

What Happened To Our Country?

What Happened To Our Churches?

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This article was originally posted in 2016. Let us look back and see how we have progressed, and whether the progression was in a positive, or negative direction.

The Year 2016

Most people reading this that pay any attention to the News and Current Events, especially those who claim some degree of patriotism, may have been appalled by what transpired at a Donald Trump rally that was set to take place in Chicago on 3-11-16. Anti-Trump protestors gathered and it seemed as though a violent riot could develop at any moment. Mr. Trump wisely decided to postpone the rally for the sake of public safety... a decision for which he was commended by most of his supporters. Like him or not, Mr. Trump should be heard, as should all of the other presidential candidates, this is what the 1st amendment of the Constitution of the United States is all about! However, it seemed as though some people, because they didn't like Donald Trump, decided that no one should hear Donald Trump including me, and including you! Consequently, what started out as random shouts of disapproval from various groups soon developed into an organized smear campaign that continues through 2023 with no end in sight! Personally, I too am no stranger to ridicule and similar acts of rejection, likewise sometimes bordering on violent rejection. I have had people get in my face and even lie about me trying to get me fired from my job because they disagreed with me. For years, I was called a "Conspiracy Nut," but most of the people who used to laugh at me back then are not laughing anymore. The handwriting was on the wall concerning the "Cancel Culture" for many years and I was merely one among those sounding the alarm; unfortunately, we all just let it happen, people were either too busy, or they just didn't care as they saw our Constitution being shredded right before our eyes. It was happening in a subtle manor at first; however, presently the push to destroy our Constitution is openly displayed. I have talked about the dangers of Apathy many times in the past. Apathy is very effective in controlling the masses; it is a favored tool of Tyrants and a favorite tool of Satan. It involves wearing people down to the point where they simply give up, or give in to those trying to manipulate them. This was a key factor in getting us into our present situation. Our society had become apathetic and eventually silent in both protest and debate, which eventually led to silence at the ballot box as well. When you hear people saying, 'Why should I vote... nothing ever changes;' this is the result of Apathy. Apathetic people are always the losers when all is said and done.

Time to Speak Out!

We as Christians and Patriots have been silent long enough regarding the twisting and the blatant disregard for one of the most important sections of our constitution, known as The Bill of Rights. The 1st Amendment has been twisted and misused to take God out of our schools, God out of our government and now its misuse is spreading to virtually every aspect of our lives. Twisted - false interpretations of this amendment abound, and you rarely hear of these interpretations challenged; it is not necessarily, because they are not being challenged, it is because challenges and the truth are being manipulated, or suppressed (canceled) by those whose goal it is to destroy our way of life, and our nation. Another reason is once again summed up in that word, "Apathy." It seems many people simply do not care anymore! The current government, the media, and a myriad of anti-God organizations use the 1st amendment, which although it is meant to allow us to have freedom of speech, and freedom of expression; they use it to express their own opinions while in the same breath denying Christians, Patriots, and anyone else who disagrees with their narrative the right to do the same! Let us go straight to the heart of the issue... What exactly does the 1st Amendment to our Constitution say?

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The following is the 1st Amendment just as it appears in the Bill of Rights: **Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

It is obvious in my opinion that the 1st Amendment is written in *Plain English*, using common words and punctuation; it is very clear and to the point. What was in a sense humorous but sad at the same time, is that when I looked up the amendment on the internet hundreds of commentaries and "opinion pieces" popped up on the screen! You could spend days - weeks – perhaps even months, sifting through thousands of pages of commentary written about 45 common - everyday language words! Why are there so many interpretations of what is stated in one simple sentence? Is it perhaps to confuse people and to distort the simple meaning to get people to see and believe that it says things that simply are not there? The power of suggestion is another way to put it. Once again, the amendment is only 45 words, so let's pick it apart and analyze what it actually says... at face value. I am going to use definitions that are commonly familiar to me from memory, so if I deviate from your favorite dictionary, forgive me. I am doing it this way to show what the average person (such as myself) would ascertain from actually reading the original words of the amendment... something that is apparently not done very often, especially by young people today. Let us begin... I will display the actual words in **Bold Type**, while displaying my thoughts and comments in *italics*, and my opinions or my interpretations of meanings Underlined.

Congress... (*Who or what is Congress?*) This is the legislative branch of our government... the ones who write our laws... supposedly according to the will of the people they represent. Congress is comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate...**shall make no law** (*how many laws?*) None - Zero Na-Da...**respecting** (*what does this mean?*) It means pertaining to... concerning... relative to... applying to...**an establishment of religion** (*what's this?*) a group of people who worship their God (or Gods) according to their beliefs... a church, synagogue, or temple...**,or prohibiting** (*what's this mean?*) It means to prevent, to stop, to interfere with...**the free exercise thereof;** (*what does it mean to exercise religion?*) It means to practice... to carry out the requirements of... to obey the tenets of a particular religion or system of beliefs...**or abridging** (*What's this?*) To diminish or lessen... to cut off...**the freedom of speech,** (*What is this?*) unrestrained or unrestricted ability to voice your opinion... (Note: this does not pertain to slander...)**or of the press;** (*Who is the press?*) At the time this was written the press i.e. newspapers and other publications were the "Media" of the time to relay news and events. This would include all common means of mass communication in our time...**or the right** (*What is a right?*) Something you are legally entitled to...**of the people peaceably to assemble,** (*Peaceably*) calmly - without violence - under control... (*Assemble*) To gather or meet as a group...**and to Petition** Ask or request...**the Government for a redress** correction or adjustment...**of grievances.** Feeling of being wronged or treated unfairly...

Now that we have exposed the 1st Amendment in its nakedness, without further opinions or commentary, what does it say to you at face value? Does what it says, deviate from what you have been taught in High School or College? This is an important question, especially if you happen to be a Christian in the United States of America. The reason being, this amendment is used daily against the very people and groups it was written to protect! American Citizens, especially the young are being taught a pack of lies and distortions about not only the Bill of Rights, but also the entire Constitution, not to mention the foundations of our country! Sorry to say, most Christians deserve the majority of the blame for this propagation of ignorance! (More on this later) Most people, if you were to ask them to explain the 1st Amendment would immediately respond with, "Separation of Church and State!" When asked to explain the meaning of "Separation of Church and State", the majority will go on to explain that the Government and anyone connected to it cannot at any time display

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anything that indicates their religion (especially if they are Christian)... nor can anyone attending a Government sponsored event do likewise. They would go on to tell you that religion cannot influence the Government in any way, and that the "Founding Fathers" of our nation sought to keep government and religion separate... hence Separation of Church and State. Is all of that true? At the beginning of this study, I provided two renditions of the 1st Amendment, one in raw form, "as it actually appears in the Bill of Rights," and the other Amplified with the common definitions of key words included. As is plain to see, the first part does in fact deal with religion; however, it very simply states that Congress shall make no law pertaining to religion or the practicing of religion. Nothing is written or implied concerning people working for the government, not being allowed to make their beliefs known, nor does it state or imply that Religion must have nothing to do with Government. Therefore, from where did this concept of, "Separation of Church and State" come. I think it best for you to read it for yourself. Read the letter written to Thomas Jefferson from Deacons of a Church in Danbury Ct. and then read, and pay particular attention to Jefferson's reply to them.

Click on the following link [Danbury - Jefferson Letters](https://www.selahlife.net/Letter%20from%20the%20Danbury%20Baptists%20and%20Jefferson's%20reply.pdf)

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The point of this study is to illustrate the fact that people are being manipulated by false teachings and distortion of facts. Basic truths of our country's history are being twisted 180 degrees opposed to the truth. This is one of the reasons there is a concerted effort to erase our history, even statues of historic figures; without history, people can be manipulated into believing anything! The protesters that showed up at the Trump rally mentioned at the beginning of this article likely for the most part didn't know a thing about Donald Trump and probably didn't know much accurate information concerning any of the other candidates. There was even wide speculation that many of the protesters "were paid" to be there! If that proved to be true, how would that affect their motivation and ultimately the public perception as to why they were there? The fact that all the protesters I saw on the news, when given the opportunity to explain their reasons for being there, gave no coherent answer. Many college students are being brainwashed by professors and radicals (in most cases one and the same) into thinking that the 1st Amendment protects only them. They have also been instructed to "cancel," and in some cases destroy the livelihood of anyone who disagrees with their narrative. The truth is that it applies to all American Citizens. The churches silence over the years is one of the biggest contributing factors to the destruction of our rights as Christian American Citizens. Now the Church itself is suffering the consequences of their inaction as the "Cancel Culture" is now zeroing in on the Church, seeking to destroy it, along with individual Christians.

To Preachers... You Reap What You Sow

Many Churches and Christian organizations are concerned about the decline in church attendance and interest in the Bible. Perhaps the reason is that there is currently so little difference between what the secular world teaches and what way too many churches are teaching! What about your church *preacher*; do you teach your congregation what the Bible teaches to the letter, or do you "tone it down" so as not to "offend" anyone? Is your goal filling your church pews with physical bodies, converts to your religion, or disciples of Jesus Christ? What happened to evangelism? It appears the only evangelism taking place is by satanic cults, while "Christian" churches and organizations cower in the shadows, not willing to stand up for what they say they believe! You reap what you sow; if you are not planting any seeds, you will not have a harvest! Accepting Jesus as one's savior is a personal decision, you do not become a Christian just because your parents are. Do the people sitting in the pews of the remaining churches know that? I fear many do not. Many attend church simply to fulfill what

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they perceive as an obligation, which in some mystical way; will get them thru the “Pearly Gates.” According to the teachings of Jesus Himself, many who think they are followers of Him are in fact living in deception if they are thinking their works have anything to do with it. We are “Saved” by Grace through Faith; what are we “saved” from... the penalty for sin! Unfortunately, what constitutes sin has been blurred in modern society. How can people be made aware of what sin is if the churches are afraid to publically confront the issue? We can no longer remain silent when laws and sinful lifestyles are being forced upon our children and us. It is time to fearlessly sow the seeds of truth found only in God’s Word. While there are many good Preachers and Pastors out there, there are also many not teaching all that the Bible teaches, choosing not to be “controversial” by caving in to the popular narrative. Others, instead of correcting or rebuking people who either disagree with them or are simply naive... they tell the people to leave their church and find one that agrees with themselves! This is not what I would call, “Caring for the Flock;” It is more like throwing the sheep to the wolves! It is the job of Pastors to correct and nurture according to Scripture not personal opinion. Therefore, if someone questions a teaching or doctrine with scriptural references, perhaps it is the Pastor in need of enlightenment! I have heard many Pastors say that it is the congregation’s duty to test the teachings they receive against the Bible. However, it does not seem to go over very well as I heard one Pastor say, “If you don’t like what you hear in our church, go down the road... there are plenty of other churches.” Yes, this is what I heard and I was one of many others who eventually went down the road. I feel that this could be another reason for diminishing church attendance.

So How Have We Progressed?

It does not seem that we have progressed in a positive direction in many ways. However, there are opportunities to make some course corrections, personally and collectively, before there is no turning back. Since we were just on the subject of Churches and Pastors, the most basic and effective change we could make is simply to stick to the Bible. The Word of God was never without challenge, the challenging started in the Garden of Eden. What we have to concern ourselves with are the results of those challenges. Disobedience of God usually does not work out well in the end for the disobedient. In the end, some of the church leaders will be surprised when even they are told by Jesus; “Depart from me, I never knew you.” Many religious leaders are just that – “religious leaders.” Unfortunately, they are leading people away from God by giving more credence to man’s laws and desires, rather than God’s laws and desires. Not only will it be a sad day for them on Judgment Day, but for their misled flocks as well. Modern society is in a state as was Sodom and Gomorrah just before God dealt with their rebellion. Only a handful survived then, and only a relative handful will survive when God once again releases His wrath on us. This, by all prophetic indicators, is not too far in the future! As for what happened to our country, in my own lifetime it has gone from a nation proud of its heritage, with moral principles unafraid to publically acknowledge God, to a nation where it is not only unpopular to mention God but in some cases even dangerous to do so. We have been transformed from a caring nation to a divided nation of hate. As for our churches, they have followed the same decline where immorality has become accepted to the point where Gods Laws are ignored in favor of political correctness! I fear that the United States of America will never be the same. However, there still is time for those who see the folly of their ways to reconcile with God. That opportunity will remain until your last breath... do you know when that will be? Ask Jesus to come into your heart now! You may not have a tomorrow.