

HOW POLITICS RELATES TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

- I. NO GREATER PRIORITY THAN WORLD EVANGELISM.
 - A. Not evangelism alone.
 - B. To see that through gospel nations as well as individuals rise up and glorify God.
 - C. Matthew Henry - "Do your utmost to make the nations Christian nations."

- II. FOUNDERS MOTIVATED BY THIS GOAL AS THEY CAME TO AMERICA.
 - A. Columbus felt he was on a mission for God.
 - B. Pilgrims came with desire to spread gospel worldwide.
 - C. William Bradford - "A great hope and inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way thereunto, for ye propagating and advancing ye gospell of ye kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of ye world; yea though they should be but even as stepping-steps unto others for ye performing of so great a work."

- III. CITY ON A HILL - LIGHT TO THE NATIONS.
 - A. America not final expression of the kingdom of God, but it has been the highest expression of Christian culture the world has known to date.
 - B. America is a nation with liberty, property, and form of government capable of protecting the voluntary expression of the Gospel of Christ.
 - C. Means of evangelizing the world.
 1. Prosperity to support missions.
 2. America represents over 90% of missionaries in the world.

- IV. IF THE FOUNDATION BE DESTROYED.
 - A. Consequences if America succumbed to humanism and socialism.
 - B. What of dreadful fate of other men and nations if this fountainhead of evangelical Christianity spurned God?
 - C. Missionaries are scorned as the present gospel in foreign lands.
 1. Can he do something about our nation?
 2. What has he done for your nation, America?

- V. DISTINCTION BETWEEN SPIRITUAL AND SECULAR PURSUITS OF LIFE.
 - A. Lordship of Christ over whole spectrum of life.
 - B. In 1950s, religion personal--don't bring into non-religious areas of life.
 - C. When we set up an area or institution not acknowledging God's sovereignty, we become an enemy of God and are in rebellion.

- D. Nothing can be more spiritual than saving our children from humanism, our economy from deprivation, and our liberty from extinction.

VI. IS AMERICA A CHRISTIAN NATION?

- A. Founded upon Christian principles.
- B. Washington - "national morality cannot prevail in exclusion of religious principle."
- C. Founders realized the only way a free society can exist is among a highly religious and moral people.
- D. 1892 - U. S. Supreme Court asserted this is a religious people...a Christian nation.
- E. 1931 - Supreme Court Justice George Sutherland reintegrated that "Americans are a Christian people.

VII. CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE ON OUR NATION.

- A. Early community leaders were clergy.
- B. Preeminence of prayer.
 1. 13 colonies opened their congress with prayer.
 2. Benjamin Franklin - "How has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly appealing to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with great Britain, when we were sensible to danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth--that God governs in the affairs of men--And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, 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"...I firmly believe this..."
- C. Law system based on Judeo-Christian code of ethics.
- D. Judicial system based on fairness.
- E. Certain inalienable rights must come from a Supreme Being.
- F. In God we trust...

VIII. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.

- A. First Amendment.
 - Designed to shield church from encroachment of Federal Government.
 - Never intended to separate from having influence over state.
- A. Catch-all phrase to eliminate religious influence upon anything involving the state or civil affairs.

WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS GET INVOLVED?

Francis Schaffer - "Our culture, society, government, and law are in the condition they are in, not because of a conspiracy, but because the church has forsaken its duty to be the salt of the culture."

William Penn - "If we are not governed by God, then we will be ruled by tyrants."

We must see that there is Christian influence in government.

Freedom is God given and should be preserved - "Whom the son has made free is free indeed."

Edward Burk - "One sure way for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."