

Spiritual heritage or godless nation?

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The United States of America is a godless nation, a secular country, founded by humanists and social reformers, not Bible-believing Christians. The current wave of “values voters” are usurping the ideals of our democratic principles of lifestyle according to popular opinion and truth determined by majority vote. Those who were religious idealists in early America were those that chose weird, hyper-conservative communities living in isolation. They dressed funny, made people eat oatmeal morning, noon and night, and were the outcasts of society. Our founding fathers were primarily theists, deists, and atheists, who summarily rejected the Bible and Jesus Christ for “freedom from religion” based upon moral and intellectual grounds. To remove the Ten Commandments from courthouses, “In God We Trust” from dollar bills, “Under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Bible from schools is bringing emancipation from the very constricts that breed injustice, bloodshed, war and pain. Freedom from religion produces freedom from the cancer that hinders our economic and social reform, intellectual growth, and scientific progress that could cure the diseases that plague humanity and the environment. In short, get rid of God and save America, and bring hope to the Earth.

Shocked? I doubt it. This version of American history is what dominates our textbooks and is what most of us learned in school. These conclusions are drawn every day in the media and comedians-turned-newscasters reinforce a worldview that relies upon the ignorance of the American people. I am speaking about all of us, or at least those of us who simply believe our traditional information sources such as modern public school textbooks and CNN. Now that I have raised a few eyebrows, please allow me to continue.

I recently got to see another version of American history than the one I was taught in school. It is markedly different than the version I see outlined in political piety and pundit propaganda. I recently stood in one of the historic houses of worship in our country. While it isn't the oldest one in our nation, it predates any local church building in our community. I am not referring to an old cathedral or Ivy League university chapel. I am speaking about our nation's capitol. Yes, it is true and part of the annals of congressional records. Did you know that the main rotunda of our nation's capitol was a house of Christian worship and church services sanctioned by our government? I bet that information is enough to send shivers through the spine of every proponent of the “godless nation agenda.”

Seeing one of the rarest books in the world today with my own eyes was also, shall I say — eye opening?! I am referring to the Bible that was ordered and sanctioned by the U.S. Congress to be printed, inscribed and commended to the Americans and for use in public schools, paid for by the U.S. government. Why is this book so rare and why didn't you already know about this? These are some of the questions I am asking. We tend to point fingers at historical revisionism that is going on in parts of Europe and the Middle East that paints an alternate version of history than what is accurate. But are we doing the same thing?

I've got some great news for you. There is a law that was brought in early in our nation's history that requires everything that happens in any official capacity at the capitol to be recorded for posterity and public scrutiny. That means that the facts of our true history are available for us to see, to research, and know. Further, those who are immediately critical or skeptical of what I am saying can search for themselves.

Why am I sharing this information with you? First, I am overflowing with excitement upon learning of our legacy as a nation, and in indignation in assessing the purposeful withholding of critical factual information affecting the founding and establishing and building of

our nation. Space doesn't even allow me to scratch the surface here. You might find it interesting, however, to learn that our public school history books didn't always reflect the version you read today. I was introduced to a pre-1950s textbook that gave a significantly more accurate version of our spiritual history. A story that is comparable to what I saw during my time at the capitol.

The walls are covered with paintings and the halls are lined with statues, each telling a chapter reflecting pieces of significance in our story — each purposefully chosen to honor the legacy of our American experience. But what story do these artifacts tell? I think you might be equally surprised as I. It does not speak of a godless nation founded upon the precepts of secularism and freedom from religion, but upon reliance on divine protection from tyranny, and providential direction and blessing, the authority of the Holy Bible in daily living and governance, national calls to prayer by representatives and presidents, thanksgiving to God, and official government documents pronouncing the Lordship of Jesus Christ. So if you feel compelled to stand for life and liberty, and that right extends to all mankind including the unborn, if you value a nation that is not ashamed to say aloud, “In God We Trust,” and still pledge allegiance to “One Nation Under God,” if you feel that the Ten commandments has a place in civil justice, and that the Bible is central to the training up of a generation toward wisdom, you are in good company; you have a lot in common with the majority of the authors and signers of our Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

“If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” — 2 Chronicles 7:14

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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Sunday Worship:

9:00 & 10:45am
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
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Mid-Week Study:

7:00pm Thursday
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
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