

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

“Separation of Church and State”

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech...”

(excerpt from Amendment I, U.S. Constitution)

If our United States Constitution actually commands Congress to protect the “free exercise [of religion]” and explicitly protects freedom of speech, how on earth did this phrase “separation of church and state” get such common usage? The phrase is not in the Constitution nor, according to the Congressional Record, was it ever even mentioned during the framing of that document in 1789.

The phrase is not Constitutional at all! It has been wrenched out of context from a private letter written in 1802, 11 years after the First Amendment was ratified. There was a widespread rumor going around at the time that one particular denomination was to become the official national religion. This concerned the other denominations a great deal since some had fled religious persecution by the official church of England. President Thomas Jefferson wrote to the concerned Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut assuring them that under the Constitution the federal government would not, and indeed could not, establish a national Christian denomination. In

other words, the United States Congress could not legislate that all Americans had to be Lutherans, or Episcopalians, or Baptists, or whatever.

It is clear from Thomas Jefferson’s letter that the “wall of separation” he spoke of was to be one-directional. This wall was to keep government interference out of the church and out of believers’

lives. It was never meant to keep the church, or believers in Jesus Christ, out of the federal government, states, municipalities or schools. It certainly was never intended to mean that believers could not speak of their faith openly, or pray openly in Jesus’ Name at public events.

The historical record clearly shows the Founding Fathers of

our country truly had freedom of religion in mind when they framed our Constitution. The courts, media and special interest groups over the past 50 - 60 years have convinced the American people that we must have freedom from religion in the public square. Nothing is further from the truth.

As a nation, particularly over the past 40 plus years, we have been increasing the judicial and public approval and practice of shedding innocent blood of the littlest human beings, flaunting all sorts of abominations and sexual sins, forsaking our marriage covenants, calling good evil and evil good, and now pushing even the mention of God’s Holy Name out of public life under the false guise of “separation of church and state.” Are we still arrogant enough to think that the Lord will rescue us from our enemies time and time again? Perhaps we are that arrogant. But, maybe we’ll be surprised some day to find that His patience has run out.

The prophet Isaiah says, “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” Are we willing to repent of our national sins and be forgiven and be spared God’s judgment?

“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord...” (Is. 55: 6, 7a)



The American Way

Thomas Jefferson and countless others like him fathered our great nation in freedom. We have inherited a precious legacy that we must protect for future generations. God has also given us a freedom... free will. We are free to act, free to speak, and free to live and worship as we choose. On Independence Day, celebrate freedom. Worship regularly and celebrate God’s gift of free will, too.

Weekly Scripture Reading

Ephesians 3.1-21	Ephesians 4.1-16	Ephesians 4.17-32	Ephesians 5.1-33	Ephesians 6.1-23	Psalms 32	Psalms 103
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Department of Agriculture, Commodity Credit Corporation and the State of Kansas propose to enhance existing public access programs in Kansas through a new grant program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, the Voluntary Public Access - Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). A Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for this action and are available for review. The Programmatic EA and FONSI can be reviewed or downloaded at the following website:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecrc&topic=nep-cd>

Public and agency comments are being accepted on this project until July 29, 2011 and can be sent to Jake George, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 512 SE 25th Ave, Pratt, Kansas, 67124 or via email: jake.george@ksoutdoors.com.

SALE TIME AT FAW GARAGE

2011 Chrysler 200 Limited 4 Door Sedan – Bright silver with grey leather bucket seats, 2.4 engine, 6 speed automatic overdrive, air, tilt, speed control, power seat, windows, locks and mirrors, CD player, aluminum wheels.

2011 Dodge Charger SE 4 Door Sports Sedan – Bright white with gray cloth bucket seats, 3.6 Penastar V-6, automatic overdrive, air, tilt, speed control, power seat, windows, locks and mirrors power sunroof, 18” chrome wheels.

2011 Dodge Durango All Wheel Drive – Dark charcoal with gray stone cloth seating, second and third row bench seats, 3.6 Penastar V-6, automatic, dual zone climate control, rear air and heating, power seat, windows, locks, mirrors and lift gate, rear DVD player, CD player, U connect package, Navigation, sun roof, sun screen glass, with remote start, 18” wheels.

2011 Chrysler Town and Country Touring-L Van – White gold with neutral perforated leather quad seating with stow n’ go, 3.6 V-6, six speed automatic, dual climate controls with rear heating and air, tilt, speed control, power seats, windows, locks and mirrors power side doors and lift gate, CD player, dual screen DVD players.

2011 Chrysler Town and Country Touring-L Van – Sapphire crystal metallic with neutral leather quad seating with stow n’ go, 3.6 V-6, six speed automatic, dual climate controls with rear heating and air, tilt, speed control, power seats, windows, locks and mirrors, power side doors and lift gate, CD player, dual screen DVD players, keyless entry.

2011 Dodge Dakota Crew Cab 4 Wheel Drive – Flame red with gray cloth 40/20/40 seating, SLT Big Horn/Lone Star decor, 4.7 V-8, automatic, air, tilt, speed control, power seats, windows, locks and mirrors, stereo with CD player touch shift transfer case.

2011 Dodge Ram 1500 1/2 Ton Crew Cab SLT 4 Wheel Drive – Deep cherry red with gray cloth, 40/20/40 bench seating, 5.7 Hemi V-8, 5 speed automatic, dual, air conditioning and heating, tilt, speed, power seat, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, CD, touch shift transfer case, trailer tow group, trailer brake control, remote start, aluminum wheels.

2011 Dodge Ram 3/4 Ton Regular Cab 4 Wheel Drive - Bright white with gray cloth, 40/20/40 seating, SLT, 5.7 V-8, automatic overdrive, air, tilt, speed control, power windows, locks and trailer tow mirrors, trailer tow group, integrated trailer brakes, chrome wheels, keyless entry.

2011 Dodge Ram Mega Cab 3/4 Ton 4 Wheel Drive – Flame red with gray lower two-tone and gray leather 40/20/40 seating, Laramie, 6.7 Cumming diesel, six speed automatic, dual automatic climate control, tilt, speed, power seats, windows, locks and trailer tow mirrors, stereo with CD player, navigation, satellite radio, rear back up camera, trailer tow, integrated trailer brake, remote start.

2011 Dodge Ram 1 Ton Single Wheel Crew Cab Shortbox 4 Wheel Drive - Mineral gray with silver lower two tone, Laramie, 6.7 turbo diesel, six speed automatic, 40/20/40 leather seating, dual automatic climate control, tilt, speed control, power seats, heated seats, power windows, locks and trailer tow mirrors, CD player, steering wheel control, satellite radio, trailer tow group, integrated trailer brakes, remote start.

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