

Religion & Politics

James Boyd

Like most other people in the year's heat of political activity, I have heard again and again the old statement, "Politics and religion don't mix." While there is one sense in which this true, I have often thought this was a stupid statement, especially for the Christian to make.

To be sure, there are many political matters that are not religious in nature. Also, there is much that goes on among politicians and their activities that does not seem to be influenced even by morality, let alone religion generally. But, as I look around, I even see much in religion that is incompatible with the religion of Jesus Christ. So, I am not too surprised that politics and the faith of Christ often do not mix.

But there is another sense in which religion and politics should mix. Especially is this true for the Christian. I know that some have the mistaken view that Christians should never have anything to do with the civil government or political matters in any way. Some even demand abstaining from voting, even on issues that are totally moral in nature. While Christians should not be party to the evil of politics, who would question that our nation would be better if more genuinely Christian people were making the laws and governing the affairs of state? Voting is a privilege granted every citizen in our land that we can consistently exercise as a Christian. But for whom should we vote?

It has always seemed ridiculous to me for somebody to contend they believe something and then support the very people that oppose what he believes. In candidates, you will never find anybody who totally agrees with all you believe. But are not some matters more important to the Christian than others? Should the deficit mean as much to us as abortion? Should the trade balance concern us as much as the misnamed Equal Rights Amendment that would bring havoc on many moral situations? How do we oppose war then vote for men and parties whose policies have consistently taken us into war? It seems to me that high taxes and high inflation, as obnoxious as they are, are not near so repugnant to the Christian as the public advancement of Humanism in our schools and the dismissal of reference to God among our children.

I vote nearly every time I can. But I will not vote for the men and parties that have brought the flood of alcoholic beverages upon us. I shall not vote for those who claim homosexuality is just another acceptable lifestyle and pass laws to promote that view. I cannot look in the eyes of my children and grandchildren if I should vote for men who have consistently cried for our nation to reduce its power and turn millions upon millions under the bondage of atheistic communism. It is the atheism which I hate more than the communism. But they go together!

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For Your Information

Senior Servants

TUESDAY NIGHT TALENTS

Tuesday Night Talents continues this week. We will continue to work on projects that have been started and work on VBS.

SUMMER SERIES

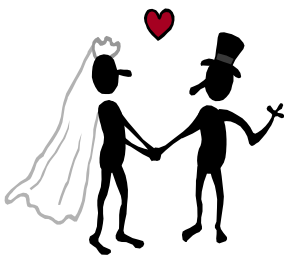
This week's summer series speaker will be Ryan Davis from FHU & WS.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held on Saturday, **July 24**. Save the date, plan to help as a teacher or Bible character, and invite your children's friends. The theme for this year is *The Life & Times of Joseph*. **SIGN UP ON THE BOARD IF YOU CAN HELP OUT!!** Also there are registration forms in the foyer.

Lynn Anderson
Norma Biller
Betty Buckner
Marguerite Charles
Jim Dorsett
Al Farrow
Collin Gregory
Walter & Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
Jo Musgrove
Grace Myers
Evelyn Scott
Elsie Smith
Ruth Stanton
Evelyn White
EV Wimmer
WJ Wood

Wedding Bells



Nancy Birney and Tom Richardson will be married on July 31 at 2:00 in the afternoon at the Spring Hill Church of Christ in Spring Hill, Tennessee. If you are unable to attend, they request your prayers as they start their new life together.

SOON



Fiftieth Anniversary

Norris & Velda Gearhart will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on August 14. They are inviting you to join in their celebration from 2-4 at the West Side Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP by August 8.



- Annette Shrader will have surgery on August 6 at UVA.
- Lynn Anderson is at the VA but improving. Hopes to be moving soon!
- Theresa Ambruse, niece of Bob Garby, had surgery on Thursday in OH.

Grace Earnhart will be returning from her trip to Europe later this week.

Continue in prayer: Ruth & Glenn Hartman, Claude Crowe, Shannon VanRavestain

July 2010

“But God...” (10)

Announcements Fred Altizer
Song Leader (AM) David Brown
Opening Prayer (AM)
7/4 Jerry Anderson
7/11 Wayne Dixon
7/18 Mike Durham
7/25 Charlie Gwaltney

Preside at Communion Squeaky Valentine
Serve Table
Adam House, Sam Valentine
AC Janney, Mark Brooks

Closing Prayer
7/4 Danny Guard
7/11 Josh Whitlow
7/18 Don Pettit
7/25 Eric Earnhart

Song Leader (PM) Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (PM)
7/4 Jeff Durham
7/11 Don Pettit
7/18 Bradford Durham
7/25 Roger Mays

Scripture Reader Andrew Gibson
Closing Prayer (PM)
7/4 Bob Martin
7/11 Gene Benefield
7/18 Jim Harrington
7/25 Tom Rogers

Serve Table (PM)
Ethan Rogers, Garrett Durham

Song Leader (Wed) Sam Valentine
Prayer (Wed)
7/7 Tom Richardson
7/14 Marc Laplante
7/21 Ben Munsey
7/28 Jeremy White

Open/Close Bldg Lyn Shrader
Greeters Mays

Nursery Attend Leah Durham (AM)
Lisa Valentine (PM)
Ushers Curtis Oakes, John Black
Handouts Jeff Guilliams
Cameron Brown

Prepare communion
Cha Guard, Charlotte Harrington

Last weeks attendance 7/11&14/10

Bible Class— 127 Worship Service—148
Sunday Eve.— 123 Wednesday Eve.—110
Contribution—\$4795

We have contemplated several of the 44 passages in which the phrase “but God” is found. The phrase shows a contrast in what man thought, said or did with what God ultimately said or did. The ending was changed completely by God’s word or action(s). We continue our look at this phrase in the life of Jesus.

As recorded in Luke 12, Jesus told a parable concerning a rich farmer. He had a bumper crop and contemplated what he should do with his newfound wealth. He decided to tear down his old storage facilities and build new ones, and there keep his surplus goods. He concluded, “And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” However, then came the words of the Lord: “**But God** said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” (Lk. 12:19, 20).

Jesus was teaching His audience about covetousness (Lk. 12:15, 21). Obviously, one can be guilty of covetousness even with his own possessions, as this man was. It is the attitude not only of “I want what is yours and I’ll do what I have to in order to get it” (what we normally think covetousness to be), but also of “I want what is mine and I’ll do what I have to in order to keep it.” This man’s plan was to retire in luxury and enjoy life to its fullest. His mistake was forgetting God in all his planning. These two words changed this man’s life and plunged him unprepared into eternity. Instead of a life of leisure, as he had planned, he received an eternity of torment, for which he had not prepared.

What are your plans for the future? There’s nothing wrong with planning for the years to come, unless those plans do not involve God. Far too many want to do as this man and retire in luxury, and in doing so, they push God aside in the process. We must be sure to include God in every aspect of our lives, through good and bad, wealth and poverty, sickness and health. Foremost in our plans ought always to be our preparation for heaven. Have you made your plans for the future?

-Eddy