

# RICK SCARBOROUGH



## Mixing Church and State God's Way

A Call to Stand Up, Speak Up,  
and Refuse to Give Up

# Mixing Church and State God's Way

“A Call to Stand Up, Speak Up,  
and Refuse to Give Up”

©2020 by Rick Scarborough

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from: Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. Scriptures marked (NKJV) are from The Holy Bible, New King James Version © 1984 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

# Mixing Church and State God's Way

“A Call to Stand Up, Speak Up,  
and Refuse to Give Up”

In recent months much has been written and discussed regarding Christians and their role in political activity. In their book, *Blinded By Might*, Cal Thomas and Ed Dobson, two former colleagues of Jerry Falwell during the Moral Majority era, go to great lengths to make their case that pastors and their congregants should restrict their activities to matters of the Church and leave matters of governing for others. Paul Weyrich, the man credited with coining the phrase “Moral Majority,” shocked the American political establishment when he asserted that the “Moral Majority” is now the “moral minority.” He pointed to the continuing moral drift that has escalated since Christians first began organizing in the late seventies. He is now deceased, but he would roll over in his grave to see how morally bankrupt America is today.

While I sympathize with the concerns these and others are expressing and cannot argue the fact that our nation is in a moral freefall, I reject their conclusions. For believers in America, it is not a question of winning or losing but rather one of faithfulness. I believe it is nothing less than sinful for a Christian who lives in America to be ill-informed of the great issues of our day and uninvolved in providing solutions to the

moral challenges we face. Christians must accept the blame for allowing our nation to drift so far off the course charted by our founding fathers.

America is in trouble morally and spiritually, but this is not the time to retreat. Rather, Christians must stand up, speak up, and refuse to give up. You cannot dispel darkness with more darkness, and you cannot correct error with silence. I am so thankful that General George Washington and his brave men who were battling blizzard-like conditions, ill-clad and ill-equipped while literally starving to death, did not finally resign themselves to failure and give up. I am especially thankful that the General did not bail out on the troops and send them all home. Instead, the troops looked to their brave leader who remained in the trenches with them and watched him pray for divine guidance and deliverance. Those who survived that fierce winter at Valley Forge followed him back into the battle that spring, where they witnessed God's great faithfulness. They discovered that with God, all things are possible. They discovered what we can easily forget...that God always honors those who honor Him (1 Sam. 2:30). And they discovered that, as a follower of Christ, you never lose until you quit.

The Scriptures are filled with accounts of God intervening on behalf of His people wherever He found yielded servants who were willing to engage the enemy. When the Jewish people were targeted for extinction because of Haman's "final solution" suggestion to King Xerxes in Esther 3:8-10, Queen Esther was willing to get involved with politics!

## MIXING CHURCH AND STATE GOD'S WAY

Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from those of all other people and who do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will put ten thousand talents of silver into the royal treasury for the men who carry out his business." So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman, son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

After the order was signed and the date was set for Haman's "final solution," fear and dread hung like a cloud over the entire Jewish population. Mordecai, Esther's uncle, immediately began to pray and seek God's face for the deliverance of his people and their culture. Because Mordecai understood that God always has a purpose in mind when He places someone in a position of leadership and authority, he sent a messenger to Queen Esther informing her of the Jew's plight and requesting her to petition the king on their behalf. When she responded with her fear that such a petition might cost her throne or even her life, Mordecai responded with his penetrating words... *"if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come into a royal position **for such a time as this**"* (Esther 4:14).

Esther then decided to put her faith into action. She began by requesting that others of faith join her in prayer and fasting for

deliverance. However, she did not stop there. She exercised her “rights” as the Queen and took a “risk” that could have resulted in her death. She put it all on the line physically, but she first put it all on the altar spiritually with the confession “...if I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:16), Esther courageously approached the king. God gloriously intervened on behalf of His people and exposed the wickedness of Haman while saving and vindicating the Jews.

America had a modern-day Esther in our midst in young Marian Ward, who was a senior at the High School in Santa Fe, Texas, a small community just south of Houston in Galveston County, during the time I was pastoring a nearby church. In February of 1999, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that student-initiated, non-sectarian, non-proselytizing prayer was appropriate for school events such as a commencement. Still, it was not appropriate at less solemn gatherings such as sporting events. The school district was to be commended for appealing that ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court. But all righteous Americans ought to be asking, “where does any court derive the authority to decide that prayer is appropriate at certain events and not at others?” Clearly, our judiciary is now taking the role of God in our culture, and few see the inherent danger. Those who adamantly argue religion has no role in government never complain when the government intrudes into religion, which is exactly what our founders sought to prevent with the adoption of the First Amendment.

In light of the ruling, the district published its *Guidelines for Student Messages at Football Games*, which prohibited

## MIXING CHURCH AND STATE GOD'S WAY

“prayers, blessings, invocations, or references to a deity.” The Superintendent of Santa Fe Independent School District said if a student prays, “they would be disciplined just as if they had cursed.”

The class body selected a fellow student to offer a prayer before the game, but after some deliberations, that student declined. Enter Marian Ward (Esther). With the full support of her mother and father, Marian took up the mantel. Marian decided, “if I’m suspended, I’m suspended, but I must obey God rather than man.” Marian was fully prepared to suffer any consequences her actions provoked. That included being suspended during her senior year. For a high school student, that is putting it all on the altar. Christians throughout her school, her Church, her community, and beyond were energized and empowered by her courage and began praying for God’s will to be done. I am reminded of Paul’s letter to the Philippian believers when he wrote: *“Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel... Because of what has happened to me... most of the brothers have been encouraged to speak the Word of God more courageously and fearlessly”* (Phil. 1:12-14).

Meanwhile, her father, Bob Ward, who pastored a local church in Santa Fe, enlisted a qualified attorney to seek legal relief in the courts. The Ward’s believed, as I do, that Christians have rights too!

The Ward’s attorney, Kelley Coghlan, entered U.S. District Judge Sam Kent’s court in Galveston at 4:30 p.m. Thursday,

September 2, 1999. The Ward's case was then transferred to Judge Sim Lake for further consideration. By Friday afternoon, a restraining order was issued allowing Marian to pray before Santa Fe's opening football game of the season. In effect, the judge's ruling was that the school system's actions were preferring atheism over religion.

The three thousand fans present gave Marian a standing ovation for her courageous witness as she prayed for the teams, schools, and fans in Jesus' name. Fully one-third of the front page of the Houston Chronicle, on Saturday, September 4, 1999, was devoted to the story with the complete text of the prayer carried in the paper. Articles celebrating this modern-day Esther have appeared across the nation. For the Wards, there was never a question about whether or not they should get involved, and once they did, they discovered that with God, all things are possible. They chose to "stand up, speak up, and refused to give up!" And they discovered you never lose until you quit. They also discovered that there are a lot of common, ordinary Americans who still believe that asking God to watch over a group of student athletes while they compete is a pretty good idea. **Judges are not gods, and they should not be granted unrestrained power over our lives.**

Edmond Burke is credited with the famous quote, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." He was absolutely correct. The great attorney turned evangelist, Charles Finney, who was converted to Christianity reading Blackstone's commentaries on the Laws of England, that were filled with Biblical references, wrote:



## MIXING CHURCH AND STATE GOD'S WAY

The Church must take right ground in regards to politics...The time has come for Christians to vote for honest men, and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them...God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the Church will take right ground. Politics are a part of religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to their country as a part of their duty to God...God will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics.

He believed, as I do, that Christians have an absolute mandate to take their Christianity into the marketplace of ideas and be salt and light. For the past four decades the American people have been inundated with the myth that our Constitution forbids the mixing of religion and politics. A whole generation of Americans has grown up believing the Constitution demands the separation of Church and state. I have even heard attorneys refer to the fact that the First Amendment to the Constitution includes the phrase: "separation of church and state." It does not. That is simply a lie introduced by Satan and fostered by the courts. Unfortunately, it is embraced by the American public to our shame and disgrace, and that lie has led us to the edge of the abyss. The American dream has become for many, the American nightmare.

Satan, who engineered the philosophical foundation of the atheistic communist regimes that kept one-third of the world's population in darkness for over seventy years, has perpetrated this great lie upon our country. Jesus said that Satan is a

liar and the father of all lies. When the Supreme Court Justices ruled that the Constitution erected a “wall of separation” between Church and state, they perpetrated the lie. Whether their actions were intentionally designed to subvert the truth, or they acted in ignorance of the truth, is beside the point. The framers of our Constitution never erected such a wall. In fact, they saw the necessity for a union to exist between the Church and state, without which there could be no morality. John Adams wrote:

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

David Barton, in his book, *The Myth of Separation*, thoroughly exposes the myth of the “wall of separation of church and state” logic. The First Amendment makes no such claim, simply stating:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress or grievances.

Recent judicial debates have revolved around the definition of what constitutes religion. The historical record proves the framers viewed religion and denomination as interchangeable words. In Europe, state churches funded by the government

had fallen victim to a corrupt clergy and religious intolerance. The framers of the Constitution were guarding against the danger of the federal government attempting to sponsor a national denomination. In America, there would be no state church. They never even considered the possibility of other religions, much less atheism, being a threat to their freedoms. They were simply guarding against one denomination within the Christian faith dominating the others. The government's role was designed to be one of facilitating the free exercise thereof. The colonists who settled in the new world tended to nestle around their cherished religious traditions. Catholics settled in "Mary"land, Baptists headed for Rhode Island and Quakers gathered in Pennsylvania, to cite but a few.

A principle of propaganda is that any lie, no matter how absurd, if repeated enough, becomes believable. Today, "separation of church and state" is believed to be a direct quote from the First Amendment. In fact, it is a rather obscure phrase from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson on January 1, 1802, in response to a letter from the Danbury Baptist Association, Danbury, Connecticut. In their letter to Jefferson, they expressed their concern for a rumor being circulated that a particular denomination was about to be recognized as the national denomination. Jefferson calmed their fears by writing:

I contemplate with solemn reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between Church and state.

Jefferson was writing a personal letter to a group of concerned Baptists, assuring them America was not about to have a “Church of the United States,” patterned after the “Church of England.” Ironically, those whose purpose has been to protect our children from the God they deny exists, have resorted to extracting nine words from a private correspondence to validate their views, which is foreign to the Constitution’s original intent. They were written by a man who was in France, serving as the U.S. Minister to France, throughout the time of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and the drafting of the Bill of Rights in 1789. They had to bypass all of the participants in the Constitutional Convention, and every member of Congress who authored the First Amendment, to find someone who had written a letter from which they could extract favorable language to make their case. And the words they chose were taken out of context. These facts are a moral outrage to our nation, and the resulting moral morass, apart from God’s intervention, is irreversible. But people of faith must remember you never lose until you quit. This is a time ... **“to stand up, speak up, and refuse to give up.”**

The good news is that there are many indications that God **is** intervening. There are hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of Christians in America who have not retreated and who have refused to kneel at the altar of the god of this culture. In 1996, I was invited to attend a gathering of consecrated activists from across the spectrum of American life in Washington, D.C., at a meeting of the Council for National Policy. I met politicians, journalists, media personnel, preachers, lawyers, philanthropists, educators, and a host of others.

## MIXING CHURCH AND STATE GOD'S WAY

Some of the participants were famous, while others were relatively unknown, but I returned to Pearland, Texas, with a renewed hope that God was up to something very special. For the first time in a long time, I was encouraged to believe that God just might send one last sweeping revival to America, if **we refuse to give up.**

Recover America Now is a national ministry that was birthed in my heart years ago and re-ignited at that meeting. Recover America Now is a ministry dedicated to networking pastors from across every denominational spectrum who have not given up, and who are committed to reclaiming our heritage as “One nation under God.”

As I listened to many of those present speak, some to the whole group, and others in small workshops, I was reminded of Nehemiah. In the fourth chapter of that mighty Old Testament book, the Scripture says, *“So we rebuilt the wall ‘til all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart”* (Nehemiah 4:6). Then it goes on to say, *“So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn ‘til the stars came out”* (Nehemiah 4:21).

That’s the kind of dedication we must have if we are going to see this country restored to be the great nation she was designed to be by our gracious God. We must be willing to work, and we must be ready to engage the enemy, not with swords and spears, but rather with truth and ideas that are based on the Word of God. **We must stand up, speak up, and refuse to give up!**

## Christians Must Be Politically Involved

Should Christians be politically active? It is my deep and abiding conviction that to do less is a sin against our gracious God. This country was designed to be governed “...of the people, by the people and for the people.” We were ordained to be “One nation, under God.” Our coinage is stamped, “In God We Trust,” not believe... **TRUST**. Our founding fathers wrote into our “Declaration of Independence” their conviction that we were “endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Have you stopped to consider that using the logic of some that believe mentioning God in a public place is constitutionally prohibited, our courts could declare our own Declaration of Independence to be unconstitutional? After all, it declares that we are a “created” people empowered by our “Creator” with certain rights.

Christianity is unique among all religions. In every other religious tradition, man is on a quest to find God and win His approval. Christianity is the story of God coming down to man through the person of His own Son, Jesus Christ. Instead of man seeking God, God was seeking man. Christianity recognizes what our human hearts tell us ... we are sinful. But unlike every other major religion which teaches that man must **do** something to atone for his sin, Christianity teaches that all that is necessary has already been **done** ... at Calvary, when Jesus died for our sins. The Bible says, *“For God made Him (Jesus) who had never sinned to become sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”* (2 Corinthians

5:21). Man cannot earn forgiveness, for the Scripture reveals that forgiveness of sin, and ultimately our place in heaven, are both free gifts which can only be received as we willfully acknowledge our sin. Scripture again is clear, *“For by grace (God’s unmerited favor) are you saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

I have often told people that if a person could do something to merit eternal life, heaven would be just like earth...full of ego-maniacs strutting around bragging about all they did to earn their mansion. Instead, heaven will be full of grateful people all acknowledging that they are there because of the gracious and undeserved love of Jesus Christ, demonstrated by His death for their sins on the cross of Calvary, and secured forever through His miraculous resurrection. In the final analysis, Christianity is nothing more than “Christ-in-you-ity” or “Christ-in-me-ity.”

If that is true, and it is, a true believer cannot simply check his Christianity at the door when he leaves the church facility and never mention it again. Christ lives inside of me and He is a vital part of everything I do. Our forefathers understood that central theme of Biblical Christianity and built a unique system of government that: (1) recognized man’s fallen sin nature and (2) recognized that true Christianity empowered people to rise above that nature by exercising self-restraint, but (3) provided for checks and balances in every human relationship because we live in an imperfect world where some who profess Christ do not possess Christ and others make no pretense of knowing Him at all. They created a system

that was unashamedly built on Biblical principles and ideals. For example, the concept of three branches of government that would oversee one another through a system of checks and balances was birthed out of Isaiah 33:22 which states: *“For the Lord is our Judge (Judicial branch), the Lord is our lawgiver (Legislative branch), the Lord is our King (Executive branch); He will save us.”*

When George Washington and his colleagues wrote about religion, it never occurred to them that later generations would interpret that to include non-Christian religions. They used religions and denominations interchangeably. Their writings make it clear they were speaking of Christian religions, and while they demanded a nation that would be tolerant of other belief systems, they never in their wildest dreams conceived of a country where through laws and judicial rulings, atheism would be preferred over Christianity.

In today’s America, God has all but been expunged from public life, and the name Jesus is not even tolerated in many quarters. That undeniable fact makes Marian Ward’s stand so courageous. Mixing Church and state is right because the Church is not a building but a people. The Church is composed of every person who has ever truly trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior. And when they made that commitment, He became an inseparable part of their lives. The only way to separate the Church from the state is to prevent Christians from participating. When Christians eat, they mix Church and eating; and when they vote, they mix Church and politics... because they **are** the Church.



## **Paul and Silas Mixed Church and State**

When the American governmental system was conceived, it was designed to be of the people, by the people and for the people. An American Christian is the government, and he is the Church. The two cannot be separated any more than I can be separated from being both a father to my children and a husband to my wife. That is why the concept of separation of Church and state is a myth. The story of Paul and Silas and their ministry in Philippi is one of the great validations in the Scripture of the necessity of mixing Church and state. While Paul and Silas were not politically minded, they were not politically ignorant either.

## **Paul and Silas were not Politically Driven**

Paul and Silas entered the Roman city of Philippi with no political agenda (see Acts 16). They went to Philippi, believing that God had sent them there to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Once there, they had some immediate success with the conversion to Christianity of a wealthy professional woman named Lydia, who then opened her home to Paul and his band of missionaries (Acts 16:13-15).

## **Paul and Silas were not Politically Correct**

One day as they were going to the place of prayer, a girl who was a fortune-teller began following them and shouting, "*These men are servants of the most high God, who are telling you the way to be saved*" (Acts 16:16-17). When examined on its

face, there is nothing incorrect about what this young girl was saying, but clearly, her manner was a distraction to Paul and Silas and a hindrance to their work. After several days, Paul finally turned and addressed the girl, whom he perceived to be demon-possessed. It seems that her abilities to read fortunes were satanically induced and clearly not from God. Still, as often is the case, there was a group of enterprising businessmen in town who had devised a scheme to capitalize on this young lady's misfortune. When Paul rebuked the spirit, in the name of Jesus, the spirit of divination left her, and so did her ability to tell fortunes.

Without question, this was a great day in the life of the young lady, for finally, she was free from the bondage that had driven her to make a public spectacle of herself, but her lost abilities infuriated the owners. They viewed her as a commodity to be brokered. Paul and Silas saw her as a soul to be rescued. They were not politically correct.

In today's culture, people are viewed as commodities as well. Pre-born babies are dubbed fetuses to be destroyed by abortionists who pervert their skills of healing to become instruments of killing. Full-term babies are being eliminated through a procedure known as partial-birth abortion, and the babies' organs are sometimes harvested for sale or experimentation. Drugs are smuggled into the country by sophisticated and well-connected criminals who buy their justice or avoid it all together by bribing law enforcement officials. Young athletes are bought and sold by wealthy businessmen who discard them like garbage when they can no longer meet expectations.

In contrast, other more sophisticated athletes do the same to the general public. Perhaps this tragedy best displays its wicked scheme every day in divorce courts across the land where children are bought and sold by warring parents who refuse to stay married. In walks, a new love affair that has no blood ties to the children in the house, who far too often become either the objects of perverse and sordid love or ridicule and tragic abuse. Paul and Silas were not politically correct... they saw her life as tragic and her owners as wicked. They decided to act without regard to being politically correct.

### **Paul and Silas were not Politically Connected**

Within hours the owners recognized that their hope of making money was gone. Under the guise of being civic-minded, these businessmen seized Paul and Silas. They dragged them into the marketplace where they were marched through a kangaroo court and slandered religiously and racially. They were accused of being “Jews.”

The fact they were Jewish should have had no bearing on anything, but it did. Much like the modern-day tactics of calling someone a “radical right-wing fundamentalist,” or some other less-than-flattering title, their intent was to incite prejudice against Paul and Silas...and it clearly worked. They were never given a fair hearing. They were accused of advocating unlawful customs, and without any opportunity to respond, they were stripped, beaten, and thrown into jail. Clearly, Paul and Silas had no political connections in Philippi.

## **Paul and Silas were not Politically Dependent**

Once Paul and Silas were thrown into jail, the Scripture records that the jailer escorted them into the inner cell, where he fastened their feet in the stocks. At midnight, Paul and Silas finally had an opportunity to process the events of the day and take stock of their surroundings. Remark-ably, the Bible records that they began to sing hymns and hold a prayer meeting.

Lesser men would have cursed and sworn, but not these two. Why? Because Paul and Silas were never dependent on anything or anyone other than God, and they were completely confident that God knew what He was doing in allowing them to be beaten and locked up. Christians must be reminded that in the worst of times, God is still sovereignly in control, and our confidence must always be in Him, not ourselves, a political party, or any human being. Paul and Silas had started the day en route to a place of prayer. Now, finally, they had the time and a place to pray and did they ever pray. Instead of wallowing in self-pity, they decided to take their plight before their Savior. When they did, a song was born in their hearts.

It is often said, we can do nothing of any value until we pray. When we pray with a pure heart and clean hands, God will act. In the Philippian jail, God began moving powerfully. An earthquake erupted that shook the foundations of the prison. By the time God had finished, every door of the jail was opened, and every inmate was free, including Paul and Silas. But remarkably, the Scripture records no one left. Not one prisoner fled. Why? I believe the answer is they were captivated by the praying of Paul and Silas and desirous to know

more about their God and their faith. People everywhere are looking for real Christians who will practice their faith...even in a jail cell.

Paul and Silas were not politically driven...they went to Philippi to share their faith; Paul and Silas were not politically correct... they viewed people as souls to be rescued not commodities to be used; Paul and Silas were not politically connected... they were dragged before the magistrates where they were brutally beaten and jailed without a trial; Paul and Silas were not politically dependent...at midnight they prayed to God and sang praises. In extraordinary times God uses extraordinary men, and this was such a time.

### **Paul and Silas were not Politically Ignorant**

During the night, the magistrates who had beaten Paul and Silas the evening before had a sudden change of heart and sent word at daybreak to the jailer to release the two prisoners. The Scripture gives no indication as to why, but perhaps the violent earthquake that shook the foundations of the prison and caused the jailer to have a change of heart and fall before Paul and Silas trembling, had a similar effect on them. They sent their officers to the jail with a new order to *"release those men."* With joy, the jailer told Paul, *"you can leave, go in peace."* But Paul, to the shock of everyone, perhaps even Silas, said to the officers: *"They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out"* (Acts 16:37).

While the offer to walk out of jail and return to their work was a gracious and tempting offer, Paul understood what was really happening. These corrupt politicians had participated in an illegal act. Driven by greed, the owners of the slave girl with demonic fortune-telling skills had slandered Paul and Silas religiously and racially. They had falsely accused them of perpetrating unlawful customs. Rather than using their power and authority to execute fair and honest justice, the magistrates sat back. At the same time, the crowd was manipulated by these evil businessmen, finally aiding and abetting them by ordering that the two preachers of the Gospel be beaten. As if that was not enough, they then threw them into prison. Now they were perpetrating a cover-up by trying to dismiss the whole affair summarily and sweep it all under the rug by ordering Paul and Silas to leave town.

Many Christians in a similar position would view their sudden release as God's divine intervention and would hasten to pack their belongings and move on. In fact, I can only imagine the magnitude of the ministry many television evangelists could generate today telling their magnificent story of how God changed the hearts of their captors and set them free to preach again, but not Paul. At great personal risk to not only himself, but his friend Silas and his entire party of missionaries and perhaps even the new converts in Philippi that now constituted a new church, he refused to leave. Why? What could have possibly caused him to take such risks with not only his own life but the lives and welfare of his congregation? Only one thing...Paul was not politically ignorant, and he fully understood the political ramifications of this issue. Paul had

been the victim of a huge miscarriage of justice, for Paul was not only a citizen of Heaven as a Christian, but he was a citizen of Rome as a member of the human race. The Roman government had successfully advanced human civilization to its highest pinnacle in human history.

Its citizens were empowered with certain constitutional rights, which were insured by the rule of law. But, like our generation, that society was in danger of being lost because of human nature and the propensity of men toward evil.

While Paul's allegiance was to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and he valued his Heavenly citizenship above all else, he also recognized that God had sovereignly ordained that he be a Roman citizen with certain rights that many members of that generation did not possess. Paul fully understood that with every privilege comes corresponding responsibility apart from which those privileges are forfeited.

Paul knew what many Americans seem to have forgotten; he understood that others would come after him, and he owed it to them to confront this evil, or else they too would be vulnerable to similar treatment. Paul understood there was more at stake here than his personal comfort and convenience. Tragically today, most Americans and many Christians have bowed to the god of personal convenience and ease. People refuse to stand up for what is right because they do not want to be bothered. Apathy and complacency seem to be the order of our day with continuing moral decay and the erosion of our freedoms and civility being the price we are willing to pay. When will you, dear reader, finally say, "Enough is Enough?"

No one lives in a vacuum. I was born in 1950, just five years after the conclusion of World War II and during the Korean War. Many of my classmates, friends, and relatives served in Vietnam, with some of them dying there. I have lived in an America where citizens did not worry about locking their homes at night and even left their keys in the ignition of unlocked cars, without fear of them being stolen. Parents in the fifties did not fear strangers kidnapping and brutalizing their children, and divorce was rare.

I have also lived in an America where crime is rampant, children are victimized daily by virtually everyone, and the family is literally disintegrating. I now live in a nation where every illicit and evil act imaginable is not only out of the closet but has its own advocates marching in the streets and lobbying Congress. At the same time, the Church of the living God is being forced into the closet, and its proponents are being ridiculed and arrested.

I remember how America used to be. I remember when every broadcast day on television began with a devotional and ended in prayer, as did every school day in the public schools. And I remember my friends dying in Vietnam to preserve those values and to stop an aggressor who forced its subjects to renounce their beliefs in God.

The first time I viewed the Vietnam War Memorial with those fifty thousand plus names inscribed on it, I could not help but wonder what those men and women, who gave their lives in the jungles of Southeast Asia, would say if they could see America today. They would not recognize America at the turn



of the new millennium. When they died abortion was a crime, homosexuality was viewed as deviant behavior, divorce was rare, our educational institutions were the envy of the world, fathers were honored on sitcoms, families could watch a comedian's routine without being compromised or embarrassed, and a child being murdered by a fellow student while attending the local high school was inconceivable. The president having an affair with an intern half his age in the oval office and then using his Cabinet to perpetrate his cover-up was incomprehensible. That he would finally admit it and be exonerated by the Senate of the United States of America was simply unimaginable. Does anyone truly believe that what we know as America today is what our men and women died to secure? Yet that is America. But it does not have to remain that way. We never lose until we quit!

Paul understood his responsibility to leave a legacy for those who would come after him, and so do I. I believe it is nothing short of sinful for Christians in a free and democratic society to be disengaged from civil affairs. I believe we must, of all people in society, be more involved in politics: taking the time to stay informed and exercise our civic responsibility by voting our consciences. Who in our society is better qualified to serve in public office than a well-informed citizen who is grounded in Biblical truth? Someone is going to pass the laws that shape our lives. That is why I believe Christian men and women should be running for every available public office. While they may not always be successful, if they are faithful to Christ, they will bring much-needed light and understanding to every level of public policy and civic life.

Unfortunately, with tragic consequences, most Christians have chosen to withdraw. Satan is delighted with the results. Every day our civility is further assaulted, and our sensibilities more dulled while sin abounds in our country. As a culture, we are becoming increasingly jaded.

### **The Philippian Church was a Special Church**

Enough! Christians, follow the example of Paul and Marian Ward. Marian is witnessing a revival in her public high school and surrounding community. Paul stood up and said enough, and a great church was born. Few people disagree that the Philippian Church was among the strongest, if not the strongest Church in the New Testament era. From a prison cell later in his ministry, Paul wrote to the Philippian believers,

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the Gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:3-8).

### **The Philippian Church was Politically Involved**

Paul developed an abiding love affair with the courageous believers that were born out of his ministry in Philippi. From a

Roman prison where he was being confined for his faith, he went on to write:

“Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the Gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this, I rejoice. Yes, I will continue to rejoice...” (Philippians 1:12-18).

That passage always confused me before I began to actively apply Christianity to moral and political issues. How could men who preached Christ out of selfish ambition, with an intent to stir up trouble for Paul while he was in chains, do so without also endangering themselves? That always seemed to be contradictory to human reasoning before I began speaking out on the great moral issues of our day. Issues like homosexuality being immoral, or abortion being murder, pornography, or racial discrimination. But then I began experiencing

the sting of being branded a troublemaker or right-winged, self-righteous, religious fanatic by the press.

No one enjoys being marginalized or slandered publicly. But the greater pain and damage comes when a fellow preacher then goes before the press and condemns such preaching as being unloving and judgmental. They then declare that in their pulpits, they only “preach Christ and his forgiving love.” Whether intentionally or not, they stir up trouble for those of us who truly believe the Scripture condemns such acts as wicked and immoral.

Can you not visualize some very polished pastor of the “Big” Church on the corner, standing outside the courtroom in Rome granting an interview with the “Roman Daily Press” or the “Roman Empire Today” newspaper while cameras flashed, condemning Paul as a bigot for calling Caesar worship idolatry and confronting the Caesar with his penchant for orgies and homosexual activities, and then, pointing to the Parthenon and declaring how proud they were to live in a country where all gods are equal and rejoicing that Jesus is included with all the other gods?

Paul rejoiced that even in such an environment, some were still saved, but his greater joy was that *“because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly”* (Philippians 1:14). He concluded this exalted passage with the secret of his life: *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”* (Philippians 1:21). Paul was not politically ignorant. We must not be either.

## MIXING CHURCH AND STATE GOD'S WAY

God has given American Christians a gracious privilege that few believers in world history have ever known. Around the world, millions of Christians risk the loss of their life for being believers in Jesus Christ. They live under tyrannical regimes where they have no control over their own lives. They pray for the freedoms we take for granted every day. For their sakes, and out of gratitude to our forefathers and gracious God, we must again return to the conflict and engage the enemy. We must stand up, speak up, and refuse to give up, for we do not lose until we quit. We must remain faithful... "Mixing Church and State." After all, it is impossible for you, who truly know Christ as Savior, to separate Church and State.

## Donate

Thanks for your donation! [www.Recoveramericanow.org](http://www.Recoveramericanow.org). Inc. is a Texas nonprofit corporation in the process of getting final approval for its 501(c)(3) status as an organization exempt from federal income tax. Gifts are tax deductible during this interim until final satisfaction is confirmed

Please select a donation type below.

[Monthly Donation](#)

[One-Time Donation](#)

PO Box 630001 . Nacogdoches, TX 75963 . 877-887-0788

[info@recoveramericanow.org](mailto:info@recoveramericanow.org)