

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

## **I HAVE A DREAM**

In Martin Luther King's famous "I have a Dream" speech given 50 years ago today, he declared the Founding Fathers/Document promised, yea, guaranteed "Freedom" for everyone; but "America" had failed to keep that promise for "Negroes" and it was time to make it happen- he had a dream that it would, a dream that the Millennial Kingdom of God would soon come

I recently posted 3 new Essays about "Freedom", how it has been defined and what it actually is and what it requires to work out in practice. <http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:55

Tuesday, August 27. 2013

## **REAL COLLEGE PREP**

According to recent studies, almost half of all American college students will abandon their Christian faith during their undergraduate years. Half. The most common reason given is that the environment of higher education is often anti-faith. A recent study by the Fuller Youth Institute found that almost a third of college students say their institute of higher learning was not helpful in keeping or growing their faith. In fact, it was antagonistic toward it. Most universities would defend themselves by saying that examining one's faith in an intellectually stimulating environment such as a college or university should lead to a deeper understanding of a childhood faith. It's a good line. But it's not true.

According to the research of political scientists Robert P. Putnam and David E. Campbell, "Young Americans are dropping out of religion at an alarming rate of five to six times the historical rate." Another study found with each year of education, there is a 15% increase that the student will believe that there's "truth in more than one religion" and believe in a "higher power" rather than a personal God.

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=4814> This situation is related to, but very different than, youth dropping out of the local church. This is youth dropping out of Christianity. There may well be an overlap, but the main issue here is intellectual, not sociological- a different set of problems and issues. Churches must prepare their youth intellectually for secular college (and for "Christian" schools that are increasingly secular).

Many years ago, I realized that to effectively make a difference for Christ in the world, the key is to reach young people who will be change-makers in the world, ie- college students (and increasingly, high school students). The usual or typical church and church member is not going to make much of an impact on Society, on changing social, economic or political structures for Christ. To confront and change the Powers that be, this requires, besides faith and spiritual tools, a mind well-educated in the way the world works and well trained in applying Biblical Precepts and Principles to that world. Our youth must be well-grounded in the Bible and our Faith and able to cogently witness to a Biblical World view and defend it against all it's detractors. That preparation must begin early on. School must be put back into Sunday School.

Our original Vision for our bookstores (my wife and I had three of them) was to offer the resources to Christian students to do this in tandem with the secular courses they were studying or to help answer questions that they were being asked by secular and often severely critical faculty and fellow-students. Most Christian students are totally unaware of the Christian scholarship available for this work- hence we made materials and study groups available to them.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 12:00

## **DEVOTIONAL WRITING AVAILABLE NOW**

Three times every week for several years now I have written and emailed devotional material to friends that I pray will be a blessing to them. These are called "QT Thots" [Thoughts for Quiet Times with God]. My son, Kevin, a Publisher and Editor, has selected 64 of them and arranged them into 16 Categories with 4 Topics each on a new website. I believe he has done an excellent job and I hope you shall visit the site and see if these QT Thots are helpful to you or to other readers you may know. We pray they shall be.

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

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 10:11

## **TWENTY-SOMETHINGS AND THE CHURCH**

I have just posted a NEW Essay on my website. It concerns the problem of youth dropping out of the local church and offers an approach that considers the characteristics of The Generations.

I have also posted links to 4 other helpful web articles on the subject  
<http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Church at 10:04

## **CAN MILLENNIALS BE SAVED?**

Millennials are said to be the Generation that has dropped out of church. Here is how one article describes them as a group. Obviously they are not all this way, thankfully; how could anyone with these characteristics be a Christian at the same time? Pinning the "me, me, me" label on Gen Y, millennials, or whatever you want to call them, has become so ubiquitous, Time magazine actually blasted it across their cover a few months ago: "The ME ME ME Generation." But guess what? Twentysomethings aren't apologizing. They say it's a good thing.

"It's viewed as an extremely self-centered thing—and that's kind of the point!" said Tim Tieu, who has his own consulting firm just two years after graduating from college. "If you're not self-centered in this way ... if you don't create a LinkedIn profile to show off your skills or if you don't have that personal website talking about your side projects ... then you're at a disadvantage." One of the biggest criticisms [of twentysomethings] is that they give off a sense of entitlement.  
<http://www.cnbc.com/id/100966127>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:36

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

## **TWO "WORDS" FROM THE LORD FOR THIS WEEK**

This week many will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, the highlight of which was the "I have a Dream" Speech of Martin Luther King Jr

Acts 2:17 And in the last days it shall be, God declares, 18 that I will pour out my Spirit 19 on all flesh, and your sons and 20 your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

BUT God has also declared-

JEREMIAH 23:23 Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? 24 Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. 25 I have heard what the prophets ... saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' 28 Let the prophet who has a dream 10 tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. 11 What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. 29 Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 17:48

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

Tuesday, August 13. 2013

## **THE BOUNDARIES OF SCIENCE AT BALL STATE**

Ball State [University] is currently reviewing its "Boundaries of Science" course with professor Eric Hedin to ensure that the curriculum fits within university and academic standards. Its original syllabus—which included books by intelligent design proponents such as William Dembski, Stephen Meyer, and Michael Behe—drew controversy.

Ball State's website describes the course as "examining the nature of the physical and the living world, to increase our appreciation of the scope, wonder, and complexity of physical reality. The objectives are to give a scientifically accurate introduction to the origin and development of the physical universe (cosmology), which has led up to the formation of Earth as a uniquely suitable environment to support life. The biological complexity of physical life will also be briefly examined. We will investigate these physical realities and the boundaries of science for any hidden wisdom within nature which may illuminate the central questions of the purpose of our existence and the meaning of life." [Emphasis added- CF]

UPDATE: The class will be scrubbed to remove any discussion of intelligent design.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2013/may/ball-state-will-investigate-course-on-boundaries-of-science.html>

"The objectives are to give a scientifically accurate introduction to the origin and development of the physical universe" How do they know this is possible? Does this exclude the possibility of other sources of knowledge about the origin of the physical universe?

"We will investigate these physical realities and the boundaries of science for any hidden wisdom within nature which may illuminate the central questions of the purpose of our existence and the meaning of life." Really? How will they discover and recognize and interpret "wisdom within nature" and the "purpose" and "meaning" of life using Science or the scientific method? And how do they know that there is nothing beyond "physical realities" or determine that their investigation is limited to physical realities? Sounds like the Religion of Naturalism or the Idol of Scientism is dominant at Ball State.

Posted by Cal in Theological Issues at 16:14

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

### **A NEW WEBSITE WITH MY DEVOTIONAL WRITING**

Three times every week for several years now I have written and emailed devotional material to friends that I pray will be a blessing to them. These are called "QT Thots" [Thoughts for Quiet Times with God]. My son, Kevin, a Publisher and Editor, has selected 64 of them and arranged them into 16 Categories with 4 Topics each on a new website. I believe he has done an excellent job and I hope you shall visit the site and see if these QT Thots are helpful to you or to other readers you may know. We pray they shall be.

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

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 14:49

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