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AMERICA, CHRISTIANITY, AND THE CULTURE WAR (PART II)

Dave Miller, Ph.D.

[Editors' Note: Part I of this three-part series appeared in the June issue. Part II follows below, and continues, without introductory comments, where the first article ended.]

POLITICAL DOCUMENTS: SPEECHES AND QUOTES BY FOUNDERS

As one peruses the plethora of speeches, writings, and private correspondence left behind by the Founders, one is literally overwhelmed by their incessant allusion to the critical importance of God and Christianity to national life. One of the great Founders of America was Patrick Henry. On March 23, 1775, over a



year before the *Declaration of Independence*, he attended the Second Virginia Convention (which, by the way, met in a **church building** in Richmond) to discuss the tyranny of the Crown. The 39-year-old delegate from Hanover County took a seat on the third pew, patiently listening to the pleas of the Tories to refrain from antagonizing the King of England by further talk of independence. When his opportunity to speak finally came, he rose and delivered the following spectacular speech—a speech that cannot be used in the public school system of America to-

day because of its frequent, now deemed politically incorrect, allusion to God and the Bible. Consider a few excerpts:

This is no time for ceremony.... For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfill **the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country**. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward **the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings**. ... There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free—if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending—if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained—we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to **the God of hosts** [Old Testament term for God in His military might—DM] is all that is left us! ... Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which **the God of nature** hath placed in our power. The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. **There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations**, and who will raise up friends to **fight our battles for us** [2 Chronicles 32:8—DM].... What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? 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! (1775, emp. added).

Patrick Henry's frequent appeals to God were typical of the Founders. They assigned a **theological** rationale for the Revolutionary War. They viewed the effort to achieve independent national existence as sanctioned by and dependent on the God of the Bible. Such facts have been all but expunged from American history courses.

After independence was achieved, the Founders met for the purpose of hammering out the political principles that would guide the new nation. On June 28, 1787, in the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, one of the least religious of the Founders, Benjamin Franklin, now in

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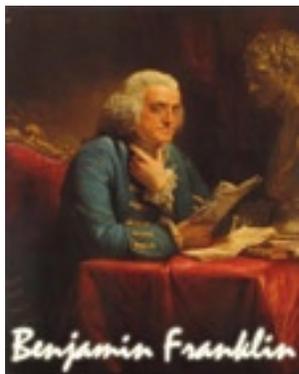
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his 80s, rose to his feet and made the following majestic remarks [NOTE: Lest the reader miss the fact that Franklin's speech is thoroughly saturated with allusions to



God and the Bible, such references are noted in bold and direct biblical citations are indicated in brackets]:

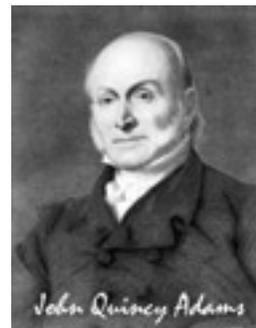
In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to **the Father of lights** [James 1:17], to illuminate our understanding? In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, **we had daily prayer in this room for divine protection**. Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. And have we now forgotten **that powerful friend**? Or, do we imagine we no longer need **his assistance**? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more **convincing proofs** [Acts 1:3] I see of this truth—that **God governs in the affairs of men** [Daniel 4:17]. And if a **sparrow cannot fall**

to the ground without his notice [Matthew 10:29], 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”** [Psalm 127:1]. I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without **his concurring aid** we shall succeed in this political building no better than the **Builders of Babel** [Genesis 11]: We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a **reproach and by word down to future ages** [Psalm 44:13-14; Jeremiah 24:9]. I therefore beg leave to move—that henceforth **prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing** on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service (1787, emp. and bracketed material added).

These two speeches by Patrick Henry and Benjamin Franklin would now be deemed politically incorrect and inappropriate for public schools (unless significantly “abridged”). Even if they were admitted to the history classroom, how many American history teachers today would even recognize the multiple quotations from the Bible?

The sixth President of the United States, John Quincy Adams, reflecting on the origin of the nation, stated succinctly the role that God played in America's founding:

From the day of the Declaration, the people of the North American Union and of its constituent states were associated bodies of civilized men and **Chris-**



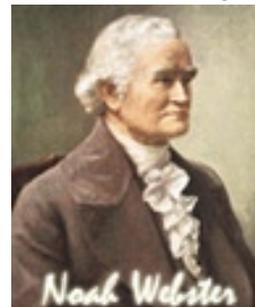
tians.... They were bound by **the laws of God, which they all**, and by **the laws of the Gospel, which they nearly all**, acknowledged as the rules of their conduct (1821, p.28, emp. added).

The Declaration of Independence cast off all the shackles of this [British] dependency. The United States of America were no longer Colonies. They were an **independent nation of Christians** (1837, p. 18, emp. added).

Observe carefully that President Adams claimed that **all** of the Founders believed in the God of the Bible, and that **nearly all** of them also believed in Christianity. Since John Quincy Adams's father was a prominent Founder as well as the second President of the United States, surely he was in a much better position to assess America's founding principles and the intentions of the Founders than anyone today. Yet, the public school system of America since the 1960s has been perpetrating on unsuspecting children the outrageous falsehood that the Founders did not express allegiance to the Christian religion, but were deists at most and more generally irreligious. Who is more qualified to make such an assessment: anti-American, anti-Christian, biased, revisionist historians/educators from the last 50 years—or John Quincy Adams?

Noah Webster, known for his tireless efforts to standardize American English, had much to say about the spiritual underpinnings of America's government:

In my view, the **Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things** in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed.... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the **Christian religion must**



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be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people (1843, p. 291, emp. added).

The **Christian religion**, in its purity, is the basis, or rather the **source of all genuine freedom in government....** and I am persuaded that **no civil government of a republican form can exist and be durable** in which the principles of that religion have not a controlling influence (Snyder, 1990, p. 253, emp. added).

Again, Webster's remarks are very typical of the Founders in their adamant and repetitious insistence that our form of government can neither be sustained nor perpetuated without the widespread diffusion of Christian principles throughout society.



In a speech to the First Provincial Congress of New Jersey on November 4, 1782, Elias Boudinot, who became President of the Continental Congress, admonished his fellows:

Let us enter on this important business under the idea that **we are Christians** on whom the eyes of the world are now turned.... **Let us earnestly call and beseech him for Christ's sake to preside in our councils** (1896, 1:19, emp. added).

Question: In making such a statement, did President Boudinot say anything that would have been instantly decried as a "violation of church and state" or an insensitive attempt to press his religious beliefs on others? Quite the opposite. The fact that history records this admonition is proof that he was merely expressing the sentiments of the bulk of his contemporaries.

THE JUDICIARY

The courts of America once openly avowed the nation's affiliation with the one true God and the one true religion. For example, in a case that came before the New York State Supreme Court in 1811, a man had been convicted by a lower court for the following offense:

[H]e did on the 2nd day of September, 1810, at Salem, wickedly, maliciously, and blasphemously, utter, and with a loud voice publish, in the presence and hearing of

divers good and **Christian people**, of and concerning the **Christian religion**, and of and concerning **Jesus Christ**, the false, scandalous, malicious, wicked and blasphemous words...in contempt of the **Christian religion**, and the laws of this State (*People v. Ruggles*, emp. added).

He was found guilty, sentenced to three months in prison, and fined \$500. The man's attorney argued that Christianity was not a part of the laws of the State, and that the *Constitution* allowed a free toleration to all religions and all kinds of worship. Nevertheless, the State Supreme Court upheld the man's conviction. The opinion of the court was penned by one of the Fathers of American Jurisprudence, Chief Justice James Kent, whose *Commentaries on American Law* effectively supplanted Blackstone's *Commentaries* as the premier expression of American law:

[W]hatever strikes at the root of **Christianity** tends manifestly to the **dissolution of civil government....** The people of this State, in common with the people of this country, **profess the general doctrines of Christianity**, as the rule of their faith and practice; and to **scandalize the author of these doctrines** is not only, in a religious point of view, extremely impious, but, even in respect to the obligations due to society, is a gross violation of decency and good order.... [T]o revile, with malicious and blasphemous contempt, **the religion professed by almost the whole community**, is an abuse of that right. Nor are we bound, by any expressions in the constitution, as some have strangely supposed, either not to punish at all, or to punish indiscriminately the like attacks upon the religion of Mahomet or of the Grand Lama; and for this plain reason, that the case assumes that **we are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply ingrafted upon Christianity, and not upon the doctrines or worship of those imposters** (*People v. Ruggles*, emp. added).

Unbelievable! Not only did this Father of American Jurisprudence forcefully acknowledge the universal recognition that America's allegiance was to the **Chris-**



tian religion, he committed what would now be considered a grievous, politically incorrect blunder of seismic proportions: he condemned Islam (Muhammad) and Buddhism (the Dalai Lama) as **false religions!** Yet he was merely expressing the viewpoint of 99.9% of his fellow Americans.

In a case that came before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the court declared America's unflinching attachment to the general precepts of the Christian religion:

This is the **Christianity of the common law**, incorporated into the great law of Pennsylvania, and thus, it is irrefragably proved, that **the laws and institutions of this state are built on the foundation of reverence for Christianity....** On this the constitution of the United States has made no alteration, nor in the great body of the laws which was an incorporation of the common law doctrine of Christianity, as suited to the condition of the colony, and **without which no free government can long exist....**

No free government now exists in the world, **unless where Christianity is acknowledged, and is the religion of the country....** Christianity is part of the **common law of this state**. It is not proclaimed by the commanding voice of any human superior, but expressed in the calm and mild accents of customary law. **Its foundations are broad, and strong, and deep:** they are laid in the authority, the interest, the affections of the people.... [I]t is the **purest system of morality, the firmest auxiliary, and only stable support of all human laws** (*Updegraph....*, 1824, emp. added).

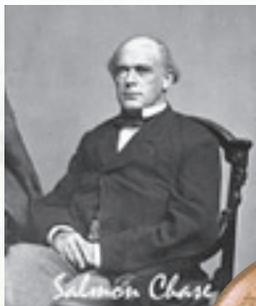
In a case that went before the Supreme Court of Maryland in 1799, the justices delivered a unanimous opinion, including the following then-typical affirmations:

Religion is of general and public concern, and on its support depend, in great measure, the peace and good order of government, the safety and happiness of the people. **By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion;** and all sects and denominations of **Christians** are placed upon the same equal footing, and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty. The principles of the **Christian religion** cannot be diffused, and its doctrines generally propagated, without places of public worship, and teachers and ministers, to explain the **scriptures** to the people, and to enforce an observance of the precepts of religion by their preaching and living. And the pastors, teachers and ministers, of every denomination of **Christians**, are equally entitled to the protection of the law, and to the enjoyment of their religious and temporal rights (*Runkel....*, emp. added).

In 1892, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling in which the Court cited instance after instance, proof after proof, that from the very beginning America was closely aligned with the God of the Bible. They brought their review of America's religious heritage to a close with this grand conclusion: "These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that **this is a Christian nation**" (*Church of the...*, emp. added). The U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed the same in 1931: "**We are a Christian people...** according to one another the equal right of religious freedom, and acknowledging with reverence the duty of obedience to **the will of God**" (*United States v...*, emp. added). How many Americans today realize that the U.S. Supreme Court has declared that America is a Christian nation? Many additional instances of the judiciary's support for the nation's Christian origins could be cited.

CURRENCY

In November of 1861, Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury under Abraham Lincoln, issued the following directive to the Director of the Mint in Philadelphia:



No nation can be strong **except in the strength of God** or safe **except in His defense**. **The trust of our people in God** should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible **this national recognition** ("History of In...", emp. added).

On April 22, 1864, by Act of Congress, the motto "In God we Trust" was approved for placement on American coins, beginning with the 1864 two-cent piece. Congress—a thoroughly political, government-

tal body—placed an unmitigated religious allusion on government-minted coinage! Apparently, the U.S. Government in 1864 understood neither the *Constitution* nor the so-called "separation of church and state." It took the creation of the ACLU to correct such "egregious errors" and provide us with a correct understanding of our *Constitution*.

Prior to 1864, manifestations of America's religious preference during the 18th century appeared on the Constellatio Nova copper coins. An eye emanating rays outward toward a surrounding circle of thirteen stars is historically identified as the Eye of Providence, symbolizing divine favor for the new nation ("The Nova...", n.d.). The same symbolism is



on currency notes from the 1770s ("Continental Currency: 1779 \$40..."). Other indications of America's religious heritage manifested on money include the \$60 currency note from January 14, 1779. The emblem on the front shows a globe of the Earth with a motto from Psalm 97 in capital letters: "DEUS REGNAT EXULTET TERRA," i.e., "God reigns, let the Earth rejoice" ("Continental Currency: 1778...").



The 1779 \$30 note has an emblem on the front showing a wreath on a tomb, with the motto: "SIRECTE FACIES"—"If you act righteously" ("Continental Currency: 1779 \$30..."). Hence, religious references have been on America's money from the beginning.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

Several national symbols provide evidence of America's premiere attachment to the God of the Bible. Consider three. The Liberty Bell, cast in 1753, served as the official bell of the Pennsylvania State House. However, on July 8, 1776, it rang



out to announce the first public reading of the *Declaration of Independence*. Since that day, it has served as a national symbol of liberty and is specially housed in Philadelphia near Independence Hall. Most Americans likely do not even realize that the words encircling the bell are taken from Leviticus 25:10—"Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof" ("The Liberty...").

The Statue of Liberty stands on Bedloe's Island in New York harbor. On the fourth level at the base of the grand lady are seven jade green carrara-like glass plaques, six of which have excerpts from works of great American statesmen ("Statue of Liberty..."). Inscribed on the seventh plaque is Leviticus 25:10—the same Bible verse that is on the Liberty Bell.

How many Americans are aware that we have a National Seal? On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress assigned Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson the task of creating a seal for the United States of America. The seal was to embody the beliefs and values that the Founding Fathers wished to pass on to their descendants. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson (again, two of the **least** religious of the Founders) proposed a thoroughly **biblical** design: Moses crossing the Red Sea, with Pharaoh in hot pursuit. It included the motto: "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God" ("The Great Seal..."). These two men were so familiar with the Bible, and so believed in the God of the Bible, that they were able to draw the parallel between the relationship of the Israelites to Pharaoh and the relationship of Americans to the King of England. Observe further that both men viewed



the separation from England to be **in accordance with the will of God**. As it turned out, their proposal did not make the cut.

The Great Seal was finalized and approved six years later on June 20, 1782. It has two sides. One side is sometimes referred to as the spiritual side. It contains a 13-step, incomplete pyramid with the year 1776 in Roman numerals at the base. At the top of the pyramid is a triangle (as if finishing out the pyramid) containing the Eye of Providence. Above the Eye is the motto *Annuuit Coeptis*, which is Latin



for “He (i.e., God) favors our undertakings” (“Symbols of U.S....”). Both sides of the Great Seal can be seen on the back of a one-dollar bill (“FAQs...”). That means that every dollar bill in America contains **three allusions to the God of the Bible**: “In God We Trust,” the Eye of God, and “He favors our undertakings.” ACLU attorneys must be pulling their hair out—though they continue to use the currency.

NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Government buildings all over the country—from Washington, D.C. to the State capitols—are riddled with religious references, specifically to the God of the Bible and the Christian religion. Ironically, the United States Supreme Court building contains several allusions to the Ten Commandments. Directly above the Bench where the justices sit are two central figures, depicting Majesty of the Law and Power of Government. Between them is a tableau of the Ten Commandments (“Supreme Court...”). In three spots, as part of larger sculptural groups, Moses is depicted with tablets: in the North Courtroom frieze, on the exterior East Pediment, and in one of the Great Hall metopes. Other tablets with the Roman



numerals I-X appear on the support frame of the Courtroom’s bronze gates as well as on the lower, interior panel of one of the oak doors that separate the Courtroom from the central hallway (“Symbols of Law”).

Moving to the Library of Congress, eight large statues can be seen above the giant marble columns that surround the main reading room. They represent eight categories of knowledge, each considered symbolic of civilized life and thought. Above the figure of History are words from Lord Tennyson’s *In Memoriam*: “ONE GOD, ONE LAW, ONE ELEMENT, AND ONE FAR-OFF DIVINE EVENT, TO WHICH THE WHOLE CREATION MOVES” (“On These Walls...”). Such words embody the Christian worldview and contradict atheism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Native American religion. Above the figure of “Religion” are the words of Micah 6:8—“What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Above the figure of “Science” are the words of Psalm 19:1—“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork” (“On These Walls...”).

Sixteen bronze statues set along the balustrade of the galleries, each pair flanking one of the eight giant marble columns, represent men renowned for their accomplishments in knowledge. The names of the individual figures are inscribed on the wall directly behind the statue. Representing “Religion” are the statues of the apostle Paul and Moses. Among the murals in the dome of the Main Reading Room are the words: “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Holy Bible, Leviticus 19:18)” inscribed in Hebrew. In the north hall is a painting called “Knowledge.” The inscription reads: “Ignorance is the curse of God, knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to Heaven”—again, a clear expression of the Bible’s teaching. Also in the Library of Congress is the “Members of Congress Reading Room.” Along the center of the ceiling are panels that represent civilization through the Spectrum of Light. Each of the seven panels features a central figure that symbolizes some phase of achievement, human or divine. The first subject is the creation of light with the words of Genesis 1:3—“Let there be light” (“On These Walls...”).

In the White House is situated the Adams Prayer Mantel which dates from 1800. The inscription constitutes an appeal to God: “I pray Heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof”

(“State Dining Room...”). Images of the Ten Commandments are seen in a statue in front of the Ronald Reagan Building



titled “Liberty of Worship,” a sculpture in front of the U.S. District Court building (along with a cross), as well as embedded in the floor of the National Archives (Devorah, 2004).

Moving to the U.S. Capitol complex, in the House Chamber, immediately above the American flag that is hung vertically on the wall behind the Speaker of the House, engraved in marble are the words: “In God We Trust” (“House of...,” 2005). Twenty-three marble relief portraits hang over the gallery doors of the House Chamber, depicting historical figures noted for their work in establishing the principles that underlie American law. Eleven profiles in the eastern half of the chamber face left and eleven in the western half face right, so that all 22 look towards the full-face relief of—Moses (“Relief Portraits...”).



The House Rotunda doors show depictions of Christopher Columbus and his party **carrying a cross**. Also in the Rotunda is a 360-degree painted panoramic frieze 58 feet above the floor with 19 scenes depicting significant events in American history, including Hernando DeSoto and Christopher Columbus, again, carrying crosses, the Protestant baptism of

Pocahontas, and Protestant pilgrims on board ship headed for America. The latter depicts Protestant pilgrims on the deck of their ship headed for the New World on July 22, 1620. William Brewster is holding **the Bible**, and John Robinson is leading Governor Carver, William Bradford, Miles Standish, and their families **in prayer**. The rainbow at the left side of the painting symbolizes hope and **divine protection**. (“Works of Art...”). Also in the Capitol is the Great Experiment Hall (the central east-west corridor) that chronicles in 16 murals three centuries of legislative milestones. The murals include George Washington and Abraham Lincoln taking the oath of office by placing their hands on **the Bible**, and a Protestant preacher symbolizing freedom of religion (“Works of Art...”).

A stained glass window of George Washington praying on one knee is in the chapel of the U.S. Capitol. Below him is “Psalm 16:1” with the words of the verse inscribed around him. “This Nation Under God” appears above him. At the top of the window is the Great Seal which, as noted previously, contains two allusions to God—the Providential Eye and *annuit coeptis* (Devorah, 2003).

The Lincoln Memorial houses engravings of some of Lincoln’s speeches. They, too, are punctuated with references to God and the Bible. For example, consider his second inaugural address in which he addresses both sides of the Civil War:

Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes his aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a **just God’s** assistance in wringing their bread



from the sweat of other men’s faces; but **let us “judge not, that we be not judged”** [Matthew 7:1—DM]. The prayers of both could not be answered—that of neither has been answered fully. **The Almighty has his own purposes. “Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh”** [Matthew 18:7—DM].

If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the **providence of God**, must needs come, but which, having continued through **his** appointed time, **he** now wills to remove, and that **he** gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from **those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him?** Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, **if God wills** that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman’s two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood

drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, **“The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether”** [Psalm 19:9—DM].

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as **God gives us** to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations (“Lincoln...,” emp. added).

Also inscribed within the Lincoln Memorial is the Gettysburg Address which speaks of “this nation under God.” Most Americans assume that it was Lincoln who coined the then historically apropos phrase: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” Yet he was merely quoting the Bible—Mark 3:25.

The Jefferson Memorial contains engravings from some of Jefferson’s works, including numerous references to the God of the Bible:

I have sworn upon **the altar of God** eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.

Almighty God hath created the mind free...All attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burthens...are a departure from the plan of **the Holy Author of our religion**... I know but **one code of morality for men** whether acting singly or collectively.

God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are **the gift of God?** Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that **God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever** (“Thomas Jefferson Memorial...,” emp. added).



Also located in the Jefferson Memorial are excerpts from the *Declaration of Independence* that include three of the four references to God found within that document.

SPEAKING SCHEDULES

Brad Harrub

July 1-8	Morro Bay, CA	(805) 772-7248
July 16-19	Brentwood, TN	(615) 373-4353
July 23-29	Lake Tahoe, NV	(916) 989-4885

Dave Miller

July 16-20	Arab, AL	(256) 586-8158
July 23,30	Adamsville, AL	(205) 674-5659
July 26	Columbiana, AL	(205) 669-0244

Kyle Butt

July 3-6	Henderson, TN	(800) 348-3481
July 19	Opelika, AL	(334) 745-5181
July 21-23	Fairhope, AL	(251) 928-9053

Eric Lyons

July 8	Columbus, GA	(706) 561-3792
July 12	Fort Deposit, AL	(334) 227-4224
July 23-27	Somerville, AL	(256) 778-8961

The apex of the Washington Memorial is topped by a 100 ounce aluminum capstone that has on its east face two lone Latin words: *Laus Deo*, i.e., praise be to God



(“The Washington...”; “Laus Deo”). Ascending the internal stairway, one can see 190 memorial stones donated by various states, cities, churches, and civic organizations during the nineteenth century phase of construction. The stones abound with references to God, the Bible, Christianity, and Christian morality. For example, the stone donated by the state of Kentucky reads: “Under the Auspices of Heaven and the Precepts of Washington.” The stone donated by the city of Baltimore reads: “May Heaven to This Union Continue Its Beneficence.” Using biblical imagery (i.e., “ark,” “covenant,” “dove”), one city in Maryland linked the religion of the Pilgrims with the **birthright** of America in the memorial stone they contributed:

From the City of Frederick, Md. Civil and Religious Liberty first proclaimed in the Pilgrim Fathers of Maryland assembled in the Ark of the Covenant of Freedom, and the Dove, the Harbinger of Peace and fellowship that guided them though the danger of the deep, have been secured in the Birthright of the Nation by the enduring Seal of the Minister of Justice, George Washington (“Washington Monument...”).

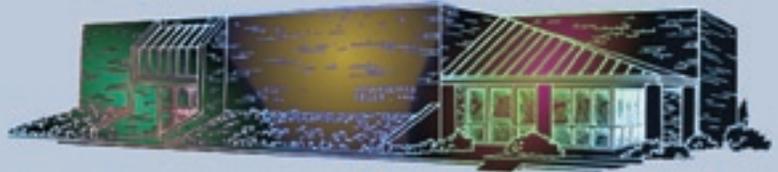
In addition to the apex and these memorial stones, many artifacts were deposited in the recess of the cornerstone after completion, including 71 newspapers that ran articles commemorating Washington, and a host of other historical objects—a veritable treasure trove of history. How-

ever, only one is religious in nature: the Bible (“Appendix C: Members...”).

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NOTE FROM THE EDITORS



NEW BOOK ON JESUS

The Da Vinci Code, the *Gospel of Judas*, *The Jesus Papers*—on and on it goes. There seems to be no end to the sinister assault on the person of Christ and the authenticity of the Christian faith. Forces that seek to undermine popular belief in the one true religion are proliferating. America's historical affiliation with Christianity is being systematically purged from public life.

In response, we at Apologetics Press continue to devote ourselves to the most sacred cause on Earth, ever keeping in mind the words of Peter:

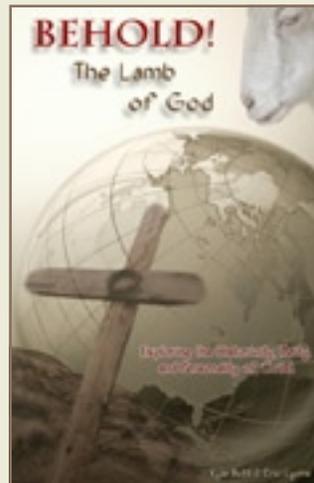
And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. 'And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.' But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always **be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:13-15, emp. added).

For 27 years, A.P. has been "set for the defense of the Gospel" (Philippians 1:17).

In that spirit, we are pleased to announce the release of a remarkable new volume: *Behold! The Lamb of God*. Written in collaboration by two of our talented staff members, Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt, this book explores the historicity, deity, personality, and uniqueness of Christ. It addresses the most pressing questions of our day. Did Jesus actually live in history?

Was His arrival predicted centuries in advance? Do the gospel accounts, i.e., Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, provide an accurate representation of His life on Earth?

Some skeptics have denied the historicity of Christ, claiming that He never actually lived on Earth. Other skeptics have rejected the deity of Christ, insisting that though He may have been an actual human being, He certainly was not God in the flesh (*The Da Vinci Code* even asserts that He fathered children by Mary Magdalene). Still other skeptics have taken issue with the personality traits of Jesus. But the fact remains that the evidence is available and, for the honest seeker of truth, that evidence is decisive. The person of Jesus Christ is the most outstanding, positive manifestation of deity that our sinful world has ever known. The genuineness of the Christian faith is aptly demonstrated in this masterful defense of its Author. *Behold! The Lamb of God* presents a well-documented, compelling case for the person of Christ. Whether for you, or as a gift to a family member or college student, we are confident that the reader will be brought forcefully face-to-face with the Lord of the Universe. Indeed, this outstanding book will encourage and strengthen faith in Christ.



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