

**NORTHWOODS
PRESBYTERIAN**



**4723 GRIFFITH AVENUE
CHEYENNE, WY 82009**

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH. JOHN 4:24

Blessed is the nation whose God
is the LORD.

Psalm 33:12

THE NORTHWOODS NEWS

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. So the Declaration of Independence states. Not exactly a Christian statement but then the Founding Fathers would not have been expected to explicitly state otherwise since there was probably no way they had any other thoughts. Christianity was the norm for all the civilized western world. There was no other.

In looking for articles for this month's Newsletter, I Googled *Christian Patriotism*, and was led to articles and blogs about how Christians should not be patriotic and that Christians should not have participated in the Revolution. I was shocked. I was always taught that love of country was second to those things I should be faithful in supporting (God being first).

The clamor did open my eyes to several important distinctions in assessing the role of a Christian in America. One, it was unanimous that saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag or any other pledge has no business in a worship service. Two, Paul wrote in a time of severe persecution of the church by the Roman government and yet never suggested that a revolt was in order.

The United States of America is the greatest experiment in human freedom that there ever was. No country in the world has given its citizens greater personal freedom and opportunity for all. And on the top of the list of freedoms is the freedom of religion. We are allowed to worship how we please without government intervention.

To demonstrate the thinking of the framers we need only to turn to one of the first acts of congress which was to establish the position of the Chaplains of the Senate and the House of Representatives. These chaplains open every session of congress with prayer. Everyone of the chaplains, up to the present, have been Christians. Does this not show us to be a Christian nation at least up till now? This act would also speak to Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD."

One of the things setting us apart from all other countries is the vote. As citizens we can through the ballot box right wrongs. No other country has given its citizens this privilege to the extent that we have. So our gratefulness to the grace of God for His blessings is a proper attitude toward our country.

So what then should be our position on patriotism? The following article by RE Randy Jenkins sheds much light on the subject.

Christian Patriotism

by Randy Jenkins

What it is, and what it isn't.

Today, there are two polar opposite views of patriotism battling for supremacy within the church universal. The first can be called the Anabaptist view: Christians are citizens of heaven walking on earth, all the kingdoms of this world are evil, and Christians are not to be entangled or involved with worldly things, period. This view regards political involvement and action as totally unbiblical and loyalty to country - any country - as disloyalty to God. This view was rejected by Luther and Calvin, and rightly so, for it forgets that Christians are IN the world as light and salt.

The second view I like to call Hegel's view. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel was an 18th century philosopher who is famous for saying: 'The march of God in the world, that is what the state is.' Although many Christians who are uncritically loyal to their country probably wouldn't phrase it that way; or at least, I would hope that one who professes Christ would never utter such blasphemy, Hegel's statement does capture the essence of the 2nd view. It is basically a 'my country, right or wrong' kind of view which emphasizes Romans 13:1-4 to the exclusion of all other Scripture. It also fails to make any meaningful distinction between the existing authorities within the nation, and the nation itself. It is entirely possible to despise the first, and love deeply the second, as I will show from Scripture. This view tends to thrive in congregations which assign too much importance to a particular political party or civil government, whether they be left-leaning or right-wing in their politics. Those who hold this view are forgetting, I think, that Christians are not to be OF the world.

A biblical view begins with the whole counsel of God coupled with an understanding of what 'patriot' actually means. The word 'patriot' comes from the Latin root 'pater' which in turn has given us the English words, 'father', 'paternal' and 'paternity'. A patriot then, is one who is loyal to his fathers. Does this sound familiar? It should, the 5th commandment teaches us all to honor our fathers and mothers, and this is the first commandment with a promise attached to it. "That your days might be long in the land the LORD your God is giving to you". This promise alludes to nations as they are defined in the bible: A nation is a particular people, holding a common paternity, culture, traditions and language, who live and work within a particular land. Nations were initially created by God after the flood, and dispersed throughout the world with languages of their own as a divine response to the building of the Tower of Babel. Nations are God's idea; if they are understood as a natural outgrowth of the family, and not as some cancerous, one-world empire, such as the one signified by the Tower of Babel. Biblically understood then, patriotism is simply

loyalty to those who lived and worked and died in order to give you a country to call your own. It involves celebrating and upholding the traditions and principles they stood for and we have inherited. That is not to say that everything they gave us and everything they stood for is necessarily good; but that is where being a Christian, as well as a loyal citizen, comes into play. We are told in the Scriptures to pray for those in authority that we might lead peaceable lives AND ALSO to make disciples of the nations, teaching them to observe whatever our LORD has commanded. We are told to obey those in authority over us AND ALSO admonish them faithfully to kiss the Son, lest He grow angry with them, and by extension, us as well. Jesus said we are the salt of the land in which we reside, but if the salt loses it's savor, it's fit for nothing but to be trampled underfoot.

Only a Christian patriot, then, can be loyal to his nation BY being loyal to God. The prophet Jeremiah railed faithfully and tearfully against the national depravity of his nation, Judah, and he also purchased land within his doomed nation's boundaries, and went along with them into captivity. Moses chose to identify with the nation of his birth, despite their persistent idolatry and disobedience, rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin in Egypt. Jesus said He came first for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and He wept over the coming judgment of God upon Jerusalem, even as He denounced her religious and civil leadership, calling them vipers. St. Paul's persistent habit during his missionary journeys was to preach first at the local synagogue in every town he entered. Though he is rightly called the apostle to the gentiles, he did not offer to be separated from Christ for the sake of gentiles, but he did express his longing for the salvation of his 'kinsmen according to the flesh' in this fashion. If national ties are to be of no consequence to a Christian, why did Paul and Jesus, Jeremiah and Moses, all shed tears over the apostasy and waywardness of their nation? Didn't they know that loyalty to a specific country or people is disloyalty to God? Or conversely, didn't they realize that they must be uncritical of their own nation, and totally compliant with whatever the authorities want? Apparently not.

Christian patriot, don't be ashamed of your nation, insofar as your nation is good in God's sight. Don't be too proud of your nation, insofar as your country refuses to honor Christ as King of kings, and Lord of lords. And never stop proclaiming within your beloved country, before any who will listen, 'Blessed is that nation, whose God is the LORD'. The biblical view is not the first view or the second view; rather, it is both held in balance. Ω

"The disappearance of nations would have impoverished us no less than if all men had become alike, with one personality and one face. Nations are the wealth of mankind, its collective personalities; the very least of them wears its own special colours and bears within itself a special facet of divine intention." - Alexander Solzhenitzen

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

As a result of their volunteer work with the Sanitary Commission, in 1862 Samuel and Julia Howe were invited to Washington by President Lincoln. The Howes visited a Union Army camp in Virginia across the Potomac. There, they heard the men singing the song which had been sung by both North and South, one in admiration of John Brown, one in celebration of his death: "John Brown's body lies a' mouldering in his grave."

A clergyman in the party, James Freeman Clarke, who knew of Julia's published poems, urged her to write a new song for the war effort to replace "John Brown's Body." She described the events later:

"I replied that I had often wished to do so.... In spite of the excitement of the day I went to bed and slept as usual, but awoke the next morning in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, I shall lose this if I don't write it down immediately. I searched for an old sheet of paper and an old stub of a pen which I had had the night before, and began to scrawl the lines almost without looking, as I learned to do by often scratching down verses in the darkened room when my little children were sleeping. Having completed this, I lay down again and fell asleep, but not before feeling that something of importance had happened to me."

The result was a poem, published first in February 1862 in the Atlantic Monthly, and called "*Battle Hymn of the Republic*." The poem was quickly put to the tune that had been used for "John Brown's Body" -- the original tune was written by a Southerner for religious revivals -- and became the best known Civil War song of the North.

Julia Ward Howe's religious conviction shows in the way that Old and New Testament Biblical images are used to urge that people implement, in this life and this world, the principles that they adhere to. "As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free." Turning from the idea that the war was revenge for the death of a martyr, Howe hoped that the song would keep the war focused on the principle of the ending of slavery.

Today, that's what Howe is most remembered for: as the author of the song, still loved by many Americans. Her early poems are forgotten -- her other social commitments forgotten. She became a much-loved American institution after that song was published -- but even in her own lifetime, all her other pursuits paled besides her accomplishment of one piece of poetry for which she was paid \$5 by the editor of Atlantic Monthly.

MORE ON THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Folk singer Joan Baez was a 60's radical and Viet Nam protestor. She has continued in leftist causes her entire life. I would never have expected her to have a Christian song on an album. Also, her concert audiences would not be expected to appreciate that kind of music.

Joan Baez in Concert, Part 2 was a second installment of live material, recorded during Baez' concert tours of early 1963. Her recording of *We Shall Overcome* was made at Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama, on the same day of the mass arrest of Civil Rights demonstrators in May 1963.

In Concert, Part 2 is the first Baez album to feature a Bob Dylan cover: "Don't Think Twice It's Alright" and "With God on Our Side" (according to Baez, the first Dylan song she ever learned).

The jacket notes contain an untitled poem by Bob Dylan with the recurring theme "An' I walked my road an' sung my song", which makes reference to Baez and the relationship between the two.

Go to

<http://www.rhapsody.com/joan-baez/joan-baez-in-concert-part-2> and play the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. It is a surprisingly stunning and moving rendition. You won't be sorry you listened.

Biblical references

The song alludes to several Biblical passages. The first verse draws on the Book of Revelation, which describes an *angel* casting grapes into "the great winepress of the wrath of God" (14:19), and later describes the *Word of God* who wields "a sharp sword" and "treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (19:15). The third verse refers to God's promise in Genesis 3:15 that a descendant of Eve will someday crush the serpent, while the serpent can strike only at his heel. Indirectly, this also refers to Revelation 12:1-10, where a woman (often interpreted as being The Virgin Mary and/or the newly formed Christian Church and/or the ancient Israel) bears a child while engaged in struggle with a dragon/serpent. The dragon/serpent is defeated. The fourth verse alludes to 2 Corinthians 5:10, which states that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." The fifth verse refers to the doctrine that Christians can be made holy through the death of Christ (Colossians 1:21-22). The sixth verse refers to the Earth as the footstool of God, a claim which appears in Isaiah 66:1, Matthew 5:35, and Acts 7:49.

Mine eyes have seen the glory
Of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
Where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning
Of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Chorus

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watchfires
Of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar
In the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence
By the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.

Chorus

I have read a fiery gospel writ
In burnished rows of steel:
"As ye deal with My contemners,
So with you My grace shall deal":
Let the Hero born of woman
Crush the serpent with His heel,
Since God is marching on.

Chorus

He has sounded forth the trumpet
That shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men
Before His judgement seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him;
Be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is marching on.

Chorus

In the beauty of the lilies
Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom
That transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy,
Let us die to make men free;
While God is marching on.

Chorus

July Schedule

Sunday July 4th

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30AM Worship
 11:45 AM Fellowship Dinner
 5:00 PM Evening Service

Sunday July 11th

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30AM Worship
 Celebrating the Lord's Supper
 5:00 PM Evening Service

Sunday July 18th

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30AM Worship
 5:00 PM Evening Service

Sunday July 25th

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30AM Worship
 5:00 PM Evening Service

I agree we are not a Covenant nation like, Israel. But when I say the Pledge Of Allegiance To The Flag, I am not pledging my allegiance to this nation but recognizing God's right to rule over this nation. For all governing authority comes from Him alone, who bestows it.

If one reads the writings of the framers of our Constitution, one understands that they saw God's hand involved in the formation of this nation. Certainly not all of them were Christian but they acknowledged an all powerful force at work guiding them in their deliberations and opened every session in prayer.

In the early years of our Government, funds and permissions were granted to support Christian mission outreach throughout this nation.

The Ivy League colleges trained Christian missionaries and promoted the spread of the Gospel message to the world.

As a Christian, I have a duty to obey the governing authorities of this nation and do what is right. I have a duty to pray for this nation and to seek to help the people of this nation to recognize we are a nation under God's rule.

Unknown

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Web Site - Check out our web site at NorthwoodsPresbyterian.org. The monthly Prayer Calendar is there along with all of Milan's sermons. You will also find Suggested Reading, Links, Bulletin Board, Events Calendar and Newsletter.



Looking ahead - Mark your calendar. Our annual Vedauwoo Picnic will be held on Aug 1st. Don't miss it.

Nursery Schedule for July

4th - LAURA TWITCHELL
 11th - KELLEIGH & HUNTER ANDERSON
 18th - ESTHER DAVISON
 25th - YVONNE NEWSOM

Please trade with someone if you are unable to do nursery duty on the assigned day.

Birthdays

Behtany Jenkins	5th	Gaye File	17th
Joshua Anderson	7th	Kristina Lyle (Nomm)	24th
Susan Shockey	13th	Darryl Brubaker	28th
Jessica Cockrell	15th	Harlan Edmonds	29th

Anniversaries

Gregg & Stephanie Trujillo	2nd
Jordan & Katie Mugg	4th
Brian & Branda Church	10th
Ken & Dell Tunnicliffe	22nd
Matt & Amie Davison	29th

Abraham Lincoln had it right. Our task should not be to invoke religion and the name of God by claiming God's blessing and endorsement for all our national policies and practices - saying, in effect, that God is on our side. Rather, as Lincoln put it, we should worry earnestly whether we are on God's side. - Jim Wallis, from God's Politics.

Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder. - George Washington

Fear is the foundation of most governments. - John Adams

Does the government fear us? Or do we fear the government? When the people fear the government, tyranny has found victory. The federal government is our servant, not our master! - Thomas Jefferson

The means of defense against foreign danger historically have become the instruments of tyranny at home. - James Madison

The truth is that all men having power ought to be mistrusted. - James Madison

The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse.- James Madison

It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds. - Samuel Adams

One man with courage is a majority. - Thomas Jefferson

I consider trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution. - Thomas Jefferson

The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty. - John Adams

Our citizens may be deceived for awhile, and have been deceived; but as long as the presses can be protected, we may trust to them for light. - Thomas Jefferson

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. - Benjamin Franklin

When once a republic is corrupted, there is no possibility of remedying any of the growing evils but by removing the corruption and restoring its lost principles; every other correction is either useless or a new evil. - Thomas Jefferson

Our contest is not only whether we ourselves shall be free, but whether there shall be left to mankind an asylum on earth for civil and religious liberty. - Samuel Adams

Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom. - John Adams

But a Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever. - John Adams

And it proves, in the last place, that liberty can have nothing to fear from the judiciary alone, but would have everything to fear from its union with either of the other departments. - Alexander Hamilton

But with respect to future debt; would it not be wise and just for that nation to declare in the constitution they are forming that neither the legislature, nor the nation itself can validly contract more debt, than they may pay within their own age, or within the term of 19 years. - Thomas Jefferson

A just security to property is not afforded by that government, under which unequal taxes oppress one species of property and reward another species. - James Madison

Everything that is right or reasonable pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, 'tis time to part. - Thomas Paine

The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind. - Thomas Paine

Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism. - George Washington



For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

- PSALM 91:11 NIV

Christians and Civil Government

From the Ligonier Ministries
New Geneva Study Bible and
the Reformation Study Bible
Theological Notes

Civil government is a means ordained by God for ruling and maintaining order in communities. It is one of a number of such means, including ministers in the church and parents in the homes. Each such means has its own sphere of authority under Christ, who now rules and sustains creation, and the limits of each sphere are set by reference to the others. In our fallen world these authorities are institutions of God's "common grace" (kindly providence), standing as a bulwark against anarchy and the dissolution of ordered society.

With reference to Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17, the *Westminster Confession* explains the sphere of civil government as follows:

God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates, to be, under Him, over the people, for His own glory, and the public good; and, to this end, hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defence and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil doers . . . Civil magistrates may not assume to themselves the administration of the Word and sacraments; or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven (23.1,3).

Because civil government exists for the welfare of the whole society, God gives it the "power of the sword," the lawful use of force to administer just laws (Rom. 13.4). Christians must acknowledge this as part of God's order (Rom. 13:1,2). A government may collect taxes for the services it renders (Matt. 22:15-21; Rom. 13:6,7). But if it forbids what God requires or requires what God forbids, Christians cannot submit, and some form of civil disobedience becomes inescapable (Acts 4:18-31; 5:17-29).

The church's sphere of authority relates to the civil government at the level of morality. The church has the responsibility to comment on the morality of governments and their policies on the basis of God's word, but should not appropriate to itself the power to set such policies. Whereas these assessments may foster political action among Christians, they should act in their capacity as citizens rather than representatives of the church. In this way the gospel works through moral persuasion and the working of God's grace among citizens.

Christians should urge governments to fulfill their proper role. They are to pray for, obey, and yet watch over civil governments (1 Tim 2:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:13,14), reminding them that God ordained them to rule, protect and keep order.

True Patriotism

Dear friend,

Allow me to say, that it excites both my wonder and concern, that a *Christian minister* such as yourself, should think it worth his while to attempt *political reforms*. When I look around upon the present state of the nation, such an attempt appears to me, to be no less vain and foolish, than it would be to paint the *cabin*-while the *ship* is sinking! Or to decorate the *parlor*-while the *house* is on fire!

When our Lord Jesus was upon earth, He refused to get involved in disputes or politics, "Friend, who appointed Me a *judge* or arbitrator over you?" Luke 12:14. "My kingdom is not of this world! If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight!" John 18:36. God's children belong to a kingdom which is not of this world; they are strangers and pilgrims upon earth, and a part of their Scriptural character is, that they are the "quiet in the land." Psalm 35:19.

Satan has many contrivances to amuse people, and to divert their thoughts from their real danger!

My dear sir, my prayer to God for you is-that He may induce you to employ the talents He has given you, in pointing out *sin* as the great cause and source of every existing evil; and to engage those who love and fear Him, (instead of wasting time in political speculations, for which very few of them are competent,) to sigh and cry for our abounding abominations, and to stand in the breach, by prayer, that God's wrath may yet be averted, and our national mercies prolonged! This, I think, is the **true patriotism**-the best way in which people in private life may serve their country.

I consider the ungodly as *saws* and *hammers* in the hand of the Lord. So far as they are *His instruments*, they will succeed-but not an inch further! Their wrath shall praise Him, and be subservient to His designs!

If *our lot* is so cast that we can exercise our ministry free from stripes, fines, imprisonments, and death-it is *more* than the gospel has promised to us! If Christians were quiet when under the cruel governments of Nero and other wicked persecutors, when they were hunted down like wild beasts-then *we* ought to be not only *quiet* but very *thankful* now! It was then accounted an *honor* to suffer for Christ and the 'offence of the cross'!

Those are to be greatly pitied, who boast of their 'liberty'-and yet they do not consider that they are in the *most deplorable bondage*-the

slaves of *sin* and *Satan*, under the curse of God's law and His eternal wrath! Oh! for a voice to reach their hearts, that they may know their true and dreadful state-and seek deliverance from their horrific thralldom! May you and I labor to direct them to the *one thing*, which is absolutely needful, and abundantly sufficient.

If I had the wisdom or influence to soothe the angry passions of mankind-I would gladly employ them! But I am a stranger and a pilgrim here in this world. My charter, my rights and my treasures, are all in heaven-and there my *heart* ought to be. In a very short time, I may be removed (and perhaps suddenly) into the unseen and eternal world-where all that now causes so much *bustle upon earth*-will be of no more importance to me-than the events which took place among the antediluvians!

In the hour, when death shall open the door into eternity-many things which now assume an 'air of importance', will be found as light and unsubstantial as a child's dream!

How crucial then, is it for me-to be found watching, with my lamp burning, diligently engaged in my proper calling! For the Lord has not called me to set *governments* right-but to *preach the gospel*, to proclaim the glory of His name, and to endeavor to win souls! "Let the dead bury their own dead-but *you go and proclaim the kingdom of God!*" Luke 9:60. Happy is that servant, whom his Master finds so doing, when He returns!

As you have forced me to respond-both *duty* and *love* have obliged me to be faithful and free in giving you my thoughts.

I recommend you to the care and blessing of the great Shepherd and Savior; and remain for His sake, your affectionate friend and brother,

John Newton Ω

John Henry Newton (July 24, 1725 - December 21, 1807) was an English Anglican clergyman and former slave-ship captain. He was the author of many hymns, including "Amazing Grace".

There are no second-class citizens in the kingdom of God, so everyone who trusts in the name of Christ has also received the gift of His Holy Spirit. By this Spirit, we are being transformed from glory to glory, and He is leading us into righteousness. Are we following His lead? Are we doing what is right even when it is difficult? Are we confident that He can empower us to do God's will, to mortify sin, and to love other people.

CORAM DEO, *Living before the face of God*. Tabletalk magazine.

Have a Need? Contact one of the officers.

Church Office Hours Tue, Wed, and Thu 8:30 - 4:30
Office Telephone 637-4817
Web Site northwoodspresbyterian.org
church@northwoodspresbyterian.org

Milan Norgauer, *Pastor* 635-1865
mnorgauer@gmail.com

Alex Davison, *Elder* 245-9348
alex@pattondavison.com

Randy Jenkins, *Elder* 638-2010
balestacker@bresnan.net

Rich Cesal, *Deacon* 637-6195
cheyoming6195@bresnan.net

Dale Vosler, *Deacon* 632-0133

If you have a request for the prayer chain contact Branda Church 637-8630 and if not available, Kelleigh Anderson 635-2578

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

Hallelujah, Amen.

