

Friday Church News Notes

Why Are The Foolish In Charge of America?

Friday Church News Notes, May 8, 2009 www.wayoflife.org

Conservative web journalists and radio talk show hosts are beside themselves at the stupidity of the Obama administration, and rightly so. We, too, bewail the squander of America's wealth, the weakening of her military, the traitorous, despicable mishandling of the CIA, the celebration of moral wickedness, the encroachment of

constitutional liberties, the blind commitment to environmental myths, and so much more.

While Bush conducted a war on terrorism (though he didn't really take off the gloves), Obama appears to be conducting a war on the war on terrorism. All of these things, though, are mere symptoms of a deeper problem, one that very few of the conservative pundits understand. America's root problem is the apostasy and compromise of her churches. The problem is not in the White House; it is in God's house. America is not a Christian nation, but America was founded largely by church-going, God-fearing people and the majority of her citizens are still professing Christians. The root of America's woes is spiritual. The people don't fear God because the churches don't preach the fear of God. For that reason the issue can't be solved by political action and moralistic crusades and Republican or



Libertarian rants. I am thankful for the watchdog role of the conservative media and for the fact that there is a viable alternative media today, but the best thing Bible-believing Christians can do to help America is to seek God's face and purify our individual lives and congregations and keep our focus on Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). A man that has not submitted himself to the gospel of Jesus Christ but who follows false religion such as Catholicism (Sean Hannity, Bill O'Reilly, Laura Ingraham, Michael Reagan), Judaism (Michael Medved, Mark Levin, and Dennis Prager), and Mormonism (Glenn Beck), or who believes the Bible contains myths and denies Christ's blood atonement (Rush Limbaugh and Neal Boortz) does not have the spiritual wisdom necessary to understand the times, and Bible believers would be wise not to drink deeply of such wells. "Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isaiah 3:11-12). If the biblical churches in America would take this matter seriously and call for some special prayer meetings, for fasting and earnest prayer, falling on their faces and confessing their sins, God would probably hear and turn back the tide of wickedness and give us more years. Instead, though, for the most part it is business as usual, and if anything at all is being done it is a misguided attempt to address the situation according to the flesh rather than the spirit, by politics and rantings and anger and fear and frustration and worldly demonstrations and unscriptural associations. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).



ENTITLED TO A PRESIDENT

The socialistic entitlement mentality that has been fed by corrupt politicians has spread beyond the supposed right to such things as food, housing, education, and medicine. Now some think they are entitled to the president of their choice regardless of the outcome of an election. In an interview with *Etihad Airlines'* in-flight magazine, pop singer Alicia Keys said that the night of the November election: "I just sat back and took it all in. I was bracing myself for the fact that it wouldn't happen and that there would have been a revolt. So I was glad I didn't have to revolt and now we're good" (*Etihadinflight*, January 2009). She expected a revolt if Barack Obama had not been elected. The United States is becoming a nation under mob rule.

THE U.S. SENATE'S MOST DANGEROUS PROGRAM

The Democrat majority in the U.S. Congress aims to pass a federal “hate crimes” law that will give special protection to homosexuals and “leave Christian ministers and pastors open to prosecution should their teachings be linked to any subsequent offense, by anyone, against a “gay” (“House Agrees to Muzzle Pastors,” *WorldNetDaily*, April 30, 2009). On April 30, the House of Representatives approved hate crimes legislation by a vote of 249-175. The bill adds “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the current classes protected from hate crimes. Such laws have brought persecution wherever they have been enacted, including Canada, Australia, and Sweden. The House Republicans were unable to hold back the hate crimes tidal wave, though some of them tried. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C., said H.R. 1913 will create “thought crimes.” Trent Franks, R-Ariz., said it will end equality in the United States, and Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, said it will divide America into groups of more favored versus less. Gohmert cited USC Title 18, Section 2a, the foundation of the legislation, which says anyone who through speech “induces” commission of a violent hate crime “will be tried as a principal” alongside the active offender. The legislation now goes to the Senate, where it is being pushed by Sens. Edward Kennedy and Patrick Leahy. President Bush vowed to veto the bill had it passed under his watch, but Obama will doubtless sign it. He has urged Congress to act “this important civil rights issue.” This is a serious matter, and God’s people need to be in earnest prayer. The House rejected an amendment that pedophilia

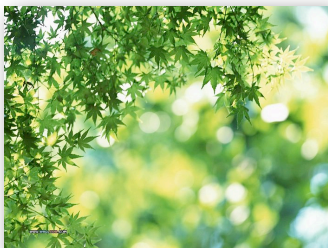
was not covered in the bill, so who knows what moral perversion will gain special protection under this wicked law. Once homosexuality is protected by law, the biblical concept of morality is finished as a legal force in the land and there is nothing left but the fearful judgment of Almighty God. “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).



BRITISH AIRLINE REMOVES ISRAEL FROM MAP

The British Airline BMI removed Israel from the electronic map displayed to passengers in some of its planes on route to Middle Eastern countries (IsraelNationalNews.com, April 30, 2009). The objective was to avoid offending Muslim

passengers. The same maps showed the direction of Mecca. After being confronted with the issue, the airline claimed that it was the result of a “logistical problem” and the maps in question were removed.



THE BLESSED MAN

(Friday Church News Notes, May 8, 2009, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalms 1:1-3).

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. For instructions on how to unsubscribe to this list or to change mailing addresses, please consult the information paragraph at the end.

ROME PUTS MARY ON THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

A monstrance* created for the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago depicts Mary on top of the Ark of the Covenant. Her hands are outstretched and two angels are kneeling before her. The monstrance, called “Our Lady of the Shrine, Ark of Mercy,” was dedicated on May 31, 2008 (Catholic News Service, June 10, 2008). This is pure blasphemy. The Ark of the Covenant was located in the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament Tabernacle and was the place where God’s presence dwelt (Exodus 25:22). Angels do not worship creatures (Acts 14:11-15; Rev. 19:10). (* In the Catholic mass, the consecrated wafer, which is said to be the very body and blood of Jesus, is placed in a monstrance and lifted up to be worshipped by the people. This is called “Eucharistic adoration.”) This monstrance depicts Rome’s dogma that Mary is the co-redemptress with Christ and that she intercedes for men from heaven and aids in their salvation. Note the following quotations from the Second Vatican Council: “As St. Irenaeus says, she being obedient, became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. Hence not a few of the early Fathers gladly assert with him in their preaching ... ‘death through Eve, LIFE THROUGH MARY.’ This UNION OF THE MOTHER WITH THE SON IN THE WORK OF SALVATION is made manifest from the time of Christ’s virginal conception up to his death” (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, chap. 8, II, 56, pp. 380-381). “Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but BY HER MANIFOLD INTERCESSION CONTINUES TO BRING US THE GIFTS OF ETERNAL SALVATION. ... Therefore

the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of ADVOCATE, HELPER, BENEFACTRESS, and MEDIATRIX” (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, chap. 8, II, 62, pp. 382-383).

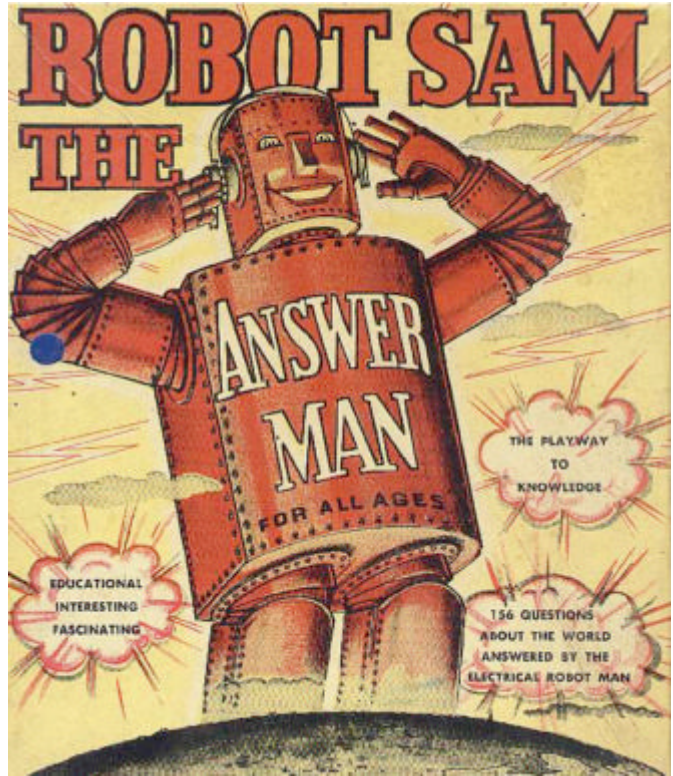


AMERICA IS NOT A CHRISTIAN NATION, BUT IT WAS ONCE A BIBLICALLY-INFLUENCED NATION

The following is excerpted from “America Has Never Been a Christian Nation” by Reb Bradley, *WorldNetDaily*, April 17, 2009: “The New Testament Scriptures clearly delineate a church’s governmental framework and establish its standards, programs, practices and elements of its liturgy. However, there is no biblical precedent for a Christian nation. Israel, of course, was a nation conceived by God, and whose foundations were laid out in the Bible, but all other nations—including America—are of manmade origin. ... America was founded by Christians, deists and others who embraced virtue and biblical morality, and who understood the importance of humility before the Creator. Hence, early documents such as the Declaration of Independence made so many references to God and His Providence. That is why so many of our laws and governmental practices were originally adapted from biblical precepts and standards. Without a doubt America was founded on biblical principles, but lacking a New Testament mandate, and given its manmade origin, the nation our founders created can never be called ‘Christian.’ ... It is important to note that although our nation was not originally a ‘Christian’ nation, our Founding Fathers understood the wisdom of Christian morality and the necessity of acknowledging God’s supreme authority. They communicated in their writings that if our nation, with its unique vision for self-government and personal liberty, were to persevere in greatness, its individual citizens would need to embrace the morality and Christian worldview upon which it was founded. Benjamin Franklin said, ‘Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters.’ ... John Adams said, ‘Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.’ ... the founders built our nation upon Christian principles and ethics, and warned that America would morally disintegrate if it forsook its ‘religious’ roots.”

WHAT ROBOTS TEACH US ABOUT LIFE

The field of robotics is making great strides, and some claim that robots are “getting smarter, more capable, more like flesh-and-blood people” (Robert Boyd, “Robots Are Narrowing the Gap with Humans,” *Taiwan News*, April 26, 2009). In a talk in 2008 entitled “Crossing the Chasm between Humans and Machines,” Justin Rattner, chief technology officer for Intel, said that it is conceivable that “machines could even overtake humans in their ability to reason in the no-so-distant future.” Rodney Brooks, a robot designer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says, “One day we will create a human-level artificial intelligence.” Futurist Ray Kurzweil claims that robots will match human intelligence by 2029. All of this is nonsense. What does robotics actually teach us? First, it teaches that evolution is fantasy. Design requires an intelligent designer. Not even the tiniest aspect of robotics has evolved. Every advance has been carefully planned and carried out by a superior intelligence. Second, it teaches us that human beings are bewilderingly complex. Not only can Artificial Intelligence (AI) researchers not imitate the complexity of man’s brain, they cannot even begin to imitate the complexity of the brain of a creature as lowly as the fruit fly. Third, it teaches us that man is more than a powerful computer. Man can intelligently process facts, but he is much more than a mega computation machine. He has self-awareness, a conscience, a will, a heart, imagination. He is inventive. He is a living creature that can reproduce. If great intelligence is required to create a machine that can imitate some aspects of man’s processing ability, how much greater intelligence is required to create man himself! The Bible does not try to prove the existence of God for the very reason that the creation itself proves God’s existence and man’s conscience answers to it, unless perverted by sin. “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.” (Psalms 14:1).



CONCLUSION: The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.