

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.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 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

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

THE IMPORTANCE OF BOOKS

I have always been surrounded by books. At one time my library had some 5000 volumes. (almost all of them non-fiction). Today's Serious Times Blog expresses well how I feel about books and a personal library. <http://www.serioustimes.com/blog.asp?id=117>

Posted by Cal in Personal Journal at 16:59

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES and a LESSON ABOUT EDUCATION

Today I came across the photograph of a childhood friend posted with his academic achievements on the website of The Teaching Company, purveyor of scholarly audio books. He is now a retired Professor of Political Science, having spent most of his his career teaching at Barnard College/Columbia University in NYC. He and I were best buddies in 7-9th grade. We attended a very plain 4 room country school in what was then a rural part of New Jersey. We and our friends walked the 2 miles to school each way, all year long. We often played in the woods and swam in a local swimming hole and enjoyed pick-up baseball games. His folks raised a few chickens and goats (The favorite had only one horn and was named "Patchy"). They did not practice any Religion, while my family was active in the local Congregational Church in the village, where I preached my first sermon at age 12. He became a student of Gandhi and I of Jesus. I haven't seen him since those days, but am thankful for some great memories.

My point is that those early, humble, Norman Rockwell beginnings did not prevent either of us from going on through college and graduate school into professional careers. Where there is a desire and will, along with supportive parents, academic achievement is possible, no matter from which side of the tracks, advantaged or disadvantaged, a child may come.

<http://www.teach12.com/storex/professor.aspx?id=2>

Posted by Cal in Personal Journal at 16:28

Tuesday, January 26. 2010

THEONOMY- LIVING BY THE LAW OF GOD

Today, I have posted a NEW ESSAY on the front page of my website explaining what I understand by THEONOMY, written in response to an Essay by Dr Mike Horton about "The Two Kingdoms Theory" which is currently a hot topic in some circles. I hope it explains what I am trying to do with my personal studies and why I call my website "Re/Formed Living"

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 15:19

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=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 definitions? 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 discrimination 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

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS (Author Unknown)

PSALM 23The Lord is my Shepherd ---- that's a Relationship!I shall not want ---- that's Supply!He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ----that's Rest!He leadeth me beside the still waters ----that's Refreshment!He restoreth my soul ---- that's Healing!He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness --that's Guidance!For His name sake ---- that's Purpose!Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death--that's Testing!I will fear no evil ---- that's

Protection!For Thou art with me ----- that's Faithfulness!Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me -----that's Discipline!Thou
preparast a table before me in the presence of mine enemies-----that's Hope!Thou annointest my head with oil -----
that's Consecration!My cup runneth over ----- that's Abundance!Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life----that's Comfort!And I will dwell in the house of the Lord -----that's Security!Forever ----- that's Eternity!

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 13:03

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

NEW ESSAY ON MY WEBSITE

War in Heaven and Hell on Earth is the title of a major Essay I posted this morning on the front page of my website.
<http://www.reformedliving.org/>

This Essay is about spiritual warfare between Christ and Satan, the conflict between God's way of thinking and "Man's" way. It is about the best ways to explain and defend the Faith and help ground new Believers in that Faith. It is also about the law of God and how to live a righteous life. Finally it discusses what separation from the world involves. It includes discussion of The Antithesis, Antithesis and Apologetics, Antithesis and Culture, Antithesis and The Law of God and Theonomy

Posted by Cal at 10:06

NEW ESSAY ON MY WEBSITE

This morning I posted an extended Essay on the Transformation of Culture and Nation on the front page of my website
<http://www.reformedliving.org/>

This Essay is about how Christians can relate to the world without compromise, living in it but not be of it. It is about being transformed in our minds and learning to think Biblically. It is about how we can make a difference for Christ in our world and Country. Can the culture around us be changed? Is preaching the Gospel enough? No] Is Social Action enough? [No] Is there a third way? [Yes, there is!]

Posted by Cal at 10:02

Tuesday, January 12. 2010

A BLESSING

Here is a Hymn for my Devotions this morning. It is by Augustus Montague Toplady, (1740-1778)
It is filled with good Calvinist Theology and wonderful comfort to me. A debtor to mercy alone, of covenant-mercy I sing;
nor fear, with thy righteousness on [the righteousness of Christ that is imputed to Believers], my person and offering to bring. [Believers can approach a holy God without fear when clothed in that righteousness]
The terrors of law and of God with me can have nothing to do [those terrors do not prevent my approach, because-];my Savior's obedience and blood hide all my transgressions from view.The work which his goodness began [in me], the arm of his strength will complete;his promise is Yes and Amen and never was forfeited yet.
Things future, nor things that are now, nor all things below and above,can make him his purpose forego or sever my soul from his love.My name from the palms of his hands eternity will not erase; impressed on his heart it remains in marks of indelible grace.
Yes, I to the end shall endure as sure as the earnest is given;more happy, but not more secure, [are] the glorified spirits in heaven.

Posted by Cal in Personal Journal at 13:59

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

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VISION AND SIGHT

Many of us make much of the importance of absolute truth-- and out confidence that we possess it! My wife and I recently watched a movie ("At First Sight") based on the fascinating experiences of a man who lost his sight as a very young child and regained in middle age (from a story by Oliver Sacks, "To see or not to see". The blind man regained vision but he could not see. He could not make any sense of what his eyes were now telling him. Though now sighted, he had to learn to see and that was a long, confusing, scary process. His brain had to learn to differentiate distances and shapes. His brain had to learn perspective and communicate that to his mind. He was always running into things or unable to reach and grasp objects, even though he had perfect vision.

This was a cautionary tale for those of us who are so sure we see what really is. Truth may not be what it appears to be.

Another lesson learned was that, when blind, the man saw more than most sighted people. He had learned over the years to "see" with his other senses and was in many ways far more wise and knowledgeable and alive in the moment than many of us who are sighted. Jesus came to bring Light into the Darkness. he came to give sight to the blind. Which kind of Light and Sight do we, literally, have in mind?

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 13:26

USING THE CLIMATE WARMERS' ARGUMENT

The difference between "climate" and "weather" is that weather is what we experience today and climate is the weather over long periods of time. Many are wondering where climate warming is on these days of freezing Winter weather across most of the country. Folks who say that reject the idea that because we are in a short term weather event like this cold spell, climate warming is not real. They go for the big picture. On the other hand, those folks are glad to use those daily short term weather event to prove their theory of long term warming, eg- fires burning up dry land on the West coast or floods in the South.

We Christians use a version of this same argument. When a State has made "Gay Marriage" legal, advocates say, "see the sky is not falling. There is no long term change in America." Those of us who oppose making "Gay Marriage" legal respond with, "but wait for the long term fall out and the change we shall see in the Country over the next few decades or generations." Each group in both cases use the same argument to support their opposing position.

Posted by Cal at 13:08

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

BRIT HUME, TIGER WOODS AND JESUS

Brit Hume's TV comments over the weekend saying that Tiger Wood can, and needs to, find forgiveness and redemption in the Christian Faith have stirred up the predictable backlash. In a discussion about his comment the next day, Hume made it even more clear- Tiger Woods needs Jesus Christ!

[brit-hume-tiger-woods-advice-not-proselytizing.html](#)

Hume's many critics call him a bigot. I was called a bigot for the first time in the hallway of a church years ago by a very prominent member because I had preached that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life and that no one comes to (God) but by Him. I was to be fired from another Church years later for saying the the same thing. Face it, Christian friends, if "bigot" is defined as "a person who is intolerant of any ideas other than his or her own, esp on religion..." or "One who is strongly partial to one's own group, religion, race, or politics and is intolerant of those who differ." and "intolerant" is defined as not "showing respect for the ... opinions of others" or "narrow-minded" then we are bigoted. Jesus is the one and only way to God. He is God and there is no other. But the name "Bigot" is used in a pejorative (negative, bad) sense. It especially comes across as "not loving and illiberal". Well, what Jesus said is illiberal to other views. There absolutely are no other ways to find God; but saying that is not unloving. Just the contrary! If someone you love is going out on a pond thinking the thin ice will hold him, that he is safe, when you know he is in danger, it is illiberal to yell to him to stop and insist he must come back, but it is not unloving. It would be unloving to respect his false belief about his safety and do nothing. If he falls through and you manage to throw this person a rope and you yell to [him] and demand [he] grab it so [he] can be saved from drowning, that would be illberal, but not unloving. Not to tell him to grab the rope would be unloving.

The unbelievers who are slamming Mr Hume and vilifying all of us who agree with what he said about Jesus are, in fact, the bigoted, intolerant, illiberal and unloving ones. The Editorial about Mr Hume's comments, in this morning's Boston Globe, takes a different tack, writing, "Yes, but commitment to Christianity couldn't prevent Bill Clinton from dallying with an intern, Senator David Vitter from contracting with prostitutes, and Senator Larry Craig from being arrested for solicitation in a men's room, amid thousands of other examples. Christianity and other major religions provide solid ethical frameworks, but that's not enough. Whether one is Christian, Muslim, or Zoroastrian, staying faithful to one's spouse is a test of character, not faith."

[christians_can_be_adulterers_too/](#)We all could add others who have claimed to be born again evangelical Christians to the list of those who sin. In fact, my name could be one the list- and yours, too. Our witness to lost sinners is not to the Christian Religion. Our witness is to Jesus Christ and what Biblical Christianity teaches about Him. We never claim to be perfect, He is. We do not claim we do not sin, but that we are forgiven of our sins because we repent and trust in Him to be our Savior. The Bible is clear that true Christians do sin, but they do not habitually live in sin. It is not characteristic of their lives as a whole. 1 John 1:5-2:2 We sin on the occasions when we take our eyes off Jesus and ignore who He is and who we are in Him, when we quench His Spirit in us, when we give into the desire to put Self first above others. But the Lord won't let us get away with that. When it happens, He is all over us, convicting and leading us to confess and seek forgiveness, cleansing and a fresh start. He puts us back on track. All of this is part of the Christian Faith. The Globe Editor does not seem to know any of this. I wonder what [he] does when [his] character fails a test? Apparently, for the Editor, Jesus is of no help with that. Sad

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 11:12

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

GREAT BOOKS Curriculum

A university or college Great Books Program is a program inspired by the Great Books movement begun in the United States in the 1920s. Great Books started out as a list of 100 essential primary source texts considered to constitute the Western canon. The aim of such programs is a return to the Western Liberal Arts tradition in education, as a corrective to the extreme disciplinary specialisation common within the academy. The essential component of such programs is a high degree of engagement with whole primary texts, called the Great Books. The curricula of Great Books programs often follow a canon of texts considered more or less essential to a student's education, such as Plato's Republic, or Dante's Divine Comedy. Such programs often focus exclusively on Western culture. Their employment of primary texts dictates an interdisciplinary approach, as most of the Great Books do not fall neatly under the prerogative of a single contemporary academic discipline. Great Books programs often include designated discussion groups as well as lectures, and have small class sizes. In general students in such programs receive an abnormally high degree of attention from their professors, as part of the overall aim of fostering a community of learning. Great Books started out as a list of 100 essential primary source texts considered to constitute the Western canon. For more information see Great_Books

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:59

"OLD DEAD WHITE MEN" and OTHERS

We should all greatly value the Languages and Literature, the History and the Intellectual and Cultural Heritage of Western Europe and Great Britain and want to see them preserved and taught and given priority in schools throughout America:

Ancient Greek, Medieval, Renaissance and Reformation Philosophers, Theologians, Artists and assorted "Leaders" and people of influence

European mathematicians, philosophers, scientists, political figures

European and American Literary authors (the traditional Western canon)

European "Classical" music composers and performers

The Founding Fathers of the United States

I definitely do not agree with, or endorse, all that all these (mostly old dead white) men taught or stood for. But there is a very real and fundamental connection between these Thinkers, Writers and Artists and Christian Culture and Christian Civilization. This Heritage and Tradition provides the major roots from which America comes. Much of the greatness and many of our highest achievements may be attributed to them and their influence. We neglect or disparage them and their influence to our peril as a Nation.

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:56