

Center For America Reclaimed

Quarterly Newsletter

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Praise the Lord! On June 28, 2005, after receiving approval for the concept from Pastor Tony Hall, the Center for America Reclaimed was officially birthed as a new ministry of Christ Worship Center. Our dream is to use the Center to reclaim the spiritual heritage of our nation using three methods. First, the dynamic power of God Almighty through intercessory prayer: to identify and bring down the strongholds over our land, and for specific leaders, groups or activities as God leads us. Second, by establishing a Training Center that will focus on teaching America's citizens the biblical principles this nation was founded upon. These are the self-same principles that our Founding Fathers used to bring liberty to our nation. Third, using an effective God-based, grass roots, civic oversight and action network, that applies these founding and biblical principles, to bring about a positive impact on the nation.

In each quarterly newsletter, we hope to inform and educate citizens about God's principles for various aspects of life that are currently in the news. In that vein, we offer the following initial article.

What the Bible says About the Role of a Judge

by Doug Anderson

The United States Senate is currently in the midst of reviewing the qualifications of President Bush's U.S. Supreme Court

appointee, Judge John G. Roberts. It might be a good time to remind ourselves what the Bible says about the role and qualifications for a judge.

During the Wilderness years of the Hebrew Republic, Moses served as a judge for the people's disputes. In Exodus 18:15-16, Moses described to Jethro, his father-in-law, the nature of the judicial function.

(15) "And Moses said unto his father-in-law, Because the people come unto me to inquire of God: (16) When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws."

This passage reveals three important principles related to the role of a judge and the nature of the judicial power as intended by God.

First, there is a transcendent nature to law which judges are to discover. Exodus 18:15 notes that the intended resolution of a legal dispute is "to inquire of God". That implies that His laws and His ways and His judgment on the matter not only exist, but should be sought after and applied to legal conflicts. Moreover, the context of this inquiry indicates it is to occur in the civil or governmental arena, where Moses was responsible. It was not to be limited merely to the church or religious arena where Aaron the Priest would have been responsible. God's laws were intended to be applied by the civil rulers in the civil arena. Therefore, judges who were

appointed or elected in that arena were responsible to know, or at least learn and discover, the applicable laws that God already had in existence for resolving legal disputes. God's law was to be viewed as transcending any legislation or previously declared judicial decision made apart from what God declared.

Second, the judicial function is a divine function. The Hebrew word for civil office holders and judges in the Bible is *Elohim*, which suggests that the judge is subrogated to fulfill a divine function. Judges are seen as agents of God Himself. Consider the passage in Deuteronomy 1:17 where Moses charged the judges to “*not respect persons (be partial) in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: . . .*” (emphasis added) The judge is to “step into the shoes” of God (to the extent that is possible for any mortal person) and act in an agency relationship. Today in federal court, a request for relief is called a “demand for judgment,” but many still refer to it as it used to be called; “a prayer for relief.” That best captures the nature of the judicial function wherein disputing parties come before a judge “to inquire of God” and the judge seeks to apply the law of God to that situation as God's agent.

Third, the nature of the judicial role is to ensure that God's laws are properly applied. In the Declaration of Independence, our nation's legal standard was set forth as being “the laws of nature and of nature's God.” That phrase was well understood at the time to contain two components: (1) the revealed law of God found in Scripture, and (2) the law of God written upon the

heart of man. Thus, our legal system was based clearly on the law of God found in the Bible. Laws found contrary to Scripture were deemed void and invalid. A judge was to adhere to that standard and decide legal disputes in a manner most consistent with that of the Bible. In that way, law was more predictable and less susceptible to the personal agenda's or biases of the individual judges.

The legal standard our nation was founded upon has not been overturned or removed from “the books.” It still exists as our standard, although it is ignored today by legal analysts who are quick to respond that we are a “nation of laws, not men.” Since our legal standard has been so long ignored, most Americans find it irrelevant today. This is tragic. A nation that says it is a “nation of laws, not men” has now, nonetheless, ignored the law to follow what a select few, with a different agenda, say it should be. As a result, our judicial decisions are often shocking examples of mental gymnastics to twist phrases, ignore original intent, and even look to foreign law in a ceaseless effort to make the law say what a few judges want it to say. A true “nation of laws” confirms judges that abide by the law as written, whether they personally like it or not, and then allows the legislative body, accountable to the electorate, to change the law where appropriate.

With that as a backdrop, it is interesting to observe the current judicial debates. During the lead up to the confirmation hearings of President Bush's appointee, Judge Roberts, there has been much talk concerning whether his Catholic faith will cause him to write opinions that would undermine the abortion decision

of *Roe v. Wade*, ironically one of the worst examples of judicial gymnastics to attain a desired result, regardless of what the law said. Notice how far we have fallen from our nation's understanding of the role of a judge. As originally intended by God and as originally applied in this nation, an understanding and knowledge of the Scriptures was viewed as a prerequisite to be a judge. Today, many people believe it to be a negative factor, if not actually a dangerous, judicial quality. Our nation and its citizens have clearly lost sight of our legal heritage, rooted in the Bible, as well as the true nature of the judicial function.

It is startling to see that today many secular activists presume that holding Christian beliefs characterizes a person as judicially "biased", while they present themselves as "unbiased" and entitled to a free pass on their worldviews. Given our judicial heritage of "the laws of nature and of nature's God," it is the secularist worldview that is "biased" against the legal standard of our nation that is still on the books. Given our legal heritage, as well as the Biblical principles noted above, judges of virtue, integrity, and deep-rooted Christian faith should be encouraged not vilified.

What is most revealing about the incorrect perception of the judicial function is the weight given to a judge's personal view on issues. Were judges to properly stay within the Constitutional framework of the judicial branch, their personal views on issues would not be relevant. Because activist judges have usurped their authority and become super legislators and policy makers, intruding upon the legislative and executive branches of government,

personal views now matter. However, it is not the judges' views on issues that should be of concern. Instead, strong consideration should be given to the judges' judicial philosophy. Are they going to seek the original intent of the authors of the Constitution and apply the law "as it is", or are they going to seek to legislate and be policy makers applying what they personally feel the law "should be"? That is the issue we should concern ourselves with regarding Judge Roberts.

In upcoming newsletters, we hope to have an additional section for Dan Noel to offer commentary from a Biblical perspective on issues of the day, as well as a Providential History piece to remind us of God's gracious hand upon this nation.

The Latest Happenings

On August 4, 2005, Doug Anderson spoke to the Biblical Worldview Conference in Charlottesville, VA hosted by the Providence Foundation. He spoke on "America's Legal Heritage" in which he presented the biblical principles of law that, if applied, will bring justice to any nation. As a result of that presentation, he was able to meet with, and talk to, attendees from Nigeria, California, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, several of whom requested information on CFAR.

The Center was also blessed with the opportunity of helping to write public school curriculum for teaching the children of America all aspects of the Constitution, including its Biblical roots. This project is expected to produce draft materials by April, 2006.

As you may have noticed, our Quarterly Newsletter has no name. We want to retain a theme of going back to our founding principles or reclaiming the land. If you have a suggested name, please let us know.

If you are aware of churches or local groups who would like to receive a presentation specifically on America's Legal Heritage, or in general about turning the nation back to an overall Biblical worldview, please have them contact us.

We are excited about what God is doing to use this Center for His righteousness and to help turn this nation back to God and His principles. We also continue to request your prayers on our behalf for opportunities to serve Him and rebuild the foundations. Together through Christ, we can do all things for His glory.

Acknowledgements

"We Give Thanks . . ." We want to acknowledge several people who have been extremely helpful in our early endeavors with this Center.

First, we wish to thank Pastors Tony and Brenda Hall for giving us this opportunity to start this ministry and for their great support and wise counsel. We also want to acknowledge Stephen McDowell, Mark Beliles and the Providence Foundation in Charlottesville, Virginia who patiently taught the principles we are basing a large portion of this ministry on and who have so graciously shared with us their time, advice and many of their presentations and materials. Special thanks also to several of you who have already offered valuable assistance; including Kenneth Noel for helping us with an initial logo design, David and Susan Hosek for helping us edit and format this initial newsletter, and Daiva Hubbard for helping us with our initial brochure. Finally, we wish to give praise and honor to our true source of all that this ministry is and ever will be; the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. Without Him, none of this would be possible.

If you wish to contact us, you may reach us at the following e-mail address: americareclaimed@msn.com

Notice to Intercessory Prayer Warriors

Your task is critical to our success since, Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that, reclaiming a nation is not a political struggle, but spiritual. We are reminded that our opposition is not people who disagree with us, but "*principalities, powers, . . . rulers of darkness of this world. . .*" As you pray, please pray to bind these spiritual strongholds over our families, cities, states and nation. Pray for God to give our leaders His wisdom and understanding to deal with the issues they face with God's righteousness. Pray that our leaders can see with God's moral clarity. Pray that God makes Himself unmistakably clear in what steps He wants us to take and what strategies He wants us to employ and for His people to obey and follow without hesitation. Pray as if your nation depended on it; because it does!