



The President's Perspective



No Virtue in Ignorance

This past week, two watershed events occurred that will shape the course of our nation for the duration of its existence. The first came in the form of a Supreme Court decision (5 to 4) allowing private property to be seized by a city and given to another individual for private use. This decision runs in direct contradiction to the 5th Amendment to our U.S. Constitution. The 5th Amendment states, "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." Until now, this has been interpreted as follows: private property can be taken by government for public use (i.e. building of a road, building of a school, or any other public use, but always with just compensation for the property taken). Now, the high court has ruled that private property can be seized for private use (for a developer to build, for his own benefit, a shopping mall, housing development, etc.) Possession of private property, which is protected from government seizure, has been a landmark of our republic. This right to own property has set us apart from communism, as well as other socialist ideals. It seems that our Supreme Court no longer feels the need to abide by the Constitution. In fact, that blessed document is now viewed as being a "fluid" document rather than a "static" one.

That leads me to the second watershed event of this past week. The United States Air Force Academy has reprimanded its faculty for being "insensitive" to the religious opinions of some at that institution. A formal investigation into alleged "intolerance" revealed no violations of school rules on expression of one's faith, just acts that have been deemed "insensitive." Is it just me, or are we bending over backwards now to accommodate those who either believe nothing, or who believe something other than evangelical Christianity. Even our attempts to accommodate the religious beliefs of those incarcerated at Guantanamo, by giving them copies of the Koran and allowing them to pray 5x a day, are not enough. According to some, we still are not doing enough. Can you ever see such accommodations being made for an evangelical Christian (assuring that he/she had a Bible, prayer sessions even once much less 5x a day, etc)? No, the rights of evangelical Christians are denied daily through such acts as not allowing a football team to pray prior to a game, or post a religious slogan in the locker room, or even encourage another teammate in an e-mail, if that e-mail has any Biblical quotation in it (as was the case at the Air Force Academy a few weeks ago).

The point is this! In this country, we no longer have any objective standard that governs our decisions or actions. Politically, the Constitution is no longer our standard for operation, and, religiously, the Bible is no longer our standard for truth. When a nation has no anchor, it floats on a sea of "public opinion", succumbing daily to the winds of opinion change, whether the changes are in the arena of politics or morality. Christian friend, the time is NOW for you to pray with all that is in you for our nation and its leaders. The time is NOW for you to involve yourself in the affairs of local, state and national government. Read your Bible daily and without fail. Also, read the newspaper and good periodicals that will keep you abreast of what is happening nationwide. There is no virtue in ignorance!

One last comment. Perhaps this week, one, if not two vacancies may appear in the U.S. Supreme Court. Our President needs wisdom and a backbone of steel as he makes decisions regarding those who will fill those vacancies. Pray that he will follow God's direction and sound Constitutional principle as he appoints justices. We have a hand in shaping the country that we will leave to our children and grandchildren. More importantly, our ability to live as free citizens and Christians is at stake.

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