

Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could."

Mark 14:8a

"...and having done all... stand."

Ephesians 6:13c

Jesus ... Still the Reason for the Season

Writer Unknown

Santa lives at the North Pole;

Jesus is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh;

Jesus rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year;

Jesus is our ever-present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies;

Jesus supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited;

Jesus stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa;

Jesus lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name; all he can say is, "Hi, little boy or girl, what's your name?"

Jesus knew our name even before we were born.

Not only does He know our name, He knows our address, too.

He knows our history and future. He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly;

Jesus has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is, "HO, HO, HO!"

Jesus offers health, help and hope.

Santa says, "You better not cry!"

Jesus says, "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys;

Jesus makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle, but

Jesus gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree,

Jesus became our gift and He died on a tree ... the cross!

We need to put Christ back in Christmas!

Jesus is still the reason for the season.

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

– John 3:16

December 2013

A Spiritual Conflict: The Battle against Natural Law

Natural Law. *An abstract concept of law in accord with the nature of man. A rule which so necessarily agrees with the nature and state of man that, without observing its maxims, the peace and happiness of society can never be preserved. Those fit and just rules of conduct which the Creator has prescribed to man, as a dependent and social being; and which are to be ascertained from the deductions of right reason, though they may be more precisely known, and more explicitly declared by divine revelation.*” (Emphasis added)

– Ballentine’s Law Dictionary

Since the legal definition, quoted above, affirms that “the peace and happiness of society can never be preserved” if natural law is destroyed, it’s important to understand the origin of natural law and the reason for much of the conflict, animosity and confusion currently in the world.

Society’s clashes have been referred to as “the conflict of the ages,” but, regardless of the age in which humanity lives, conflicts often originate in spiritual moorings – belief in God or denial of God. The contrast is evident.

- God the Creator is the Author of natural law, which is embodied in the conscience of man. Natural law precedes Mosaic Law, man-made law and treaties.
- Humanism is a man-centered religion that rejects God the Creator, believes man evolved, adopts man-made values and goals, and focuses faith on human intellect and progress.

When God created the heaven and earth and everything therein, He set in motion unchangeable laws of the universe. In Genesis 1 and 2 He created light and darkness; the sun, moon and stars; evening and morning; spring, summer, autumn and winter; animals, fowl, and marine life; and humanity. Then, in Genesis 8:22 He said, “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

The conflict: *Genesis 8:22 says God controls climate. Environmentalism says man does.*

Moral law. The law, in a very broad sense of the term ‘law,’ of conscience. ... This moral law is the eternal and indestructible sense of justice and of right written by God on the living tablets of the human heart and revealed in His Holy Word. Moore v. Strickling” – Ballentine’s Law Dictionary

The two sides of this constant spiritual conflict are evident in moral law, as follows:

- God created moral absolutes and established marriage between one man and one woman. Then, He judged as immoral extra-marital sexual activity, regardless of the participants.
- Humanism rejects all religious, ideological, or moral codes, believes intolerant attitudes unduly repress sexual conduct, approves of sexual behavior between consenting adults, and believes the many varieties of sexual exploration should not be considered evil.

After God created a “help meet” from Adam’s rib, He “brought her unto the man” ... who called her “Woman, because she was taken out of man.” Then, Genesis 3:20 states, “Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”

The conflict: *God ordained marriage between man and woman. Desiring unlimited coupling, man targeted marriage for change. Man’s challenge to moral values reeks of hatred for natural law, instituted by God for mankind’s peace and happiness. So, the further man strays from natural law, the less he experiences peace, tranquility and joy.*

Retaining Religious Freedom

About this time every year I'm reminded that expressions of Christianity are *not* politically correct. Then, I'm reminded that "politically correct" expressions reflect conformity to government-approved attitudes and subtle restrictions on the freedom of speech, one of our most precious constitutional rights.

Christians, churches and religious organizations may be a little nervous about influencing government. So, it's important that pastors, churches, individuals and organization realize that 501 (c) 3 tax exemptions do *not* prohibit political activity. For centuries, "we the people" – citizens, pastors, individuals, organizations and religious groups – have influenced government in the U.S., as provided in the Constitution.

The Georgia General Assembly convenes January 13th and Christian influence is urgently needed. With our religious heritage literally at stake, Christians *must* communicate with legislators about issues, such as Biblical marriage and related subjects. Unless Christians stand up for Biblical values, battles will be lost, and morality will continue to erode.

Liberty Counsel Founder and attorney Mathew Staver put on-line his work of "Political and Legislative Guidelines for Pastors and Churches," explaining extensive ways to be politically active without losing a 501 (c) 3 or 501 (c) 4 status. For example, churches and religious organizations may freely discuss candidate views on issues such as abortion, homosexuality and marriage and support or oppose political or judicial candidates or other non-elected officials.

Rules under 501 (c) 3 guidelines, allow buildings where sermons are preached to be used, also, for preaching about social, political or legislative issues, and to encourage support or opposition to legislation, lobby candidates, and distribute position papers on issues. Organizations under 501 (c) 4 regulations may support or oppose legislation without limitation.

Conclusion. Without Christian political influence, we will surely lose our God-given rights, including constitutionally protected rights, especially the freedoms of religion and speech.

Selected Pre-Filed Bills for 2014 Session

Note: After pre-filed bills are officially introduced during the session, instructions for action will be provided.

S.B. 283, pre-filed by Senator Mike Dugan of District 30, clarifies how schools may celebrate winter holidays, as follows:

Local school systems may educate students about the history of traditional winter celebrations and allow students and school system staff to celebrate with traditional greetings, such as:

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays

Displays on school property must include scenes or symbols of traditional winter celebrations, including a menorah or a Christmas image, a nativity scene or Christmas tree. However, no display shall encourage adherence to a particular religious belief.

H.B. 702, pre-filed December 3rd by Representative Greg Morris, provides for placing on capitol grounds at the entrance of the front steps to the Georgia state capitol a granite monument depicting on one side the Ten Commandments and on the opposite side the Preamble to the state Constitution and the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. If the bill passes, the monument would be procured and placed as soon as practicable.

Christianity Under Attack

Air Force Academy. In October the *Associated Press* reported that the Air Force Academy may drop “so help me God” from its honor oath. However, former Georgia Representative Ron Crews opposing the change said, “Removing [the oath] expresses hostility toward religion and removes [its] solemnity and gravity ... for the many cadets who come from a faith tradition.”

New Jersey Schools. Again, they can celebrate religious freedom in New Jersey, where school officials banned Christmas carols to pacify *two* complaints from families. The decision was reversed following a letter from Alliance Defending Freedom that explained reasons the ban was both unnecessary and unconstitutional. It’s interesting that an entire school system is willing to offend the majority of people in order *to pacify two families*.

Wisconsin School. A Wisconsin school board had the audacity to limit religious singing in schools by giving choral directors three options: (a) They could use five secular, nonreligious songs for every *one* religious carol; or (b) They could hold a concert *without* Christmas music; or (c) They could *postpone December concerts*. Thank God the board reversed its decision, after Alliance Defending Freedom condemned the mandate. *Five to one!* What is he afraid of?

“New” doesn’t mean “Better”

Proponents for a Convention of the States (COS) met at Mt. Vernon December 7th to strategize. Soon, we’ll have a new calendar, a new year and a new legislative session for new laws, but “new” doesn’t always mean “better!” For example, the new wave of support for a “convention of the states” is *not* good, because it’s a *rebranded* constitutional convention, still *dangerous!*

Regardless of what it’s called or arguments *for* it, no one can guarantee the outcome of a constitutional convention. Proponents pooh-pooh the idea of a runaway convention, though Supreme Court Justices Warren Burger and Arthur Goldberg say there is no enforceable way to prevent wholesale changes to the Constitution and Bill of Rights, once a convention convenes.

The historic precedent is the Philadelphia Convention which broke every limitation on its power, threw out the Articles of Confederation (the first constitution of the 13 states) and produced the current *Constitution of the United States*. Once a convention of the states (COS) or constitutional convention (con con) is convened, the sky’s the limit!

No one knows how Georgia would handle a constitutional convention, since it’s not mentioned in State law or the State Constitution. But expect Georgia to mimic Indiana’s latest legislative action. On July 1st, two bills to regulate convention delegates became law in Indiana.

Romeikes Set for Deportation

Facing fines and the taking of their children, the Romeikes fled Germany for U.S. asylum, but the Justice Department filed suit and the asylum was reversed in April 2013. On October 11, 2013 the Christian News Wire reported that the Home School Legal Defense Association had petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case. So, they’re back in court, despite these facts: They *did not enter illegally*. They are *not on welfare*. They have *not been accused of any neglect* in the U.S. They *support their children and themselves*. As *Evangelical Christians* they believe *Germany violated their religious right* to decide how their children are educated.

Question: If the Romeikes were not Christians, could they stay in the U.S.? Illegal aliens do!

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