



CHRIST
is Our
Moral Governor



Will we acknowledge Him?

I. IS THIS A CHRISTIAN NATION?

There is no mention of God, Christ, or the Bible in the Constitution of the United States. This fact has come as a distinct shock to many thousands who have heard of it for the first time.

The reason people are shocked is because we have been taught, and most of us have always believed, that this is a Christian nation. In fact the Supreme Court in 1892 declared it so to be. It is true that Christianity predominates here more than any other religion. Our customs and practices as a nation, all through the centuries, have shown our Christian training, but The Creed Of Our Country — the Constitution of the United States — makes no such acknowledgment, and history has shown that people in time become like the government under which they live. 2 Chron. 12:1.

IS THIS A CHRISTIAN NATION?

Let the following speak:—

1. Justice of the Supreme Court

The Honorable William Strong, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, said in 1871:

"It is a serious matter if that Constitution (of the United States) should be found wanting in any principle or matter of fact. The deficiency will in due time work mischief. Error in the Constitution will work as powerfully as truth, and what is left out of it may one day be formally declared un-American. And one such serious matter there is: one unnecessary and most unfortunate omission. God and Christianity are not once alluded to, although the Constitution itself is the product of a Christian civilization, and although it purports to represent the mind of a Christian people. ... Hence it is that all laws of this country in favor of a Christian morality are enacted outside the Constitution. They rest only on the basis of what is called Common Law. ...

And as matters seem to be going, it will soon be discovered and decreed that Common Law is only another name for Custom, which has no binding force. And then where are we? In atheism, corruption and anarchy."

2. Chaplain of Senate

The late Dr. Peter Marshall, while Chaplain of the Senate of the United States, preached a sermon on the need of Christ in our government. He said:

"It is strange, and I believe tragic, that the Constitution makes no reference to God . . . Many efforts have been made at different times to introduce such an amendment but there has been opposition and indifference, so to this good day the Constitution of our country ignores the principles upon which our country was founded. Forty-three states have already written into their constitutions vague religious acknowledgments . . . but not one state honors Jesus Christ . . . all pious vague affirmations about God as the Supreme Being are vain unless supreme honor is specifically given to Jesus Christ."

Why have we left God out of our Federal Constitution? When we consider the Christian heritage that has been ours, and the definitely Christian civil documents, in the beginning of the life of our country, it is tragic indeed that the Constitution makes no reference to God. There is evidence that we, as a nation, have deliberately and intentionally gone away from God. Let us review history.

3. Early Civil Documents

"The Mayflower Compact", the first civil document drawn up on our shores, began thus:

"In the name of God, Amen. We . . . having undertaken for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian Faith . . . do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one another covenant and combine ourselves into a civil body politic . . .", etc.

The Compacts of the thirteen colonies, almost without exception, had Christian acknowledgments. Note the wording of "The Rhode Island Compact":

"We, whose names are underwritten, do hereby solemnly, in the presence of Jehovah, incorporate ourselves into a body politic, and as He shall help will submit our persons, lives and estates unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, and to all those perfect laws of His given us in His Holy Word of Truth, to be judged and guided thereby."

Notice the high ideal for civil government as found in "The Great Law of Pennsylvania" 1638:

"Whereas, the glory of Almighty God, and the good of mankind is the reason and end of government, and therefore government in itself, is a venerable ordinance of God . . .", etc

A little later, as the Colonies began to unite, they put Christ and His Kingdom first. See the definite clear statement in "The Articles of the New England Confederation—1643":

"Whereas, we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end, namely, to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity and in peace . . .", etc.

But all this changed at the time of the Constitutional Convention. Those 55 men did a remarkable job in drawing up a constitution for the United States, yet almost immediately, people began to talk about its two great omissions. They said, "You have no Bill of Rights for men, and you have left out—God."

The first of these omissions was taken care of within two years, when we drew up our "Bill of Rights" and men's rights and liberties were safeguarded, but the second, "The Rights of God", was not taken care of then, nor will it be until a Christian Amendment to the Constitution of the United States has been adopted.

Again we ask, "Why was all recognition of God and Christ omitted from the Constitution?"

Various reasons have been suggested. One is that they forgot it . . . that it was an accidental oversight; another, that they were afraid of a union of church and state.

Several incidents prove that this omission was not accidental. One occurred at the time of the Convention, when Franklin asked for prayer, the other a few years later when we drew up our Treaty with Tripoli.

4. Benjamin Franklin

During the fifth week of the Convention Benjamin Franklin, the oldest man in the group, made a motion that they look to God in prayer. They were having their differences and it looked as though the convention might end in failure, so Franklin made this motion proposing prayer, making a most remarkable address in favor of his motion.

But this motion was opposed and after some discussion, someone made a motion that the Convention adjourn. That motion carried, automatically carrying Franklin's motion for prayer off the floor. Thus Franklin's motion was lost and it was never again renewed.

You will find the story of that motion in Madison's papers as recorded in Elliott's Debates, Vol. 5, page 255. In *The Works of Franklin* by Sparkes, Vol. 5, page 155, you will find the story of this motion and address made by Franklin, also a footnote by Franklin in which he says, "The Convention except for Three or Four Persons thought Prayers Unnecessary."

5. Treaty With Tripoli

Another incident, showing that the leaving out of God was not accidental, happened about nine years after the Constitutional Convention when our government made a Treaty with Tripoli. This Treaty stated in Article XI. "The Government of the United States is not in any sense founded on the Christian Religion." This Treaty was approved by the U. S. Senate, signed by the President of the United States, and was for a time a part of the Supreme Law of our land.

If the Constitution of the United States is not founded upon the Christian religion, what is it founded upon? If you take the two words, "UNITED STATES", abbreviate them, and remove the period you have it "us". The Constitution of the United States is founded upon "US—we the people". We have taken God's place in the government of this country and that act comes dangerously near

breaking the First Amendment which says, "Thou shall have no other Gods before me." Christ is the Supreme Lawgiver, and His word is the Supreme Law for men and nations, but according to the Constitution of the United States, "We" are the supreme lawgivers, and the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law in America. Thus we travel a very, very dangerous road.

II. THE "CHURCH AND STATE" QUESTION

Evidently God was not left out of our Constitution accidentally.

Was it then because they were afraid of a union of church and state?

Possibly that had something to do with it, yet it would seem that even in that day they should have been able to distinguish between a union of church and state and an acknowledgment by a nation of Christ as Saviour and King.

Just what would be involved in a union of church and state? It would require the establishing of some denomination as the state church. Let us suppose that we should make the Presbyterian Church the state church in this country, what would that mean? It would mean that the property of that denomination would belong to the state, and that all ministers and workers in that church would be paid out of the taxes. There would also be a fusion of the governments of the two organizations.

That certainly is something we do not want, and a Christian Amendment would not mean that. God is acknowledged in 43 of our 48 state constitutions, and this does not mean a union of church and state in any of those states. Neither would an acknowledgment of Christ in our Federal Constitution mean a union of church and state in the United States. If it does, then what church? No church has a monopoly on Christ. He is King and Saviour of nations, as well as Head of the Church.

III. THE CHRISTIAN AMENDMENT

In recent congresses, the late Senator Arthur Capper, Congressman Louis E. Graham, Congressman Albert M. Cole, Senator Ralph E. Flanders, and Congressman Joseph R. Bryson have championed the Rights of God by introducing the following Christian Amendment Resolution into their respective houses:

"Section 1. This nation Devoutly recognizes the Authority and Law of Jesus Christ, Saviour and Ruler of nations, through whom are bestowed the blessings of Almighty God."

"Section 2. This amendment shall not be interpreted so as to result in the establishment of any particular ecclesiastical organization, or in the abridgment of the rights of religious freedom, or freedom of speech and press, or of peaceful assemblage.

Section 3. Congress shall have power, in such cases as it may deem proper, to provide a suitable oath or affirmation for citizens whose religious scruples prevent them from giving unqualified allegiance to the Constitution as herein amended."

The first section presents the Amendment proper. Section two safeguards all present freedoms and makes doubly certain that we shall have no union of church and state. Section three authorizes Congress to safeguard the rights of citizens who are not Christian.

1. Christ And The State

There is an individualistic view of Christianity which is not Scriptural. Moral responsibility to God exists through the whole realm of human life. Not only is the individual Christian to apply his Christianity to all phases of his life, but there is also such a thing as corporate responsibility. Just as the individual citizen, John Doe, is responsible to God, and

it is his duty to become a Christian, so a corporate national body is collectively responsible to God and it is its duty to acknowledge God and the Lord Jesus Christ in its national law.

Abraham Lincoln in his proclamation of March 30, 1863, recognized this fact when he said, "It is the duty of nations as well as individuals to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow . . . and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in Holy Scripture and proven in all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

The old erroneous slogan: "Religion and politics don't mix" must be changed to say: "Religion and politics must be mixed". The word of God requires it. The present world tragedy and crisis come from people saying, "Religion and politics should not be mixed".

In a democracy, where a majority of the citizens are professing Christians, it is a grievous sin not to place a Christian acknowledgment in the Constitution of that country. God will hold any such nation responsible that refuses to accept Him. Psalm 2; Isa. 60:12; Ps. 33:12; Ps. 9:17; Ps. 22:28.

The only way a nation can profess faith in Christ is by legal enactment. A corporate body, such as a nation, has to express its convictions and desires by the process of legislation. An individual can make up his mind about a matter and announce his decision, but a nation must arrive at its decision by parliamentary procedures and legislative processes.

Let us suppose that every citizen of this nation were a Christian, and that all were members of the Southern Baptist Church. It would be a sin to unite church and state by making the Southern Baptist Church the Established, or State Church in this country; but it would be a much greater sin for a nation of professing Christians, to have a constitution of Civil government and not acknowledge Christ, the Great Moral Governor, in that Constitution. Christ is the Redeemer of the human race, as

an organism, as well as of individuals, and this organism includes human society and its institutions.

2. Uncle Sam's Prayer

The late Dr. Pace drew a cartoon picturing Uncle Sam kneeling in prayer, pleading, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Uncle Sam does need to pray that prayer. Think of the sins he needs to confess. He must confess the sin of the liquor traffic. The Bible says, "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God" and Uncle Sam is taking revenue from every legal liquor dealer in America today. Thus Uncle Sam is guilty of promoting drunkenness in America. He is guilty of taking revenue from the gambler, guilty of our chaotic divorce laws, guilty of desecration of the Lord's Day, and of many other violations of God's law.

But the greatest sin of which Uncle Sam is guilty, the one which is the root of all the rest, is the fact that Uncle Sam has turned his back upon the Lord Jesus Christ. We cannot expect good fruit to grow on a corrupt tree, neither can we expect Uncle Sam to act like a Christian when he is not a Christian.

In his book, *The Christ of the American Road*, Dr. E. Stanley Jones speaks of the fading of Christianity from our national life. He tells of a cartoon in which Uncle Sam, standing on the Ship of State, turns and says to the representatives of the Christian Faith: "It is Your Business to Keep the Barnacles of Greed, Selfishness and Dishonesty Off the Ship of State."

"And that was supposed to be a compliment to religion," says Dr. Jones. "It was to keep off the barnacles, but it was to have nothing to do with directing of the ship."

Is not this the common attitude today in America toward Christ and civil government? Christ is useful to keep off barnacles, but it would never do to let Him take over the helm. "We the people" must guide the ship, chart its course, and determine its destiny.

It is the purpose of the Christian Amendment to put Christ back again at the helm of the Ship of

State. We need Christ's pierced hand at the helm. We need his strength for the gathering storm.

3. What Acknowledgment Means

This acknowledgment means the life or death of our nation. It means a spiritual revival all along the line: in our homes, our churches, and in our civic and educational life.

If our nation were humbly to confess her sins before God, then publicly acknowledge Jesus Christ as King and Saviour of this great nation, we could then expect the manifold blessings of God, as long as we continued to live up to our profession. But we could not expect God's blessing, without such a confession, no matter how many good works we did any more than an individual could be saved by his works without making a public acknowledgment of Christ. Matt. 10:32, 33.

Why should any true American want to keep God out of our Constitution? That is what Communism wants, and see what happens to liberty where godless Communism holds sway. Remember the words of William Penn: "Men will be governed by God, or they will be ruled by tyrants."

4. The Non-Christian

How will this Christian Amendment affect the Non-Christian? Where will it place the Jew? This Movement is not anti-Semitic, or designed against any person or group of people. It is a **Pro-Christian** Movement and thus for the good of all.

Three representatives of The Christian Amendment Movement went to call upon the leaders of The American Jewish Committee in New York City. Those leaders were told that this is a Christian Movement led by Christians and that there is no anti-Semitism in it. Dr. Moses Jung, one of the Jewish leaders, immediately replied, "Gentlemen, no true Christian can be anti-Semitic." How true that statement is, and it is just as true that "No true Christian nation can or would be anti-Semitic."

Suppose an atheist does object to this Amendment;

doesn't Christ have some rights? Wasn't this country dedicated to Christ in its beginnings, and doesn't it rightfully belong to Him?

Here is a home with several children. It has always been the practice in that home to observe Bible reading and prayer morning and evening. One of the sons grows up and eventually leaves home, goes to a far country, and comes home an atheist. The time of evening devotions comes and the son says, "Well, folks, I have outgrown that kind of thing. I hope you will be tolerant of my beliefs and discontinue all religious observances in this home from this time on."

Now what will the parents say? What will they do? Perhaps something like this: They will say, "Son, this is Christ's home. It was dedicated to Him in its beginning and it has always been His home. We will not force you to conform to the religious practices of this home, but you have no right to hinder us in giving our allegiance and devotion to God. We must obey God rather than man." Then they would go ahead and worship God in spite of the unbelieving son.

For 150 years this nation was Christ's home. Shall we leave Him out now because there may be some who do not believe in Him?

IV. THE AMERICAN WAY

What Is It?

We are very tolerant in America, tolerant of everything and everyone except Jesus Christ and His Law. It seems we cannot tolerate them.

On the wall of a restaurant hangs a calendar decorated with a beautiful picture. It is a church scene, a mother standing beside her soldier son, both singing in the choir. Behind them on the stained glass window is a picture of Christ kneeling in the Garden of Gethsemane in prayer. The title at the top of the picture is "THE AMERICAN WAY." At the bottom of the picture is the name of the company sending out the picture, "THE METZ

BREWING COMPANY." What concord has a brewery with the sacred agonies of Christ in Gethsemane?

This calendar illustrates the confusion and the cheapness of the modern view of what constitutes the American Way. Is the much discussed American Way **FOR CHRIST** or **AGAINST HIM**? Is one fair to all religions by ignoring them all? Are all religions to be classed as silly or superstitious and of no real concern of the state? The real test of **THE AMERICAN WAY** is, does it conform to the **WAY OF JESUS CHRIST**?

Perhaps the most impressive symbol of what a nation can and ought to be is seen in that monument overlooking Plymouth Bay. It is a colossal statue resting on a granite base. The four corners of the base represent four great forces of national life—**LAW, MORALITY, FREEDOM** and **EDUCATION**. Above and over these forces stands the gigantic figure of **FAITH**. With one hand she holds the open **BIBLE**, with the other she **LIFTS A POINTING FINGER TO GOD**.

This symbolizes what we are striving for in this Christian Amendment.

When Uncle Sam, our nation, gives supreme allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ, and when we, the people of this nation, hold in our hands the open Bible and cherish in our hearts a living faith in Christ, the Son of God, then our nation will experience the blessing of that great promise, **"BLESSED IS THAT NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD."**

CHRIST Is Our MORAL GOVERNOR.
Will We Acknowledge Him?

Published by
THE CHRISTIAN AMENDMENT MOVEMENT
804 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh 21, Penna