

America's Christian Heritage by Doug Hamilton

Part III) Our Courts were Bible-Based

- A man convicted of brutally clubbing a 71 year old woman to death had a Pennsylvania Court overturn the decision because the prosecuting attorney quoted a seven word phrase from the Bible.
- A high ranking drug czar official was not permitted to speak to a high school in Nacogdoches, Texas because he was known to have preached in his church in the past.
- In Alaska Public Schools, students are not allowed to mention the word "Christmas", exchange gifts, or do anything in the schools related to Christmas because it contains the word "Christ".
- In Dickson, Tennessee, students were required to write a four source research paper. Though some papers were written on reincarnation, Satanism and the occult, Brittney Settle, a student in the class, was given a zero because her paper was written on Jesus Christ.
- In Defuniak Springs, Florida, a judge ordered the courthouse copy of the Ten Commandments covered during a murder trial for fear the jury would be influenced by the command "Thou shalt not kill".
- Although hundreds of thousands of personalized plates are printed in America, Oregon refused to print "PRAY", Virginia refused to print "GOD 4 US", and Utah refused to print "THANK GOD".
- Jack Phillips, a religiously-convicted owner of a bakery in Colorado, refused to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, was convicted and fined by the courts under newly formed discrimination laws. Though he had freedom of religion as spelled out in the First Amendment, the court ignored it in favor of freedom of sexual expression.

Many of the citizens of the United States do not know that this is not how the courts of America started out. The courts, the bearers of truth, have turned a blind eye to the constitution and original intent of the founding fathers. At the entrance of the Supreme Court, there is a statue of Moses holding the Ten Commandments. From that very spot, ungodly laws have slithered their way down into the modern-day populace. There was a time where the laws of this country were based in Christian values and the courts took serious their position in holding up the justice of God.

Some of the early justices

John Jay -First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appointed by Washington, one of only three men to give us the Constitution



“Providence has given to our people the choice of our rulers; and it is the duty as well as the privilege of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

“The Americans are the first people whom Heaven has favored with an opportunity of deliberating upon and choosing the forms of government under which they should live.” (Jay, *Correspondence*, Vol 1. page 161 from his “Charge to the Grand Jury of Ulster County” on Sept 9th, 1777)

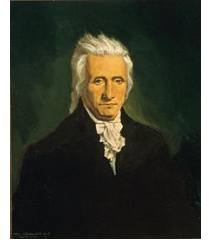
America's Christian Heritage by Doug Hamilton

Through this man's own words, he reminded us that we have a choice of our rulers in this country and our choice should be to choose Christians as those leaders. The good and bad points about our type of government are this choice to select our leaders. We can choose God-fearing or God-hating leaders. It is our choice. The early fathers of this country considered it our duty to prefer the former. As Chief Justice Jay said in another quote "*Only one adequate plan has ever appeared in the world, and that is the Christian dispensation.*" (<http://www.christianparents.com/jdewey.htm>)

This is why we see over and over again, that these early justices of the Supreme Court were bold concerning their beliefs. A brief survey of some of their quotes will more than demonstrate this.

Gabriel Duvall -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Madison

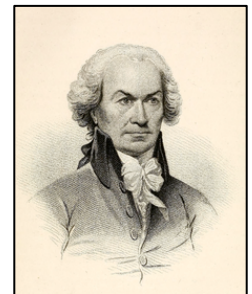
"I resign my soul into the hands of the Almighty who gave it in humble hopes of His mercy through our Savior Jesus Christ"(Original Intent, David Barton, page 134, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)



Duvall admits he has a soul. He resigned this soul into the hands of the Almighty God. He is relying on the mercy of God on his soul through Jesus Christ. If there is something lacking in the Supreme Court, it would have to be the lack of this concept. They knew that law was based on an eternal God for Whom we would have to give account to. *Acts 17:30-31 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."* These men knew there was coming judgment day for which everyone would be accountable to God's justice. This was reflected over and over again in the early court rulings.

Oliver Ellsworth - Supreme Court Justice appointed by Washington, Member of the Continental Congress

"*The primary objects of government peace, order and prosperity of society....To the promotion of these objects, particularly in a republican government good morals are essential. Institutions for the promotion of good morals are therefore objects of legislative provision and support: and among these...religious institutions are eminently useful and important.*"(Original Intent, David Barton, page 321, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

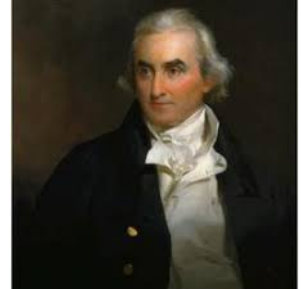


When a country separates the principles of Christianity, there is no way to hang on to the morals that accompany it. We are living in a time where society is seeking a new basis for morality. This is man's attempt to have value apart from God. It cannot be. There are no family values if God is not in the family. There are no national values if God is not recognized by that government. We become just like in the days of the Judges. "*In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*" (Judges 21:25).

America's Christian Heritage by Doug Hamilton

William Patterson -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Washington

“Religion and morality...are necessary to good government, good order, and good laws.” (Maeva Marcus. The Documentary History of the Supreme Court of the United States 1789-1800. New York: Columbia University Press. 1988. Vol III page 436)

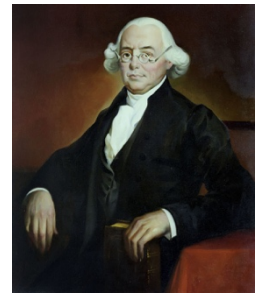


The early fathers knew that we could not be trusted to follow our hearts, but rather be ruled by the law of Christ. They knew their Bibles and verses like the following.

- Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”
- Proverbs 16:2-3, “All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD. Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”
- Matthew 6:33, “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

James Wilson -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Washington, co-authored the first commentaries on the Constitution

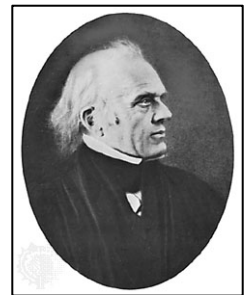
“Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is divine....Far from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters, friends, and mutual assistants. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other.”(Original Intent, David Barton, page 324, Wallbuilder Press, Alledo, TX 1997)



Paul said in Rom 3:20, “*for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*” We come into contact with the rules of God and are convicted as guilty. The law was made to point out our inability to be perfect, not to justify. We see our imperfection and take the steps to correct it. The Founding Fathers believed this.

Joseph Story -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Madison

“The Bible itself is the common inheritance, not merely of Christendom, but of the world.” (Joseph Story, *A Familiar Exposition of the Constitution of the United States*, New York: Harper and Brothers 1854, page 259)



Elias Boudinot -Supreme Court Justice appointed by Washington

“Let us enter on this important business under the idea that we are Christians on whom the eyes of the world are now turned...Let us earnestly call and beseech him for Christ's sake to preside in our councils.” (The Life, Public Services, Addresses and Letters of Elias Boudinot, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1896, Vol I, page 19)

America's Christian Heritage by Doug Hamilton

What kind of rulings would a Supreme Court make if they knew Jesus was watching over their proceedings? Solomon tells us that *"a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths."* (Proverbs 5:21). Does this include the Supreme Court of the land? Today, does the Supreme Court the creator God hearts every ungodly, unbelieving thought which passes through their minds? The Founding Fathers believed this.

Court Cases

Thomas M'Creery' Lessee vs Allender (1799)

There was a man that emigrated from Ireland by the name Thomas M'Creery,. When he died, he willed his estate to a relative in Ireland. There was a dispute to whether M'Creery was a citizen of the United States. It went before the Maryland Supreme Court. Judge Samuel Chase, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, ruled *"I, Samuel Chase, Chief Judge of the State of Maryland, do hereby certify all whom it may concern that... personally appeared before me Thomas M'Creery and did repeat and subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian Religion and take the oath required by the Act of Assembly of this State entitled "The Act of Naturalization".* (M'Creery's Lessee vs Allender; 4 Harris & McHenry 256, 288; Sup. Ct. Maryland 1799)

Runkel vs Winemiller (1799)

There was a dispute between a minister and his former church. The Maryland Supreme Court ruled *"By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed upon the same equal footing and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty."* (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 62, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

The People vs Ruggles (1811)

A man decided to publically curse God and Christ. He was convicted in a New York Court and ordered to pay a \$500 fine. The case was appealed and it went before the New York Supreme Court. They ruled *"[We are] a people whose manners... and whose morals have been elevated and inspired... by means of the Christian religion. To construe it [the constitution] as breaking down the common law barriers against licentious, wanton and impious attacks upon Christianity itself, would be an enormous perversion of its meaning."* (People vs Ruggles; 8 Johns 545; Sup Ct. NY; 1811)

The Commonwealth vs Sharpless (1815)

Jesse Sharpless was brought up on charges for displaying pornography art at his home in Pennsylvania. The United States Supreme Court convicted him stating *"No man is permitted to corrupt the morals of the people; secret poison cannot be thus disseminated."* (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 64, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

Updegraph vs The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1824)

A man named Abner Updegraph decided to publicly insult the Bible as a book of lies and the government took him to trial. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled *"Christianity, general Christianity, is and always has been a part of the common law... not Christianity founded on any particular tenets; not Christianity with an established church... but Christianity with liberty of*

America's Christian Heritage by Doug Hamilton

conscience to all men." (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 55, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

The Commonwealth vs Abner Kneeland (1836)

Abner Kneeland, a pantheist, decided to print negative information about Jesus Christ and send it around Massachusetts for people to read. He thought he could do this under the umbrella of "*Freedom of the Press*" The State Supreme Court tried the case and upheld the conviction of libel for the attack on Christianity. (The Commonwealth vs. Abner Kneeland; 37 Mass; Sup. Ct.; 1838)

Davis vs Beason (1889)

A Mormon named Samuel Davis was convicted and sentenced for the crime of polygamy. He tried to use the excuse he was doing this in the name of Christianity and the United States Supreme Court rejected the argument on the basis that his behavior was a crime by the "*laws of...Christian countries.*" (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 65, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

Church of the Holy Trinity vs United States (1892)

The Supreme Court reviewed an immigration law of a Church that hired a preacher from Scotland. They sighted 87 historical precedents and concluded "*No purpose of action against religion can be imputed to any legislation, State or national, because this is a religious people....This is a religious nation.*" (Church of the Holy Trinity v US; 143 US 457,458 1892)

United States vs Macintosh (1931)

"We are a Christian people... according to one another the equal right of religious freedom and acknowledging with reverence the duty of obedience to the will of God." (United States vs Macintosh; 283 US 605,625 1931)

Zorach vs Clauson (1952)

"*We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being*" (Original Intent, David Barton, pg 73, Wallbuilder Press, Aledo, TX 1997)

Then in 1962/63, without sighting a single historical precedence, a liberal Supreme Court ignored nearly two centuries of rulings, removing prayer and the Bible out of the public arena. We in essence, as a nation, denied God. *Psalms 14:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."* Since then, we have been working on becoming a foolish nation.

From that moment in history, things have utterly fallen apart at the seams. Since then, the teenage pregnancy rate is up 485%, violent crime up 935%, sexually transmitted diseases are up 541%, single parent households up 373%, child abuse up 483%, and the SAT scores have plummeted to all-time lows. Jesus said in *Matthew 7:17, "Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."* The fruit of this tree of national corruption is obvious.

Concerning the courts, we have turned the nation into an oligarchy, a rule by an elite counsel of few. Over the past half century, the Supreme Court has changed the face of America.

America's Christian Heritage by Doug Hamilton

Since it was okay to keep God out of the government, it only made sense to carry it another step. Since God and the Bible was no longer recognized in the government's eyes, then it was okay to go after the unborn child in the womb. The Bible makes it clear that unborn children are just that, unborn children. Since 1973, we have killed more than 60 million unborn children. God removed the Ammonites from the land for killing their children; Will he spare us because we are Americans?

With justices who fear not God, we now have reached the point in America that we do *"not know the difference between their right and left hand"* (Jonah 4:11). Our nation has reached a tipping point. The Greeks learned this lesson and the Romans as well. Are the sins of Americans more sanitized in the eyes of the Father? I think not!

What are we to do with this information?

Paul told the Christians to be regularly *"offer our supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks for the rulers that we may have peace in this life and in this country to worship God"* (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

- If we love God and love our country, PRAY for them every day.
- If we are concerned for our children and grandchildren's future in America, then PRAY!
- If we are tired of waiting for what evil will be reported in the news tomorrow, the PRAY for our local leaders, national leaders and our court system.
- PRAY, PRAY, PRAY for our nation, for this is the will of God.

The challenge for all of the saints of God for the coming week is to be on our knees, PRAYING for our nation's future. Let us as a church family be committed this week to pray for our President, the congress, the Supreme Court, all of our local officials, judges and mayors. Pray for our city council and even our military and police. Let us take the words of Paul and pour out our prayers to God. Let us together bring to life 1 Timothy 2:1-3 and pray for all in the government.