



THE APOLOGIST

*A Publication of Faithful Steward Ministries
And
Faithful Steward Ministries Women's Outreach*

Issue 24 3rd Quarter CY-2013

**Proclaiming Fundamental Biblical Doctrines
Without Worldly Compromise**



***An empty tomb proves
Christianity;
an empty church denies it.***

Author Unknown

FSM and FSMWO stands firm on the fundamental doctrines of the Word of God. We believe all who presents themselves as servants of the Lord should be **READY AND ABLE** to declare unto all who ask the foundational beliefs, principles or tenants of their faith (1 Peter 3:15)

Ministry Update

Naida and I are fully involved as domestic missionaries in Mississippi. As such I may be delayed in getting out responses to letters and request. We are in no way ignoring you just far busier than expected and than ever before. We apologize for the delay(s).

We will never compromise the inspired word of God.

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MINISTRY STATEMENT OF FAITH

THERE IS ONE TRUE GOD IN THE FORM OF THREE PERSONS FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

Co-equal in deity, power and sovereignty
Gen 1:1; Matt 3:16-18

THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

Verbally inspired every word without exception by the Holy Spirit
Is 40:8; 2 Tim 3:16

SALVATION IS ETERNAL THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS ALONE

It is only by the GRACE OF GOD that we are called to FAITH through the conviction of the HOLY SPIRIT
Deut.10:14 - Deut.10:15; Matt.24:22 - Matt.24:24; Matt.24:31 - Matt.24:31;
John.6:37 - John.6:39; Rom.8:28 - Rom.8:33; Rom.9:11 - Rom.9:13, 16; Ephesians 2:8-9

THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS ALL BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS

Gen 41:38; Rom 8:9-14

HEAVEN AND HELL ARE LITERAL (REAL) PLACES RESERVED FOR ETERNITY FOR THE SAVED AND DAMNED

Deut 26:15; Matt 25:41

BELIEVERS ARE COMMANDED TO, AND OBLIGATED TO WITNESS/SHARE THE GOSPEL

Is 6:1-8; Matt 28:18-20

THERE IS ONE CHURCH, WITH CHRIST AS THE HEAD, WITH BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS AS THE BODY AND THE COMMAND TO FELLOWSHIP THEREIN

2 Chron 5: 1-6; Heb 10:25

BELIEVERS ARE COMMANDED TO SEPARATE FROM ALL WORLDLY INFLUENCES

Ps 1:1; 2 Thess 3:6,14

PRAYER IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR GROWTH IN FAITH AND THE DUTY OF BELIEVERS ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

Is 55:6; Matt 7:7 - 1Sam 12:23; 1 Tim 2:1

THE APOLOGIST

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WHY NOT YOU???

Want to contribute to The Apologist?

Send us your artwork, article or poem , but please keep it brief.

The mission of FSM is to “administer the Good News of Christ to those in bondage”. We minister to those recovering from addictions, inmates and ex-mates, our military and veterans.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- Direct Correspondence with those in bondage via email, letters and telephone
- Bible Study Outlines on a variety of biblical topics
- Articles and Sermons on a variety of biblical topics
- Research and Answers to Bible questions and topics
- Quarterly Publication; The Apologist (email and postal to 36 states, nine foreign countries and our military in Iraq)
- Public education via speaking engagements and literature designed to educate the public on reentry of ex-offenders
- Limited Aftercare services: we will attempt to help those being released:
 - find a local Bible believing and preaching church,
 - locate employment resources,
 - Locate Group/Therapy (AA, NA, SOTP) in the area they plan on residing prior to release.
 - Review and make recommendations to their release plan
 - Provide direct support through a minimum of a weekly meeting or phone call (depending on where person resides) Note to the incarcerated failure to maintain contact will result in a report to parole/probation

Service's we do not provide:

- We do not send money at any time for any reason to inmates or their families
- We do not send stamps into any institution
- We will provide a self addressed stamped envelope (only (1) One per letter sent) to those inmates who are indigent and who's institution's policy permits this. We require a letter from the Chaplain, Case Manager or other Facility staff on institutional letterhead to do this.
- We do not send books to institutions (We can provide a list of places to get a free Bible if requested)
- We do not forward mail for inmates
- We will accept inmate correspondence, art work and writings but can not copy and return them

We are not a pen-pal hook up service; FSMWO is run by women for women only they do not correspond with men.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As you may well imagine I hear every type of excuse known for not going to church. I am somewhat an expert in the field having used so many myself before my true conversion. But how does this attitude align with the word of God?

The obvious answer should be it does not. A true born again (converted) believer will always desire, ***Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Ps 37:4,*** corporate worship. A true "Christian" will desire to glorify God at every opportunity including regular attendance at ALL scheduled church services (**Hebrews 10:25**). Believers will demonstrate their love for God in all things including being obedient to His command for church attendance, ***For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 1 John 5:3.***

It is a sad testimony to today's evangelical church that things like: football, birthday parties, parades, and just plain old laziness have a bigger priority than the church and Glorifying God.

I have heard this story in excess, that the local church is made up of hypocrites and other assorted types you want nothing to do with. I know it seems impossible to find a perfect church. SO STOP LOOKING! Stop depending upon your emotions and attitude and change your attitude. Get on your knees and ask God to lead you to the church He wants you in.

Now I must give a warning, disclaimer, call it what you will. God, through the Holy Spirit will in no way "lead" you to a church that is not founded upon and strictly adhering to solid biblical doctrine. These modern open and affirming, laid back service, experience the worship types are all fluff and no stuff. ***Remember it is all about Him and nothing about you.*** You are not there so you can feel good or have a good time. You are there to Glorify God, whatever we get out of it as it were is a bonus of God's grace, love and mercy towards us.

Pray God will reveal His desire for you there. Pray you can have the heart of a faithful servant no matter your circumstance.

Until next time may God richly bless you.
In HIS Service.
Mike

Quotes on Church Attendance

Objection: I can profit as much by staying at home and reading the Scripture or some good book; it is the word of God which they preach, and it is that which I read at home. The books that are written by learned men are better than the sermons that are preached by our ministers.

Answer: What foolish pretenses are these against the plain command of God and our own necessary duty! When God hath appointed you your duty, will He allow you to forsake it upon your own reason, as if you were wiser than God, and knew what will profit you better than He?

Author Unknown

The most critical need of the church at this moment is men, bold men, free men. The church must seek, in prayer and much humility, the coming again of men made of the stuff of which prophets and martyrs are made.

A.W. Tozer

Do not desire to be the principal man in the church. Be lowly. Be humble. The best man in the church is the man who is willing to be a doormat for all to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happens to him at all, so long as God is glorified.

Believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.

Charles Spurgeon

The greatest single scandal in evangelical assemblies, and I can really only speak for that, is the low regard individual Christians have for the church.

Chuck Colson

A church member that gives excuses rather than have reasons for not attending church will one day be made to realize that he is like the foolish man described for us in Matthew 7 where Jesus said: "*And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it*" (vs. 26-27).

The excuses that people give for not attending the services of the church are varied and well known. Probably the most commonly used excuse given today for not attending church is the simple explanation that there are too many hypocrites in the church. It has been suggested that to use such line of reasoning the man should quit his job because there are too many in the workplace that are not carrying their share of the load. The woman should quit shopping at the grocery store because there are bad cooks who are shopping there also. The children should quit school because there are some kids there who are nothing more than juvenile delinquents.

Dean Robinson; There's No Excuse; The Baptist Pillar

Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man.

Dwight L. Moody

"What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use — men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men, men of prayer."

- E. M. Bounds

The New Testament repeatedly emphasizes the importance of local assemblies. In fact, it was the pattern of Paul's ministry to establish local congregations in the cities where he preached the gospel. Hebrews 10:24-25 commands every believer to be a part of such a local body and reveals why this is necessary.

"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

It is only in the local body to which one is committed that there can be the level of intimacy that is required for carefully stimulating fellow-believers "to love and good deeds." And it is only in this setting that we can encourage one another.

The New Testament also teaches that every believer is to be under the protection and nurture of the leadership of the local church. These godly men can shepherd the believer by encouraging, admonishing, and teaching. Hebrews 13:7 and 17 help us to understand that God has graciously granted accountability to us through godly leadership.

Furthermore, when Paul gave Timothy special instructions about the public meetings, he said *"Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching"* (1 Timothy 4:13). Part of the emphasis in public worship includes these three things: hearing the Word, being called to obedience and action through exhortation, and teaching. It is only in the context of the local assembly that these things can most effectively take place.

Acts 2:42 shows us what the early church did when they met together: *"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* They learned God's Word and the implications of it in their lives; they joined to carry out acts of love and service to one another; they commemorated the Lord's death and resurrection through the breaking of bread; and they prayed. Of course, we can do these things individually, but God has called us into His body—the church is the local representation of that worldwide-body—and we should gladly minister and be ministered to among God's people.

Active local church membership is imperative to living a life without compromise. It is only through the ministry of the local church that a believer can receive the kind of teaching, accountability, and encouragement that is necessary for him to stand firm in his convictions. God has ordained that the church provide the kind of environment where an uncompromising life can thrive. **John MacArthur Jr.,**

To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer.

Martin Luther

What makes a church great in the eyes of God? Participation, proclamation, preservation, and propagation. Every church ought to exhibit all four.

O.S. Hawkins

Scripture related to Church

Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Philippians 1:14 - And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

1 Timothy 3:14-15 - These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Acts 2:42 - And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 20:28 *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*

Matthew 16:15-19 - He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? [*\(Read More...\)*](#)

1 Peter 2:9 - But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 16:18 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Ephesians 5:23 - For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Luke 24:44 - And he said unto them, These [are] the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and [in] the prophets, and [in] the psalms, concerning me.

Mark 13:11 - But when they shall lead [you], and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Mark 9:43-45 - And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: *(Read More...)*

Matthew 24:15 - When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

John 1:13 - Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Matthew 28:19 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

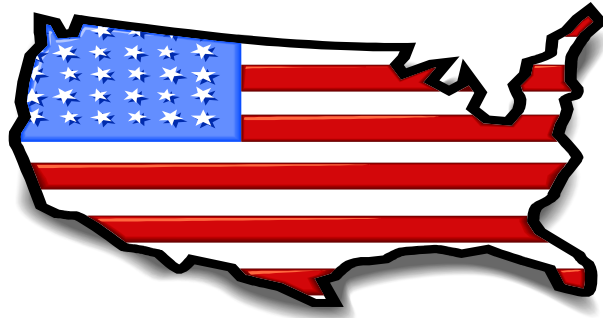
Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.



The following pages contain our annual American Heritage quotes.

There can be no doubt to anyone, less you deny the truth that this country was founded upon biblical principles. At the same time one must also acknowledge we were not founded to be a strict Christian nation.

We offer these quotes and other information annually to remind folks how far we have come in abandoning the governing principles that the American Revolution was fought for.



In God We {Should} Trust

George Washington, 1st President of the United States, Commander in Chief of the US during the Revolutionary War, chairman of the Constitutional Convention "You do well to learn our arts and our ways of life, and above all the religion of Jesus Christ." From "Address to the Delaware Indian Chiefs", May 12, 1779, *America's God and Country*, William Federer, p.644

Washington: "Let me live according to those holy rules which Thou hast this day prescribed in Thy Holy Word...direct me to the true object, Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Bless, O Lord, all the people of this land." Cited in W. Herbert Burk, ed., "Washington's Papers", pp.87-95.

Washington: "We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself ordained." First Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789.

Washington: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and Citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity...let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason, and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." ..."It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."..Washington's Farewell Address, Sept. 17, 1796

Washington: "To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of a Christian."

Washington: "General Thanksgiving" speech Oct. 14, 1789..."Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to

obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a Day Of Public Thanksgiving And Prayer, to be observed By acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God..."

Washington: "The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this (the course of the war) that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more wicked that has not gratitude to acknowledge his obligations; but it will be time enough for me to turn preacher when my present appointment ceases." Letter to Thomas Nelson in Virginia, Jared Sparks, ed. *The Writings of George Washington, America's God and Country*, William Federer, p.643

Samuel Adams, member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration: "Let...statesmen and patriots unite in their endeavors to renovate the age by...educating their little boys and girls..and leading them in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system." letter to his cousin John Adams, Oct. 4, 1790, *America's God and Country*, William Federer, p.23

Samuel Adams: "We have this day restored the Sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven, and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His Kingdom come." *America's God and Country*, William Federer, p.23

Samuel Adams: "It is therefore recommended to set apart Thursday the 18th day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise, that with one heart and one voice, the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor..." Nov. 1, 1877 first official Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Patrick Henry, Delegate to the 2nd Continental Congress, Congressman and five-time governor to Virginia; turned down nominations as Secretary of State and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court "Amongst other strange things said of me, I hear it is said by the deists that I am one of their number; and, indeed, that some good people think I am no Christian. This thought gives me much more pain than the appellation of Tory; because I think religion of infinitely higher importance than politics; and I find much cause to reproach myself that I have lived so long and have given no decided and public proofs of my being a Christian. But, indeed, my dear child, this is a character which I prize far above all this world has, or can boast.", 1796 letter to his daughter ,S. G. Arnold, *The Life of Patrick Henry*, 1854, p.250

Patrick Henry: "This is all the inheritance I can give my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed."... Henry's Last Will and Testament from Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, Red Hill, Brookneal, VA

Patrick Henry: "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God!- I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" speech at St. John's Church 1775, *Christianity and the Constitution*, John Eidsmoe, p.303

John Adams, member of the Continental Congress, 2nd President of the United States, Vice President To the United States, Commissioner to France, US Ambassador to England: On March 6, 1789, President Adams called for a national day of fasting and prayer so that the nation might "call to mind the numerous offenses against the most high God, confess them before Him with the sincerest penitence, implore his pardoning mercy, through the Great Mediator and Redeemer, for our past transgression, and that through the grace of His Holy Spirit, we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience.."

John Adams, member of the Continental Congress, 2nd President of the United States, Vice President To the United States, Commissioner to France, US Ambassador to England: "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion...Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." Oct. 11, 1798, address to the officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Mass., America's God and Country, William Federer, p.10

John Adams letter to Benjamin Rush: "The Christian religion...is the brightness of the glory and the express portrait of the character of the eternal, self-existent, independent, benevolent, all powerful and all merciful creator, preserver, and Father of the universe, the first good, first perfect, and first fair. It will last as long as the world. Neither savage nor civilized man, without a revelation, could ever have discovered or invented it. Ask me not, then, whether I am a Catholic or Protestant, Calvinist or Arminian. As far as they are Christians, I wish to be a fellow disciple with them all." Adam's Dairy, July 26, 1796, Christianity and the Constitution, John Eidsmoe, p. 285

Benjamin Franklin in a letter to the President of the first Constitutional Congress, 1789: " I have lived a long time, Sir, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that " except the Lord build the House they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest. I therefore beg leave to move- that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and hat one or more Clergy of the city be requested to officiate in that service." speech to Constitutional Convention, June 28, 1787 , America's God and Country, William Federer, pp.247-248
As it turned out, after the convention, and nine days after the first Constitutional Congress convened with a quorum (April 9, 1789), the Congress implemented Franklin's recommendation. Two chaplains of different denominations were appointed, one of the House and one to the Senate, with a salary of \$500 apiece. This practice continues today, posing no threat to the first Amendment. How could it? The men who authorized the chaplains wrote the Amendment.

Benjamin Franklin, delegate to the Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration, US Minister to England and France, oldest Founding Father: "History will also afford frequent opportunities of showing the necessity of a public religion...and the excellency of the Christian religion above all others ancient or modern." *America's God and Country*, William Federer, p.251

Benjamin Franklin: "A Bible and a newspaper in every house, a good school in every district- all studied and appreciated as they merit- are the principle of virtue, morality, and civil liberty." *America's God and Country*, William Federer, p.246

James Madison, chief architect of the Constitution, signer of the Declaration, Secretary of State, President of the United States: "We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind to self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.", from *"America's God and Country"* by William Federer

James Madison: "...because the policy of the bill is adverse to the diffusion of the light of Christianity. The first wish of those who ought to enjoy this precious gift, ought to be, that it may be imparted to the whole race of mankind." ...A Memorial and Remonstrance, delivered to the General Assembly of Virginia, 1785, from *"America's God and Country"* by William Federer

James Madison: "The belief in God All Powerful wise and good, is so essential to the moral order of the World and to the happiness of man, that arguments which enforce it cannot be drawn from too many sources nor adapted with too much solicitude to the different characters and capacities to be impressed with it." In a letter to Frederick Beasley Nov. 20, from *"America's God and Country"* by William Federer

James Madison: "While we assert for ourselves a freedom to embrace, to profess, and to observe, the Religion which we believe to be of divine origin, we cannot deny an equal freedom to them whose minds have not yielded to the evidence which has convinced us." From "A Memorial and Remonstrance" 1785, delivered to the general Assembly of the State of Virginia, from *"America's God and Country"* by William Federer

James Madison: "The real wonder is that so many difficulties should have been surmounted, and surmounted with a unanimity almost as unprecedented as it must have been unexpected. It is impossible for any man of candor to reflect on this circumstance without partaking of the astonishment. It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution." January 11, 1788, *Federalist Papers* No. 37

And from *Federalist Papers* No. 43 "...The first question is answered at once by recurring to the absolute necessity of the case; to the great principle of self-preservation; to the transcendent law of nature and of nature's God, which declares that the safety and happiness of society are the objects at which all political institutions aim, and to which all such institutions must be sacrificed."

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration, President of the United States: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure if we have removed their only firm basis; a conviction in the minds of men that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." from Query XVIII of his notes on the State of Virginia, America's God and Country, William Federer, p.323

Thomas Jefferson. "No power over the freedom of religion...(is) delegated to the United States by the Constitution." America's God and Country, William Federer, p.323

Thomas Jefferson: "The precepts of philosophy and of the Hebrew code, laid hold of actions only. (Jesus) pushed his scrutinizes into the heart of man, erected His tribunal in the regions of his thoughts, and purified the waters at the fountain head." April 21, 1803, in a letter to Benjamin Rush, America's God and Country, William Federer, p.333

Thomas Jefferson: March 4, 1805, offered A National Prayer for Peace: "Almighty God, Who has 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 ministry, 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 multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with Thy 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 time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen." America's God and Country, William Federer, p.328

Fisher Ames, delegate to the Constitutional Convention and co-writer of the First Amendment wrote: ... "the Bible should always remain the principle text book in America's classrooms. Its morals are pure, its examples captivating and noble...the Bible will justly remain the standard of language as well as of faith." America's God and Country, William Federer, p.26

Gouverneur Morris, delegate to the Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention, head of the committee which created the final wording of the Constitution and the most active speaker, US Senator, Minister to France appointed by Washington advocated: "education should teach the precepts of religion and the duties of man towards God." America's God and Country, William Federer, p.455

Further information is available upon request.

PASTOR's PAGE

Don Elbourne Jr. Lakeshore Baptist Church

"I can worship God on my own," he said. "I do not need the church as a crutch to help me in my spiritual life. If I want to know what God says, I have the Bible right here. I do not need anyone telling me what the Bible says. I can read it, study it, and learn it on my own. I have a personal relationship with Jesus."

I do not know how many times I have heard this idea expressed by those who shun church attendance and corporate worship. The idea runs contrary to the Bible's teachings. Those who say they can read the Bible on their own, and do not need the church, must not be doing so. If they did, the Bible would drive them to church. The Bible is a church book.

If you open the Bible to the gospels and read the words of Jesus himself, you will see that the Son of God says, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) The entire Book of Acts stands as a testimony to the growth of the church as it spread from "Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8). You can't read the Book of James and adhere to its words without the church (James 5:13). When you open the Bible, the church spills out.

The majority of the New Testament is comprised of letters written by the Apostle Paul to churches. In the opening of several of these letters he explicitly names the church to whom he addresses. For example; "The Church of God that is in Corinth" (1 Corinthians 1:2 & 2 Corinthians 1:2), "The Church of the Thessalonians" (1 Thessalonians 1:1 & 2 Thessalonians 1:1), and the "Churches of Galatia" Galatians 1:2. When Paul closes the letter to the Romans, he sends a greeting from "the whole church" (Romans 16:23). Even in Paul's short little letter to Philemon, he specifically addresses the church that meets in his house (Philemon 2).

When Paul writes to individuals, Timothy and Titus, the full content of the letters involves the operation of the church. He tells Timothy, the pastor of the Church in Ephesus, how important it is for a pastor to care for "God's Church" (1 Timothy 3:5) and gives him explicit guidelines on how to do so.

Paul's letter to Titus reads like a church planting instruction manual as Titus oversees the planting of new churches on the island of Crete (Titus 1:5).

When Paul writes to the Church at Ephesus, he explains that God's plan of self-revelation flows through the church (Ephesians 3:10). When he writes to the church at Philippi he commends and thanks the church for their partnership (Philippians 4:15). When he writes to the Church at Colossae he reminds them that Christ is the head and the church is his body Colossians 1:18. So seeking a relationship with Christ apart from the church is like trying to decapitate Jesus.

The entire Bible speaks of believers in community with others. The author of the Book of Hebrews writes, "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25) So like author Wayne Mack said, attempting to grow in Christ outside the church is like trying to swim without ever getting into the pool."

The Bible ends with The Book of Revelation which is written to seven churches (Revelation 1:4) and in the last chapter Jesus says, "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches." (Revelation 22:16) The Bible, from beginning to end is a church book. How could anyone claim to read the Bible, and walk away without hearing the Word of God pointing him to the church?



WOMEN'S OUTREACH

Stephanie Tarrant

Importance of parent's example in regards to church attendance

Hebrews 10:23-25 *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."* New King James Version (NKJV) The Holy Bible, New King James Version Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Church attendance is a command by God and yes, I go because of that, but I love to go to church, also. As a mother and a Christian it is my obligation to our son to be a godly example. I want my son to see and understand that my love for church is the reason I go not just because I'm commanded by God. One reason for attending church is to be fed spiritually. We need to hear the Word taught and preached, we also need to spend time worshipping God and before and after each service I have the opportunity to fellowship with my sisters and brothers in Christ. Thankfully, my husband and I were both raised in a Christian home and we attended church services both Sunday morning and evening and Wednesday evening of every week, of every month of every year.

There is one passage in the Bible that I like to refer to when I need to remember my role as a godly wife and mother. **Proverbs 31:10-31** is a great passage which details the importance of a godly woman, but I would like to refer to **verses 25-30**, "**Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.' Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.**" Verse 26 states she speaks wisdom, which means she knows Biblical truths, also in verse 26 it says she speaks kindness which is edification and kind words. Verse 27 states she is always busy about her responsibilities and is not lazy, verse 28 states her children and husband respect her because of her wisdom, kindness and virtue. Verse 30 is most important, "...a woman who fears the Lord...", a woman who knows, understands and respects the awesomeness of the Lord. **Proverbs 9:10** speaks on the fear of the Lord, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*". I know that verse may stir up more questions and I know you're probably wondering what the fear of the Lord has to do with a mother's role in her child's church attendance. Well, I love the Lord, I revere his Holy ways and laws, and I want to please Him. He has commanded us to keep the Sabbath, and to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ to love and do good things and exhort one another.

We can please God by raising our son "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord", by bringing him to church so he can learn about Jesus, and to teach him during those many teachable moments. I spend a lot of time with our son and as we are out and about I field a lot of questions from our son about Jesus, faith, church, etc. I rely on what I learn at church to help answer the questions our son asks. It is vital for me, my husband and our son to attend church consistently. If not for our church attendance, our son would know very little about Jesus.



DEVOTIONAL

**Genuine Liberty by Henry Morris III, D.Min.
Institute for Creation Research**

**Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all
the Inhabitants thereof Lev. XXV X
By Order of the ASSEMBLY of the Province of
PENNSYLVANIA for the State House in Philad^a.**

Pass and Stow, Philad^a. MDCCLIII

This is the inscription on the Liberty Bell, which is on display in the old town square of Philadelphia. Many of us have visited the bell or at least have seen pictures of it. Most of us also recognize the Scripture passage that was used to declare "liberty" from the oppression of Great Britain ([Leviticus 25:10](#)), bringing about the birth of our country in the late 1700s.

The United States celebrates Independence Day on July 4th because the Second Continental Congress approved and signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The famous opening lines read:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Political Liberty

The focus of the drive for independence in the 1700s was political liberty. That is, freedom from the oversight of a distant king whose interests and political advisors had little concern for the welfare of the newly formed colonies so far away from the European continent. Although the Bible may imply political freedom in some of its references about Israel, the ultimate freedom that it promised is freedom from the rule of evil secured by the salvation granted through the substitutionary sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. The United States has a greater political freedom built into its governmental system than any other nation in history, but that freedom is both tenuous and fragile. In his Lyceum Address, the young Abraham Lincoln is often quoted as saying:

All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.

At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.

Lincoln's foresight seems very apropos today.

Personal Liberty

The verse from Leviticus engraved on the Liberty Bell was quoted correctly but misapplied. Political liberty is not what the declaration in the Scripture was promising. The laws of Israel were dictated to Moses by God Himself—a sequence of sabbatical “sevens” was contained in those laws culminating in the great year of “Jubilee” to be celebrated every 50 years. That Jubilee would liberate everyone from debt, restore personal property ownership, and “proclaim liberty throughout all the land.”

Israel never observed a Jubilee year—in fact, they did not even observe the sabbatical years of rest for their land. As a result, the Lord forced them into 70 years of captivity to punish their disobedience. Although the United States has enjoyed more personal liberty than any other nation, the distortion of that liberty has caused a growth of freedom to do evil among its population.

The nonprofit Freedom From Religion Foundation gains media attention by promoting the so-called principle of separation between church and state. That organization claims to be the nation's largest association of freethinkers (atheists, agnostics, and skeptics) with more than 19,000 members. Working with well-known organizations like the ACLU, they have noisily agitated various public forums about religious encroachment and won important lawsuits to end supposed state-church entanglements.

People For the American Way, along with organizations such as Americans United for Separation of Church and State, has encouraged progressives on the one hand and libertarians on the other to infiltrate the major political parties. Even conservative thinking has begun to endorse such policies as gay rights and the legalization of recreational drugs, introducing various bills in state and federal houses to make such atrocities the law of the land. The freedom of a woman's “right to choose” to kill her unborn child is now a major entrenched “liberty” still being forced on our nation.

God's warning to Israel given through the prophet Isaiah is worth remembering:

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! (Isaiah 5:20-21)

May God have mercy on our country and bring the conviction and repentance of real liberty to our land.

Glorious Liberty

During his magnificent theological discussion in Romans of what God has done for those who are twice born, the great scholar Paul developed a beautiful description of the "glorious liberty of the children of God" ([Romans 8:21](#)). Three chapters are central to this wonderful truth.

Romans 6 defines the absolute and eternal condition that results from the new birth. We who were dead because of sin have been made alive to God ([Romans 6:11](#)). This entire chapter contrasts the new birth with the old deadness. Sin has no more authority. Holiness and the freedom to reign over sin are granted both in authority and power. Sin's wages are death, but God's gift is eternal life. Once we become the servants of God, it is not possible for us to serve sin. The great liberty that God grants empowers us to "present [our] members as slaves of righteousness for holiness" ([Romans 6:19](#)). God's promise is simple and powerful: "Sin shall not have dominion over you" ([Romans 6:14](#)).

Romans 7 amplifies the challenge we face even with the power of the "glorious liberty." Even though we are "dead to the law" and are "married" to Christ ([Romans 7:4](#)), there is a real battle going on between our flesh and a new law in our minds. In fact, "nothing good dwells" in our flesh ([Romans 7:18](#)). That old nature, the "law of sin," is still operative and trying to bring us back into captivity ([Romans 7:23](#)). The warnings are clear—the one who serves the flesh cannot serve God. Instead, God instructs us to serve Him, saying, "With the mind [we] serve the law of God" ([Romans 7:25](#)).

The beautiful crescendo of this glorious liberty is outlined in Romans 8. Even though there is a constant battle going on between the flesh and the new mind gifted to us by God at salvation, there is "no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" ([Romans 8:1](#)). Since we are dead to the flesh, we are enabled and empowered to be "led by the Spirit of God" ([Romans 8:14](#)). Living after the flesh can only lead to death. Living according to the leading of the Spirit of God brings us into genuine liberty and conscious righteousness that provide the "peace...which surpasses all understanding" ([Philippians 4:7](#)).

Long ago, King David composed the marvelous acrostic [Psalm 119](#). He speaks of the many ways that the Word of God provides true liberty for those who follow the teachings of our Creator:

Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD—Your salvation according to Your word. So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I have hoped in Your ordinances. So shall I keep Your law continually, Forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts. ([Psalm 119:41-45](#))

Many years later, Paul encourages us to cling to that freedom: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage" ([Galatians 5:1](#)). And God continues to reach out to each of us with the offer of genuine liberty. His voice still calls us to follow Him along the path of eternal liberty. **Morris III, H. 2013. *Genuine Liberty. Acts & Facts. 42 (7): 5-7.***

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please join us in praying for:

Also find updates online at our Web site or Face Book page
Our President, and legislature, the courts
Christians to not be ashamed and get busy doing God's work
God's continuing providence for America as we are in a period of moral
and ethical decay that is unprecedented in modern times
Our youth that they walk in the light of the Lord
Salvation for lost family, friends and those who oppose us

Missions and Missionary Friends

Angave Peoples Ministry Papua New Guniea
Anthony Kwadwo Okyere a young evangelist in Ghana West Africa
Camp Larga, Moldova a Christian youth summer camp in Moldova
Rev Varon and his family in the Philippines
The Harmon's missionaries Puerto Rico for 18 years;
The Rivera's, Ben and Becky with Campus Crusades for Christ
The Tabb's, Dan and Amy as they minister to youth in Ireland
Wells of Hope Village in Uganda, an outreach to children of the incarcerated.
Wells of Salvation - African Mission, East Otis, MA Bringing fresh water and the Gospel to Africa
Voice of the Martyrs @ www.persecution.com

**Pray these and the many others serving God in the mission fields
will get the financial & prayer support they need**

Our fellow ministries serving the incarcerated:

Amazing Grace Ministries, Woburn, MA
Bethany Fellowship International, Bloomington MN
Bluegrass Gospel Sing and Jam, Belchertown, MA
Christian Pen-Pals, Statesville, NC
Freedom through Christ Ministries, Ft Lauderdale FL
Freedom Ministries, Elizabethtown KY
J.A.R. Ministries, Bay Saint Louis, MS
Jimmy Huff Ministries, Colorado City TX
Lotsha Ministries, Africa
Meet Her at The Gate Ministry
Mbeya Prison Ministry, Mbeya Tanzania
New Beginnings, Malden MA

New England Prison Ministries, Lowell MA
Prisons Mission Society” Pakistan:
Robin's Song Inc. ,Big Spring Texas
Set Free Ministries, Easton MA
So Blessed Ministry, Bakersfield CA
Spirit House Ministries (For Women) Georgetown, TX
The Least of These Prison Ministries, Gloucester City, NJ
The Master's Female Prison Ministry, Decatur, AL
True Freedom Outreach New Zealand, Warkworth New Zealand
Reaching out to the incarcerated in Egypt
Wings of Faith Missions, Tanuku India

The incarcerated everywhere for

Health issues
Financial needs
Upcoming court cases
Renewed family relationships
Spiritual Growth
Those they left behind at home
Prison Churches: Their leadership and the countless Christian volunteers serving the Lord in prisons; that they do so never compromising the Word of God.

NEVER FORGET THOSE SERVING OUR MILITARY

Pray for our Armed Forces everywhere

CPT Patrick Joyner and family, Navy Chaplain to USMC -The Joyner family includes seven children,

The Veterans Coalition Ministries of Faith

Military Ministry - Serving military members, veterans, and families across the globe

Christian Military Fellowship (CMF) supports United States military personnel and their families, worldwide

Special Requests from you our friends:

Well of Hope Village, Uganda ;Jul 2013; Let us build for children of Prisoners, Stone by stone. Your donation will change many lives over many years! Our needs right now include Flooring Dormitory Verandah and Splash Aprons = \$2,782.00
The cost for Play ground :Clearing and leveling the play field, play equipment = \$3,480.00, Lightening Protection USD 2560
You can contribute or follow on Facebook, at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139936426116070/> or Website: www.wellsofhope.org Telephone; 256772407716

For this Ministry

Financial Support to continue our work

Help from mature men in Christ to correspond with men on the inside
We will continue to service God for His Glory alone

That we'd hear from more of the 250 inmates and ex-mates who get this
Publication

Rebuild Lakeshore

Pray that Naida and I can be an asset to the Brother Don, the church and
the community

Pray that Naida and my financial needs will be met

**Please contact us for more information
about any of the ministries listed.**

CONTACT US

_____ Yes, I will partner in prayer for the needs listed this month

_____ Yes, I will contribute to this ministry \$ _____

*Please note we are not a recognized non-profit tax exempt organi-
zation. Your contributions may not be tax deductible.*

Please Send information on:

** Note those requesting aftercare assistance should make every effort to
contact us at least 6 months prior to expected date of release and prefera-
bly a year prior. We need that time to review your release plan and help
facilitate your transition.

**Send Requests to:
Faithful Steward Ministries and
Faithful Steward Ministries Women's Outreach
PO Box 3208 Bay St Louis, MS 39521-3208**

Email's:

directorfsm@gmail.com
directorfsmwo@gmail.com

OUR NEW BLOG/WEB SITE
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[http://www.facebook.com/pages/Faithful-Steward-Ministries-and-FSM-
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<http://prisonministry.net/fsms>



1 Corinthians

4:1-2

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