

# IN GOD WE TRUST

By

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**(Condensed from a speech delivered by the editor to the Arizona Breakfast Club, February 20, 1988, and published by popular request.)**

The basic issue in any organized effort, and certainly in any civilized country, is: Who is in charge? Who has the authority? (The problem you are facing in the state of Arizona is that you have a governor who seeks to exercise the authority of his office which is highly displeasing to certain powers who would circumvent such authority in order to pursue their own way.)

In the beginning God established authority over His creation and exercised it with the power of death. We don't have to recite the story of Adam and Eve to remember that God's authority was very real.

The privileges given to ancient Israel were conditioned upon respect for God's law, and when that law was violated, the privileges were removed. Our own nation illustrates this biblical truth, that a people who honor God's commandments will prosper. No other nation in the world has been so blessed with material and spiritual privileges as has the United States of America.

The founders of our country, recognizing that God is the Supreme Authority over His world, framed a constitution based upon God's law-principles through which the nation was to be governed. From state to state the laws reflected that authority:

1. Laws upholding the institution of marriage and the sanctity of the family
2. Capital crimes received capital punishment.
3. Murder by abortion was not allowed.
4. Private ownership and control of property was protected.
5. Free enterprise, including the freedom of parents to educate their own children, was upheld.
6. Voluntary charity was encouraged by the absence of compulsory charity through taxation and welfare programs.

Over the past several decades these great biblical principles — along with the Bible itself — have come under vicious and sustained attack. The results are obvious.

The family has suffered, and children often have been denied the right to a secure home or to receive an education in the basic truths and principles of authority.

Freedom has suffered. When God's truth is rejected, as it is by evolutionism, humanism and all anti-christism, then freedom has no foundation.

Life itself has been cheapened. The nation's worries seem to be nuclear war, economic collapse and crime. But there is a bigger problem. When 2,500,000 unborn children are murdered each year, and only a small number of the people ever raise their voices, and even the leading churches do not cry out against it, it becomes clear that the nation is rejecting God's authority.

We are interested in discovering why this has happened and why there is such deterioration of respect for God's authority. Where is it coming from?

The common answer is to blame TV and the public schools where textbooks and humanist educators suppress Christian truth. I do not deny the great harm that is done to our society through such influences, but we must look closer to home.

The church itself must shoulder much of the blame, which means that you and I must closely examine our own churches and our own contribution to the retreat from God's authority.

A Christian businessman from Australia, speaking in a church in Lubbock, said that he marveled at the Christian influence in the United States. He said, "Wherever I go, I see signs like 'Jesus is Lord' on buildings and on bumpers. You even have Christian radio stations," he said. "You have athletes who appear on TV and talk of their faith — then go on strike against their owners." Then he asked the audience, "Why is there so much said about Jesus, and so little actually following Him?" Let me suggest a few things in answer to his question.

For one thing we (the churches) are giving the wrong message to the youth. When a junior high school teacher asked student about their goals in life, one out of ten said they wanted to be rich. In church bulletins announcing activities, the kids are told to bring tidy sums of cash for fun and games — \$10.00 for the pizza party; \$50.00 for the ski trip, or beach bash or for whatever entertainment is planned as a bribe to get young people to attend church. Young people cannot feel at home in such a church unless they have plenty of money. Instead of challenging them to commitment and sacrifice, this only encourages young people to seek the "Good life" of pleasure and indulgence.

You seldom see children in the worship assembly. They are separated into their own children's church, where they sing shallow one-line choruses, are entertained and given devotional pep-talks and never required to think deeply. Faith becomes a matter of how they feel, not what they believe. This leads them to make decisions on the basis of what they desire, not on the basis of what God requires. Such programs may build church crowds but do not build Christian character nor provide a basis from which a person may confront the problems of modern life.

Next, we have submitted the church to a world-orientated leadership, in both the liberal and conservative groups.

We don't hear much about opposition to the National Council of Churches, but it is more active than ever in undermining true Christian objectives.

A recent example is a report released by the Center for Democratic Renewal titled, "They Don't All Wear Sheets." This report claims to have documented incidents of racial violence between 1980 and 1986, concluding that white racism is rampant in the U.S. and is manifesting itself in "hate crimes." The fact is that only two percent of crimes by white people were committed against blacks, while over 50% of the crimes committed by blacks were against whites. All of this was carefully omitted from the report, while picking out incidents where blacks were the target of harassment or crime. The report was produced by the National Council of Churches and endorsed by the American Jewish Committee. Here are two organizations, supposedly devoted to God, truth and peace, but instead are promoting a big lie designed to create distrust and hatred.

The World Council of Churches continues to use money, collected from Christians, to assist communist revolution in Third World countries.

But a world-orientated leadership is also found in the so-called conservative and fundamental churches. Many churches are led by clergymen who are out to build their

own little kingdoms where they can become celebrities. Their members would rather have a religious celebrity in the pulpit than to have a humble servant of the Lord who is more concerned about God's commands than he is about football, baseball, or the latest Johnny Carson monologue.

Pulpits across the land are filled with religious actors, who use every gimmick of show business rather than the gospel, to appeal to their audiences. What we see on "Christian" television is a parade of worldly religiosity, theatrical productions orchestrated to appeal to the baser instincts — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life — the very opposite of discipleship taught by Jesus.

We ought to refuse support for the smooth-tongued evangelists who cleverly use every trick of psychology to coax their listeners to pour out their money, which is not used for the gospel, nor for true benevolence, but to promote the antichrists in their bid for world power, as I will show in a moment.

We must stop support of those who claim that God accepts the unrepentant sexual deviates and that He wants nothing more than to spread a syrupy sentimentality called "love" as a veneer over the whole mass of fallen society.

We need to stop being manipulated by the skilled religious hucksters who have programmed their sheep to say "Hallelujah" and "Amen" on cue like Pavlov's dog.

If anyone thinks this is an attack against the church, he is mistaken. What I am attacking is the merchandise being made of the church, the human theology and debasement of the truth of God, and the attempt to bring God down to man's own level. I love Christ's church and have given most of my life to serving it. But the present shape of the church under the conditions mentioned is helping to destroy our Christian faith and national heritage. We must return to the simplicity of the Christian precepts upon which the church was established.

As long as preachers or evangelists see themselves as stars performing on the pulpit stage and the church as competing in the world's entertainment market, God's authority will continue to be mocked. What we must do is get back to the Divine Authority in our homes, in our churches and in our nation.

A third factor which is having tremendous influence in both the private religious sector and especially in our nations policies, including foreign policy, is the modern obsession with speculative prophecy.

The greatest attention-getter and money-maker in the name of religion today is speculative prophecy, with the attempt to tie every significant event to some Bible text. Many popular radio and TV speakers interpret Bible prophecy to say that before Christ can return, we must engage in World War III, which they think will be "Armageddon," in order to save the nation of Israel, and that because of this we must give full support to political Zionism — and that means World Zionism — no matter what the effect on the Christian community or on our nation.

To illustrate how this obsession with spectacular, prophetic notions affect high-level decisions, just recall the bombing of Libya. The die was that a terrorist attack in Germany had been committed by Libya. (It has since been learned that it was done by Syrian powers.) But why was there such a rush to bomb Libya? Why did the president consider punishing Libya to be so much more important than punishing Cuba or some other communist nation for involvement in aggression and terrorism? The answer is given in Grace Halsel's book, *Prophecy and Politics*, where she explains that during a

dinner in 1971, when Mr. Reagan was governor of California, he and James Mills were being honored. "Mr. Reagan began talking to him about biblical prophecy and about the certainty of our fighting against the Soviet Union in a last great apocalyptic war." Mills, recalling the incident in the August 1985 San Diego Magazine, said Reagan, "with fire-lit intensity," told him that the Bible "says that the land of Israel will come under attack by the armies of the ungodly nations, and it says that Libya will be among them. Do you understand the significance of that? Libya has now gone communist, and that's a sign that the day of Armageddon isn't far off."

Anyone can easily see how this kind of a conviction, which is promoted over and over from pulpits, radio and TV, can have a devastating effect on foreign policy.

Now, someone will say, "But certainly not all our congressmen share that viewpoint." Very true, but that prophetic interpretation has been the main factor in the influence of one of the most powerful political action committees in the nation. That's the American Israel Political Action Committee (AIPAC), which has the power to elect senators and representatives and see that they vote for the interest of a foreign country, Israel.

I would emphasize that we are not talking Judaism as opposed to Christianity. We are not talking race. I am talking about a foreign country that is able to wield power over our own lawmakers through pressure that is generated and sustained by evangelists and churches by teaching a certain mistaken viewpoint of Bible prophecy.

I have researched the subject for years and am convinced that the antichrist forces have found a way to use sensational prophetic notions to neutralize Christians, undermine the faith and exercise almost irresistible influence in Congress. The irony is that all this is being done in churches supported by staunch conservatives who are unaware that they are contributing to World Zionism which opposes the Kingdom of Christ.

Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." We must cease listening to the pseudo-evangelists and their sensational interpretations of prophecy, which, somehow, never seem to work out the way they are supposed to, but which always give support to the antichrist designs of Zionism.

And we need to insist that our elected politicians look out for the interests of American first, and when the lobbyist calls, let him know that in our nation it is God who is in authority, through His law-principles, and not the agents of a foreign power.

Our salvation — individually and nationally — comes from God. We must once again affirm with a loud and clear voice — for every alien, every atheist and every foreign power to hear — these words inscribed on our coin: "In God We Trust."

Authority belongs to Him.

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