, imprisoned) in many camps on the West Coast. When I was growing up, during the war years, the consensus among everyone I knew was that Japanese people were evil- hateful, blood thirsty war mongers. My how times have changed. Americans now drive Japanese cars to attend baseball games where they watch Japanese players star in the favorite American pastime. Is all of this change and reconciliation a sign of the Kingdom of God? Nothing was mentioned today at Church about any of this (except by an 84 year old man who asked me afterwards whether I thought any one present remembered). Even while we forgive those who trespass against us, we do not want to forget any of the days of infamy we have endured as a Nation, nor do we want to fail to be prepared for the next one. Sitting in the pew in front of us this morning was a young mother with her four children. Her Marine husband is serving his second tour in Iraq. Semper Fidelis is a good motto for all of us, particularly in this Season when we like to sing, Adeste Fidelis.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:06

Monday, November 24, 2008

## **SPREADING THE WEALTH AROUND**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/14/AR2008111403045.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:26

## **2 BEASTS and a DOOMED CITY**

I don't care who is on Mr Obama's Economic team. It makes no difference to me what their education or former experience has been. What matters is their ideology. If they are "progressive" Keynesian theorists and interventionist redistributionists ala FDR and I am sympathetic with Milton Friedman and the Monetarist School or with Friedrich Hayek and the London school of Economics or with Arthur Laffer and the Supply side Economics popular with President Reagan (Reaganomics) then I am not in favor of the new Obama Team. Here is a good side bar to what I have written-  
<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=M2U1ZDA2YTBkYzNhNTA4YWU2YWJmM2U0NzNlZjUwMzI=>

Universal Health Care, new Economic Stimulus giveaways, humongous public works programs to put people to work ( shades of FDR ), more multi-billion dollar Corporate Bailouts for Wall St and Detroit and Programs to revamp Public Education and make it even more "progressive" are not good if one does not believe in an ever bigger, more expansive "Nanny State" and one does believe in smaller government and lower taxes. Bible believing Christians absolutely must reread Revelation 13 about the Beast from the Sea (the Anti Christ which is the Totalitarian State) and the Beast from the Earth (the False Prophet which is a massive pseudo-religious Propaganda machine that deceives the masses into serving the Anti-Christ). Christians must also reread chapter 17 about Babylon, which is the hedonistic, materialistic Culture in which we now live. The City and all those who live in it and are intoxicated by its wealth and decadence will be destroyed by Christ. Many of us were deceived and led astray by Dispensationalism into thinking that this unholy Trinity will appear only in the End Times during the so-called Tribulation after the so-called Rapture. Not so, these three Enemies are with us now, on the prowl.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:26

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

### **BAIL OUT THE BIG 3 AUTOMAKERS? IS THAT BIBLICAL?**

Here are two columns that I think are correct about the proposed bailout of the Big Three Auto Makers. Why should this Blog be concerned about such a “secular” matter? I say on my Re/formation website, we are seeking God’s Norms in all things. God’s Norms include recognizing the autonomy of the creational Spheres. That is basic Reformed Neocalvinism. In theory at least, Civil Government and Business are separate spheres with separate roles. Biblically, Business is to be guided by free-market principles. Corporations, like individuals, are to be held responsible and accountable for their decisions and the consequences of their actions. Workers and their Unions (if they have one) are not to be greedy and intransigent in their demands. Finally, workers (as individuals) and businesses are to act in the public good. If Civil Government is involved in Business, it is to do its best to enforce any laws that are involved in all of this and prevent any corruption or fraud, including the theft and waste of public monies.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11><http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:17

Monday, November 17, 2008

## **WE WANT OUR RIGHTS- NOW!**

Let's see if I understand this- according to the argument of protesting activists on behalf of Gay "Marriage" in California and beyond, we Republicans should also protest: Our civil rights as citizens were denied. We did not get the results we wanted in the Presidential elections. The Constitution protects the minority from the majority. It does not matter that the vote was fair and square and is over. It does not matter that all the voters, the opponents as well as us, were exercising their civil rights in the Election. We insist on another vote or for the majority vote to be overturned by the Supreme Court, by a majority of the Justices voting. Now that would be democracy. Yes, we insist and will not stop insisting and protesting till we get what we want!! This could get ugly, but at least we would have a Republican President. When do we want this? We want it now!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:52

Monday, November 10, 2008

## **REALITY CHECK FOR REPUBLICANS AND FOR THE CHURCH**

Even though the fastest growing segment of the nation's population is people over 65, here are more stats about the widening gap between us and the younger generations. A large percentage of those who voted Republican are Seniors, while a larger percentage of younger voters went for Obama. Here are the figures <http://www.creators.com/opinion/mark-shields.html?columnName=msh> "Republicans are an aging party. While Ronald Reagan attracted a generation of young voters to the Grand Old Party, eight years of Republican White House rule —along with six on Capitol Hill — has resulted in the alienation of the nation's youngest voters." "While the younger generation is voting more and more Democratic, the Republicans most loyal supporters are aging fast." "Actually, the only age cohort of voters who supported the Republican presidential ticket in 2008 was the 16 percent of voters who are over the age of 65. If demography is destiny, the Republican outlook is as bleak as the Democrats' is rosy." -Mark Shields I am even more concerned that the same thing is happening with the Church. We must not compromise the Gospel and the Doctrines of Grace, but at the same time we must adopt ways to reach and hold the youth. I realize keenly that their world and mine are increasingly alien to each other, but I do not want the Church's outlook to be as bleak as the Democrats is rosy. In both scenarios, education is the key. Most youth I am aware of have a minimal knowledge of the Doctrines of Grace and the Gospel of Grace (aka Calvinism and the Reformed Faith); likewise, most youth have a minimal knowledge of what the Bible actually says about economics and government or anything else, for that matter. Heb 5:11-6:311 About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become dull in understanding. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil. 6 Therefore let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ, and not laying again the foundation: repentance from dead works and faith toward God, instruction about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And we will do this, if God permits. Please study the essays on my website, [www.Reformedliving.org](http://www.Reformedliving.org)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:15

Monday, November 3, 2008

## **ENOUGH, LET'S GET ON WITH IT!**

Daniel 2:20 "Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. 21 He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. I have written enough about the current political race. So has everyone else. If Mr Obama and the Democrats win tomorrow I will be quite unhappy, but whoever wins will face a mess of serious problems and will need our prayers. America will not be a united Nation by any stretch. We are divided about many issues and one election will not somehow bring us all together. Not by a long shot! I expect very difficult and contentious times ahead for the Country. However, the text above is encouraging: God is on the Throne. Ultimately, His purpose will be served. Blessed be His Name! I especially claim the second half of the Text. We will all need wisdom and knowledge to effectively address the Nation's problems. God wants to give us both. We must seek them. The Republican Party needs to return to its historic principles. Conservatives must delineate their distinctives and do a far better job at promoting them, especially to young people. I am motivated to do more to learn and teach Biblical Principles of Economics and Civil Government. We must work harder at thinking Biblically about these matters and at being Christian citizens. OK, let's vote and get on with life!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:02

Friday, October 31, 2008

## **EVANGELICALS FOR OBAMA?? HOW COULD THAT BE?**

Apparently many younger Evangelicals are planning on voting for Mr. Obama. There are a number of reasons (e.g.- they say McCain is too old and Palin is too inexperienced) Here is a list [in bold italics] of their reasons that concern and trouble me the most and my reply to each of them. 1. Many younger Evangelicals believe Justice is the top priority for Christians. No. God is a God of Justice. Justice is very important to Him and must be very important to all Christians, but Justice is not our top priority. Many will quickly say our top priority is to live for the glory of God. That begs the question of "how?" The following is the answer to that. Worship is our top priority. Living a life of personal Righteousness is second. Third is Evangelism, sharing the historic Gospel with neighbors and nations around the world. We glorify God when we worship Him in Spirit and truth, seek to live according to His Word in all things and when we do all we can to promote the Gospel to all the Peoples of the world.

2. Many younger Evangelicals believe Justice includes Social Justice and Economic Justice. The first addresses matters such as hate crimes (especially against homosexuals), discrimination and racism (especially against African-Americans and illegal Hispanic immigrants), homophobia (especially against "Gay Marriage") and women's rights (especially the right to chose abortion). The second addresses poverty issues, especially health insurance, housing, and employment for all. There are many Justice Issues like these which we must pursue.No. None of this is what the Bible means by Justice. Briefly, Justice is conformity to the Law of God. Those who seek to live a righteous life, to organize all they do at home and at work according to God's Norms, run the real risk of being oppressed by those who do not live this way. Justice is God's action to deliver the righteous from such oppression. Justice is also God's action to discipline (stop and punish) those responsible for the oppression. 3. Many younger Evangelicals believe The Gospel is about God's love for the marginalized and oppressed. NO. The historic Gospel is the Good News that God's Son has come in the flesh to die a death which would be the full atonement for the sins of the world. This, too, is the Justice of God at work. He would deliver the Elect from their bondage to sin, death and the Devil and ultimately destroy those Enemies forever. 4. Younger Evangelicals believe God's love calls for all of us to be concerned and militant about these Justice Issues as defined in #2 aboveNO. God's love calls us to be concerned and militant about the lost state of sinners without Christ and to preach the Gospel that, hearing it, they may be saved.5. Many younger Evangelicals are convinced that God's Kingdom is a world in which there is no injustice (and no war in Iraq!) and as disciples of Christ we are to build that Kingdom. NO. First, God's Kingdom is His dynamic and spiritual reign in the hearts and lives of His People, the Elect. That Kingdom is extended by literally preaching the historic Gospel (Evangelism) in tandem with Prayer. Second, God's Kingdom is a Realm inhabited by all the people in whom God rules, seeking to live all aspects of their lives in this world according to their King's will (The Law of the Realm) This Kingdom grows as Believers are baptized into Christ and the Church and taught to obey all God's Commands and learn to do so within that Body.6. Many younger Evangelicals believe Civil Government on all levels is the primary instrument by which Social and Economic Justice (and the immediate end of the Iraq War) will be achieved. They believe the President, Congress and the Supreme Court can make it all happen. They believe Civil Government has a major active role is establishing the Kingdom of God in this world.NO. God works in concert with His creation. This is His Providence (which I distinguish from both His Reign and Realm). He expects all human beings, as His Image bearers, to care for that Creation and develop a Civilization according to His universal, creational Norms. Civil Government has a part in all this. But a cultivated Creation and an advanced Civilization is not the Kingdom of God. The Civil Government is absolutely not an agent, let alone the primary agent, to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Civil Government is a major instrument of God for Justice in "secular" Society. Civil Government exists to serve God as His primary instrument for securing and maintaining "Law and Order". It is not meant to usurp the functions of Marriage, Family (including Education and Welfare), Church, Commerce and Culture. Each of these creational spheres has its own responsibilities and are autonomous, although they must co-exist and co-operate. Christians must be very concerned that these Spheres are protected and allowed to function as God intends. Human beings are sinners. Civil Government, under God and accountable to Him, has the sole function of enacting and enforcing laws that will prohibit or restrain crimes, by anyone or any organization, such as fraud, theft and violence. It exists to stop and punish law breakers and all those who would hurt or destroy the citizens of the nation or inhibit or deny their social, economic and political freedoms, be they criminals, terrorists or the armies of another country. Civil Government has the right to our prayers and whatever taxes are necessary for the carrying out of these duties. 7. Many younger Evangelicals believe the Kingdom of God and Justice as they define that is most likely to progress if Mr Obama and the Democrats win the next Election and the control of all branches of Federal Government. Hence they are voting Democrat. NO. The probability of our Nation coming closer to the Biblical Goals for Civil Government (as well as for seeing Creation cultivated and civilization developed properly) are far better with at least a Republican President, a healthy mix of both Republicans and

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Democrats in Congress and a Federal Government which truly functions as a system of checks and balances. A victory for the Democrats across the board will mean eventual Rule by one Party and its Liberal Ideology in all three Branches of the Federal Government with very little in the way of checks and balances). The reasons why the younger Evangelicals seem to prefer Mr Obama and the Democrats are exactly the reasons why all Christians should vote Republican. [Note: Dropping out and not voting at all because all candidates are flawed is simply irresponsible, as well as counter productive. Some candidate will win the election and power over your life.]

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:59

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

## **PROMISE TO THE NEXT PRESIDENT**

"Dear Mr. President : I do not yet know your name, but in a few days you will be elected to our nation's highest office, and become the leader of the free world at the end of a long and engaging election season. I wanted you to know that I will be praying for you. Not praying against you, or about you, but for you. That is both my pledge, and my obligation as a follower of Christ. In the Bible, the apostle Paul writes, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." And I will do so with a full and undivided heart." written by J.E.White<http://www.serioustimes.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:12

Monday, October 20, 2008

### **BOMBER AS SCHOOL REFORMER**

Bill Ayers, by many accounts, is a brilliant, sophisticated, cultured, very likable, helpful and caring man, as well as a friend of Barak Obama. His many friends reject all suggestions or accusations that the man is in any way a danger to society. His violent, bomb-tossing days of radical revolutionary activism are long over. He is now a very respected and highly influential Professor of Education. Exactly- that the problem now! This position makes him more dangerous than ever. He is educating future teachers and is wielding great authority over curriculum choices throughout the Country. His old radical ideas are very much alive and well in his current work.

<http://www.city-journal.org/2008/eon1006ss.html>[http://www.city-journal.org/html/16\\_3\\_ed\\_school.html](http://www.city-journal.org/html/16_3_ed_school.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:03

### **STILL ANOTHER REASON TO VOTE REPUBLICAN**

If Mr. Obama wins and the Democrats carry Congress, the Nation is in for at least four years of one Party Rule. There will be no viable opposition to whatever the President, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid and the Congress want. Here is an article with a worst case scenerio of what all this could mean for America. It ain't pretty- it is downright scarifying.<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122420205889842989.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:50

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF CRASHES**

Never mind Iraq and Afghanistan, the War against Terror other foreign policy issues. Never mind the problem of illegal Immigration. Never mind Health Care and Education Reform or the Matter of appointing Judges and social issues like Abortion and Gay Marriage. There are all kinds of issues to deal with but, to judge by the Media, all any one is interested in now is the Economy and this one issue is driving the coming election. This Issue will determine the vote of many people. We must have a long view of our national Economy and not make decisions with very long term and negative consequences in order to have short term immediate consequences for this one Issue Here is an article that helps keep our current economic crisis in proper perspective. Today's Economy alone should not determine who our next President shall be for four or more years.<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122437896036147837.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:36

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

## **MORE REASONS TO STILL VOTE REPUBLICAN**

I have problems with both the Democratic and the Republican tickets. Neither is ideal, far from it. But the Republican Party traditionally embodies the classic, conservative and Biblical principles and values for both Government and the Economy. The Democratic Party absolutely does not. Therefore, I am voting McCain-Palin. In writing this, I fully realize that in practice the US has a mixed economy and that the current Republican Administration has not been acting in line with traditional conservative principles. Today's news demonstrates how "interventionist" our Government has become-nationalizing banks (whether they want it or not) and expanding its control in the housing and insurance markets, etc. And both candidates are making sweeping promises to the voters without regard to how they will be paid for, expanding even more government largess and the "nanny" state. However, I still maintain, in comparison to McCain, Obama is the worse candidate and if he wins he will probably also have a Democratic controlled Congress. I loath to think of what they will cook-up for America together. Read my new Essay on Wealth and Capitalism just posted on my website at [http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=57](http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=57)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:50

Saturday, October 11, 2008

## **A MAJOR REASON TO VOTE FOR JOHN McCAIN: Judges**

A major outcome of the Presidential election is the future of the Federal Supreme Court. The next President will most probably be nominating at least one, perhaps two, new Justices to the Bench. Of course, Congressional approval will be required. Federal and State SC Justices make very important decisions that influence our Country, actually making Laws (through their judgments as to what the Constitution and Laws on the books mean and how they are applied) and exercising greater authority in specific cases than the President and Congress together. A dramatic illustration of this judicial authority is what has happened in three States in the matter of "Gay Marriage". I am not here arguing for or against Gay Marriage, but rather about the role of the State Court in legalizing it in all three States.

"Connecticut yesterday became the third state to allow same-sex couples to marry after its sharply divided Supreme Court ruled [4-3] that a state law allowing gay couples to enter in civil unions denied those couples their constitutional right to equal protection." "Connecticut follows Massachusetts, which was, by court order, the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, in May 2004, and California, which became the second by court order, in May." "In his majority opinion yesterday, Justice Richard N. Palmer sided with gay rights activists. He wrote that the 'segregation of heterosexual and homosexual couples into separate institutions constitutes a cognizable harm,' in light of "the history of pernicious discrimination faced by gay men and lesbians and because the institution of marriage carries with it a status and significance that the newly created classification of civil unions does not embody." "In a dissenting opinion, Justice Peter T. Zarella wrote that 'there is no fundamental right to same sex marriage.' "The ancient definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman has its basis in biology, not bigotry," Zarella wrote. [This matter] is a decision for the Legislature or the people of the state and not this court." "Governor M. Jodi Rell, an opponent of same-sex marriage, said she would abide by the decision even though she disagrees with it. 'The Supreme Court has spoken,' Rell said. "I do not believe their voice reflects the majority of the people of Connecticut." "Leaders of the Connecticut Catholic Conference, which represents the state's Catholic bishops, issued a statement saying they were 'extremely disappointed' by the ruling, which they called, "a terribly regrettable exercise in judicial activism." "The real battle in this court case was not about rights, since civil unions provide a vast number of legal rights to same-sex couples, but about conferring and enforcing social acceptance of a particular lifestyle, a lifestyle many people of faith and advocates of the natural law refuse to accept,' the statement said". [http://www.boston.com/news/local/connecticut/articles/2008/10/11/conn\\_ruling\\_allows\\_same\\_sex\\_marriage/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/connecticut/articles/2008/10/11/conn_ruling_allows_same_sex_marriage/) Justices of State Supreme Court overturned a State law which had been determined by elected Legislators and which reflected the will of the majority of citizens- actually the outcome was determined by just one Justice [4-3]. This is not justice or the way the three branches of constitutional government are supposed to work. It could be argued that Civil Rights Law has been made this way. Where would African Americans be today, legally, if the Supreme Court of the Nation had not over turned the accepted Laws and desires of the majority of citizens at the time? Most would now agree that such judicial activism was a good thing. But, I agree with those who say this decision was not about Civil Rights and that is the difference. This Court decision reflects the ideology of a minority, an attempt to change dominant culture values, not anyone's legal rights. "...this court case was not about rights, since civil unions provide a vast number of legal rights to same-sex couples, but about conferring and enforcing social acceptance of a particular lifestyle..." "...institution of marriage carries with it a status and significance that the newly created classification of civil unions does not embody." The Connecticut Justices took it upon themselves to legally bestow and guarantee that status and its social acceptance to a minority group against the will of the majority. I'm saying that they had no right to do that, but they argue their decision was Constitutional and that settles the matter for them. How do these both Federal and State Judges come to this conclusion? Judges increasingly consider the Constitution to be a "living" document, subject to changing interpretations determined by contemporary values and standards. Basically, the Constitution means whatever they say it means. The traditional view (my view) comes from those who interpret the Constitution according to what they believe was the original intent of the Framers. On that basis Justices find no warrant in the Federal Constitution for "Gay Marriage", Abortion or Affirmative Action. I believe we must elect a President who will nominate only those candidates to the Court who are strict constructionists and not liberal leaning "judicial activists". I realize the meaning of the label is disputed. I am not using it as a code for the advocacy of conservatives positions about anything. I take it to mean determining and adhering to the common sense meaning of the words in the Document as used by the Framers. I take it to mean close adherence to the words of the text. Others might emphasize original intent and usage of that text. [Notice the parallel to how the Bible is interpreted] Currently, the Conservative Justices are Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and, debatably, Chief Justice Roberts. (Robert Bork would have been another) Particular votes by these men on particular cases have been disputed, as to whether they were really cast on the basis of strict constructionism. But, in principle, Strict Constuctionism is the judicial philosophy of these men. They are the type of

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men John McCain has promised to appoint to the Bench. See quotes listed on the website of the liberal People for the American Way. They list the quotes of John McCain to prove why, in their opinion, people must not vote for him. <http://www.savethecourt.org/content/mccains-ideal-judge>As to Senator Obama, I have not found any extended, formal statement by him expressing his judicial philosophy (he was a Constitutional Law Professor) or about Strict Constructionism as such. However, he has often indicated that he would not nominate conservative candidates and that he favors judicial activism in the promotion of liberal, nanny state goals-<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3px9jvG0N8><http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/114809.php><http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2007/07/17/274143.aspx><http://www.slate.com/id/2183930/http://althouse.blogspot.com/2007/07/obama-on-supreme-court-appointments-we.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:17

Monday, October 6, 2008

## **GETTING THE FACTS STRAIGHT**

It seems to me that the beginning of this current fiscal crisis was in the well-meaning attempt during the 70's to provide affordable housing in all sections of a community. It was to put an end to so-called red-lining and to make it possible for low-income minorities, in particular, to find mortgages at their local lending institutions and thus buy a house. Over time, many low-income people, Realtors, lending institutions, social activists and politicians (especially Democrats) foolishly used and serious abused legislation and policies for selfish gain. It is a complex systemic evil we are facing. Getting individual sinners saved is not going to unravel and fix it. That would be helpful, but it is more important to challenging the way Americans as a society live and do business and to bring Biblical, moral principles to bear on that. Here are more helpful

links-<http://www.reformedliving.org/http://www.newsweek.com/id/161936/page/1>[http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NGRjODM1MTJlOGZiZDk2ODI4NTUzMWVMxYjgwMjliMGQ=http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NDI1MzA0ZDBjODUyYTE5NTBiOWI0OGM0YTM5NWQxMmY=http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community\\_Reinvestment\\_Act](http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NGRjODM1MTJlOGZiZDk2ODI4NTUzMWVMxYjgwMjliMGQ=http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=NDI1MzA0ZDBjODUyYTE5NTBiOWI0OGM0YTM5NWQxMmY=http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_Reinvestment_Act)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:20

Saturday, October 4, 2008

## **REASONS FOR THE CANDIDATES' DIFFERENCES**

Here are two articles explaining the differences between Sen McCain and Sen Obama as differences in world views (and personalities) and life experience. The comparison is between Modernist and Postmodernist. There is interesting relevance to the difference between some pastors and Christians and churches, as well. <http://www.newsweek.com/id/161323><http://blog.christianitytoday.com/outofur/archives/2008/10/debates.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:35

Thursday, October 2, 2008

### **Beware Big Brother and Babylon**

As a Reformed Christian, I believe the role of Civil Government is, in a phrase, Law & Order. Biblically, it is not the responsibility of Civil Government to be in the housing business, the insurance business, the health business or the education business. It should not be in the business of underwriting farmers, oil companies, airlines or automobile manufactures. These should all be private enterprises. The Civil Government's responsibility is to legislate rules and regulations for honest and fair, non-exploitive, non-discriminatory and just practices in these enterprises and to be sure everyone plays by the agreed upon rules of the game (Law & Order). Government can not legislate morality, but it must enforce legality. That said, I understand the need for compromise and breaking the current deadlock. But to be pressured into making far reaching decisions with unknown consequences for generations to come under political and public pressure for short term gains is foolish. And to not hold people at every level responsible for their actions is irresponsible in the long term. I know there have been precedents, but to bail out auto makers for their failed policies is wrong. Americans can either drive their present cars longer or buy other models. If autoworkers are out of their highpaying jobs, well that is hard but not the government's problem. If people lose the houses they could not afford in the first place, that too is not the government's problem. The American obsession with owning a house needs a reality check. The current mess began in the Carter Administration in the late 70's with the then and still current social mandate to provide "affordable" housing for people who could not afford it. That was not then, or is it now, the Federal government's problem. Biblical Christians must be wary of Big Brother big government and the Welfare State! The latter is not the Kingdom of God. I am praying for Sarah Palin tonight in her debate and for the defeat of Sen Obama on Election day. But whoever wins the Presidency, Americans must heed this current wake-up call, remember that condemned Babylon (in the Bk of Revelation) is a grossly hedonistic, materialistic society and therefore change the values and morals many of us live by. That is not Government's business either. It is ours alone as private citizens who must one day give account for the stewardship of our lives and resources.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:54

Saturday, September 13. 2008

## **THE BUSH DOCTRINE and MR.GIBSON**

I had thought Charlie Gibson was more fair. I was disappointed, actually, put out, with him for the way he conducted his first interview with Sarah Palin. Charles Krauthammer said it all—"Charlie Gibson ...looked down his nose and over his glasses with weary disdain, sighing and "sounding like an impatient teacher," as the Times noted. In doing so, he captured perfectly the establishment snobbery and intellectual condescension that has characterized the chattering classes' reaction to the mother of five who presumes to play on their stage." Ms Palin was correct in asking for clarification, because there have been four definitions of the "Bush Doctrine". Mr Krauthammer explains—"The fourth and current definition of the Bush doctrine, the most sweeping formulation of the Bush approach to foreign policy and the one that most clearly and distinctively defines the Bush years: the idea that the fundamental mission of American foreign policy is to spread democracy throughout the world. It was most dramatically enunciated in Bush's second inaugural address: "The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world." [emphasis added]"Not the Gibson doctrine of preemption. Not the "with us or against us" no-neutrality-is-permitted policy of the immediate post-9/11 days. Not the unilateralism that characterized the pre-9/11 first year of the Bush administration."http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/12/AR2008091202457.html?tid=informbox&#8834;=AR

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:37

Thursday, September 4, 2008

## **SARAH PALIN**

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the speeches at last night's RNC. We share the values and principles that were being declared so effectively. What we heard made us glad to be conservative, traditional Republicans. We were especially impressed by Sarah Palin! She was marvelous and conducted herself very, very well. I recommend all the articles in today's issue of National Review Online about Ms Palin and the Race. They are spot on and significant. [Click here to read article](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:09

Thursday, August 28, 2008

## **"THE DEVIL IS IN HIS [Obama's] DETAILS**

Here is an excellent reality check about certain issues we are hearing a lot about these days. The Democrats and their nominee are seriously misleading the American People. Check out Mr Obama's acceptance speech by the criteria in this article today by George Will [Click here to read article](#)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:42

## **BARAK OBAMA'S MOTHER WAS WHITE**

Barak Obama is not a Black man. We hear much about the importance of keeping "Race" out of this coming Presidential election. We hear much about building unity and bridging the gaps and bringing down the barriers between different racial and ethnic and social economic groups in this country. And yet, the headlines are trumpeting that the nomination of Barack Obama is historic for one reason: his Race. African Americans being interviewed are exultant: one of their own is the Democratic Party nominee. Every where people are heard celebrating the arrival of a Black Man at the highest level on the national scene.

Reality Check: Barack Obama is not black. It is false to say he is. His mother was white. He was raised most of his life by his white mother and her parents (until he went to college). Yes, his father was a Kenyan. Obama had a black father for two years. At the most, this means Barak Obama is bi-racial. He is just as much White as he is Black. Actually, more so, inasmuch as he was raised in a White culture under the influence of his White mother and her White parents. If the Party, the Convention and the Media can't get this straight, how do we know what else they report is really true about Mr. Obama and not biased and a product of myth-making? Actually, race should be irrelevant to all. Biblically there is only the Human Race. We should judge the Man as a human being and for what he stands for and represents. That applies equally to John McCain. He is a White man. Is anyone trumpeting that? Oh, how the PC crowd would howl indignantly if McCain's race was made to be the same issue as Obama's "Race" is.

[http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1834628\\_1754174,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1834628_1754174,00.html) <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1729524,00.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:29

Saturday, August 23, 2008

## **FOR WHOM SHOULD WE VOTE? Biblical Guidelines**

A good candidate for President should support basic human rights as defined in the Bible. These are the rights to life, marriage and family, work, ownership of property, privacy, due process when accused of crime (a fair and honest trial) and freedom to worship God. Any politician who endorses or enables oppression, cruelty or unwarranted violence\* or who would deny anyone their basic human rights should not themselves be endorsed. \* I believe the federal Government has the right to wage a just war in the protection of its citizens, as well as to administer capital punishment to confessed and convicted murderers. All this would be warranted violence.

Specifically, Christians should support candidates (and legislation) that are anti-abortion, anti-eugenics (anti-embryonic stem cell research), anti-human cloning and anti-euthanasia; pro-traditional (man and woman only) marriage; pro-parental authority; pro-business and the free market as well as those who support fair, non-discriminatory labor laws; equitable and fair taxation (which would require limiting entitlement programs, minimizing the "Welfare State", as well as balancing the budget), less surveillance of citizens (less "Big Brother"), reform of the courts and legal system and an end to restriction on public worship and expressions of belief in God. I believe these are Biblical guidelines for selecting the best candidate for our next president. Over all, the best candidate will have a track record of being both a social and an economic conservative, as well as being on record as supporting a conservative social and economic agenda when elected. I originally posted this article on Tuesday, November 13, 2007. I have amended it slightly. It is still my position. It means I will definitely not be voting for Democratic Party candidates. I do not think all Republicans pass muster either, on some of these issues. Voting is a duty and privilege which I will not throw away, so I will cast my vote for the Republicans, as the best choices available.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:17

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

## **WE ARE A REPUBLIC, NOT A DEMOCRACY**

Some 700 attempts have been made throughout our nations history to eliminate the Electoral College. Here is a good article to explain why this is not a good idea. It has to do with learning or remembering that we are the United States, not the United People of America.[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/16/the\\_brilliance\\_of\\_the\\_electoral\\_college/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/16/the_brilliance_of_the_electoral_college/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:27

Saturday, July 5, 2008

## **WHAT WAS THE PARTY ABOUT YESTERDAY?**

The Boston Globe today extols last night's local (but broadcast nationally) July 4th Celebration with the Boston Pops as the greatest ever. It seemed to be designed to offer something for everyone under the overall theme of celebrating America. I am such a literalist, full of "oughts" and "should haves" about most everything. That can make me critical and unhappy, for few things are as I expect them to be. July 4th is traditionally known as Independence Day. We are supposed to remember, appreciate and celebrate our ancestors who declared their independence from the mid-18th Century tyranny of British King George over the affairs of the British colonies in the "New World". Those ancestors fought a war to conserve their freedoms as Englishmen against the unlawful treat to them by their sovereign. In so doing, of course, they gave birth to our Nation. We ought to celebrate that!

Shifting the emphasis from the War of Independence and what that was about in 1776 to a celebration of our country as it is perceived to be in the year 2008 has accentuated the division among Americans. Those who see our Nation as the greatest and best, full of opportunity and freedom for all, are glad to celebrate America today with enthusiasm (or they simply enjoy cook-outs, music and fireworks). Those who see our Country as full of oppression, poverty, injustice, racism, hatred, violence and greedy capitalists do not celebrate America (or they simply use the Holiday to enjoy cook-outs and fireworks. In doing this, Americans are united). In both cases, each group of citizens would do well to return to 1776 and grasp what happened then and apply those history lessons now, to America in 2008.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:00

Friday, July 4, 2008

## **WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING TODAY?**

Christian friends are in Boston tonight. They came from England some 5 years ago and are returning tomorrow morning. This is an appropriate Holiday to make this transition. Many argue whether we are a Christian Nation today. The argument that we are depends greatly on our historical origins and the intentions of our founding fathers. There can be no debate that our historical origins are British and that the intention of our colonial ancestors of the 17 and 18th centuries was to live according to the principles and values of Englishmen. Edmund Burke in 1775 said, "The people of the colonies are descendants of Englishmen. They are therefore not only devoted to liberty, but to liberty according to English ideas and on English principles."

In mid-18th century, "at least seven in ten were English in blood and virtually all their institutions, traditions, ideas and laws were English in origin and inspiration." Even though there were Scots and Irish, Germans and Dutch, as well as maybe 400,000 Africans in 1765, their dominant language, institutions and culture were English. Immigration was constant and the country booming in every way. The big attraction to all was freedom and liberty. Actually, by the time of the Revolution of 1776, the colonists had been enjoying liberty for many years and they were willing to fight, not to attain it, but to keep it. Liberty, the Rule of Law and self-government were all part of the English heritage that they were enjoying. They would not have their Rights as Englishmen taken from them. The Revolution was conservative. They would fight to conserve their rights as free subjects of the Crown, not to win them. The Crown was being radical, decreeing measures that violated those Rights. The Colonists were convinced that their God-given and natural Rights as Englishmen included constitutionalism, representative government, and the supremacy of law. The Crown was denying them these rights. King George had overstepped his boundaries and had to be stopped. [Read Clinton Rossiter, "A Revolution to Conserve"] It is important to see that the colonialists defined "Liberty" as freedom from the oppressive dictates and policies by a government that would deny us our rights as citizens. Liberty was not, and is not, freedom from all authority. The colonists very much believed in being subject to Law and a Constitution. "Freedom" is not a synonym for anarchy or a pretext for license ["Hey, it is a free country, I can do whatever I want!" No, No, NO!] It is this English concept of Freedom first formulated in the Magna Carta of 1215, itself grounded in Biblical Principles, that we celebrate today. We are not simply celebrating the Birth of this Nation or our "independence" from England. Particularly, we celebrate with gratitude our English ancestors' declaration that they would not be subject to a corrupt administration; they did want to be dependent on the English principles of constitutional Law and the freedom under that Law to pursue our inalienable rights as human beings. We dare not declare independence from that!! wonder if our neighbors playing with their illegal fireworks tonight (as well as those watching the official display downtown) understand any of this?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:01

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

### **JUST WONDERING...**

If anyone is choosing to repent of their sins and turn to God because of the devastation caused by the current floods and tornadoes in this country? Whether tough economic times is leading anyone to permanently cut back on their materialistic, hedonistic lifestyles? If people have learned that greed and overextending their reach is foolish and won't do it anymore? Whether teens who can't find jobs because they do not have the proper education because they dropped out, will go back to school to learn the skills necessary to qualify for the jobs that are available? If the price of fuel oil will become and remain high enough to make people choose to live and work closer to family, church and local community? If so, all these so-called hardships may turn out to be a blessing in disguise!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:40

### **SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPENS WIDE**

One parachurch organization my wife and I are glad to regularly support is Samaritan's Purse. Franklin Graham and his team seems to be doing an excellent work. His impressive current newsletter describes the generous and very timely relief work being done in both China and Burma, as well as ongoing efforts to share the Gospel. Samaritan Purse provides a solid testimony to the Grace and compassion of God <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:37

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

## **KING HEROD AND THE PRICE OF GAS AT THE PUMP**

Here's another side to the high price of gas at the pump that we rarely hear and another example about Civil Government overstepping its boundaries- and that, under pressure from the public to do so. [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2008/06/04/no\\_profits\\_no\\_oil/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/06/04/no_profits_no_oil/) Another area of concern is Civil Government and Universal Health Care And Housing, especially now the problem of Foreclosures And Education And Marriage And ... Generally speaking, the Civil Government has the God-given responsibility of protecting its citizens from crime and violence and threats to life, i.e.- Law & Order. It does not have a God-given responsibility to provide Welfare and Social Services from cradle to grave for everyone or to solve all our problems and troubles. We citizens are not entitled to all of that, though many believe they are. Those latter matters are the responsibility of individuals themselves and/or Parents, extended Families, Churches, Businesses and local Communities, i.e.- the Private Sector. "Beware Big Brother Big Government" is not just a simplistic bumper sticker slogan of paranoid Right Wingers, but is based on Biblical admonitions. The God we worship, trust and obey is not Civil Government! The latter is meant to serve Him, too, on His terms. Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they came to him in a body; ... they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. The people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!' And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. -Acts 12:19-23

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:55

Tuesday, June 3. 2008

## **A MAJOR DANGER IN DEALING WITH GLOBAL WARMING**

“An unprecedented radical government grab for control of the American economy will be debated this week when the Senate considers saving the planet by means of a cap-and-trade system to ration carbon emissions.”What many Christians are missing is the Biblical teaching about Civil Government. All government derives from God. The ultimate Government is on His shoulders. All valid power and authority belongs to Him. He has delegated some of His authority to rule to Husbands and Parents (within a Marriage and Family), other authority to the Church, still other authority to Civic Organizations (for organizing and maintaining the educational, economic, civic and cultural activities of a Community and then to Civil (State and Federal in America) Government itself. Each Sphere has its boundaries and is not to get cross over or interfere with the others. This is known as Sphere Sovereignty. In God's Plan, Civil Government has its purpose, but it is always seeking more- control over the other Spheres. When it does it is on the way to Totalitarianism and Citizens are on their way to Idolatry. All this means Christians should be very wary of civil government and its reach into our lives. Instead of doing that, many Christians welcome and seek an ever larger role for Civil Government over our daily lives (the other Spheres). We must be ever vigilant against Socialism. This is one of the major reasons we all should be very leary about the involvement of Civil Government in the matter of Global Warming. That there is climate change is true. How much of it is caused or even effected by Human Beings is debatable. That many people and organizations are into exploiting this issue for their own agenda and personal gain is undeniable. That Civil Government can use this issue for more control over our lives is very possible and probable. That is what George Will is writing about in this column. Read his column [here](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/30/AR2008053002521.html)<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/30/AR2008053002521.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:53

Tuesday, May 27. 2008

## **FOGGY SCIENCE**

Foggy Science In London By S. FRED SINGER Mr. Singer, a professor emeritus of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, is the former director of the U.S. Weather Satellite Service. As a reviewer of IPCC reports, he shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore. His most recent book is "Unstoppable Global Warming — Every 1500 Years." Tomorrow, May 24, the G-8 environment ministers will be in Japan to commence their annual meeting. Back in London, though, the world's oldest science academy, the Royal Society of London, recently has become a vocal advocate of climate alarmism.

The Royal Society purports to speak on behalf of a consensus of scientists. But no such consensus exists. Direct polling of climate scientists has shown that about 30% are "skeptical" of anthropogenic global warming. More than 31,000 American scientists recently signed the Oregon Petition, which expresses doubt about the major conclusions of the IPCC, and opposes the drastic mitigation demands of the Kyoto Protocol and the proposed "cap-and-trade" legislation of the U.S. Congress. My response to the RS is based on the work of some two dozen independent climate scientists from 16 nations who contributed to the report of the Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change, or NIPCC, titled "Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate." The above was taken from this link-<http://www.nysun.com/opinion/foggy-science-in-london/77404/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:42

## **HEADLINES WE DO NOT SEE**

'Terror On Wane,' 'Al-Qaida On Run' And Other Headlines You Won't See "As President Bush's term winds down, signs are there that the war on terror is being won. The conflict in Iraq is ebbing, and worldwide terror attacks are down. When will someone call it what it is? VICTORY." Read more here <http://www.ibdeditorials.com/IBDArticles.aspx?id=296349236777811>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:39

## **AN APPEALING APPEALS COURT DECISION**

"Texas officials alleged abuse among members of a polygamist sect. An appeals court disagreed. May 23, 2008" "Many of us find these people odd, their customs baffling. But the eagerness to brand the sect as abusers and molesters rang more of religious bias than of concern for the children. The breathless announcements about pregnant minors seemed naive at best when American cities are filled with teen mothers. It's not something to celebrate, but neither do we take their children away without cause or regularly charge their sexual partners with crimes." <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-polygamists23-2008may23,0,1616733.story>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:26

Sunday, May 25, 2008

## **MORE THAN 600,000 TO REMEMBER**

“Memorial Day ... commemorates U.S. men and women who have died in military service to their country. It began first to honor Union soldiers who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, it was expanded to include those who died in any war or military action.”[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)“Many Americans mistakenly believe that Veterans Day is the day America sets aside to honor American military personnel who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained from combat.” [Actually] “Veterans Day honors ALL American veterans, both living and dead. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country.”

<http://usmilitary.about.com/cs/generalinfo/a/veteransday.htm>Finding accurate statistics is difficult. There are many Sites offering figures that do not agree with each other. Main problem is definitions (!) The following list from Wikipedia seems accurate. But the link to official government statistics below is probably better.

	WAR	YEARS
COMBAT DEATHS	1	World War II 1941–1945 291,557
	2	American Civil War 1861–1865 212,938
	3	World War I 1917–1918 53,402
	4	Vietnam War 1964–1973 47,355
	5	Korean War 1950–1953 33,746
	6	American Revolutionary War 1775–1783 8,000
	7	Iraq War 2003–present 3,341 (as of 19/05/2008)
	8	War of 1812 1812–1815 2,260
	9	Mexican-American War 1846–1848 1,733
	10	Philippine War 1898–1902 1,020

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_casualties\\_of\\_war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_casualties_of_war)[http://www.fas.org/press/\\_docs/RL32492.pdf](http://www.fas.org/press/_docs/RL32492.pdf)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 07:29

Monday, May 19, 2008

## **EDUCATED FOOLS**

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Reading excerpts from the many speeches given at the College Commencement Ceremonies last weekend, I wanted to shout the truth of this Scripture . I was really disturbed to realize (again) that for the majority of the graduates, their newly acquired, hard earned and very expensive knowledge and preparation to now take on the world and make a great contribution to saving the earth and society does not in any way involve or require the fear of the Lord whatsoever. Such graduates, believing this, now go forth as educated fools. I thank God for the Christians, either teachers or students, who do believe Proverbs 1:7 is true and have based their knowledge and future careers on the Lord and His Word.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:38

## **SHAVING THE BURMESE**

If you think the travail of the Burmese people caused by the recent cyclone there is terrible, their normal life under the country's socialist, military dictators is worse for millions more all year round. Life in that country is rife with poverty, oppression, slavery, prostitution, forced labor and drug trafficking with no political, legal or economic freedoms. Ironically, the country is rich in natural resources. Visit this link for reference-<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bm.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:20

Saturday, May 10, 2008

### **PRAYER FOR THOSE SERVING US IN THE ARMED FORCES**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. --from BCP

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:37

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

## **GOD, MAN AND THE FOOD CRISIS**

Psalm 65 God and Agriculture: He provides You are to be praised, O God, in Zion, O God of our salvation, O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away. You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth. You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase. You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy. May the meadows cover themselves with flocks and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

On the Human side- Factors in the world food crisis "The surge [in market prices] is due to several factors, including increased demand in developing countries, higher fuel costs, ... the use of crops for biofuels, and speculation on global commodity markets." <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/> In addition to the above factors, there are others here in USA: Profits and subsidies for farmers, profits for seed and fertilizer developers and suppliers as well as Federal Government policies and regulations. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/28/Anything-we-can-change-here-What-does-the-Bible-say-Study-the-Scripture-in-the-next-two-Posts-\(below\)](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/28/Anything-we-can-change-here-What-does-the-Bible-say-Study-the-Scripture-in-the-next-two-Posts-(below))

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:29

## **THE FOUR HORSEMEN ARE RIDING TODAY. WHO ARE THEY?**

Revelation 6 1 I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. 3 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" 4 Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword. 5 When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. 6 Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!" 7 When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8 I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:24

## **ROGATION DAY AND THE FOOD CRISIS**

Yesterday in the Church Calendar was Rogation Day. Originally, in England, it was a day of walking about the fields and praying for God's blessing on the land and coming Harvest. The Word of the Lord for the day included the following. It is addressed to the Israelites. I believe it applies to America as well. It has direct application to the growing oil and food crisis.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today [The Torah] all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God: Blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your ground. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading-bowl. The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. The Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give you. The Lord will open for you his rich storehouse, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all your undertakings. You will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. ... if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I am commanding you today, by diligently observing them, and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I am commanding you today, either to the right or to the left, following other gods to serve them.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:19

Sunday, April 27, 2008

## **MORE ON THE MORMON DEBACLE**

I am still very troubled by what the State of Texas has done to the children, families and church (i.e.- the members of the Yearning for Zion Ranch) Read this news report. I find it scary. Apparently the anonymous phone call from an alleged abused teen that started this episode was not from an abused teen at the ranch at all, but from an adult unconnected with the ranch. I am not surprised. Nor am I surprised that some over zealous State workers jumped at the excuse the call gave them to invade the Ranch and snatch over 400 children out of their homes and away from their parents and go on to disperse them around the State in foster care. Reading the article we learn the State will not act on the original complaint of child abuse. Dropping that, they are now justifying their actions based on the State's judgment that the culture [Religion] of the Ranch endangered the children.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/26/AR2008042601742.html?wpisrc=newsletter>

They are especially concerned that young teens were having babies, even though those teens and their babies were part of extended families and had the support of a community which provided a physically healthy and secure environment in which to live. I wonder what the State would think and do about all the babies born to single teenagers and growing up on their own, financially supported by Welfare, living in poor housing with inadequate healthcare in crime ridden neighborhoods or homeless, here in Springfield and in dozens of other cities around the Nation. Could the real motive in Texas be animus against a Religion and a cultural bias against simple, rural living without TVs and video games and the different way those Mormons dress. Oh, such deprivation! "Now comes a legal fight with a twist. The state will argue that the sect's children are at risk at the compound, but not because every one of them has been physically or sexually abused. Instead, they will say that the culture of the church,... was a danger to any child immersed in it." [my emphasis] If the real issue is arranged or forced marriage of underage teens, which is illegal, there had to be other ways to enforce the law, on a case by case basis, without uprooting all those children or causing such pain to their mothers. To justify the violent abuse of these children in one (State approved) way because they were allegedly abused in another (State disapproved) way is unconscionable. As I have said before, if the State can do this to these folks, they could do the same to other Religions and Families. We should be very concerned!" "The children are in a position to no longer on a daily basis be influenced by adults who have encouraged a code of silence," said Darrell Azar, a spokesman for Child Protective Services. "Now that they are away from that influence they may become more comfortable, and we will have a better chance of learning the truth." "Who are the adults this spokesman refers to as the influence the children must be taken away from? Could that be their mothers? Hmmn yes, we should be very concerned." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:02

Monday, April 14. 2008

## **"PROTESTANTS" AND THE POPE**

Echoing the concept of the seven cardinal vices -- set to paper by Pope Gregory I in the sixth century... The Vatican has put together a list of seven "social" sins. The seven social sins include 1. [abortion] 2. [embryonic] stem cell research 3. Drug abuse 4. Polluting the environment The original deadly sins: 1. Pride 2. Envy 3. Gluttony 4. Lust 5. Anger 6. Greed 7. Sloth I hope that all those who plan on demonstrating this week at appearances of Pope Benedict here in the United States, against pedophilia among Clergy and for "Gay Marriage" and the ordination of women to the Priesthood will also express moral outrage against the personal and social sins listed by the Vatican and perhaps practiced by many of them NOTE: The common meaning of "protestant" is one who protests- speaks against". It also can mean the opposite- one who, literally, testifies for (pro) something. The 16th Century Reformers were of the latter group, not the former. The spoke out in assent on behalf of the Doctrines of Grace.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:29

## **BEWARE BIG BROTHER**

OK, I do not agree with polygamy or child abuse. Granted. But something about the raid and kidnapping and warehousing of children by the federal Government bothers me, too. Shades of Waco. We had friends we with adopted teen daughters. One of them was angry with her parents for making her do homework and keeping a curfew on school nights. She made "a phone call" to authorities and charged her loving parents with child abuse. Those authorities were soon at the door and weeks of accusations and investigation followed- all pursued by some over zealous social workers responding to charges trumped up by an angry teen who wanted to go out with her friends instead of doing her homework.

Christians need to be far more concerned (read, fearful and wary) about "Big Brother" than they are. The greatest evil in the Bible is idolatry and the greatest false god is Civil Government that assumes unscriptural authority over its citizens- the Totalitarian State. Remember the Beast from the Sea in Revelation 13. He is not Charley the Tuna or a laughing matter at all! Along with many others, Christians worship Civil Government. They look to it for security and provision from cradle to the grave. Something, anything, that goes wrong in our society or country, the first to blame is that Government. Then we demand that it fix everything. Multitudes are totally dependent on the Civil Government as though it were their "God". That is idolatry and Christians are as guilty of it as anyone. There is a scriptural place for the State, but only a place. Remembering the "Sovereignty of the spheres", Marriage and Family have government, Church has government and Business has government. All have God-given responsibilities that must be respected, each by the other. That includes Civil Government (the State) The more separate, although co-operative, they are, the better. If the State (or the feds) can come on like gangbusters and run rampant over one church and hundreds of marriages and families in one place, BEWARE. They can do the same in another- maybe where you live or worship.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:46

## **REALITY CHECK: What Crisis? Who's Crisis?**

Another healthy dose of realism from George Will re. the so-called Housing Crisis <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/11/AR2008041103250.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:44

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

## **NEW UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**

Books and Culture currently features 3 interesting reviews of important books about the American Civil War. They are relevant to current History as well.<http://www.christianitytoday.com/books/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:47

## **PRAYING FOR TIBETANS**

Tibet has been in the media recently due to the Chinese Government's violent reaction to Tibetan protestors. While many talk about a US boycott of the Olympics because of the Chinese treatment of Tibetans, we at AFM hope you can pray for those few Tibetan believers and the many Amdo Tibetans who have not yet turned to Christ during this traumatic season. With Easter wishes to you, Julian Linnell, PhD, Executive Director Anglican Frontier Missions O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the Amdo Tibetans who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus; and grant that they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son. AMEN 5.4 million Tibetans Worldwide- 80% Lama Buddhism interwoven with pre-Buddhist Bon religion- 0.01% Christian- 3 main dialog areas: Lhasa, Khamba, Amdo- 620AD Lamaistic Buddhism introduced to Tibet- 1950 Chinese Army invaded Tibet: systematically destroyed Tibetan culture, religion, with loss of possibly 1 million Tibetan lives. About 500,000 Tibetans live in exile in Nepal, India and the West.- Before 1950s, about 2700 Buddhist temples and 110,000 monks- Today, about 1780 Buddhist temples and 46,000 monks- Dalai Lama (lit. 'ocean of wisdom') is considered god-King and highest priest of Lamaistic Buddhism\*Sources: World Christian Encyclopedia, Operation World

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:22

## **SURVEYS CAN BE WRONG**

"World Opinion" is not reliable indicator of how USA is doing in the world

<http://www.creators.com/opinion/mona-charen.html?columnsName=mch>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 06:56

Saturday, March 29, 2008

## **McCain on the MORTGAGE CRISIS**

Greed and irresponsibility are vices- they create bad behavior and dangerous outcomes. People with these vices definitely should not be rewarded and non greedy and responsible people should not be made to bail them out of the consequences of their poor decisions. That's true in general, but I am thinking of the housing crisis. Here is a good article comparing the presidential candidates' proposals on the subject <http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=ZTQ4Y2YyNjcyMzk5MTYwYjBkMDUzN2QzYzNiZjFjMDY=>"McCain's approach ... is to avoid policies that reward irresponsible behavior; to increase transparency in the financial markets; and to allow the Federal Reserve to act only when a systemic crisis appears likely." "In McCain's formulation, irresponsible lending and borrowing created the problem, and uncertainty is at the root of its spread throughout the financial community. If accurate, this diagnosis demonstrates the folly of the Democrats' proposed cures, which would reward irresponsibility and increase uncertainty among investors." Here is an occasion for application of Biblical Values in Public Policy and Biblical Principles to Economic Policy

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:01

Thursday, February 7, 2008

**BEING REALISTIC ABOUT OUR CHOICES FOR PRESIDENT**

<http://article.nationalreview.com/http://article.nationalreview.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:45

Friday, January 18, 2008

## **I WILL NOT SPEND TO SAVE THE ECONOMY**

From what I hear and read, the best thing I can do to prevent a Recession in America is to spend money and buy things. This, in spite of the fact that a major reason we are supposedly having such economic problems is the allegedly failed housing market [it has not failed in this area] caused by many people spending far too much and now unable to pay their mortgages. It is also in spite of the oft repeated reports that Americans should be faulted for failure to save money for a rainy day. At any rate, our Government plea for us to spend money and be more active as hedonistic consumers of this world's materialist goods is an affront to my values as a Christian. Yes, maybe our economy requires massive spending by consumers. That doesn't make it right or good. Rather, that is the never ending, dog chasing tail, way of life that got us in this mess in the first place. The Bible calls us to be an industrious, but thrifty, people who pay their bills and live a simple, non-materialistic life, practicing self denial and restraint, giving a large percent of our money away to serve others in need. If that ruins our economy, so be it. I do not and will not rush out to spend money on things I do not personally need. I certainly will not do it to save an economy that is faltering because millions of my fellow citizens have been doing exactly that. I certainly will not do it to save Babylon. By the way, if the unemployment rate is 5%, that means the employment rate is 95%. And just because earnings (or production or sales) are not as high as expected, maybe the problem is that the expectations were far too high to begin with- maybe driven by greedy stockholders or owners who want bigger mansions. If the expectations were too high, not reaching them does not create a crisis. It calls for realistic adjustments and lower expectations. We must get off this addiction to always having more!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:21

Sunday, January 13, 2008

## **BARAK OBAMA'S RELIGION**

There has been concern about the Religion of Mitt Romney. The first link has interesting information about the Faith of Barak Obama. The check out the second link to learn more about the Church to which he belongs.<http://www.leithart.com/archives/003444.php><http://www.tucc.org/home.htm>Especially check out Dr. Wright's (Senior Pastor) Talking Points for Trinity United Church of Christ and read about The Black Value System

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:54

Monday, December 17, 2007

## **ROMNEY FOR PRESIDENT**

The Editors of the conservative National Review endorse Mitt Romney as the best viable candidate among Republicans running for the nomination.  
<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=YmMxYTUyYzA1YTk2YzE5NGVmNjc0OGFjYWJmNzMzMzNjI=&p=1>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:53

Friday, November 30, 2007

### **FEAR NOT THE COMPASS?**

Many Christians are disturbed about a movie coming out soon: The Golden Compass. They have very legitimate concerns. Here is a well reasoned and sensible article about how we can approach this movie. He says, "fear not". Read the entire article to understand why. He advocates an approach which requires not only wisdom and grace, but also education and sophistication on the part of the viewer and very careful, thoughtful guidance by parents with their children who may view the film- a very tall order. If these essentials are missing, better advice would be to skip [but not condemn] the movie. It is very well done. The problem comes from getting hooked and making folks want to see the two films which will follow and which could be unsettling for people who do not have the critical tools of the CT Reviewer<http://www.christianitytoday.com/movies/commentaries/fearnotthecompass.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:31

### **SIGN OF THE TIMES**

The building that once was home to Springfield's only Christian Bookstore is expected to soon become the site of a Starbucks! This will provide grounds for Pastoral Pundits to percolate for their next homiletical brew, whipped up with the milk of the Word.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:03

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

## **"EVANGELICALS AND EVIL EMPIRES"- 2 APPROACHES**

Twice, I have outlined on this Blog what I believe are the key Biblical qualifications for the best candidate for President (of course, there is also the need for personal character and integrity, trustworthiness and honesty, intelligence, leadership ability, speaking ability and, oh yes, elect-ability). Those Biblical qualifications include being pro-life and pro-traditional marriage (i.e.- the marriage of a man and a woman) Foreign Policy, particularly waging some kind of war against radical Islam is not one of the Biblical qualifications.

However, that does not seem to bother many evangelicals. According to this analysis of Pat Robertson's endorsement of Rudy Giuliani, many evangelicals believe Islam [or radical Islam] is the threat to America and Christianity that Communism once was (and which they strongly opposed). They are willing to sacrifice the other issues for it and therefore, like Mr. Robertson, they will support Mr. Giuliani in spite of the man's unbiblical views on abortion and "gay marriage" (and a few other matters as well, such as his history of marital problems).

[http://www.opinionjournal.com/taste/?id=110010868&mod=RSS\\_Opinion\\_Journal&ojrss=frontpage&ojpartner=wsj\\_hpp](http://www.opinionjournal.com/taste/?id=110010868&mod=RSS_Opinion_Journal&ojrss=frontpage&ojpartner=wsj_hpp)  
On the other hand, many evangelicals, including some nationally known Leaders, apparently do not see Islam as a major threat to be resisted and have endorsed a new effort to reconcile Muslims and Christians on the basis that they all believe in love of God and neighbor (significantly, no distinction is made between Islam and radical Islam or Muslims and terrorist Muslims or, for that matter, between different types of Christians)  
<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20071123/30194.htm><http://www.yale.edu/faith/about-commonword.htm>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:06

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

**GOD HAS ABUNDANTLY BLESSED US**

May our Thanksgiving Day be a day for which we give thanks!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:38

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

## **GO PHISH**

Here is a fun way to learn about phishing recommended by my webmaster [http://cups.cs.cmu.edu/antiphishing\\_phil/quiz/index.html](http://cups.cs.cmu.edu/antiphishing_phil/quiz/index.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:45

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

## **THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT**

A good candidate for President should support basic human rights as defined in the Bible (especially in the Torah) These are the rights to life, marriage and family, work, ownership of property, privacy, due process when accused of crime (a fair and honest trial) and freedom to worship God. Any politician who endorses or enables oppression, cruelty or unwarranted violence\* or who would deny anyone their basic human rights should not themselves be endorsed. \* I believe the federal Government has the right to wage a just war in the protection of its citizens, as well as to administer capital punishment to confessed and convicted murderers. All this would be warranted violence. We should give priority to the issues of basic Justice, as defined Biblically. That means Christians should support candidates (and legislation) that are anti-abortion, anti-eugenics (anti-embryonic stem cell research) anti-human cloning and anti-euthanasia; pro-traditional (man and woman only) marriage; pro-parental authority; pro-business and the free market as well as fair, non-discriminatory labor laws; equitable and fair taxation (which would require limiting entitlement programs, minimizing the "Welfare State", as well as balancing the budget); less surveillance of citizens (less "Big Brother"); reform of the courts and legal system; and an end to restriction on public worship and expressions of belief in God. I believe these are Biblical guidelines for selecting the best candidate for our next president. Taken together, they sound like a candidate who is both a social and an economic conservative. This means many Republicans do not qualify. In addition, if there is a choice among several possible good candidates (as defined above), I believe we should add the additional qualification of elect-ability or, put another way, the one who has the best chance to defeat the Democratic Party Candidate. [For me, the best choice is still Mitt Romney. I agree Mike Huckabee has a lot to offer, but I am guessing he could not beat the Democratic front runners.]

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:53

Monday, November 12, 2007

## **THE LAND OF THE FREE**

Last week, we remembered the souls of our dearly departed. Included among them are those saints of the Church upon whose shoulders we stand. Yesterday, many churches remembered those Christians who have become martyrs around the world in our own time. Today, most Americans, Believers and non-Believers alike, remembered and honored in our hearts, and recalled in our thoughts of year gone by, all those who have served our Country in our Military, particularly our loved ones [thank you, Norm] and especially those who actually died in or because of our Wars. We recognize our immense debt to them all. We literally, would not be here today without their sacrifice. We know we are the Home of the Brave, but we repay them by laboring and living in such ways that will preserve America as the Land of the Free.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 23:10

Saturday, November 3, 2007

### **PATRIOTS (no, not the football Team)**

Last night, my wife and I enjoyed a wonderful free concert. The Marine Band, in sharp red and blue dress uniforms, was here and they are as good as it gets- perfect performance from musical professionals! They played pieces by Mennin, Williams, Dvorak, Ives and Berntein. Of course the audience favorites were the marches by John Philip Sousa. The program concluded with a rousing salute to the Armed Forces of the United States of America. This was an emotional, heart in the throat, rendition of the official "songs" of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Marines. People who have served, or have family members who have, stood at the appropriate time. Almost everyone did. Very moving, patriotic experience! There was one very sad and troubling note. There might have been 1000 people jammed into the auditorium. Almost all of us were "old white folks". The population here is mostly "People of Color". Why weren't they there? And why were there almost no youth at all ( I counted maybe a dozen) and very few middle agers? We were sitting with a passing generation. Will the youth of today ever experience the pride of being Americans and serving their Country like these old-timers?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:32

Monday, October 29, 2007

## **CELEBRATING THE RED...**

I won't rub it in: the Red Sox are the World Champions, again! One lesson of life for those who supported the Other Team might simply be, "You win some and you lose some. Oh well- keep going, keep trying." Of course, now you could root for the Patriots. For the sports fans here, this is a great time to be a New Englander. For everyone here, the view outdoors is magnificent! Foliage is at its peak and it is absolutely perfect! Awesome display of Beauty that glorifies the Creator. My brother is an Artist. God is, too. Color (red or not), creativity, imagination and design are things Christians should celebrate for God's sake.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:05

## **PLAYING WITH FIRE**

"A headline in the Los Angeles Times pretty much said it all: 'Maddening Intense Blazes Met Explosive Suburban Growth.'" This is from a column today by Richard Reeves. Our local paper ran it with the title "Playing with fire, getting burned""The results were predictable: Fifteen big "brush" fires, more than 600 square miles burned, more than 1,800 buildings reduced to ashes, hundreds of thousands of people running for their lives, cost about a billion dollars. There is no mystery about any of this. The Times headline was perfect because it caught the relationship between man and nature in disaster, whether fire, flood, earthquake or global warming. What nature does is inevitable; all these things were happening with maddening regularity long before there were upright bipeds running around making them better or worse."

"Southern California is, in fact, a great laboratory for the study of the interaction between nature and man, our attempts to manipulate nature for pleasure and profit. Left on its own, the climate, flora and fauna of this stretch of Pacific coast is a paradise suitable for hundreds of thousands, ... Of course, tens of millions are crammed in now, fighting nature and each other for every shovelful of land and drop of water. So stuff happens, as it did last week from Malibu to northern Mexico." Read the rest of Mr. Reeves column here-[http://www.richardreeves.com/latest\\_column.html](http://www.richardreeves.com/latest_column.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:33

Saturday, October 27, 2007

## **PRIORITIES IN PICKING A PRESIDENT**

It requires Special Revelation via the Scripture to know the Gospel; nevertheless "Natural Law" exists and it is the basis God has for holding pagan Nations accountable for their actions. For example, study the first chapter of Amos which records God's judgment coming on those pagan Nations guilty of violence, oppression, cruelty in their treatment of other Nations and people groups (e.g.- slave trading). Natural Law, particularly, Natural Moral Law, is about Justice. That is God's yardstick for every Nation. Instead of politicking and seeking legislation to make this a Christian Country, our goal should be to make it a Country wherein there is Justice (as measured by God's standards) for all. This gives us a major principle to use in deciding which candidates to support in the coming national election. Likewise, this goal gives us a guideline to use in evaluating legislation and government policies. Who will work for Justice? What will enable Justice?

Any politician who endorses or enables oppression, cruelty or unwarranted violence (I believe the federal Government has the right to wage a just war in the protection of its citizens, as well as to administer capital punishment to confessed and convicted murderers. All this would be warranted violence) or who would deny anyone their basic human rights should, in turn, be denied. The candidate for President should support basic human rights as defined in the Bible (especially in the Torah) These are the rights to life, marriage and family, work, ownership of property, privacy, due process when accused of crime (a fair and honest trial) and freedom to worship God. The main concern of most citizens is the Iraq War (ending it) and second (according to recent polls) is the economy (jobs- fear of a Depression), followed by health care (especially insurance coverage). However, I believe we should give priority to the issues of basic Justice, as defined Biblically. That means Christians should support candidates and legislation that are anti-abortion, anti-eugenics (anti-embryonic stem cell research) and anti-euthanasia; pro-traditional (man and woman only) marriage and parental authority; pro-business and the free market as well as fair, non-discriminatory labor laws; less taxation (which would require limiting entitlement programs as well as a balanced budget); less surveillance of citizens ("Big Brother"); reform of the courts and legal system; and an end to restriction on public worship and expressions of belief in God.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:06

## **ROMNEY FOR PRESIDENT?**

In light of what I have written above, I am inclined to think that Mitt Romney might be the best candidate for our next president. I am also persuaded by this well-reasoned article by Wayne Grudem that Mr Romney is probably the best person among the current candidates for the position. <http://www.crosswalk.com/news/commentary/11557559/page1/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:57

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

## **OUR "OTHER" TROOPS IN IRAQ**

We have a national debate about the number of troops in Iraq and when to bring them home. We hear various accounts about how many are necessary to get the job done and what they are costing the taxpayers. Until now, very little has been mentioned in Congress or the media about the "other troops" we have stationed in Iraq. Frankly, I was shocked to learn of the numbers involved and have serious questions about these paramilitary operations, which I understand are now essential to the war effort. "There are now more private contractors working in Iraq than U.S. soldiers serving there. Many are not U.S. citizens. Triple Canopy, another private firm, usually hires Peruvians to man the checkpoints inside the International Zone and Ugandans to guard distant airbases. The Peruvians, known as "incas" among Americans there, usually do not speak English"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/04/AR2006120401311.html>[http://www.pajamasmedia.com/2007/09/cia\\_shut\\_down\\_in\\_iraq.php](http://www.pajamasmedia.com/2007/09/cia_shut_down_in_iraq.php)

"In a House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing on March 29, 2007, both Secretary Robert Gates and DoD Comptroller Tina Jonas confirmed that there are currently around 126,000 private contractors doing business in Iraq. Secretary Gates estimated that only 20 percent, or around 25,000, are U.S. citizens, although the remaining 101,000 Iraqi citizens and third party nationals work for companies operating under U.S. government contracts." <http://theiraqinsider.blogspot.com/2007/05/how-many-private-contractors-in-iraq.html> In addition, there are CIA operatives and Special Operations Forces in Iraq-<http://www.fas.org/man/crs/RS22017.pdf><http://www.fas.org/irp/eprint/stone.pdf>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:55

Thursday, September 20, 2007

## **RACISM RAISES ITS UGLY HEAD- THE JENA SIX**

I have been dismayed to read of the Jena 6. The story sure sounds like an example of true old time racism, with 6 African American teens being treated very unjustly by the white power structure of a small southern town and County in Louisiana. The news about what is happening there has been spread by Black radio talk shows and DJ's and on the internet by Black bloggers. More than 40,000 people are due to converge on Jena today to protest the very unfair treatment of these boys. One of them has been in jail for a year now, although the original charges against him have been dropped. My concern here is why I never heard of this story in our local news. For that matter, I only heard of it in the national news yesterday. And today's Washington Post carries the story. It was repeated in the Boston Globe <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/19/AR2007091900769.html?wpisrc=newsletterHow> many other serious stories go unreported in the media, although they report constantly the woes of certain celebrities (ad nauseum)?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:34

Thursday, September 13, 2007

## **DO NEWSPAPERS HAVE A LIBERAL BIAS?**

...“conservatives retain a clear advantage over their progressive counterparts on a national level. When American newspaper readers turn to the op-ed page of their local newspaper each day, the syndicated columnists they see there are more likely to be conservative.”“The top 10 columnists as ranked by the number of papers in which they are carried include five conservatives, two centrists, and only three progressives.” “The top 10 columnists as ranked by the total circulation of the papers in which they are published also include five conservatives, two centrists, and only three progressives.” The most published and influential syndicated columnist by far is George Will, a conservative. The other most popular and widely published syndicated columnists include Kathleen Parker, Ellen Goodman, Leonard Pitts, David Broder, Cal Thomas, Charles Krauthammer, Thomas Friedman, Maureen Dowd and David Brooks. That is a mix of conservative, middle and liberal. Do you know who is which? “In 38 states, the conservative voice is greater than the progressive voice -- in other words, conservative columns reach more readers in total than progressive columns. In only 12 states is the progressive voice greater than the conservative voice.”“In three out of the four broad regions of the country -- the West, the South, and the Midwest -- conservative syndicated columnists reach more readers than progressive syndicated columnists. Only in the Northeast do progressives reach more readers, and only by a margin of 2 percent.”

These are some of the unexpected findings of a very extensive survey done by a liberal media watchdog group, Media Matters for America, especially to those of us who believe the Media generally has a Liberal bias. Search the entire Report here- <http://mediamatters.org/reports/oped/report>What is not reported is the bias of the local papers' Publisher or Editors and the choice of stories covered in the news and living sections, including choice of Titles and vocabulary and the page or section where they are placed. And then there are the photographs and editorial page cartoons chosen and the selection of letters from readers published. Even advertizing can show bias. Bias is every where. Reader beware!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:01

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

## **HOW CAN MUSLIMS KILL OTHER MUSLIMS?**

As the Nation remembers 9/11, here is a review of a recommended book about possible causes of that event not heard about in the media. The book reviewed (which I have not read) discusses the concept of takfir and that is relevant to Christians. Islam forbids killing of Muslims by Muslims. Many of the victims in the World trade Towers were Muslims and of course the victims of bombings by Muslim terrorists in Iraq are Muslims. How is this possible? takfir Certain groups of Muslims decide that they alone are the true Muslims and others who claim to be are not. It is permissible for the true Believers to kill the false ones. Hmm. Through the years, Christians have made this same pernicious judgment about other Christians (e.g.- in our War Between the States)<http://www.christianitytoday.com/books/features/bookwk/070319.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:04

## **ISLAM 101**

When the DaVinci Code book and movie made their short-lived splash on the scene, evangelical churches everywhere heard sermons and sponsored public study groups on the alleged threat to The Faith. One of the outcomes of 9/11 should be an urgency to study and understand Islam and so-called radical Muslims as well as renewed commitment to communicate the Gospel to all Muslims. Has there been? This is far more important and crucial than the DaVinci Code fiasco was. I believe we have much to learn from them as well as to share with them.[http://www.ctlibrary.com/6305Cultural Causes for Islamic Terrorist Anger with America](http://www.ctlibrary.com/6305CulturalCausesforIslamicTerroristAngerwithAmerica) (includes links to several resources)<http://www.ctlibrary.com/34308>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:59

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

## **HEROES?**

Words are constantly being inflated and robbed of their traditional meaning. Currently, the word "hero" is one of them. It is commonly used for anyone in uniform who has lost life or limb and increasingly used for anyone who simply completes a tour of duty in the military. Of course, it is also used of sports figures and "good guys" in comic books, action games and as the title of a current TV hit show. (It is even the name of a grinder sandwich.) It is important to use the noun properly in order to honor those who truly are heroes. If everyone is a hero, no one is a hero.

HERO [definitions from 3 dictionaries] person noted for feats of courage, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life a person noted for courageous action a person distinguished by exceptional courage COURAGE [definitions from 2 dictionaries] the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery a quality of spirit that enables you to face danger or pain without showing fear A Hero is a person who has demonstrated by his or her actions the ability to face danger or pain without showing fear; a person who has demonstrated courage and bravery in action. The highest form of such action is risking or sacrificing one's life for others. The key here is doing this knowingly or voluntarily. A victim of an accident is a victim, not a hero. Knowingly going into a situation where accidents are possible (e.g.- the fire fighters who recently lost their lives in Boston in a restaurant fire) is not necessarily heroic. That could simply be stupidity or recklessness or "obeying orders" or an attempt to make good money. If they become victims of an accident, they are victims. That is not to take away from the tragedy, but it does not make the victims heroes, by the dictionary definition of "hero". There is a difference between going to work everyday, facing the risks as a coal miner (granted, dangerous or unhealthy work) in order to support one's family (and "because we proudly come from a family of miners", although that often means, "We don't know any other kind of work" ) and voluntarily going into the shaft after an accident to rescue other miners from death, knowing that doing so could take your own life. Everyone who puts on a uniform (military, police officer, fire fighter, paramedic or ER nurse, mail carrier, etc) is not a hero. There is some risk involved (of varying degrees) for all who do. But, there must be a difference between someone who does this to make money and who hopes and tries to avoid all the risks and those who voluntarily place their life on the line, "above and beyond", in a known dangerous situation of high risk for the purpose of saving someone else's life. The latter is a true hero. We do not want to diminish that. If everyone is a hero, no one is a hero. This leaves the question as to why the family and friends of victims all seem to want to think of their departed loved one as some kind of hero. Perhaps, it is an effort to bring meaning to the tragedy. Perhaps using the name, "Hero", is an attempt to justify the death and gives the victim some dignity and honor in their mind and that brings comfort. Maybe, but it is the wrong name and the reality is that some tragic deaths are not justified, do not have meaning or dignity. They are just that- "tragedy: a lamentable, dreadful, or fatal event or affair; calamity; disaster" -Dictionary For me, Jesus is the ultimate Hero. He purposely gave his life so that others may live and it is through Him and his triumph over death that we can deal with tragedy.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 07:40

Monday, August 20, 2007

### **DON'T BELIEVE ALL YOU READ IN THE NEWS**

Here are two more very good articles expressing the minority view about Global Warming. My main concern is not actually with that topic, but rather with the topic of propaganda and media bias. We see it on the topic of the war on Terrorism and dozens of other matters. So I post these two links as part of my cautionary tale and concern that we not be duped and carried away with popular, oft repeated media stories about anything. [http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2007/08/15/hot\\_temper\\_on\\_global\\_warmin](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2007/08/15/hot_temper_on_global_warmin) [g/http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2007/08/19/warming\\_debate\\_scene\\_1\\_take\\_2/](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2007/08/19/warming_debate_scene_1_take_2/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:10

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

## **POLITICAL ILLUSIONS**

Chuck Colson, in the current CT, discusses the presidential campaign and warns Christians of the "Political Illusion" that Jacques Ellul warned us about some 35 years ago. Mr Colson mentions favorably the neo-Calvinist concept of Sovereign Spheres which I find very helpful in working out a Christian view of civil government. Find his column here-<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2007/august/11.64.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:46

Tuesday, July 3, 2007

### **COMMUTATION OR PARDON?**

To hear his outraged critics, President Bush considers himself above the Law. The latest example is his pardoning of "Scooter" Libby, a convicted felon. This is blatant cronyism, they say. Wait a minute. Here is another case of wrong definitions. Mr Bush did not pardon Mr . Libby. He commuted the prison time to which the Judge sentenced him, and that, only after the Judge refused to delay the execution of that prison sentence while Mr Libby appealed his case. Mr Libby remains a convicted felon. He will lose his license to practice law- his profession and career. He must pay a large fine and serve two years probation. He has not been pardoned. Part of his sentence has been commuted and it is legal for the President to do this. He will serve the rest of his sentence. As I have said umpteen times, proper definitions and using the correct word in an argument are very important. Two local churches are co-sponsoring a workshop this month about sharing the Gospel. Well and good. I wonder how the Leader will define "Gospel", especially as this workshop is geared to post moderns and they, typically, eschew the use of propositional, i.e.- doctrinal statements, absolutes and claims to true Truth. Rather, they prefer friendship evangelism and influencing others by personal relationship and example. They usually define Salvation as simply having a personal 1:1 relationship with Jesus. This is very inadequate, to say the least. No matter what the methods taught in this workshop to share the Gospel, if the Gospel they are sharing is not defined Scripturally, the workshop is for nothing. I have no idea how the Leader of this workshop will define Gospel, (their leaflet does not say) but I hope they will not confuse God's full pardon of sin for commutation of some of sin's just punishment.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:10

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

### **CREATIONISM: THREAT TO HUMAN RIGHTS?**

These are excerpts from an article in the Washington Times yesterday—"Europe's primary human rights body will vote on a proposal this week to defend the teaching of Darwinian evolution and keep creationist and intelligent design views out of science classes in state schools in its 47 member countries. The unusual move shows that a U.S. trend for religiously based challenges to the theory of evolution is worrying European politicians, who now see such arguments put forward in their countries by Christian and Muslim groups. A report for the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly said the campaign against evolution has its roots 'in forms of religious extremism' and is a dangerous attack on scientific knowledge. 'Today, creationists of all faiths are trying to get their ideas accepted in Europe,' it said. "If we are not careful, creationism could become a threat to human rights." "The teaching of all phenomena concerning evolution as a fundamental scientific theory is therefore crucial to the future of our societies and our democracies," the resolution said.'

"<http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070624/FOREIGN/106240032/1001>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:52

Saturday, June 16, 2007

### **A JIHAD FOR JESUS ANYONE?**

I am flumoxed by people who both oppose the Iraq War and see no connection between it and Terrorism and who seem to be in denial that there is any genuine treat to America from Radical Islamic Terrorists. Occasionally 9/11 is remembered, but usually to argue that the War is not connected with it. Most people I know do not consider themselves to be engaged in a war to the death with these Radicals. If the War has nothing to do with combating them, what does? Covert operations of Homeland Security? If our troops were to be withdrawn from Iraq next Winter, would that end the threat to our country? Of course not. What will? If Christ, the Gospel, is the answer will the Church mount a massive effort to preach that Gospel among Muslims? If not, why not?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:08

### **SUPPORT OR SABOTAGE?**

What does the phrase, "support our troops" mean? People who oppose the current war in Iraq and those who believe it is just and necessary all say they support our troops. Each means something different by the phrase. One group means support troops, but not the war they fight. In fact, many "support" the troops, not as soldiers conducting the war, but as people, particularly as themselves victims of the War. This support (cards, gifts, news stories of their suffering and coverage of their Funerals) is often in fact, really a way many show their distain for the War and Mr. Bush who is, they insist, personally putting these people, aka soldiers, into harms way. However, opposing the War usually means vilifying the military actions of these troops- calling that action terrorism and oppression of innocent Iraqi citizens. Opposing the War usually include demands for withdrawal of the troops. That would mean leaving their objectives unfinished and thus rendering their military action meaningless. That would leave them wondering why they fought, suffered and died fighting the War in the first place. How is all of this supporting them as human beings?

It is ironic that those opposing the War are inadvertently using the slogan that Evangelicals have made popular: "Love the sinner, but hate the sin". The above argument reveals that sometimes, this slogan is impossible to carry out in practice. Sometimes, the "sinner and the sin" are inseparable. The only way we can truly support the troops is to support what they do as troops. Supporting them requires supporting the War. Giving them all the resources they need to successfully accomplish their military objectives. Personally, I never have understood or appreciated people, over the years, who have told me that they love and support me personally, but can not agree with what I have preached or done as a Pastor. I would rather have my work valued more and be "supported" less.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:05

Sunday, May 27, 2007

## **HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE GOD AND COUNTRY**

There was a couple on the news show this morning. They were serious, as they said that Memorial Day for them has always been a picnic and pool party in celebration of the Beginning of Summer. Not this year. They lost a son serving our Country in Iraq. Now, they said, they understand what Memorial Day is about. By far, the most memorable, special and patriotic Memorial Day weekends have been those spent with our daughter, Mindy and her family, when Norm was serving in the Navy, in his 20 year career, and we were able to visit them, where they were stationed. Around here, many are just doing the Holiday fun thing or they are busy protesting the war in Iraq. We constantly hear or read the outrage of many about this War and what sounds like sheer hatred for the Commander in Chief (certainly they have no respect for him whatsoever). This emotion and speech often translates into very derogatory remarks and accusations against America itself, as the aggressor Nation, even a "terrorist" Nation, hell-bent on oppressing and dominating other (usually "poor") nations around the world. It all becomes very depressing, as well as disturbing, to say the very least. I am constantly thankful for all those in uniform who are serving our Country (you and me), especially those who have paid to do that with their life or limbs. I have never prayed more often for any President, than I do for Mr Bush. That is Biblical, as well as patriotic. We can have honest debate about this War, but those wearing the uniform are sworn to obey and sacrifice and they do. We should honor them, no matter what, for doing their duty to God and Country. What can not be honored is demeaning their sacrifice or taking it for granted or benefiting from it without gratitude. What can not be honored is exploiting their suffering for personal and political gain and to win elections. Now all of that is something to be protested with outrage!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:02

Friday, May 25. 2007

## **BOORISH BEHAVIOR**

Andy Card, former Chief of Staff of President Bush was booed, jeered and protested against by large numbers of demonstrators on the UMass campus today during graduate school graduation ceremonies. The school, his alma mater, gave him an honorary doctorate. So much for free speech, civility and keeping alive the truly liberal traditions of the University.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:46

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

### **KEEPING PACE WITH P.C.**

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressed his personal conviction that homosexual acts are immoral. Millions of Americans (probably billions of people world-wide) share his conviction. He has taken extreme criticism for his view from individuals and spokespersons of groups who do not agree with him. Having convictions about morals is not the issue; his critics have very strong convictions about morals. The issue is the right of people to disagree about such convictions and the freedom to express them- one of the principles for which Marines go into combat to secure and protect for all. The trend is toward P.C. control groups allowing only thoughts (moral judgments) that they approve and forbidding ones they do not. It is happening all the time on college campuses and even in church meetings, as well as in public forums. General Pace may have made a political blunder with his public comments, but he certainly has the right to the personal moral convictions he holds. That right must be respected and he must not be demonized. Of course, this right works both ways. Those who support "Hate Crime" legislation [new groups who are allegedly being hated are constantly being added to lists of potential victims] better beware. Hate Crime requires judgment about personal intent prior to an act. Such judgment requires official Thought Police [in the Pace story, this would be advocates of "Gay Rights"] the scary scenario of futuristic sci-fi flicks like 1984. The emphasis there is on censorship and mind control. Remember the Pre-Crime Unit in Minority Report? The emphasis there is on getting into the minds of people to read what is already going on there, before any action or behavior occurs, using computers that can read and program thoughts. We do not want to go there!!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:21

Friday, February 16, 2007

## **GLOBAL WARMING: HOT AIR?**

When you read warnings about Global Warming, coming now with its own celebrity Concert, and when you are told that almost all Scientists agree about the problem and its causes and there is no more need for debate only action, you might want to also consider at least these articles <http://jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell021307.php> <http://jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell021407.php> <http://jewishworldreview.com/cols/sowell021507.php> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/06/AR2007020601526.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:34

Thursday, February 15, 2007

## **IS CONTINUING THE WAR IN IRAQ JUSTIFIED? Part 1 of 4**

The classic principles that have guided Christian discussion about war since Augustine (d.430 A.D.) are collectively known as the Just War Doctrine. [There are several versions of it, as it has evolved. Some of its ideas go back to the ancient Greeks, but all of them are Humanitarian or Christian Ideals] This paper is my use of it to evaluate the War in Iraq. It was very helpful to me and I hope you will find it helpful, as well. An authoritative and up-to-date expression of Just War doctrine is found in paragraph 2309 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It says:[For a war to be just, there must be at least these criteria]... At one and the same time:the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain; all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective; there must be serious prospects of success; the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. The power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition.The evaluation of these conditions for moral legitimacy belongs to the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good." [i.e.-in America, the President and Congress, not private citizens as such]" [http://www.catholic.com/library/Just\\_war\\_Doctrine\\_1.asp](http://www.catholic.com/library/Just_war_Doctrine_1.asp)

A more full exposition of the Doctrine can be found here-  
<http://www.goodnewsmag.org/news/090301Budziszewski.html>Although there are other, more extensive, lists of Just War Principles. We will begin using this short list of four. Pacifists (who say all war is unchristian and wrong, period) and Cynics (who will say this approach is totally unrealistic or non-applicable in today's world) or Skeptics (who will doubt and reject almost everything the Administration has claimed about this War) will dismiss this exercise outright. I am not trying to convince them otherwise nor defend this classic Doctrine. I accept it and am using it as is.The background or context for this discussion is the teaching that the civil government of a Nation has the responsibility to protect its citizens and their common good from harm. It may use coercion (the "sword") to do this. This God-given duty of the State applies to preventing, stopping and punishing crime and violence, riots, insurgencies and civil war within the Nation. This same duty applies to external threats, from any source, to the Nation's citizens and their common good. To me, this teaching is very Biblical and a given.It is important to recognize that we have in view the action of the State as a State, not the action of private, individual citizens. The latter have an obligation, as citizens, to serve the State in the coercion used by the Law enforcement agencies or Military, if called upon by the President or Congress. Individuals may object to this service for the sake of conscience. The Government must respect and honor that; however, the citizen must be willing, then, to pay whatever consequences the State may extract from him, such as incarceration. All of this, too, I accept as very Biblical and a given.With all of that said, let us discuss the classic principles of the Just War Doctrine, as they apply to the current war in Iraq, which our Government has declared to be part of the "Global War on Terrorism". I admit the "Iraq War" is a controversial, confusing and convoluted "war". The amount of material for study is voluminous. This present discussion is based on a bare outline of the events and factors involved, as I understand them. The current situation (2007) is actually an outcome, even a continuation, of the Persian Gulf War, aka Operation Desert Storm, with Iraq (1990-91), which had started with Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, and its rebuff by an international Military Coalition. This was by preceded by Iraq's invasion of Iran and the consequent war between those Nations (1980-1988).

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:36

## **IS CONTINUING THE WAR IN IRAQ JUSTIFIED? Part 2**

When this current conflict began (with the 2003 invasion of Coalition Forces to present) we had been convinced, by our Government, that the still President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, was a certain threat to our Nation We believed that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction and would use them against us or our allies in that Region. We believed that he was also harboring and aiding, and might make those weapons available to, Osama bin Laden and al Queda, the Islamic Terrorists group that had recently attacked the United States (9/11). This, plus the record of atrocities perpetuated by Saddam in his country and the region, all together convinced most of us that he was an evil Dictator, who needed to be stopped. [That no WMD have ever been found does not change anything. It is what we believed in 2003 that matters here. That he had them or the capacity and intent to use them, still might yet prove to be true] Congress and other nations agreed at the time. Hussein and al Queda had to be stopped. The War with Iraq was considered to include the Global War against Terrorism. Thus, the first criteria for a just war were met in most American

minds, before this invasion began.

the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain; For more than eleven years, there had been on-going attacks on Coalition aircraft flying over the Country, by Iraqi forces, after Operation Desert Storm, while inhumane conditions within the Country escalated. Economic sanctions imposed by the UN against Iraq were to no avail. There were UN Resolutions and international attempts to improve conditions within Iraq. Supposedly, the buildup of WMD was happening. A search for the WMD was sponsored by the United Nations, but was thwarted by Iraq. Attempts to stop the threat of Saddam to the United States had been shown to be impractical or ineffective; Thus, the second criteria for a just war seemed established. The third criteria seemed assured. there must be serious prospects of success; The invasion of Iraq, by a US-led military coalition, and the defeat of Saddam took less than 2 months in 2003. It was believed to be a successful war effort. What has happened since then, however gives the strongest challenge to the Just War Doctrine. the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. The power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition. The second sentence has reference to the use of our own weapons of mass destruction. We believed that Saddam might use, among other weapons, biological (germ) and poisonous gases, against Israel to start with. We wanted to prevent that. We did not use such weapons, but we did use "smart bombs" and massive firepower, creating great "collateral damage". That remains controversial. However, most Americans were convinced in 2003, that all this was necessary and unavoidable to defeat Saddam and his WMD and al Queda. I have not been persuaded to distrust the Administration in its assessments about what was happening in Iraq. Thus, in my mind, this aspect of the 4th principle stands. The more serious issue is in the first sentence above: military action must not produce evils and disorders more grave than the evil to be eliminated. Since Saddam's defeat, over 3 years ago, Iraq has fallen into near civil war, with great civilian, as well as military, casualties. There are private, sectarian, rogue militia fighting each other, as well as fighting Coalition troops. There is escalating, bitter, tribal or ethnic rivalry and bloodshed. This current situation was unforeseen by most of us before the invasion. This may have been a gross misunderstanding of realities within Iraq, or simply ignorance, on the part of our Leaders. At the time the War began, most Americans were convinced that the toppling of Saddam and the liberation of the people of Iraq from their suffering and oppression under his torturous tyranny was a far greater evil than anything which would follow. In fact, we held hope for reconstruction of that Nation and its transformation into a modern Democracy. That was the secondary, albeit major, goal of the War with Saddam and his Iraqi forces. A great deal of progress [new Constitution and national elections, and Leadership] has been made toward that end. Therefore, my conclusion, using the Doctrine of Just War, is that the initial invasion of 2003, the Second Iraq War, aka Operation Iraqi Freedom, based on the circumstances at the time and what we knew then, meets the criteria of a Just War, worth the sacrifice that was paid to accomplish it. We could add additional Just War Principles to test this conclusion. The most relevant one concerns intentionality. The declared reasons for the War must be the actual or honest intent of those making the declaration. In this case, there remains the suspicion among critics, for example, that the true intent was to secure availability of oil from the region for American use or even that the War was being fought to secure profit for American oil companies. In absence of proof for this suspicion and with continued trust in the integrity of our Leaders who voted for the War, my conclusion is not altered. The flip side of this issue of intentionality is that the War must be pursued with the objective of the rebuilding of the aggressor Nation and its eventual reconciliation and resumption of good international relations, after the conflict is over. I believe it has been fought with that goal. I trust these were, and remain, our Countries intention. Furthermore, the conduct of the war itself must be conducive to that goal, i.e.- the way it is fought must not end up destroying the enemy country, especially its civilian population and all its resources and infrastructure or humiliating it to the point that hatred and a desire for revenge will be created in their hearts. I believe that, with some few notable exceptions, this is the way the War has been conducted. Thus, again, the War has been Just. It could be argued now, after the fact, that inasmuch as there were no WMD, the main rationale for the war was false. On that basis, the war could be considered as not justified; however, the other reasons for supporting the War remain valid and my assessment has not changed. If years later, new knowledge or different understanding, of their causes could be demonstrated, then, likewise, arguments could be, and have been, made that other wars (Viet Nam, WWI and our own Civil War, et al) were never justified. But, that is not the way the world (or life) works. Decisions must be within a time frame and made based on knowledge at the time, for better or worse. An important lesson is that, next time, there must be a far more thorough and dispassionate (apolitical, rational) grasp of facts and motives- using all 4 of the Just War Principles- before another War is declared.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:30

### **IS CONTINUING THE WAR IN IRAQ JUSTIFIED? Part 3**

What do we have now in Iraq? The War has not only continued, but it has morphed into something different than it was 3 years ago. Is it still justified? The 9/11 Terrorist attack, attributed to al Qaeda, on the United States precipitated and gave the final impetus to Congress' Resolution one year later to enter the War. It certainly galvanized the support of that

War by the American people. Saddam Hussein and his cohorts are gone. The fighting and its damage continue. It now seems that the War on Terrorism is the main rationale for continuing the war in (no longer against) Iraq. That is significant. We are no longer at war with Iraq. We are now allies with the Government there, as we wage war with dissident, rogue groups within Iraq. They apparently include al Qaeda or related groups, seeking their own advantage. The major argument for continuing our military presence is that continued safety from terrorist attacks upon America requires a united, stable democratic Iraq, which will no longer harbor or aide Islamic terrorists. It will also be a solid ally for our country in the midst of a volatile region of the world. This, too, is essential to our welfare and safety. Such a Nation has not yet been established. We are now involved in nation building, as part of this effort to stabilize the Region. We are fighting now to achieve that goal and it goes to the intent we had when entering the fray.

But, as to winning the War on Terror, there have been "terrorists" of various kinds operating for centuries. The first modern reference is 1795 in France. The current multinational encounter with Terrorism began before our war with Saddam Hussein and Iraq. Bin Laden and al Qaeda were first recognized in 1988. Examples of Terrorism are numerous, but not all of these are attributed to Islamic extremists. Terrorism by Islamic extremists is not limited to or identified with any particular Nation, although it is harbored and helped by several, such as Iraq's next door neighbors. This current War on Terrorism is global, both overt and covert. It is very different from the original War on Iraq and must not be equated with it. It seems the 4 Principles of Just War can not apply to it: the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain; This seems to be true, but it is significant that the "aggressor" is not a Nation. all other means [other than military conflict in Iraq] of putting an end to it [Islamic Terrorism] must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective; This has not been demonstrated. there must be serious prospects of success; This is very questionable. Although Coalition Forces have defeated particular al Qaeda Leaders and Fighters, most Americans today are not convinced that the War on Iraq itself will succeed in winning the global War on Terror. the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. The use of arms, as in traditional military warfare, does not seem to be a major, let alone fatal, deterrent against al Qaeda and radical Islamists. In fact, it can be cogently argued the War in Iraq actually seems to be increasing their resolve to inflict serious and permanent damage against America (and our allies). That War may very well be creating more Terrorists, who are getting their training for international operations by participating in it. Thus, the current conflict may be producing a more grave evil. The additional Principle of Intent is also seriously compromised. The intent of our war against the Terrorists is to destroy them. There is a strong element of revenge involved. There is no intent to rebuild "the aggressor Nation", as they are not a Nation, or to reconcile with them. Therefore, using the Just war Doctrine, the continued military war in Iraq can not be justified as a War on Terrorism. The latter seems best fought covertly- breaking up secret terrorist cells and thwarting their plots to blow up planes, etc. as well as fought politically and socially- getting at root causes of Terrorist hate. We must have other reasons to justify continuing this War.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:25

Friday, January 5, 2007

## **RAISING THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE IS BAD IDEA**

The signature legislation of the Democrats is not a good idea. I have linked to other articles proving this, especially by Thomas Sowell, but here is one from today's paper by George Will. His main point is that labor is a commodity and government does not do well setting the prices of commodities. The market does it far better. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/03/AR2007010301619.html?sub=AR>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:30

## **PERSONAL POLITICAL RANTS AND RUMINATIONS**

A article in today's Washington Post says, "Mindful of their one-vote margin of control in the Senate and keen to retain the House and capture the presidency in 2008, Democrats say they are anxious to avoid appearing shrill or excessively partisan." For all of that, my reaction this morning to the news is when did Nancy Pelosi become President? The new Speaker comes across to me as not just jubilant, but gloating- not just as the "first woman", but as the first Democrat. To judge by today's papers, still President and Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Bush seems to have disappeared, as he has in so many Doonesbury cartoons. He is off in some oval office conducting his own war against who knows whom for his own personal reasons (as well as gathering a new legal team to deal with the expected investigations of his administration by the Democrats) while the "First Woman" is taking over and running the Country, at least for the next 100 Hours. Meanwhile, here in Massachusetts, the Messiah has come. Apparently, the recent Advent was not about Jesus, but about Deval Patrick.

The new Governor is another liberal Democrat (who sounds very much like Barack Obama) and who shares the same agenda as Ms Pelosi. Politicians, Religious, Business and Community Leaders of all kinds are falling all over him with adulation and very high expectations that he shall "save" Massachusetts. In Washington, and here in this State, hope is high for the return of the New Deal days of FDR. It might take more than 100 hours (FDR called for 100 Days) to eradicate all poverty (raise the Federal minimum wage is the signature issue- we [the Democratic Legislature] just did that here in Massachusetts), provide jobs and housing for all and achieve a host of other economic and social goals (our new universal health insurance program is already coming into effect); but hopes are high among those who passionately believe that all this is the role, no, the responsibility, of State and Federal Government. As a white male, I might have feelings of being marginalized by the new African-American and female leadership; but, what really counts is the agenda that our Leaders promote. Gender and "Race" are irrelevant to me. What I am concerned about is where the new Leadership will take us as a Nation. Will it be in harmony with the Law of God? God is no respecter of persons (gender or skin color, etc) He is a respecter of our values and morals, how we live and what we stand for, as human beings

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:16

Thursday, January 4, 2007

## **BRUTALLY HONEST REVIEWS OF APOCALPYTO**

<http://weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/013/075khpyy.asp><http://www.worldmag.com/articles/12525>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:45

Saturday, December 9, 2006

### **7x5=75 AGAIN**

In a post below, I repeated the story of the school girl who said  $7 \times 5 = 75$  because she felt it was, no matter what her teacher my say. Not humorous, because this expresse the attitude of multitudes about "Truth".Evidence of that came in a news item this morning. Merriam-Webster, the Dictionary company located here in Springfield, runs an annual online survey, asking "What word best sums up the year?" They received tens of thousands of responses. The overwhelming winner, by a five-to-one margin, was "truthiness", a word coined by TV satirist Stephen Colbert last year. It means "truth that comes from the gut, not books". Exactly what the student was illustrating. The President of M-W is quoted as saying, "What constitutes truth is a question on a lot of people's minds and truth is up for grabs." Yes and that is a major problem Christians must address (although I fear many of us are acquiescing to the popular view).

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:06

Monday, December 4, 2006

### **The Nativity**

For reviews and articles about The Nativity, try this website-<http://www.christianitytoday.com/movies/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:06

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

## **ATROCITIES AND BLESSINGS**

My wife and I help support the ministries of Samaritan Purse. The current newsletter features events in the Darfur region of Sudan. The Today Show also is also doing a documentary about the on-going atrocities there. Talk about the "homeless".. Here that describes people who have places to live and a modicum of security, with their basic needs being met by tax-payers and private agencies. In Darfur, there are 3 million people wandering around in the desert with nothing, absolutely nothing! They are truly homeless and that, along with at least 200,000 civilians killed, is the result of war in their region since 2003. That, in turn, is part of a nation wide civil war that has seen the death of another 3 million people, mostly (at least) nominal Christians in the South at the hands of the ruling Moslems from the northern part of the country. In the midst of it all, the Church is undergoing revival and growth. (As the saying goes, "The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church".) Samaritan's Purse is committed to help national Christians rebuild every church building that has been destroyed. So far, that is 30 with at least 500 to go.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:28

Monday, November 13, 2006

## **IS SUPPORTING THE TROOPS THE SAME AS BEING PATRIOTIC?**

I realized more clearly this past weekend, with all the Veterans Day observances, what many people mean by "supporting our troops". It seems many American simply do not believe America is at war. They have a variety of views about Terrorism and Radical Moslems, but the fighting in Iraq is something separate. To many, it is Mr. Bush's war. He is at war and he is sending innocent soldiers into harms way to pursue his own goals. In WWI and II, America, as a Nation, really did consider itself at war and did not resist or resent sending hundreds of thousands of men into harms way or the fact that a great percentage of them died- far, far more than the 3000 in Iraq. Americans believed that it was defending its life and freedom. The Country was being threatened. Everyone, literally, was mobilized and involved in the war effort to save their Country. Sacrifices were made for their Country. This was patriotic. Patriotism (literally, loving and supporting one's "fatherland") was important. I dare say that when many people speak of supporting our troops today, they are not showing patriotism. What they are showing, I think, is sympathy (in their minds) for innocent troops being sent into battle to fight the personal, unjustified, war of George W. Bush. Whatever else it is, that sympathy is not patriotism. Far from it. So where do we find love and support of Country today? Is patriotism a Christian value. Is it commanded in the Bible? Can we distinguish the Country from its Administration? If we are against the latter, can we be for the former? Indeed, is it ever true that being against an Administration is being for the Country or Patriotic? What Biblical criteria do we have to make that decision?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:11

## **MORE ABOUT WAR**

Let us continue discussing the classic principles of the Christian approach to military conflict: the Just War Doctrine the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain; Americans need to be convinced that El Kaida and the Taliban are capable and intent on inflicting lasting, grave and certain damage on our Country. We were convinced that Radical Moslem extremists were indeed doing exactly that on 9/11. But today, 5 years later? all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective; What means other than outright military action (armed warfare) are available to stop the threat from El Kaida or the Taliban or Moslem Terrorists? We have very active, mostly covert, Homeland Security procedures in place. The Enemy has been contained in many places without War. Is that enough? If we withdraw troops from Afghanistan and Iraq, will America be safe? What is the connection between military conflict in those countries with the Enemy Threat on America. Americans must be persuaded that they are inseparable. Currently, many are not convinced they are (or ever were). The Terrorist threat on America is one thing, the Iraq war is now something else altogether. Is "Nation-building" or seeking to establish Democracies in non-democratic Counties which have their own legitimate governments, justified use of American military might? Do such policies really pre-empt attacks upon America by Radical Moslems or Terrorists groups? Many Americans are not at all convince that they do. there must be serious prospects of success; Some argue that there are serious prospects of bringing Democracy to Afghanistan. Others disagree, seeing the more likely prospect to be civil war. In either case, whether there is Democracy or not, what are the serious prospects of defending or protecting America from Terrorist attacks in the future by continuing the current military action in Iraq and Afghanistan? Many are convinced that such action is making future attacks more likely, not less. This leads to the fourth principle of the Just war Doctrine- the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. The power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition. How do we know our military action is not making our American world more dangerous? If the Enemy is located in Iraq (no one argues that Iraq itself is the Enemy. We are not at war with that Country, but with groups within it) and our military destroys that Enemy within Iraq, then the answer would be our war there has protected America and we are more safe as a result. If the war in Iraq does not eradicate the Enemy- it just moves somewhere else to live and fight another day- than this present War has not made us safe and, in fact, it may have increased the resolve of the Enemy to forge ahead against us. These principles of the Just War Doctrine must be addressed and applied as our Leaders decide in the next few weeks (!) what to do about the Iraqi War. This is obviously not a simple black and white situation; neither is it all Red, White and Blue.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:59

Friday, November 10, 2006

## **REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS AND THE "JUST WAR DOCTRINE"**

We are gratefully remembering those military veterans who have served our country, including my son-in-law, Norm. He has put some very touching videos in tribute to our vets, on his personal Blog. It will stir your patriotic fervor.<http://family.npgpro.com/index.php?/categories/20-Video-Entries>The classic principles that have guided Christian discussion about war is the Just War Doctrine. Here are some good resources to use as the debate about the War in Iraq and against Terrorism heats up-"The most authoritative and up-to-date expression of just war doctrine is found in paragraph 2309 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It says:The strict conditions for legitimate defense by military force require rigorous consideration. The gravity of such a decision makes it subject to rigorous conditions of moral legitimacy. At one and the same time: the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain; all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective; there must be serious prospects of success; the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. The power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition. These are the traditional elements enumerated in what is called the "just war" doctrine. The evaluation of these conditions for moral legitimacy belongs to the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good."[http://www.catholic.com/library/Just\\_war\\_Doctrine\\_1.asp](http://www.catholic.com/library/Just_war_Doctrine_1.asp)<http://www.leaderu.com/ftissues/ft9902/opinion/johnson.html>[http://www.boundless.org/2002\\_2003/regulars/office\\_hours/a0000733.html](http://www.boundless.org/2002_2003/regulars/office_hours/a0000733.html)<http://www.goodnewsmag.org/news/090301Budziszewski.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:25

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

## **GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE**

What a rich feast there is today's Scripture readings. The following posts are some of the lessons that blessed me. First, is this reminder of my deepest need, especially on this dreary, rainy day after the very dismaying, disturbing, but not at all surprising, electoral results of yesterday. 1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God. 2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; when shall I come before the presence of God? 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me? 7 O put your trust in God; for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance ... Psalm 42.1-7 **GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE** Psalm 9, adapted for this day-2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will make music to your name, O Most High. 1 I will give thanks to you, Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all your marvelous works. 11 Sing praises to the Lord ...; declare among the peoples the things he has done. 13 Have mercy upon me, O Lord; ... lift me up from the gates of death; 14 That I may tell all your praises ... and rejoice in your salvation.7 ... the Lord shall endure for ever; he has made fast his throne for judgment. 8 For he shall rule the world... and govern the peoples... 19 Arise, O Lord, and let not mortals have the upper hand; let the nations be judged before your face. 20 Put them in fear, O Lord, that the nations may know themselves to be but mortal. 16 The Lord makes himself known by his acts of justice; the wicked are snared in the works of their own hands. 15 The nations shall sink into the pit of their making and in the snare which they set will their own foot be taken. 17 They shall return to the land of darkness, all the nations that forget God.10 those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:44

## **THY KINGDOM COME...**

Daniel 2.25-end...The king said to Daniel, ... 'Are you able to tell me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?' Daniel answered the king...'You were looking, O king, and lo! there was a great statue. This statue was huge, its brilliance extraordinary; it was standing before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of that statue was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked on, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, were all broken in pieces ...and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 'This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. You, O king, the king of kings—to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the might, and the glory...—you are the head of gold. ... the God of heaven will set up a kingdom, ... It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever; just as you saw ... it [shall crush] the gold. Political powers ascend and for awhile, in God's providence, seem unstoppable. But they are. God's Kingdom comes and shall overcome all others.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:40

Monday, November 6, 2006

### **THE POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRESIDENT BUSH**

Here is an excellent review of the many positive accomplishments of President Bush, written by Wayne Grudem, whom I greatly respect as a Christian thinker.<http://www.crosswalk.com/news/weblogs/WGrudem/?adate=11/4/2006#1444616>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:18

Sunday, November 5, 2006

## **TWO DISASTERS**

Interesting commentary on our Society. A major Evangelical Pastor is brought down from his positions of very high Leadership by his admitted "sexual immorality" and it is in the news constantly as a scandalous event. On the very same weekend, a major Oldline Pastor, who is a heretic (denies the authority of Scripture, denies that Jesus alone incarnates Deity and that He is the one and only way to God, who defines salvation as Healing achieved by our acts of healing and who advocates the ordination of overt homosexuals) is elevated to a position of Top Leadership, to the standing ovation of thousands

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:03

Friday, November 3, 2006

## **STEAK OR SIZZLE?**

Probably the most interesting candidate for Governor, here in Massachusetts, is the Green Party candidate. She is articulate and down-to-earth and really speaks to the issues, loaded with facts and passionate about the subjects she raises- and totally apolitical. She has no chance at all to win, but is using her run to advocate her views and educate the public. I do not agree with those views, but then I do not agree with much of what the other 3 candidates have to say, either. I was amazed that the local paper has endorsed the Republican candidate, for whom I intend to vote. A major argument in her favor is that if the Democrat wins, it will be a clean sweep for that Party and we will have one-party rule in the State. The paper pushes that argument, while also acknowledging that the Republican has very definite proposals to address major State-wide issues here, as well as a good track record as Lieutenant Governor in dealing with Western Mass (very unusual in a State that seems totally centered on Boston). The paper acknowledges that the front running Democrat is very popular, but correctly sees his appeal as personality and style, rather than substance. All sizzle and no steak. He looks good. He sounds oh so smooth. He is charming. And he is not Republican. Winning combination here. He seems to me to be very much like Barack Obama, who has the same charisma. All of the candidates are pro abortion, pro embryonic stem cell research and pro "Gay Marriage". The Republican is far more conservative on matters of Law and Order and the Economy. For a Reformed Christian, there is no easy choice. Dropping out is a strong temptation, but not a Scriptural option. All the candidates compromise Biblical ideals, so we follow "principled pluralism" and go with the probable best. I would certainly prefer a tough steak than none at all.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 07:19

Friday, October 27, 2006

## **LESSONS TO BE LEARNED**

I am still revising and getting my Institute Foundation Course, based on Genesis, ready to go on-line. I am also working on the Philosophy of Mathematics material for my website. With Elections upon us, I have been reviewing the Issues from a Biblical perspective, made difficult by the growing disgust I feel for all the political philippics and diatribes being hurled about and the really stupid and totally counter-productive TV ads polluting the airwaves. Desperate politicians of all parties disparaging themselves and their opponents. I won't even mention the media. Issues? What issues? I also am finding it very helpful to reread about the causes of WWI, as I review the Christian arguments for a "Just War" and try to get a better handle on the Debate about the war in Iraq (and elsewhere). Much about the current Middle Eastern strife goes back to those days. I lament that many are forgetting, or not applying today, lessons that should be learned from our nation's past.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:33

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

## **WHY HALLOWEEN?**

I do not think our many neighbors who are decorating their houses and yards for Halloween are serving Satan or promoting witchcraft. I think many do it because they just like decorating (but toilet paper over their trees and bushes?). Others enjoy Halloween because they like scaring others or being scared themselves. Others like wearing costumes or enjoy an excuse for a party. I have no issue with kids dressing up as Princesses or Pumpkins. This can be a fun time for little children and we all like candy- I do not appreciate the big kids who come around, without costumes, just to demand candy. Because I believe in a real and evil Devil, I totally disapprove of costumes portraying him and witches (demons), as well. It is possible that, culturally, these Halloween behaviors (particularly the skeletons and grave stones) are ways that people can laugh at, or spit in the face of, what we all fear most: Death. People make fun of Death and the grave. This is a ritual way of handling their fear and thus over coming it. To my mind, these customs trivialize Death and the accompanying sorrow and grief we all experience some time. That, in turn, trivializes the great sacrifice God made at the Cross and the great miracle He worked in the Tomb of Jesus. Death is our Great Enemy. We must face it- but not by saying "Boo!", while wearing a scary costume, but by faith in the God of Easter and in the Gospel of the Easter Event. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory. That is not trivial at all!! Nor is it to be trivialized. That would be serving Satan.

Since writing the above, there have appeared several articles in our local paper and pieces on the TV news about Halloween. Americans now spend more than \$5 billion for the occasion. Seems that increasingly it is the time for adults to have wild costume parties. The most favorite costumes are ones that are risqué, according to local retailers. Little children still like fairy tale styles. Older children are into gore and ghouls. Most popular are pirates and adults are into so-called "adult" themes. The banner headline over the feature article was "Something Wicked Comes to Western Mass". God have mercy- they know not what they write. At least it was not the usual stories about President Bush and Republican candidates.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:34

Saturday, October 21, 2006

### **NEEDLESS, TRAGIC DEATHS**

Week after week, the paper prints stories of innocent people maimed or killed violently by other reckless, selfish people. These are the victims of vehicle accidents. Again and again, lives are taken and often the perpetrators of these crimes live and have only minor injuries. Occasionally, the drivers themselves do suffer and die. I know true "accidents" can and do happen- bad weather, slippery roads and all. But the cases I am complaining about are the result of negligent, reckless, law-breaking driving, usually speeding. The kind we see every time we go out on the road. Every time.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:23

Friday, October 20, 2006

**TWO GOOD COLUMNS IN TODAY'S PAPER**

[http://www.townhall.com/columnists/CalThomas/2006/10/19/im\\_a\\_minority!http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/18/AR2006101801502.html](http://www.townhall.com/columnists/CalThomas/2006/10/19/im_a_minority!http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/18/AR2006101801502.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:11

Tuesday, October 10, 2006

## **VOTING BY APPEARANCES?**

Samuel, the prophet was seeking the man whom God had chosen to be King of Israel after Saul. One candidate was described this way- 1 Sam 17:12 ... he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. ...18 ... [he is] skillful in playing (music), a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence...." Impressive. 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature... For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Turned out this handsome man with beautiful eyes was the one with the heart God approved: David. Appearance is an asset in politics. Many polls, while revealing the issues that concern voters, also make the point frequently that in the end, people chose the candidate with the most attractive personality and appearance. That is the case in the coming election of Governor here in Massachusetts. The Democratic candidate appeals to people as a person. He does, indeed, exude self confidence. He is very smooth and composed, a good speaker. He is way out front in the polls. However, I will not be voting for him, because of where he stands on the issues. He is handsome, but he is also a very liberal Democrat.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:20

Saturday, September 23, 2006

## **OUR NATIONAL SECURITY IS IN GOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**

I am increasingly convinced that we Americans are looking to the wrong source for our national security. Every week, millions of government dollars are spent, amounting now to hundreds of billions. Our City this week purchased a new Rescue Truck for the fire department. There are several new ID cards that are in the works, not only for travel, but for getting a driver's license (again, costing hundreds of millions). All such efforts (and expenditures) may well be for nothing, as far as national security is concerned. Our real national security is in God and Righteousness. Unless He builds and guards the House, the builders and guards we trust in, work in vain. No matter how much money we spend as a Nation, we are goners eventually, if we, as a nation, deny or neglect God (the Triune God of the Christian Bible) and disregard or disobey His standards for our personal and corporate behavior. God's instrument could well be radical Muslim extremists (or something else) Our heads will roll, if Truth and Justice do not prevail.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:05

Monday, September 18, 2006

## **POPE HAS NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR HERE**

LECTURE OF THE HOLY FATHER, Aula Magna of the University of Regensburg Tuesday, 12 September 2006 Faith, Reason and the University (excerpts) ...I was reminded of all this recently, when I read the edition by Professor Theodore Khoury (Münster) of part of the dialogue carried on - perhaps in 1391 in the winter barracks near Ankara - by the erudite Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus and an educated Persian on the subject of Christianity and Islam, and the truth of both. It was presumably the emperor himself who set down this dialogue, during the siege of Constantinople between 1394 and 1402; ... here I would like to discuss only one point - itself rather marginal to the dialogue as a whole - which, in the context of the issue of "faith and reason", I found interesting and which can serve as the starting-point for my reflections on this issue....the emperor touches on the theme of the holy war. The emperor must have known that surah 2, 256 reads: "There is no compulsion in religion". According to the experts, this is one of the suras of the early period, when Mohammed was still powerless and under threat. But naturally the emperor also knew the instructions, developed later and recorded in the Qur'an, concerning holy war. ...he addresses his interlocutor with a startling brusqueness, a brusqueness which leaves us astounded, on the central question about the relationship between religion and violence in general, saying: "Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached". The emperor, after having expressed himself so forcefully, goes on to explain in detail the reasons why spreading the faith through violence is something unreasonable. Violence is incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the soul. "God", he says, "is not pleased by blood - and not acting reasonably is contrary to God's nature. Faith is born of the soul, not the body. Whoever would lead someone to faith needs the ability to speak well and to reason properly, without violence and threats... To convince a reasonable soul, one does not need a strong arm, or weapons of any kind, or any other means of threatening a person with death..." "

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:42

Monday, September 11, 2006

## **TELLING THE TRUTH?**

"Former president Bill Clinton has urged ABC to "tell the truth" in its hotly disputed docudrama on the battle against Osama bin Laden ... Clinton told reporters in Arkansas Thursday night that ABC executives should provide an honest accounting in "The Path to 9/11" I just want people to tell the truth and not to pretend it's something it's not." "Yes, Bill Clinton said that! LOL "Democrats -- joined yesterday by former vice president Al Gore -- have mounted a campaign against the film, which depicts Clinton administration officials as undermining attempts to capture or kill bin Laden." Yes, Al Gore who made the documentary "Inconvenient Truth" said that! Actor Harvey Keitel, who plays an FBI agent in the film, has joined the critics... "You can't put these things together, compress them and then distort the reality. . . . You cannot cross the line from a conflation of events to a distortion of the event," Keitel said. ... In another salvo, nine prominent historians -- including Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., Sean Wilentz and Michael Kazin -- released a letter urging the film's cancellation. Calling ABC's explanation that the movie will be identified as a dramatization "disingenuous and dangerous," they said: "A responsible broadcast network should have nothing to do with the falsification of history, except to expose it." Where were these folks when the topic was the DaVinci Code?

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/08/AR2006090801576.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:32

## **REACTION TO 9/11, THEN AND NOW**

Probably my strongest reaction to 9/11 was regret that I had not personally done more to reach Muslims with the Gospel. If only the Church had given more support to missions in Muslim countries. Probably my greatest resolution after 9/11 was to rectify that and do more to reach Muslims for Christ. I remember challenging the Church, where I was Pastor at the time, to do that. I understand better now that the most immediate and urgent threat to America was a certain type of radical, militant Muslim, not all Muslims. I understand better now what motivates and drives such people. My reaction and resolve is the same, even stronger. While Americans argue and divide over the "terrorist threat" to our country ("Will it happen again?") and Homeland Security ("Are we safer now?"), is the Church in America mobilizing, in a major way, to preach the Gospel, especially to alienated and radicalized Muslim youth, especially in Western Europe and even on American college campuses? Are the children and youth in our churches (in Sunday School and Youth groups) being challenged and prepared to become missionaries and engage Muslim youth with the Gospel when they leave home and school? You know the honest answer to that as well as I do.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:07

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

## **PLAYING WITH ANIMALS**

You may share the shock and sadness of the tragic death of Steve Irwin, the "Crocodile Hunter". Whether it was right for him to regularly endanger his life, especially as a husband and father, to do "what he loved doing", I must admit I enjoyed the few shows of his that I saw on TV. There is a verse that comes to mind that suggests God Himself also loved to frolic with wild animals-Psalm 104:25 Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great. 26 There go the ...Leviathan, which you formed to play in it. (ESV)This passage says God made whales (?) to play in the ocean. Imagine that- animals can have fun and God made them for that very purpose.An alternative way of translating the Hebrew says the God formed the whales for Him to play with. That is even more amazing- God can have fun and made animals for His own personal pleasure.Steve Irwin would probably appreciate that- either way

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:35

Wednesday, August 30, 2006

## **MAINLINE MEGLOMANIA?**

If you want to have the hairs on your head, and your blood pressure, raised, check out this book, recommended by leading clergy of several mainline denominations- "DID THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION covertly blow-up the World Trade Center, ignite the Pentagon, and shoot down United Flight 93 to pave the way for a new American empire? The answer is "yes," according to a new book printed by the official publishing house of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and written by a theologian at a United Methodist seminary." Read the entire article here-<http://weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/012/601dxsap.asp?pg=1>The scary thing for me is that I hear this kind of rhetoric and some of this scenario about the "Empire" from some Left-wing "Evangelicals" I know. Such paranoia and fear mongering are "snakes" on our Country's plane.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:45

## **ENGLISH DOESN'T ALWAYS HELP**

Lot of controversy here about Voter Rights. The City is under a Federal Court order to provide better assistance to Spanish speaking voters. The lawsuit says that the latter have been discriminated against by the City not providing bilingual poll workers and printed materials written in Spanish. The rhetoric is all about the right of every citizen to participate in Elections. That right must be respected. Significantly, no one is saying anything about any other language group. To be consistent, the City should also provide for Asian, African, and Russian speaking voters. All these groups, and others, include languages within languages ("Asian" includes Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, etc) The Hispanics are getting their rights because they are the largest, most organized and vocal group. How far will this go?The obvious solution is to require English to vote; but that is not a constitutional requirement for voting, only citizenship and State residency. Naturalized citizens must speak and write English- but any child born here, regardless of the country of their parents origin are eligible by that alone, to vote. English is not legally required. Denial of voting rights because English is not spoken is illegal, hence the City must provide assistance in languages besides English. I speak and read English. It is no advantage. What I hear and read in English is not helping me at all to decide who is the best candidate for each office. They all promise the same thing and accuse each other of the same things. ( "I'm for Education." "No, you're not, I am". Neither explains what being "for Education" entails, etc. ) It looks like this will be another year to just vote the Party (and that is increasingly meaningless)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:09

Wednesday, August 23, 2006

## **ISLAMOFASCISTS?**

"Ever since September 11, 2001, I have seen a sharp increase in books about Islam by American evangelicals. Even if the titles do not include the word "unveil," most attempt to expose Islam for its theological, historical, and moral shortcomings. According to Richard Cimino of the New School for Social Research, evangelical attitudes toward Islam have hardened since the attacks, positing that Islam is an essentially violent religion. Responses to the cartoons depicting Muhammad in parts of the Muslim world have only strengthened such perceptions. Unfortunately, too many of these evangelical polemics are historically inaccurate, theologically misinformed, and missiologically misguided. Apparently, a lot of us simply dislike Muslims (usually without knowing any). When we critique Islam, we need to be fair and accurate." This is a quote from the article in Christianity Today reviewing 7 current books by Christians about Islam. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006/006/29.38.html> This important article is by the writer who first used the name "Islamofascists"- <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/012/593ajdua.asp>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:10

Friday, August 18. 2006

**A BOON FOR BONO AND FORBES 2**

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/news/story/0,,1840232,00.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:03

Tuesday, July 18. 2006

## **Hezbollah and America**

The Lebanese people, and many others, are condemning Israel for its attack upon Lebanon, asking "why? why us? what did we do? " The answer is that Israel is actually attacking its enemy, Hezbollah, for its attack first against Israel. Lebanon and its people are suffering Israel's wrath because they have and are now harboring Hezbollah. Knowingly, for years. Today's OT reading (in Oremus) warns the world that God operates the same way as Israel is now. God has warned the nations over and over that He hates and will not abide their sin. This includes America. We knowingly have been and are now harboring behavior and the worship of idols that offends God and that God hates. One day, His version of "rockets" will strike and we will have no excuse and no cause to ask, "Why us, Lord? Why?" What is happening in the Mideast is a warning to us to rid our country of the "hezbollah" within our Land. Jeremiah 25:15-16, 27-end [adapted] For thus the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: I am beginning to bring disaster ... and how can you possibly avoid punishment? You shall not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, says the Lord of hosts. You, therefore, shall prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: The Lord will roar from on high, and from his holy habitation utter his voice; ... The clamour will resound to the ends of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against the nations; he is entering into judgement with all flesh, and the guilty he will put to the sword, Thus says the Lord of hosts: See, disaster is spreading from nation to nation, and a great tempest is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth! Those slain by the Lord on that day shall extend from one end of the earth to the other. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become dung on the surface of the ground... because of the fierce anger of the Lord.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 07:52

Thursday, July 6, 2006

### **Is Jersey a Joke?**

The political fiasco in New Jersey is pathetic as well as devastating to the economy and to the provision of government services to its citizens. I'm just wondering why details about all that are on the back page, while the front page of our paper headlines the closing of casinos, as though that is the most terrible and costly development in that State. If it is, Jersey is in even worse condition than people say.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:57

Sunday, July 2, 2006

## **Independence Day**

When we do not use correct names for some thing, or rather, substitute a more popular name for that thing, we contribute to the loss of the original meaning. The meaning of "Independence Day" is altogether lost when we substitute "The 4th of July" or simply, "the 4th ", as the name of the Holiday. I doubt the neighbors behind us were celebrating independence from King George, as they watched their hard earned money go up in incendiary smoke. I further doubt their noisy display was in celebration of the [almost] Birth of this constitutional Republic, in which we are blessed to live. I doubt they were endangering their eyes and hands out of a sense of patriotism for this Land of the politically and economically Free (perhaps they were demonstrating that they were living in the Home of the Brave) I wonder how many Pastors took the occasion this morning to teach the folks in the pews about the Providence of God, the Hand of God, in the creation of this Republic or about the Scriptural principles that under gird our form of Government and Constitution.

Perhaps, if people understood and appreciated all of this, there would be no need for a debate about whether the denigration of our Flag is acceptable. They would know then that for which it truly stands. People may disagree about a particular Administration or policy of our present governing Leaders; but the Flag and Independence Day are about far greater and more important and enduring values. And we pray and work so that, under God, they shall prevail and be more fully realized.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:30

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

### **Beware 666**

I watched a very chilling, disturbing documentary last night. It was about Joseph Stalin. He did far more evil, and with more lasting effect than Hitler. He was personally responsible for more deaths than Hitler (millions more) and had a far wider and more long lasting effect on the history of the world through world-wide Communism. He was what the Book of Revelation refers to by the "Anti-Christ". Hollywood is trying to cash in on today's date (6-6-06) by reissuing the Omen. Ironically, one of the reasons that Joseph Stalin was so successful was that many movie stars were infatuated by Marxism and its claims to save the world. American business moguls admired Stalin's 5 year Plans to industrialize his country and our Government Leaders lionized Stalin as a great ally against Hitler. The masses in his own country idolized him. Yet the man was the embodiment of Evil. (To this day, Americans think Hitler was worse and Stalin had redeeming qualities) The "evil" is not simply some devil-possessed man, as in "The Omen". The Evil is the Totalitarian State. Please study my paper on the Book of Revelation, published on my website, for more explanation. We all have this fascination with the State. We love and hate it, at the same time. More accurately, most Americans seem to love complaining and criticizing the State, while asking it to provide for us in every way imaginable. Actually, that is what we complain about- we criticize it for not taking care of us enough or in the way we think it should. In fact, that is the real divide between the reds and blues. We all want the State to do things for us, we actually all agree on that; but we disagree about which things or how. The truth is, the State has taken the place of God. Finally, such a divinized State becomes 666 and strangles us to death.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:39

Monday, May 29, 2006

## **AWOL**

I was impressed by the number of parades and programs today in area towns that honored those who serve our Country in the military, especially those who have given their lives doing that. Massachusetts remains one of the most liberal states and many here feel very free, nay, compelled, to damn our President, as well as "his" war in Iraq. Hearing people interviewed, including many active duty soldiers, talking about patriotism and the honor and privilege it is to serve in the Military was very rare, as well as inspiring. One Memorial Day weekend, we visited the Viet Nam and Korean War Monuments in Washington, DC. It was truly awesome and deeply moving. Today's Military is volunteer. A new book, co-authored by Frank Schaeffer, is called AWOL. It discusses how few children of the privileged sign-up. Children from wealthy, elite, well-educated families, like most of those graduating this weekend from the prestigious colleges in this area do not, generally, enlist. Mr Schaeffer and his co-author wondered what difference it would make in their voting and policy making, if future lawmakers and legislators had military and war experience. Apparently, increasingly few of them do.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:24

Saturday, May 27, 2006

### **Babel redux?**

Libraries are a place to find many stories. So is Taipei, capital city of Taiwan. There we find a building with 101 stories- the world's tallest. The building planned for the space occupied by the trade Towers in NYC will be only 70 stories. A skyscraper in Chicago will be 124 stories. There is one being built in Dubai that will be 160. Why? The main reason does not seem to be economic. According to an article in *The Week*, such tall buildings often go with much space unrented. Architects and cultural observers seem to agree that the major force behind the drive to be the "tallest" is about "reaching Heaven", impressing others, being noticed, in a world where the majority of people live in cities. Sounds like human hubris. Sounds like Babel redux. The Biblical story of Babel is not primarily about the babble of human languages. It is an extreme demonstration of rebellion against God.

Genesis 11:1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth. Human beings are created in the Image of God. God's Plan was for people to disperse around the globe, bearing that Likeness every where, as they obeyed God's Mandate to cultivate and care for Creation. Doing this requires faith that God would protect and provide as people obeyed His Mandate. The story of the Tower of Babel is about human beings rejecting God's plan and disobeying His mandate to spread over the earth. They settled down in one place and there built a city, Babel. It would be a tribute to their independence and self-resourcefulness. It would contain a watch tower, serving to make the city safe from enemies who might come later. The entire endeavor was all human hubris- Pride. The babble of language is a side-bar. The bottom line is that God had His way and the people were dispersed. But the sorry episode, with the same motivations, has been repeated over and over, to this very day in today's news. Babel redux! When will we learn?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:07

Monday, May 15, 2006

### **Facts? What Facts?**

I could scream! For several years now, Christians I know have made it very clear, they do not want to learn Theology or Church History. Boring. Irrelevant. Doctrine is divisive. We do not want sermons or Sunday School classes to study such stuff. Being a Christian is all about relationships- with God and with others. Period. Just yesterday, we heard a guest speaker, an ordained Presbyterian Minister, who operates a ministry for the homeless, tell us emphatically that the Gospel is about LOVE. Period. His favorite dictum: Preach the Gospel, but use words only if you have to. ACTION- that is all that really counts, he said. Doctrinal Statements do not "cut it". What did we hear about during Announcements? We saw a promotional film for an upcoming series to study the DaVinci Code, a book that raises all kinds of questions about Theology and Church History. All of a sudden, Christians every where are hitting the panic button about the book and the movie that comes out this week. How do we answer it? I hear Pastors moaning that their folks do not have the knowledge to intelligently respond to the issues being raised, both in their own minds and in the minds of non-Christian friends. Duh! I guess the "personal relationships" of these folks are not enough to withstand the assault of the nonsense in this book (Jesus married Mary Magdalene and they had a baby. Come on! ). Now this rush to do a crash "study" of Theology and Church History. I guess that could be good- motivation and opportunity to get folks to learn something they should have learned years ago. BUT, there are some problems with this.

I was asked to sit in on one of these 4-week study groups. Ah, we Americans. If we must study, make it fast and simple. We are going to get a good grasp on the issues that professional theologians and historians have taken years to study and which have been around for centuries, in 4 short "classes". But then, the way I hear it, these "Classes" will not have a teacher. We will discuss the issues together. Every one will be able to express themselves and make up their own mind. That sounds like a "bull session" to me, where everybody shares their ignorance. It is also kind of funny to me, ironic, that Christians who could not previously be bothered with learning the facts of their Faith [because they are into LOVE and personal relationships] are now all shook up by the purported "facts" in this novel. The author has said that while the story, the plot, is fiction; the persons, places and events are factual. Christians who have read the book have felt challenged (threatened?) . If all this is true, then, churches should be offering, and members should be motivated to actually commit to do, serious study over an extended period of time. Or will this just be another passing tempest in a tea cup? It is also strange how "Modernist" all this current rush to "study" is. Younger Christians these days are eager to ridicule the traditional Church for being "Rationalist" and all about dry intellectualism and relying on evidential proofs for the Truth of the Faith. Supposedly, they are beyond [above?] all of that. Out comes this book and these same folks are among those who are rushing to "defend" the faith intellectually by marshalling evidence and using rational argumentation. Does this mean there really is Absolute Truth? Anyway, I do not want to put money into Dan Brown's pocket. I have a long list of books I want to buy, the DaVinci Code is not one of them. I have studied Theology and Church History. Far from a threat, what Mr Brown has to say is of no interest to me. It is, after all, fiction.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:35

### **Hindus here**

Our Country's population is now 33 % non-white. Within the next 25 years, the Census Bureau estimates minority groups will have become the majority and the majority of them will be Hispanic. This is already the case in many cities throughout the USA. We have many "minorities" here in Springfield. These include people of non-Christian Religions. There are a number of Muslim Mosques. Over this past week end, the first Hindu Shrine was dedicated. There are 1000 members. I think the registered pharmacist at our local Walgreens and the family that run the nearest convenience store might be Hindu- or else Muslim. Hmm. Mission Field in my back yard?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:35

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

### **Code Cracked**

Every reviewer I have read, secular and Christian, has severely criticized the book *The DaVinci Code*. It is poorly written and full of inaccuracies and holes in plot and fact. It is being easily debunked by historians and theologians. It is a sieve that holds no truth. So why is it so popular? Many churches are having classes to study the issues. I'm wondering, "Why bother?" I doubt the facts will change anyone's mind. This is another case where something deeper and irrational is at work. I suspect that the popularity of the book [47 million hard covers sold] indicates the growing anti-Catholicism in America. Many people, almost gleefully, have been putting the screws to the Church over the pedophile scandal. The latter was terrible. It is even worse when that tragedy is exploited for the purpose of bringing down the Church. [I write as a Protestant] *The DaVinci Code* feeds into this desire to suspect dark secrets, cover-ups and conspiracies within the history of the Church. I suspect the book and movie also finds a ready audience among Feminists who have their own additional axe to grind with the Church over what they see as suppression of them in the Church (particularly the refusal of Ordination). No amount of study groups learning to refute Dan Brown, the author [actually, a simple thing to do] is going to counter these deep prejudices, fears and personal agendas. Of course, there will be many who simply like a good read and a Tom Hanks movie.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:03

Friday, April 28, 2006

### **Spanish National Anthem?**

You may have heard a Spanish language version of our National Anthem- it just came out on Flag Day, in time for demonstrations next Monday [actually, there have been at least 3 other versions in recent years]The issue that is drawing most attention is the language. I agree with President Bush that the Anthem should be sung in English. English is the official and proper language of the United States of America and therefore the language of the National Anthem. However, for me the bigger issue is the change in words. This is not a case of translating the English words directly or literally into Spanish. The change in language is a change in meaning. A drastic change. The Spanish song is not our National Anthem at all.<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12520667/http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12534668/>All of this is relevant to Bible Translations. There is the Revelation from God, inscripturated in the Hebrew, Aramaic and koine Greek languages in the original manuscripts. Any Bibles in other languages are translations. Which one comes closest to the both the original words and meanings? If the Spanish language Anthem changes both the original English words and their meaning so much that it must be rejected as a substitute, than any English language Bible translations, that do the same, must also be rejected. Which ones would they be?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:34

Monday, April 10, 2006

### **Mob Rule?**

Millions (mostly young native French adults) have demonstrated in Paris in recent weeks to get what they want and they seem to be succeeding. (Strangely, very little coverage of this in American papers)  
<http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-04-08-voa13.cfm><http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-04-10-voa8.cfm> Last Fall, tens of thousands more youth (mostly from Algerian Muslim immigrant families) rioted in the suburbs, for different reasons (although very much related). It remains to be seen whether they will get the changes they demanded. My only point here is that these events demonstrate mob rule. Mob rule can not be tolerated. We can see it all around the world and through out history. Violent and disasterous. One of the very unique outcomes of the of the American Revolution was a constitutional republican government of laws with checks and balances. It was not simple democracy. It was not the rule of the majority, let alone the rule of the mob. Do you see the regression there? If 100's of thousands took to our streets and demanded gay marriage in all 50 States or unrestricted abortions upon request, would that mean such demands should be granted? Likewise, today's pro-illegal aliens demonstrations [or any other kind] across our Country should not be allowed to determine legislation or policy. That, too, would be mob rule. Since when do we believe might makes right?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:33

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

### **Yea for Turtles**

The Terps from University of Maryland did it. Despite apathy most of the year from their fellow students, the women's basketball team came from behind and won in overtime. They are now National Champions and maybe will get some respect. "Terps" is short for Terrapins. Terrapins are a kind of turtle. There is something sweet, in this hectic, hasty, hurried society, when a slow, but determined and deliberate creature can, not only cross the winning line, but best all the hustling hares of the world.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:27

Monday, April 3, 2006

## **Spellbound**

We came through the Winter Olympics, then there has been men's and women's college basketball and, along the way, Dancing with the Stars and American Idol. Oh yes- Tennis and Golf, especially Women's golf, and gymnastics, too. Competition and more competition: excitement, nail-biting, disgust, boredom and fun. Now, baseball is to begin. It never stops. Of course, being grads of the University of Connecticut, which has national championship teams and Hall of Fame coaches, in both mens and women's basketball, you can guess which is our favorite of all the college teams. I admired George Mason, but they made UConn look bad- twice. And the women- a heart breaker for many when UConn lost. But now I am rooting for Maryland to win the National Championship. Not only because they are good and have never done it before; but, because, from what I read in the Maryland and DC papers, they have had almost no support from their own school: only apathy and indifference- not for basketball, for women's basketball. That is a real shame. Go Terps! But last night, the competition was Spelling and the players I was rooting for were the 250 cerebral athletes who competed in the annual National Spelling Bee, as documented in the film Spellbound. I rooted for them as much as for any of the players in the more common sports. There was the agony of defeat and the ecstasy of victory- from over 10 million grade school entrants at the beginning of the year to one final winner. The stories of several (and their families) who were featured in the film were inspiring and heartwarming. Last year's winner correctly spelled "appoggiatura." Go Logophiles!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:54

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

### **Government by the People?**

1000's of Students are rioting in the streets of Paris. On my Re/formation Institute website, and on this Blog, I have been laying out some basic Bible teaching about Government. I suspect many Christians, as well as non-Christians, could not explain the connection of our American form of constitutional government with our Bible and Christian Theology. The latter is the basis for the former. Do you know how? Read my website <http://freewebs.com/reformationinstitute/> Have you noticed a strong trend away from our Constitutional form of government in recent years? We are supposed to be a Republic, with our elected officials governing under Constitutional Law. The disturbing trend is to seek a government by majority, or even mob, rule. Hence, the increasing use of rule by Referenda. If that doesn't bring the results desired by the masses, right or wrong, they take to the streets with often violent demonstrations- trying to force the Government to do their bidding. If nothing else works, laws are finally made by Judges sitting on some Court. Sometimes, by the decision of just one Judge. One of the stated reasons for the war in Iraq is to see established there, not democracy, in place of mob or clerical rule, but a Republic. We better be sure we support, and not undermine, such a government here in America.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:33

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

### **Cal Thomas on Tom Fox**

I wrote [below] about the American "Peace" activist who was killed last week in Iraq. Today I read this column by Cal Thomas, with which I agree, about the same man-<http://www.townhall.com/opinion/columns/calthomas/2006/03/14/189678.html>"Strange thing about these peace movements: they rarely mobilize to oppose the killing, torture and imprisonment practiced by dictators. It is only when their own country attempts to end the oppression that the activists become active against America, not the initiators of evil. Peace, like happiness, is a byproduct, not a goal that can be unilaterally attained. Peace happens when evil is vanquished. The theology of Christian Peacemaker Teams is as wrong as its politics."

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:10

Monday, March 13, 2006

### **Tom Fox explaining why he was killed**

I greatly respect people like Tom Fox [no relation], who put themselves in harm's way for the sake of their convictions, right or wrong. Of course, some people' convictions have led them to do terrible things, such as devout Moslems who become homicide bombers. Being sincere does not mean being right. While I respect Mr. Fox, I do not agree with his convictions. The following [bold print] is something Mr. Fox wrote the day before he was kidnapped. He has now been murdered by his abductors in Iraq. Taken from CPTnet [Christian Peacemaker Team website] 2 December 2005 Most recent reflection by Tom Fox, "Why are we here?" Why are we here? If I understand the message of God, his response to that question is that we are to take part in the creation of the Peaceable Realm of God. As I understand the Message of God, we do not create the Realm of God. The Realm of God is created only by the Rule of God in the hearts and lives of people who know Him through Christ, by the presence and work of the Spirit within them. The Realm is how these people, who experience that Reign within, organize and live their lives outwardly, according to the Word-Law of God. In its essential form, different aspects of love bring about the creation of the realm. I have read that this word is best expressed as a profound respect for all human beings simply for the fact that they are all God's children [in what sense? Created by God in His Image? Ok, but Biblically, "Children of God" are only those human beings who are related to God by faith-union with Christ] I would state that idea in a somewhat different way, as "never thinking or doing anything that would dehumanize one of my fellow human beings." Nowhere does the Bible teach that "never thinking or doing anything that would dehumanize one of my fellow human beings." will bring about the creation of the Realm of God. U.S. forces in their quest to hunt down and kill "terrorists" are, as a result of this dehumanizing word, not only killing "terrorists," but also killing innocent Iraqis: men, women and children in the various towns and villages. Interesting that Mr Fox makes the "bad guys" out to be American troops. They are the ones who hunt down and kill "innocent Iraqis: men, women and children" No question many of the latter have been unintentionally killed or wounded by Coalition (not only US) troops in the conduct of this war. What explains Mr. Fox's failure to mention the thousands of "innocent Iraqis: men, women and children" who have been very intentionally killed by the Moslem Terrorists, including fellow Iraqis? "Why are we here?" We are here to root out all aspects of dehumanization ... We are here to stand with those being dehumanized by oppressors [American troops?] and stand firm against that dehumanization. I am very sorry Mr. Fox was killed. But, I do believe his answers to "Why are we here?" and therefore, "Why I have been killed", are sadly inadequate, to say the very least.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:29

Saturday, March 4, 2006

### **Come One and All, Come Old and New...**

Dr. Suess is 1-0-2 It is the birthday of Dr Seuss, pseudonym for Theodor Geisel. Springfield has the official memorial to him (a collection of bronze sculptures depicting many of the characters he created) as well as a room full of memorabilia from his life here in his native "Hometown". Our friends at Nehemiah House live on Mulberry St. There is a "big birthday bash" for him today. Mr Geisel first came to national prominence as a political cartoonist for a New York City daily paper in 1941. His editorial page work was severely critical of Charles Lindbergh and others for their effort to keep America out of WWII. The Lone Eagle had Flown The Atlantic alone With fortitude and a ham sandwich Great courage that took. But he shivered and shook At the sound of the gruff German landwiche Source: The American Axis by Max Wallace p.260

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 07:45

Monday, February 20, 2006

### **Olympic Honesty**

In spite of the hype that the Olympics is all about sports, not politics, a lot is made of national rivalries between competing teams in all the Olympic events. The media coverage emphasizes each country's medal count. What about the increasing reality that these "patriotic" athletes live and train in countries (mostly the USA) other than the one they officially represent? The charade about patriotism should stop. The hype about 'sports not politics' should cease. Athletes should compete as athletes. They should be supported by people who like them as athletes, regardless of their national or ethnic origins. Period. Or, the Olympic promotion should be honest: it is about nations competing with each other. In this case, the athletes on each country's teams should not only be citizens, but, in fact, live and train in the Country they represent.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:21

Saturday, February 18, 2006

### **Think Again: Islamist Terrorism**

Here is a significant and scary article from FOREIGN POLICY January 2006 about Islamic Terrorism- (these are excerpts)Think Again: Islamist Terrorism "Poverty, Unemployment, and Lack of Education Make Terrorists" Prove itPoverty, unemployment, and lack of education are serious problems in some of the world's most populous Muslim countries. There is, however, no evidence of a correlation between these social and economic ills and terrorism. Terrorist groups, like other employers, impose standards of quality in their recruitment efforts. Research shows that terrorists tend to be of "higher quality"—more educated or accomplished in other jobs and pursuits. "Young, Unmarried Muslim Males Are the Most Likely to Become Terrorists" No. "Madrasas Are Terrorist Factories" That's an exaggeration. "People Support Terrorism Because They Are Poor and Lack Opportunity" Doubtful. "Perceived Threats to Islam Create Support for Terrorism" Absolutely. In some countries, including Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, and more than 70 percent of the population believes that Islam is under threat. Support for terrorism feeds on the belief that large segments of the Muslim world are victims of ongoing injustice. Some experts argue, with justification, that the perception of threats to Islam is deliberately cultivated by Islamist political groups and authoritarian Muslim governments to generate support for their agenda. But support for terrorism is unlikely to decline without addressing that perception, whether the perception is the product of propaganda or the result of legitimate political grievance. "Fixing the Israel-Palestinian Problem Will Make Terrorism Go Away" Hardly. Radical Islamists want nothing less than the restoration of Islamic sovereignty to all lands where Muslims were once ascendant, including Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Hungary, Sicily, Spain, and even parts of France. "Disenchanted, Angry Muslims in Europe and North America Are Potential Terrorist Recruits" Increasingly. C. Christine Fair is a senior research associate at the United States Institute of Peace. Husain Haqqani is a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and teaches international relations at Boston University.[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=3359&page=0](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3359&page=0)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:09

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

## **Valentine's Day**

Hope you had a sweet Valentines Day. A lady on the news just now said she grew up in Bulgaria and did not celebrate the day because St Valentine is a Catholic Saint and she is Orthodox. Actually, no one knows who "St Valentine" really was and at any rate, he has long since been removed from the RC list of true "Saints" along with "St Christopher". Then there is also the fact that the legend of "St Valentine" dates to the very early centuries (maybe 3rd or 4th) The Roman Catholic Church did not come into existence officially until 1057.

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/ValentinesDay/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Schism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Schism)It is all beside the point. The Day is about romance and lovers, promoted by the card, candy and flower industries. I hope you have romance and love in your life and were able to celebrate it today. Why not every day?PS- I realize that there are those who have neither romance nor a "lover" and this has not been a Special Day. I'd like to think such folks would wish the rest of us well anyway. I certainly hope that all of us, without exception, know we are loved- that there are people in our lives who do care for us and to whom we are special.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:05

Sunday, February 12, 2006

### **Michelle Kwan**

Michelle Kwan is a very classy lady and a professional who has brought great honor and credit to her sport and herself these last ten years. Due to injury, she had to withdraw from the Olympics. She did that with her characteristic grace. However, Michelle's 17 year old replacement, in the interviews I saw, showed no sympathy or respect for Michelle at all, only glee that she, Emily Hughes, was now in the games. What a pity.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:28

Saturday, February 4, 2006

**The Earth: learn to live with it.**

Occasionally, an earthquake takes many lives and much property. Then follow the usual discussions about "Why?" "Why do these things happen?" "Why did God let this happen?" Same thing when it comes to other natural events like hurricanes and tornadoes. We human beings must realize that we are created. We live on a planet that God also created. We are part of the natural order created by God and must live our lives accordingly and not rail at that Order, as though we are exempt from the natural, built in realities of it. The air and water and processes like the Nitrogen Cycle are natural to our existence on this planet, so are earthquakes. Globally, there are an estimated half million quakes annually. The Earth: learn to live with it.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:12

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

### **More Muslims Coming**

The Muslim population 20 years from now is estimated to be 30% of the world's population, while the Christian population is estimated to be 25% according to this Muslim website. Its main point is that the population in the West is declining and getting older, while the Muslim birth rate is high and many children committed to Islam are on the way and this is a good thing. What do you think? <http://muslim-canada.org/muslimstats.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:01

Sunday, January 8, 2006

### **More Black Eyes**

There is a debate tonight at a local church here between an atheist and an evangelical. The headline over the newspaper article calls the occasion a debate about Evolution. The article itself states the debate is about Intelligent Design. I have no interest in hearing the debate- I think it is futile. The debate really should be about philosophical Naturalism versus anti-Naturalism. Anyway, they better get their definitions straight and be honest about it. The case for allowing Intelligent Design to be considered in public schools (and in the public mind) was dealt a serious blow last week- not by the Judge who ruled against that happening in the Dover PA school district, but by the lying by the supporters of the proposal. The latter swore under oath that they had never heard of a particular text book which presents the case for ID and that they were not really pushing for Creationism to be taught in the schools. Evidence made it clear that they lied on both counts. The Judges decision turned on the revelation of this perjury. Another black eye for Evangelicals. See the attached article. For the record, The Theory of Intelligent Design is neither Creationism nor Christian. As to the Judge saying he would not allow Religion to be taught in the Public Schools, he is. Philosophical Naturalism (the basis for Darwinism, which the Judges decision supports,) is a Religion, if we define religion as a World View that offers assumptions based on faith in answer to the Big Questions about the origin, purpose, meaning and destiny of Life. <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2005/151/31.0.html> Another black eye comes in the current case of Ralph Reed, former leader of the Moral Majority, apparently acting in an immoral matter, ie- dishonestly. <http://www.worldmag.com/displayarticle.cfm?id=11276> Certainly Evangelicals know that we are under scrutiny by our enemies. Certainly we know dishonest means do not justify honest ends and, most of all, certainly we know that trying to deceive and mislead the Courts, the public and other Christians as Mr Reed is alledged to have done in the name of serving God is not only stupid, but sinful.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:14

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

### **Hypocrisy on Display?**

Locally, there were at least 6 new Mayors sworn in yesterday and today. They had sound byte coverage on the TV News. I heard each one of the Mayors asked if she or he would uphold the [duties of their Office] "so help you God? Each answered "Yes, so help me God." This was very out of place in an area where it is insisted frequently that God is to be kept out of government and the public square. I wonder what this ceremony meant. I wonder what God the officials had in mind. Were they confessing faith in the Judeo-Christian God? [Is He the same one mentioned on our money: in whom we trust?] Were they confessing that they need His help to do their job? Would they object to having His Laws posted on the walls of their offices? Are their Oaths of Office valid if this whole thing was an meaningless formality, hypocrisy?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:34

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

## **Keeping Perspective**

I was disturbed to read recently that on any particular day, there are 3000 people homeless in Baltimore. In this past year, 83 of them died on the streets. I thought that is terrible. However, on any particular day in Baltimore there are also more than 636,000 people who have homes. This was not mentioned in the article. If the first figure is a tragedy, the second figure is a far greater triumph. It is important to keep perspective. Many critics of America have a way of focusing on the negatives and overlooking, or even denying, the much more abundant and impressive positives. Why is that?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:40

## **Impeach the President?**

Back to reading our local paper. The lead editorial is a rant against the President for allegedly eavesdropping on citizens. A cartoonist has Mr Bush compiling a hit list of personal enemies like J E Hoover did. The Editor says that the President has absolutely no constitutional right or Congressional approval for his actions. We listened to one knowledgeable commentator on the radio, as we drove yesterday, explaining how the President absolutely does have Constitutional authority and Congressional approval for the eavesdropping in question. He went back over the history of the last six Presidents where all this (including the debate) has been done before. How do supposedly reasonable and intelligent people interpret the same data in such extreme, opposite ways? The idea that the intelligence gathering in question is a personal political vendetta by Mr Bush is too ridiculous to deserve comment. So are the cries for the President's impeachment over this. The only explanation, that comes to mind, is that the data involved is interpreted by people with prior personal bias. The old "Do not confuse me with the facts, my mind is already made up." seems to apply. One key element, that seems to be missing in most of arguments of the President's critics, is the reality that we are involved in a war with an enemy that is a genuine threat against this Country, whose security the President is responsible to protect. The Preamble to our Constitution states-

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." The topic of Habeas Corpus is also being debated a lot lately. "You cannot be jailed if there are no charges against you. If you are being held, and you demand it, the courts must issue a writ or habeas corpus, which forces those holding you to answer as to why. If there is no good or compelling reason, the court must set you free." The Constitution says- Article 1 - The Legislative Branch Section 9 - Limits on Congress The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it. An helpful, annotated edition of the U S Constitution can be found at [http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst\\_A1Sec9.html](http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst_A1Sec9.html)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:08

Friday, December 9, 2005

### **Aslan, the Kitten?**

Here is an extensive review of the Lion, Witch and Wardrobe and more- <http://www.christianitytoday.com/movies/reviews/lionwitchwardrobe.html>In general, reviewers, Christian and non-Christian, are pleased and recommend this film as a very well-made fantasy for family enjoyment (although perhaps some what intense for small children). The sad news is that, inspite of the ads which feature Aslan, the Lion, apparently the major character is really the White Witch. Much of the essential dialogue, written by CS Lewis, is missing. Thus much of the meaning of the original story is altered. Aslan is no longer the King of kings. His sovereignty and awesome power is gone. Now he is simply kind and wise. It is the Witch who comes across as strong and in control. Why am I not surprised?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:31

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

### **Remembering Pearl Harbor and beyond**

Some 295,000 American troops were killed in World War II <http://www.secondworldwar.co.uk/casualty.html> I wonder if those who now protest American casualties in the current war, and are calling for troops to come home, would have done the same during WW II? If not, why? A local college is putting up "crosses" on one of their lawns to commemorate (?) those murderers who have been executed by the States for their crimes. Significantly, there are no "crosses" for their victims, those who have been murdered. Why? (Oddly, the college is Roman Catholic. There are also no "crosses" for all the babies who have been killed by abortion)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:45

Saturday, December 3, 2005

### **Is C S Lewis Really a Superstar?**

The current cover of Christianity Today declares C S Lewis to be a "Superstar", what with Lion, Witch and Wardrobe set to open in theaters this coming week and dozens of books and articles about Lewis being printed in recent months. I remember when conservative Christians [read: Fundamentalists] did not approve of him at all. He was, after all, an Anglican, who smoked and drank alcohol. I do not think that the world is coming to appreciate the Faith espoused and ably explained and defended by "Jack". They are not excited about his theological books, like Problem of Pain, Screwtape Letters or Great Divorce. Certainly not about Abolition of Man or Miracles. I do not think going to the movie is going to create interest in these writings either. Rather, I think this particular book of his is riding on the current popularity of the fantasy genre, along with the Rings trilogy and even the Potter series. Christians rightly see Biblical themes in L W W and it can be an effective tool for evangelism. Most people are simply going to enjoy it as a good story. They will still hate Aslan in real life.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:57

Monday, November 28, 2005

## **Intelligent Design?**

Key to the current debate in the courts over the teaching of I.D., particularly now in Dover, Delaware, is the book *Of Pandas and People*. It is published by the Foundation for Thought and Ethics. Check out their website for more information about them and their books.

<http://www.fteonline.com/index.htm>A common ploy used by Darwinists against ID is to portray its advocates as dumb and dumber, Bible-thumping ignoramuses who know nothing about Science. Check out the academic and scientific credentials of the authors and editors of the books published by this Foundation. Agree with them or not, they do know about Science! But that goes to the point I want to make.

The Debate is not really about who has the best academic credentials: your PhD against my PhD. I am glad that the editors and authors writing and advocating ID are very qualified to do so by the world's standards. I think that the battle is won or lost on other grounds. If the experts can cancel each other out by the intelligent design of their respective arguments, there remains the battle behind the battle: the virulent animosity of Material Naturalists against God (Trinitarian Theism)

There is a false and unscriptural optimism among many evangelicals that if unbelievers would only hear the facts supporting Theism (let alone Biblical Trinitarianism), including or maybe starting with ID, then unbelievers will be persuaded. Supposedly, their minds are open, they are simply ignorant. Facts and Logic will win the day. This is absolutely not true. Short of regeneration, the hardened heart and corrupted mind of non-Christians will never chose to believe in the Triune God. They will always chose not to believe, no matter what scientific arguments are given them. Of course, believing (Covenant) children need to be able to recognize, understand and refute Naturalism (Atheism and Darwinism) wherever it is found (and it is pervasive in public schools), so books like *Pandas* are very important to have. But we must not seek to play the unbelievers game and use their Modernist-Rationalist designs to win the struggle against their hostile minds, that, by nature, suppress true Truth. That is not intelligent on our part

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:34

Friday, November 25. 2005

### **The law of Unintended Consequences**

I have been thinking about comments made about an earlier post about the difference between violence and deaths caused intentionally and unintentionally. Yesterday, a reckless driver here plowed his truck, from behind, into a car, killing a 2 year old and seriously injuring his parents. I doubt if the pick-up driver intended to do this damage. Nevertheless, the child is dead and the parents are still in critical condition. The driver has been charged with motor vehicle homicide and the negligent operation of a motor vehicle. The driver did not intentionally set out to murder the two year old. Nevertheless, the driver is guilty of a crime: homicide. True accidents do happen, however negligent operation is driving with disregard for the well-being of others, knowingly acting in a manner that could have the consequences of bodily harm or death of another and not giving a [hoot] That is morally and legally wrong. If the public is ok with such behavior and condones it, that doesn't excuse it. The public is wrong. The driver in this case is an "habitual offender", driving a stolen vehicle with a revoked license.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unintended\\_consequence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unintended_consequence)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:01

### **Black Friday?**

Somehow, I have never been aware till now that this day after Thanksgiving is called Black Friday. I understand it means the day when retailers hope to make it out of the Red into the Black in their cash flow. Some are protesting this "Day" with another, called "Buy Nothing Day"  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buy\\_Nothing\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buy_Nothing_Day)Are either of these Christian Holidays?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:30

Thursday, November 24, 2005

### **Getting History Straight: the First Thanksgiving**

A man, who is the Chief of a local Native American tribe, spoke to a third grade public school class here in town last week. From the sound byte interview on TV, he apparently told the children that the Pilgrims arrived here and were greeted by his ancestors, who hosted a great feast for them. The Pilgrims in turn, he allegedly said to those young impressionable minds, killed those Indians and stole their land. This is absolutely not true. The original settlers and their Native neighbors lived and worked together in peace for more than 50 years. I hope the students' parents have taught them the historically accurate story of the Pilgrims. Here is a very helpful site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mosmd/#part4> And here is a Scripture passage that suits what the Pilgrims were doing on that First Thanksgiving well. They saw themselves as "Israelites" Deuteronomy 26:1-11 When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:42

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

### **CS Lewis**

There is one of those "eternal flames" in a park here, burning as a memorial to JFK who was killed 42 years ago today. That reminds me that on this same day, C.S.Lewis also passed away, 42 years ago. With the movie version of his Lion, Witch and Wardrobe about to open (Dec 9th), we note that Lewis is as popular and influential today as ever, effectively still making a difference for Christ after all these years- a marvelous legacy for which we are thankful. Is that a roar I hear in the distance? A good portal site for a lot of information about the man and his work is aptly named "Into the Wardrobe" Find it here  
<http://cslewis.drzeus.net/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:13

### **We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing**

Well, faithful Readers of this Blog, we do, indeed, have much for which to be thankful. May the Lord bless you as you gather to enjoy, and to thank Him for, His blessings the day after tomorrow. Here is the very interesting story of a traditional Hymn often sung at Thanksgiving  
<http://www.opinionjournal.com/la/?id=110007583>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:57

Saturday, November 12, 2005

## **The Other Side of the Story**

Cindy Sheehan spoke to a capacity crowd of over 1400 cheering people here last night with her usual and very popular message condemning the war in Iraq. A local veteran, returning from that war last week, wrote a letter to our paper, giving the other side of the story. THIS IS A MUST READ Iraq war vet says thanks for support

Friday, November 11,  
2005 By STEPHEN E. SPELMAN Lt. Col. Special Forces, Baghdad

Thank you.

Thank you for letting us be your soldiers. Thank you for being Americans. For setting the example for us. For making us proud to do what we do.

It's Veterans Day, and we're your soldiers. We serve for you. We fight for you. We die for you.

We're fighting for you now in Iraq and Afghanistan. We fought for you at LZ X-Ray, Pork Chop Hill and Normandy. Someday, we'll fight for you God knows where.

We're the same men and women we've always been. We're from your town. We sold you your last set of tires. We teach your kids. We played ball with your cousin Tommy.

You have no idea how much we appreciate what you've done for us. You've supported us. You've supplied us. You've sustained us - in every war America has fought.

Every bit of that matters so much after a fight, back at our base camps, as we sit on our cots in the quiet, with our gear laid out around us. For a few minutes, we stop cleaning our rifles, and read the letter from home we've just been handed.

And for those few minutes, we're not in the harsh sands of Iraq or the cold mountains of Afghanistan. We're home. With you. In America.

Your soldiers love America. We really do. We love America at a level that some sophisticated people would probably make fun of. We know America isn't perfect. But we believe it's the best country going, and that, in general, we Americans try to do the right and decent thing.

Of course, being American soldiers, we ask questions. We wonder why some government officials, who found it too inconvenient to serve in the military themselves, now want to put us at almost certain risk of being tortured if we're captured.

We wonder why some Americans would rather see our president fail politically than see a new democracy flourish in Iraq. We wonder why these Americans want Iraqis to live under the "peace" and "stability" of a brutal fascist dictatorship, rather than have the freewheeling politics and right to dissent that we Americans enjoy.

And we wonder why the media would rather count our deaths than report our accomplishments. We hope you know we're doing good things in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We hope you know your soldiers are building clinics and schools, paving roads and treating sick children. We hope that word is getting out to you, through our letters, e-mails and visits home. We think it mostly isn't, but we still hope.

But being soldiers, we still go to work every day for you. Day in and day out. Just like our brothers and sisters from Vietnam, Korea, and World War II. We shrug on our body armor, strap on our helmets, pick up our weapons and go out to face a vicious and determined enemy. An enemy that hides behind the very people we're trying to help.

Your soldiers have a tough job. Every time we go out, each one of your soldiers is ready to kill someone. Each one of your soldiers knows that someone is ready to kill them. Think of that. Think of what that means.

Think of what that means for us when we return home to you. Think of what it's meant for our brothers and sisters who've returned home from Vietnam, Korea, and World War II. We who soldier now ask that you take a moment to thank those who soldiered before us. Those men and women went through hell for you, and some of them didn't get much of a homecoming.

Give them that homecoming now. A word, a pat on the shoulder, a handshake. That's all they'll need. Your soldiers earned that, fighting for you.

Your words, your prayers, and your love sustain us. They always have. For that, this Veterans Day and every other, we thank you.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:03

Friday, November 11. 2005

### **The Church Putting out the Fire in Paris and Beyond**

Last Sunday, I posted a post, "Paris Burning" in which I said-"The rioting in Paris is by people who are, as a group,... poor. They are poor because they are not educated, productive members of society. But why are they not educated and productive? Many insist that is because they are children of immigrants, although citizens by birth. In other words, they are poor, uneducated and unemployed because they are victims of discrimination. Discriminated against because their parents are African and mostly Moslems." Then I asked, "I wonder how many Christians are working with this population? Talk about mission fields !" An answer to that question is here and it has a lot to say to churches in America, too<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2005/145/32.0.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:17

### **Just War**

Today is a Holiday. Schools are closed. There is a Parade. It is Veterans Day. We remember all those who have been, or are now, serving their Country in the military, whether you think it is right or wrong. We can argue that the Bible teaches what is called the "Just War Theory". In my mind, Pacifists, in their teaching, have not adequately dealt with the problem of evil in society nor with the role of government as a servant of God in securing and maintaining peace and justice in a fallen world. Of course, to do that, the military is essential. Regardless, whether we see war as just or just war, those who have, or are now, serving our Country in the military are rightfully honored today. That especially applies to the fallen and wounded military whom we remember also on Memorial Day

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:19

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

### **Lump in the Throat**

Walking in to the school cafeteria to vote yesterday brought a lump to my throat- it was an emotional experience, to participate in democracy: a privilege, as well as a civic duty. Apparently, only 25 % of eligible voters here agreed. People have been insisting that we need a change of leadership in this city of 151,000 because the present leaders have (at least) allowed the city to get into its current fiscal, moral and social problems. The incumbents were all returned to office. The majority of the population is non-white. Many have been decrying their lack of representation in government. There were many "minority" candidates running. They did not get the support they needed. With their numbers, the "non-white" voters did not take the opportunity to make it happen. The City is still in the hands of mostly Italian and Irish politicians. I am not necessarily agreeing with the critics or complainants. I am just observing that they did not back up their words with action. When have we seen that before?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:26

Sunday, November 6, 2005

### **What good has been accomplished?**

The media has made much of the US military death toll reaching now more than 2000 in the war in Iraq. Jeff Jacoby, writing in the Boston Globe, notes that the media makes little of the accomplishments made possible by those deaths, as well as by those who were wounded in action<sup>1</sup>. destruction of a murderous dictatorship<sup>2</sup>. liberation of 25 million Iraqis from that dictatorship<sup>3</sup>. the emergence of democratic politics in Iraq<sup>4</sup>. the formation of a democratically elected government and constitution<sup>5</sup>. withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon<sup>6</sup>. the abandonment of its nuclear weapons program by Libya<sup>Historically</sup>, a loss of 2000 troops to accomplish this much is very low. It is still low if 27-31,000 civilian deaths are added.  
[http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2005/11/02/the\\_good\\_news\\_from\\_iraq\\_is\\_not\\_fit\\_to\\_print/](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2005/11/02/the_good_news_from_iraq_is_not_fit_to_print/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 23:41

### **Voting**

Next Tuesday is Election Day. (A friend quipped that every day is election day for Calvinists) Here in Springfield, we are voting on Mayor, City Council and School Board. "The whole enchilada", as they say. This City is rife with corruption and mismanagement. Most of the incumbants have been around for a long time. As they also say, "It's time for a change." If someone in office is responsible for the problems, they should not be allowed to remain in office. (This, by the way, applies to church leaders, too) Everyone complains and yet officials predict only one third of those eligible will vote. My wife and I are voting and not for many of the people presently in office (there is also a need for better candidates and more choices)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:44

### **Paris Burning**

In the post below, I referred to people who are very poor because they are addicts, alcoholics and mentally ill. The rioting in Paris is by people who are, as a group, none of these things, but who are nevertheless poor. They are poor because they are not educated, productive members of society. But why are they not educated and productive? Many insist that is because they are children of immigrants, although citizens by birth. In other words, they are poor, uneducated and unemployed because they are victims of discrimination. Discriminated against because their parents are African and mostly Moslems. I do not know that for a fact. If it is true, then the white, non-Moslem, French citizens and their Leaders know what they must do- after the riots are quelled- if for no other reason than the fact that Paris is burning and will continue to do so. Meanwhile, where are the parents and leaders of the African-Moslem community? Could it be that some of them might actually be abetting their youth to riot to foster some kinds of Terrorist and radical Islamic goals? I wonder how many Christians are working with this population? Talk about mission fields !

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:31

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

### **The Other Racism**

The story of Rosa Parks has again made the story of Black-White race relations front page news. Actually, it never goes away. My recent reading, and some documentaries I have seen lately, remind me of that other Racism which rarely is mentioned these days, but, arguably, has been even more pervasive and important in world history: anti-Semitism. Near our house is a large Center, dedicated to preserving artifacts and memorabilia of the WW II Holocaust. We drive by it almost daily and it serves to remind me of this other Racism. We must never forget it.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:45

Monday, October 31, 2005

### **The Things I Didn't Learn in School**

I am frequently reminded about how much I never heard (to my best recollection) when I was in school, going back over 60 years. Do you remember being taught that Henry Ford and Charles Lindbergh were avid (rabid) anti-Semites and very pro-Hitler? I don't, but they were, according to many historians. The disturbing and disillusioning story is told in a book I just read entitled, *The American Axis*, by Max Wallace, St Martin's Press. My life-long illusion was that both men were great American Heroes, good guys. Not so, if the evidence is believed. Makes me wonder how many other illusions I have about our Country's History and the famous people who helped make it. One interesting footnote: Theodore Geisel (Dr Suess) began his career, drawing anti- Lindbergh political cartoons in a New York newspaper.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:46

### **The Power of One**

The previous post called for Christians to be well-qualified for the work God calls them to do in the public square. The implication was intellectual qualifications. Sometimes, the qualification is simply character with courage. Rosa Parks was not qualified to be a Supreme Court Justice, nevertheless her character and courage, exercised at the right time and place, effectively changed the laws of the Land.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:27

Thursday, October 27, 2005

### **Great American Pastime?**

What a difference a year makes. The 88 year drought for the Chicago White Sox ended last night with their World Series win. It barely made the sports section of our daily paper, along with local high school sports and an article about the Patriots. Last year, the Red Sox victory made screaming Front Page headlines. National pastime? Even in Chicago, more attention is given to the Cubs from the northside of the city than the southside Sox. And why did the pregame show celebrate and focus on Latino players? Sure they have contributed alot to the game, past and present; but, so have Black, Asian and White players. I thought this was a Team sport, as well as an American sport. If the reason was because the game was in the Southwest, that just confirms my complaint. The name "World Series" just confuses the point further. The only Teams playing are from the United States. Actually, the great American pastime, when it comes to professional sports is making money.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:19

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

### **But, what difference does being a Christian make?**

The previous post [the next one down] has sources telling us that nominee Miers is a Christian; but does that really tell us anything specific about the positions she might take about anything in the public square? Hopefully, being a Christian means she is a person of integrity and honor. She will be honest. That is good. Many will assume that it also means she will be pro-life and pro-traditional marriage. Can we also assume that Christians oppose pork barrel legislation or are for Social Security reform or the new prescription drug policy?

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/novak/cst-edt-novak26.html> What is a Christian or Biblical policy about the role of government in our society? See comments on this Blog about Conservatism and its weakness in this regard- [http://byzantinecalvinist.blogspot.com/2003\\_10\\_01\\_byzantinecalvinist\\_archive.html](http://byzantinecalvinist.blogspot.com/2003_10_01_byzantinecalvinist_archive.html) It is interesting that people on the Left insist that a Justice have no ideology, except their's. People on the Right also insist a Justice must have no ideology, except their's. Personally, I hope she has no ideology, except for a commitment to being a strict constructionist when it comes to interpreting and applying the Constitution. In my mind, that is the first, and maybe only, "Test" of any nominee. otherwise qualified to sit on the Bench.

<http://www.wisecounty.com/themuse/StrictConstruction.htm> A helpful over view of how the Constitution is interpreted is here -<http://faculty.ncwc.edu/toconnor/410/410lect02.htm> The same options apply to interpreting Scripture. Much of the debate and division in our country and churches is explained by the contrast of the first two options and the last option mentioned (structuralism or the "living document" approach) to both the Constitution and the Bible

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:31

### **Nominee Miers a Christian**

"Miers is a woman of faith with strong Christian beliefs. To her, it has been "wonderful to be working for a president who is a believer and who acts on his faith." The president talks about his faith often, and it is important to him. It also is important to Miers. She brings her faith to bear on everything she does. It's not only a part of how she views issues, it also affects her willingness to serve and her desire to do well. She readily acknowledges that she can't do anything without the grace of God." <http://www.christianstandard.com/articledisplay.asp?id=134> also- <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20051005-122400-8922r.htm>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:01

Monday, October 3, 2005

### **Charity and Corruption**

On the news tonight was a story of a visit by former President Clinton to an assembly of school children in a Connecticut town. Mr Clinton thanked and praised the children for their efforts to raise money for tsunami relief in Sri Lanka last year. Children interviewed told of the bake sales and coin collections. A lot of hard work, well meant. If they google "Sri Lanka corruption", they will find many articles like this one, reporting evidence of wide spread corruption in the handling of millions of dollars contributed for relief and reconstruction. <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/KHII-6GP9B6?OpenDocument> There is a lesson here to be applied to relief and reconstruction efforts on our Gulf Coast. I hope the Connecticut kids do not become as cynical as I am about such matters.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:02

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

### **A Bar: Symbol of Hope?**

Apparently, the main street, in the downtown tourist section of New Orleans was hardly touched by Katrina and the floods. The bars along aptly named Bourbon St are open for business- one never closed. What does this say about God, if one blames Him for the destruction in the area? The bar and other business owners in that small section are defiant, almost arrogant. No storm is going to close us down. We are too strong. We are survivors. Yeah, they were hardly touched by the storm. They seem oblivious to the immense suffering to 100s of thousands and the destruction of property around them for hundreds of miles. But the mayor is on their side. The historic French Quarter is now a symbol of the undaunted human spirit to overcome adversity. We shall overcome- see we have our bars open. That strikes me as really perverse, what with so many Gulf Coast residents dead or in dire distress, homeless and scattered as "refugees" all over America. Lot of good an open bar is doing them. And to top it off, city leaders are going on with plans to hold their annual drunken orgy known as Mardi Gras as another symbol that the city is going to overcome and rebuild. Choosing open bars and drunken revelry as the symbols for a great city's rebirth makes you wonder if maybe God was behind the destruction and just missed the target.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:50

Monday, September 12, 2005

### **Just wondering**

With so many rushing to blame our President for everything that went wrong in the Gulf Coast relief effort, it seems there is plenty of blame to go around to everyone involved and particularly on the local and state level. There was plenty of warning for everyone to have been prepared, if they had only heeded it. Just wondering who is going to be blamed when Christ comes again and untold millions are not prepared for that disaster. No one will be able to say, "I didn't know it was coming." Just wondering, too, if anyone has noticed the eerie resemblance of what befell New Orleans with what will befall the City of Babylon. Read Revelation 18

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:30

Sunday, September 4, 2005

### **Why?**

Some have blamed God or the President for the disaster in New Orleans. Most of it is the consequence of many years of very poor human decisions and judgment. Here are some-<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/weather/hurricane/bal-te.how04sep04,1,3954331.story?coll=bal-home-headlines>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:42

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

### **Not "lucky" any more**

I don't think anyone is calling New Orleans "lucky" any more; but it surely is blessed. Blessed by the amazing amount of rescue help being received on every level from every sector. The people, expertise, equipment, money and resources being made available to help the stricken people and cities is mindboggling. And wonderful. This is "Common Grace" and the blessing of God. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, THOU ART WITH ME. Thou leadest me [through that valley]...FOR THY NAME'S SAKE Hallowed be Thy Name Thy will be done Thy Kingdom come on earth...in New Orleans

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:18

Tuesday, August 30, 2005

**Just Wondering:**

Many of us were praying that God would be merciful and spare New Orleans from the devastation predicted from the flood. It was bad, but the City was spared at the last minute, weathermen and newscasters said. Repeatedly, we heard that the City was "lucky". Luck- not prayer or God- was the reason. This morning, some in the media discussed flood insurance and we heard that many do not have coverage for this "act of God". Hmmn And then there are the penurious "Heathen" and the spendthrift "Christians". There has been a 3-piece series by AP running in our Daily News. No surprise: Americans are in great, serious financial debt, as we spend way beyond our means. Most of us claim to be Christians. The Japanese have very little debt, pay cash only and live within their means- very frugal people and almost none claim to be Christian. Is there a connection? Just wondering.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:10

Monday, August 29, 2005

### **Everybody is praying**

With the giant hurricane bearing down on the New Orleans area, we are hearing alot about people praying for safety and protection. We, too, pray that the Lord will have mercy on those in danger's way. It could well be that God allows such events (causes? ) to bring people to pray- not simply for safety- but for forgiveness of their sins. What will it take to get people to flee, not in cars on the highways from the rising floods, but from their sins and the Wrath to come. (see Psalm 11 below in QT Thots)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:27

Thursday, August 25, 2005

### **Pat Robertson and Chavez**

Mr Robertson has provoked a lot of rhetoric in the media about his remarks advocating the assassination of the President of Venezuela. There are those who condemn him, as a Christian, for advocating a murder. Then there are others who condemn him for meddling in the internal affairs of a foreign country. Here's a interesting perspective by an evangelical missionary-<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0825/p09s01-coop.html?s=u> What was very disconcerting to me was this story of how our government is working to undermine Chavez at the same time it is facilitating the selling of arms to his government- yes, playing both sides of the street against each other! See- <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0810/p01s04-woam.html?s=widdep>

This seems to be a fair story of what Mr Chavez is up to- <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0825/p01s04-woam.html> Here is a very positive spin on the story <http://www.christianpost.com/article/society/1772/section/robertson.controversy.sheds.light.on.chavez%92.reign/1.htm> Should Christians in Venezuela work to overthrow their President? What methods should they use? Would that include prayer? Can American Christians join in such a prayer? Should our government be involved at all in the internal affairs of any foreign country? If our government is involved, then Americans are involved. Should Christian Americans be involved in the internal affairs of Venezuela? Does that include Evangelists? How is involvement in Venezuela different from involvement in Iraq? Sudan? Niger? North Korea? Iran? What Biblical principles are involved? What is the mind of Christ here?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:02

Monday, August 22, 2005

### **Beware sound bytes**

Just got annoyed again at our local news media. They run with headlines (TV and newspapers) that give very misleading impressions. Workers in Western Mass are paid less than in Eastern Mass (but the cost of living, especially housing, is far lower here in the West than in the East). Whites are leaving the area in big numbers (college students and seasonal workers- and no mention of the exodus of affluent African Americans, who are leaving the Northeast for intentionally segregated Black communities in the South). The public school system is in crisis with 150 some vacancies unfilled (an annual phenomena- there are 2,500 teachers in the local system) Today, following coverage of the funeral for an 18 yr old gunned down in a drive by, the headlines are about the cycle of murders of Black youth by Black youth. I think there have been 8 homicides so far this year, not all involving teens. As terrible as this is, it is not a crime wave in this city of 151,000. The media seem to really go for the sensational and contribute a lot to stirring the city up. As with national stories, like the Iraq war and embryonic stem cell research and certain Supreme Court rulings, the "news" we get is highly selective and often seems designed to increase ratings or sales or to promote the personal agendas of the owners, publishers, editors and managers. We can not believe all we read or hear as citizens. We must check a variety of sources on any story. And we dare not be sound-byte Christians, if we are to have a credible witness in the public square.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:20

Sunday, August 14, 2005

### **A Million Dollars Annually to Discover the Origins of Life**

reported in today's Boston Globe-"Harvard University is launching a broad initiative to discover how life began, joining an ambitious scientific assault on age-old questions that are central to the debate over the theory of evolution." "The Harvard project, which is likely to start with about \$1 million annually from the university, will bring together scientists from fields as disparate as astronomy and biology, to understand how life emerged from the chemical soup of early Earth, and how this might have happened on distant planets." Now read this next paragraph and tell me if they will succeed. "We start with a mutual acknowledgment of the profound complexity of living systems," said David R. Liu, a professor of chemistry and chemical biology at Harvard. But "my expectation is that we will be able to reduce this to a very simple series of logical events that could have taken place with no divine intervention." If a scientist "starts" his research with the "expectation" [read- presupposition or faith] that all will be reduced to "logical events" [read- what can be known and proven by Reason alone] "with no divine intervention." [read- without God and Creation by God as a possible explanation of, or at least a theoretical possibility, Origins], how open is this million dollar research to truth about Origins? How objective or fact-neutral is such research? It is predicated on and determined by "faith". The outcome is pre-judged (predjudiced). This scientist is operating with the assumption that we live in a closed universe. Christians think outside that box. Scientists, who are Christians, do research open to the possibility that there is more than the time-space material world. They admit their faith that there is a God who exists apart from this universe, who intentionally created it with purpose and who is actively and immanently involved in operating and preserving it. They admit their faith in sources of knowledge about the universe and origins apart from Reason alone. These Christian scientists will come up with different results of the million dollar research than will the scientists with an antithetical faith.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:15

Friday, August 12, 2005

### **Misplaced Blame**

"Supported by more than 50 demonstrators who chanted, "W. killed her son!" Cindy Sheehan told reporters: "I want to ask the president, 'Why did you kill my son? What did my son die for?'"

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/08/06/bush.peace.mom.ap/>Ms Sheehan has been told, over and over, as has every American, what the war in Iraq is about. She simply does not accept what she has been told. She has blamed Mr Bush for killing her son! The enemy in Iraq killed her son. Casey had voluntarily enlisted in the Army, mostly for the educational benefits. He had re-enlisted to be with his comrades, who needed his skills as a humvee mechanic. In that sense, he unselfishly voluntarily placed himself in harm's way and shares responsibility for a decision that led to his death. He could have decided to stay home. He did join the Army, during war time. Surely he and his mother knew the risk. And surely she knew his duty was to obey his Commander-in-Chief and she has no business blaming him personally, if her son were to be killed while he was doing that. His mother has stressed that Casey and the family have been devout Christians. Was the decision to enlist, either time, with the sense that it was God's plan for Casey or with the assurance that Casey was in God's Hand. If so, should Ms Sheehan blame God also? Certainly, the family is understandably heartbroken with their loss, but where is the trust in a sovereign God who works in all things to the good according to his purposes? That faith should be giving her peace and comfort in her grief, as it has untold numbers of others.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:28

Thursday, July 14. 2005

### **Sick Hospitals**

There is a lot of controversy in Massachusetts over a bill about to be voted on by our Legislature mandating nurse-to-patient ratios in our hospitals. Nurses generally seem to be in favor, while administrators and doctors seem to be opposed. It is confusing. It is not clear who is meant by "nurse". I have not read anything about the work of various "Assistants" or even LPNs who, in my experience, do a lot of the work that the debaters claim RNs do; or about the large amount of time that RNs seem to spend doing administrative duties, rather than direct patient care. I did read another article this week about the thousands of patients who get infections every year in hospitals from poor care from somebody (not clear). I often hear staff on all levels complain about being over-worked and under-paid and about battles between them and Administration and about poor management. As a patient, I know what it is to wait an inordinate amount of time for some one to answer the bell and be told, "Sorry, we are short tonight." And have you been in an ER lately? Something's wrong. Hospitals are sick.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:58

Thursday, July 7, 2005

### **Tony Blair and Multiculturalism**

Today, responding to the terrorists attacks in London, PM Tony Blair stoutly protested against the barbarians who had attacked civilization. If we follow the rules of multiculturalism, Mr Blair was terribly insensitive. No one should laud his culture over another. None are superior. None are inferior. All are equal and deserve equal respect. Mr Blair was flat out saying that the terrorists are barbarians and uncivilized. That is a judgement. It shows prejudice. The terrorists have a right to their values as well as the British. By those values, apparently it is the Brits who are barbaric and it is life in London that is uncivilized. Of course this is nonsense. I agree with Mr Blair. Multiculturalism is foolishness. However, there is one problem: how does anyone decide who is right or wrong? What criteria can be used to judge good or bad? what is barbaric or civilized? What standards are the G8 protestors using? The very fact people argue about "Justice" means that there is such a thing. How do people know that? How do we measure it? If there are no universal principles to determine these matters for everyone, all civilization will, indeed, become barabric or certainly as mangled and unrecognizable as that two-decker London bus that was blown up today.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:35

Friday, June 17, 2005

## **The Filibuster and Lynching**

There was a lot of discussion in the last few weeks about the use of the filibuster to prevent an up or down vote on the President's nominees for Federal Justices. The filibuster, or the threat of using a filibuster, has often been used in the Senate by both Republicans and Democrats since 1830, as a way for the minority to impede the majority. Some claim that doing this is wrong because the majority is supposed to have what it wants in a democracy.

Between 1882 and 1968, according to Tuskegee University records and an AP press release this week, 4,743 people were killed (lynched) by mob violence. Of those 3,446 were Blacks. Nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in Congress and seven Presidents petitioned Congress to pass a federal law against lynching. Conservatives used the filibuster to prevent action from being taken. The lynchings ended with the enactment of the Civil Rights laws. Passage of those laws also were delayed by the use of the filibuster by conservatives. In these matters, I think Christians today will agree that Conservative Senators using the filibuster were wrong. For Christians, what should matter about whatever is being proposed in the Senate, is not whether Conservatives or the Majority are "for it" or not; but whether the proposal is Scriptural or not. Sometimes, Liberals or the Minority may have it right. We must not follow in lockstep any Party. I remember well, in the '60's, when the Conservative cry was, "My Country, right or wrong" and "Love it or Leave it". Christians should never say such things. We support our Country [meaning the Leaders] when it is right, but we must not, when it is wrong. However, when it is wrong, we must love and pray for it [the Leaders]. That means not leaving it, but sticking around to try to turn it around. Sometimes that may require the use of the filibuster. Life in the Public Square is not simple.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:53

Tuesday, June 14. 2005

### **What Books do Christians Read?**

The June issue of Chritianity Today is its annual book issue. On p.19 is a full page add from Christian Book Distributors (CBD), featuring its top ten best sellers. I have not read any of these books that, apparently, are very popular with multitudes of Christians. They include a Veggie Tales DVD. Very significantly, none of CBD's best sellers are on CT's list of the Best Christian Books of 2005- or on the list of 12 runners-up. Why the difference? Which list is the better one? Which list reflects the "State of the Church"? PS- I have not read any of the CT books either, but that is because I can't afford new books these days.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:45

### **Saving Springfield Youth- whose job is it?**

There was a very large, all-day Conference last month here in Springfield, primarily to brainstorm and net work, to find solutions for "Saving Our Youth" The local paper summarized the resultant suggestions- parents need to be more involved with their children, especially with school work; parents need to be more vigilant and set more boundaries for their children re behavior; [the city and its businesses?] need to find or create jobs and more jobs for youth; [the city and its social agencies?] need to offer more programs to keep the kids busy and off the street. Nothing new here. These same suggestions have been made by innumerable experts and parent groups, decade after decade. So how come "Our Youth" still need "Saving" after all this time? Something being missed here? I suggest that the main issue here [granted there are several] is the ever increasing number of dysfunctional families. "Parents" of kids who get in trouble are often single mothers with a lot of personal problems, including little education. They often have very low income due to those personal problems or to lack of marketable skills. These mothers are not able to carry out the suggestions made at these Conferences for parents to do That leaves the city and its businesses and agencies to raise the children properly- not their job!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 21:29