

The Sunday Reader

Vol. 07 No. 38

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine... Sep. 23, 2007

Imagine a country with no religion

One of the greatest blessings of citizenship in the United States of America is the freedom to practice one's religion. This liberty is guaranteed by the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution which says that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

As noted in a previous article, there are some whose objective is to make our nation "free from religion." They are using the first amendment to the Constitution to eradicate any mention of God or any Biblically-based moral code from all activities and facilities associated with government at all levels.

From what exactly do these people wish to be freed? What about religion is so terrible that it must be eradicated from our national public life?

It is freely granted that some people have acted in the past in foolish and hurtful ways in the name of religion. Man often confuses his own prejudices and traditions with the teachings of Scripture (see Matthew 15:1-9). Nor are religious people always free from hypocrisy (Matthew 23). It is certainly true that "Christians are not perfect, just forgiven."

Despite these things, what would this country be like if we were all "freed" from religion? Disciples of Jesus are taught by the Scriptures to obey the law of the land for conscience' sake, i.e., because it is the right thing to do, and not just because of the possibility of punishment (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-16). Christians are taught to respect authority, both divine and human. Without that respect for human authority as expressed by law, there are not enough policemen anywhere to maintain order and harmony! As our nation becomes more secular, we are seeing the breakdown of law and order as a result. What would it be like if some get their way and manage to "free" us all from religion?

The Bible teaches that disciples of Jesus should be honest. Are these people against honesty? The Bible teaches that Christians should not steal. Are these people in favor of theft? Christians are to love their neighbors as themselves, treating others as they would want to be treated (Matthew 7:12; 22:39). The Bible teaches against extortion, baseless prejudice and outbursts of wrath. Who is for these things?

Don't be deceived. These "religion-free" people have an agenda. They don't want to see any traces of Bible-based religion because the Bible also condemns fornication (sexual immorality), lewdness and all sorts of uncleanness (Galatians 5:19-21). It condemns drunkenness and murder and that includes abortion. It condemns homosexuality (Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). It condemns pedophilia whether practiced by priests or members of NAMBLA (a group which advocates homosexuality and sexual relations with young boys).

Religion cramps the preferred lifestyles of many of these people. They want the freedom to live like animals without the bother of being reminded that such behavior is morally wrong. The society that they are working to create would not, however, be the panacea that they envision.

Mining the Scriptures, Allen Dvorak

You, Me, and the Bible

You may understand the Bible and I may misunderstand it.

I may understand it and you may misunderstand it.

We may misunderstand it differently.

We may misunderstand it alike.

But we cannot understand it differently. What kind of book would the Bible be if it said something different to you than it didn't say to me...

The Sower Jan-Feb 07

PSALM 22:22

I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the congregation I will praise You. You who fear the Lord, praise Him!...

ASSIGNMENTS

SUNDAY AM – SEPT. 23, 2007

Announcements	-----	B. Tuten
	-----	M. Shepherd
Lead Singing	-----	M. Irvin
Opening Prayer	-----	F. Bacon
Lord's Table	-----	W. Darrington
	-----	J. Presley
Table Assist	-----	C. Davis
	-----	J. Lamont
Closing Prayer	-----	B. Webber
Greeter	-----	S. McCalpine

SUNDAY PM – SEPT. 23, 2007

Lead Singing	-----	B. Tuten
Opening Prayer	-----	T. Irvin
Scripture Reading	-----	S. McCalpine
Closing Prayer	-----	J. Nesmith

WEDNESDAY PM – SEPT. 26, 2007

Lead Singing	-----	M. Irvin
Prayers	-----	Assign
Invitation	-----	F. Bacon

PREPARE COMMUNION-Sept. 30 , 2007

Audrey Rivera

Making Communion Bread for Sept.

Syble Duke

INFORMATION BOX

- Group 4 meets tonight after services.
- Remember in prayer the following:

Vickie Hay	Joe Lamont
Al Argo	Gary Collier
Ruth & Jerry Poss	Donna & Ed Pickett
Consuella Irvin	James Wyatt

- Out of Town: Bob & Marian Tuten, & Robert & Betty Sanders.
- Monroe & Syble will leave on a trip after services this morning.
- Florine Ruffin will be gone next weekend to stay with her grandchildren.
- Joseph and Bessie Casimier will be here next Sunday, September 30th –a long awaited day!

--A WORD--

A careless word may kindle strife, a cruel word may wreck a life, a bitter word may hate instill, a brutal word may smite and kill, a gracious word may smooth the way, a joyous word may light the day, a timely word may lessen stress, a loving word may heal and bless.

.....

The man who views the world at fifty,
the same as he did at twenty,
has wasted thirty years of his life. --author unknown--

It's not them, it's you. It's not there, it's here.
It's not then, it's now.--author unknown--

The difference between a flower and a weed is a judgment.
--author unknown--

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Determined to serve God
according to His will.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning:
Bible Study - 9:30
Worship - - - 10:30

Sunday Evening:
Worship - - - 5:30

Wednesday Evening:
Bible Study - 7:30

Elders:

Forrest Bacon - 770-918-1932
Wendell Holland - 770-761-6987
Bob Tuten – 678-475-7212

Deacons:

Gary Collier - 770-483-6017
Marshall Irvin - 770-483-5745
Mike Shepherd – 770-786-0029
Windell Darrington – 770-784-0307