

(9-16-12)

WHY BAPTIST?: RIGHT ABOUT CIVIL LIBERTY!

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TEXT: Galatians 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

Matthew 24:47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Isaiah 66:5 Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

Matthew 13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Luke 9:54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

John 16:2...yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

"The history of Romanism is a heart-rending record of spiritual tyranny - of chains, dungeons, tortures, and fires. When the churches of Northern Europe threw off the papal yoke...they retained the intolerant views...The Protestant sects of the sixteenth century - Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians - including...carried their tyranny not only to fines and confiscation, but to imprisonment and torture, and blood. Even the Independents, who fled the persecutions [of their brethren]...deemed it their duty to cherish the spirit and imitate the example of their oppressors...Baptists, under all names which they have borne, in different countries and in different centuries, have been unswervingly loyal to the principles of religious liberty...they have been free from the guilt of persecution..."

(Jeremiah J. Jeter, *Baptist Principles*, ed. 1902)

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Justin Dewey Fulton, Charles H. Spurgeon, Our Ally (1892):

"During the Reformation, and after it, the poor Anabaptists continued to be victims...Luther and Zwingle, though themselves held to be heretics, were scarcely a whit behind the Papists in their rage against the Anabaptists...As it was, their views, like those of modern Baptists, so completely laid the axe at the root of all priestcraft and sacramentarianism, that violent opposition was aroused, and the two-edged sword of defamation and extirpation was set to its cruel work...All other sects may be in some degree borne with, but Baptists are utterly intolerable to priests and Popes; neither can despots and tyrants endure them..."

"Thus the Baptists became the first and only propounders of 'absolute liberty, just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty.' For this they suffered and died. They proclaimed it by their deeds, they propagated it in their writings. In almost every country of Europe, amid tempests of wrath, stirred up by their faith, and their manly adherence to the truth, they were the indefatigable, consistent, primal apostles of liberty in this latter age. We honour them."

(Edward Underhill, a secretary of the Baptist Mission Society; 1847)

"In the Baptist Confession of 1611, we have this emphatic declaration: 'The magistrate, by virtue of his office, is not to intermeddle with religion, or matters of conscience, nor to compel men to this or to that form of religion or doctrine; but to leave the Christian religion to the free conscience of every one, and to meddle only with political matters....Christ alone is the King and Lawgiver of the Church and conscience'...So completely were the Baptists identified in the ecclesiastical mind with the doctrine of soul liberty that Dr. Some, a clergyman of the Elizabethan period, charges them with holding 'that ministers ought to be maintained by the voluntary principle [not compelled to support pastors by state law or tax]; that the civil magistrate has no right to make and impose laws on the consciences of men.'...The first amendment to the Constitution of the United States was inspired by them, and in no other country can such a provision be found. It reads in part as follows: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' This enactment is so fully in keeping with a resolution adopted by the Baptist General Committee of Virginia in 1785, as to leave little question as to its source; and the resolution itself is so comprehensive and so fully abreast of the most enlightened views prevalent to-day that it deserves to be quoted: 'Resolved, That it is believed to be repugnant to the spirit of the gospel for the Legislature thus to proceed in matters of religion (assessing citizens for the support of a State Church); that the holy Author of our religion needs no such compulsive measures for the promotion of His cause; that the gospel wants not the feeble arm of man for its support; that it has made and will again through Divine power make its way against all opposition. And that should the Legislature assume the right of taxing the people for the support of the gospel, it will be destructive to religious liberty.' On the basis of this declaration Thomas Jefferson, it is said, drew the act for...the protection of conscience in the exercise of its legitimate rights."

(*The Baptists in History*, 1898)

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"[The State should have the power to] punish civilly, religious actions...he being the preserver of both tables [of the Law] and so to punish all branches of both...[and] by compulsion, repress public and notable idolatry."

(John Robinson, called the father of the Pilgrims)

"...as kings and bishops cannot command the wind, so they cannot command faith...It is not only unmerciful, but unnatural and abominable' yea, monstrous for one Christian to vex and destroy another for difference and questions of religion."

(Leonard Busher, *Religion's Peace, or, A Plea for Liberty of Conscience*; 1614)

"He [Busher] spoke for the Baptists...Not once in all of their history have they violated the principles of Busher's plea."

(William Cathcart, *The Baptist Encyclopædia*)

"We find the primitive Christians were meek, and gentle, and yet able by sound doctrine both to exhort, and convince the gainsayers, who called not for carnal weapons...but declared their weapons were mighty through God, and either by the word and a good conversation won men to the acknowledgement of the truth as it is in Jesus, or else left them without excuse together with the world, unto the judgment of the great day of the Lord...I testify that no servant of Christ Jesus hath any liberty, much less authority from His Lord to smite his fellowservant..."

(John Clark, *Ill Newes From New England*, 1652; pp.103)

"On reading the memorial of the Rev. Isaac Backus, agent to the Baptist Churches in this Government, Resolved, That the establishment of civil and religious liberty to each denomination in the province is the sincere wish of this Congress; but being by no means vested with the powers of civil government, whereby they can redress the grievances of any person whatever, they therefore recommend to the Baptist Churches that when a general Assembly shall be convened in this Colony, they lay the real grievances of said churches before the same... By order of the Congress, John Hancock, President."

(1774)

-In August, 1789, a committee of the Baptist Churches in Virginia presented an address to General Washington stating:

"[We]...fear that our religious rights were not well secured in our new Constitution of government."

"...he [James Madison] apprehended the meaning of the words to be, that Congress should not establish a religion, and **enforce the legal observation of it by law**, nor **compel men** to worship God in any Manner contrary to their conscience."

(*Annals of Congress*, August 15, 1789)

"The adoption of the Constitution, with its first amendment, before quoted, placed the United States foremost of all nations of the earth in recognizing and sustaining the great truths of religious liberty."
(Thomas F. Curtis, *The Progress of Baptist Principles*, 1855)

"Congress declared the first amendment to the Constitution to be in force December 15, 1791, which granted religious liberty to all citizens, Baptists are credited with being the leaders in bringing this blessing to the nation."
(J.M. Carroll, *The Trail of Blood*)

"Freedom of conscience, unlimited freedom of mind, was, from the first, the trophy of the Baptists."
(George Bancroft, *History of the United States*, Vol. II., 1852; pp.66-67)

Justin Dewey Fulton, *Outlook of Freedom: or, The Roman Catholic Element in American History* (1856):
[Fulton was a Baptist pastor, who was against slavery, and diligently warned against Catholicism. His messages were so powerful, he was once stoned by an angry crowd in Nova Scotia]:

"Others have fully exposed the absurdities of the theological tenets of the Church of Rome. She has been shown to rest her hope of advancement and success not upon faith in Christ, but upon a system of works which blind and befog the ignorant...History shows that Romanism had unlimited sway in America, and acted out herself until the triumphs gained by Protestantism made it dangerous, when because of defeat she was forced for a time to wear the mask...Popery has been marked, in every age of its existence, by intolerance and persecution...There was hardly a settler in New England who was not in some way linked to some martyr, whose life had been taken by the Catholic hell-hounds, who had tracked their kindred from their homes, or the altars of their God, into the recesses of forests...Here, seizing them, they had hurled them down precipices, burned them at stakes, broken them on wheels, killed them in the chambers of the Inquisition...It was for this reason the Catholic was...looked upon as a murderer. His hands had been imbrued with their kindred's blood, and they would not and did not cherish them as brothers, or welcome them as friends...Anti-Catholic riots were frequent in New York and Philadelphia...But when the fires of the Revolution were over...then the wave of [immigration] began to flow...until millions of foreign born Catholics share in the blessings secured by the founders of the republic...The Leopold Society is a political institution under the control of the Austrian Cabinet and the Pope of Rome. It was called into existence at the earnest solicitation of American [Catholic] bishops...[and] aims at nothing less than the overthrow of civil and religious liberty...In the reports of 1837, proposed by Stephen de Dubuisson, a Jesuit and a missionary of the society in the United States, we find this language: 'Without wishing to penetrate the future, **it is certain that the plan is gigantic and of great importance, to bring the whole nation, which inhabits the immense country of the United States, into the bosom of the Catholic church.** Whatever may be the future political condition of this people; whether they will retain their republican institutions, or choose a monarchy...'...It is a significant fact that Romanists always ride with despotism...The boast was made in Rome, by a leading dignitary of the Church of Rome, that the republic would break into fragments upon the rock of slavery [with the South falling eventually into her hands]...The Duke of Richmond, Ex-Governor of Canada [and a

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Catholic], said in a speech at Montreal, 'The government of the United States ought not to stand, and it will not stand; but it will be destroyed **by subversion**, and not by conquest. **The plan is this** - to send over the surplus population of Europe...with foreign views and feelings, and form a heterogeneous [different] mass, and in time be prepared to rise and subvert the government...!'"

"If ever the devil and his imps are incarnate on earth, it is in the form of Jesuits."
(Spurgeon)

"As to religious liberty, the Catholic Popes (known for centuries of bloody persecution of Christians) have continually and openly denied religious liberty! For example, **Pope Pius VI**, (*Brief Quod aliquantum*) scorned religious liberty as a, 'monstrous right.' He stated: '...what could be more unwise than to establish among men this equality...' **Pope Gregory XVI** called religious liberty, 'absurd..nonsense': 'And from this stinking fountainhead of indifferentism flows that absurd and erroneous opinion or rather nonsense, that liberty of conscience must be claimed and demanded for anyone whatever...' (Pope Gregory XVI, Encyclical, August 15, 1832). **Pope Leo XIII** stated that the Catholic Church only permits liberty as long as it has to - until 'happier times' arise in a nation, when it once again has the power to deny it!: '...while not conceding any right to anything save what is true...the [Catholic] Church usually acquiesces in certain modern liberties, not because she prefers them in themselves, but because she judges it expedient...' (Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical, June 20, 1888). No wonder **John Adams** (the second U.S. President) warned: 'Can a free government possibly exist with the Roman Catholic religion?' (Letter to Thomas Jefferson, May 19, 1821). Likewise, **Samuel F.B. Morse** (inventor of the telegraph), documented the open plan of **the Catholic Church** to use immigration in America to one day have enough Catholics in government, and voting as citizens, to overthrow the Constitution, and specifically the Bill of Rights (see Morse's, *Foreign Conspiracy Against the Liberties of the United States*, 1835). None of this history is hidden. The quotes of Popes, etc. are plain to anyone willing to read. We believe it is possible to love Catholics as people, while opposing and exposing their views..." (excerpts, Kingdom Baptist Press Release, 2012)

-Edward Beecher, *The Papal Conspiracy Exposed, and Protestantism Defended* (1855).

-Foxes' *Book of Martyrs*.

G. A. Lofton, *The Baptist Trophy*, 1876:

"...A 'PEOPLE' too, whose humble name;
Though buried oft in tears and shame;
Immortal wreathes a spotless fame;
Whose history long was writ in blood;
By Others drawn, a crimson flood;
Though never yet did Baptists stain;
Their robes with blood of human vein;
Though every age hath wrought them woes;
And every land hath bred them foes;
Though every hand hath forged them chains;
And every law decreed them pains...
Though Baptist lot has ever been,
To 'suffer' thus at hands of men;
Though bitter yet the tears they weep,
And agonize the Truth to keep;
They never yet did Persecute,
A golden truth which none refute!

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And 'pled' for all a 'Conscience free,' The noblest boon of Liberty...
 A century full hath swept away...Since bathed in blood of Martyrs free,
 This land gave root to Freedom's tree. And broke, at last, those tyrant chains,
 Which fettered low these proud domains...
 The will of God a Saul essayed. His zeal the Church in havoc laid; So Luther bound, a Calvin burned.
 A Zwingle drowned, a Baxter spurned; And Henry, Knox, by various creed, To crush the Baptists, all agreed.
 By Church and State, like Rome of old; By Infant Rite, the mother's hold. By writ and sword, the Harlot's bands,
 The blood of saints is on their hands; And Rome in symbols, dark and dread, Is written on each Daughter's head.
 ...But May flow 'rs wings are on the breeze, As she from Persecution flees; Yet ere the far off West is reached,
 Her freedom Persecution preached; For there on waste of waters free, In schemes of Church and State agree.
 How true it is wherever found. If infant mind by rite is bound, As Hagar's son, to bondage born.
 Did Isaac mock his freedom scorn; So this Persecution finds, A home in kindred church or minds...
 The dungeon still and banishment, New forge her chains of punishment; New England jails and whipping posts,
 Virginia fines and taxing hosts; By Infant Rite and Force inferred. Upon the Church is here conferred...
 How ill the grace of those who vaunt, Their charity, and Baptists taunt, When scarce a hundred years ago,
 No church on earth but scorned us so...
 Oh thus a hundred years or more. The scourge of Church and State we bore...For Liberty a Williams pled,
 For this alone New England fled; And deep in yonder wild afar. Mid savage home with gates ajar,
 A refuge found from Error blind, That Freedom crushed, of human mind...
 There Clarke of old, from England brought, The Charter true that Freedom taught...
 New England fills her prisons vain. Or whips a Holmes on Boston plain...
 From Baptists then a Jefferson learned, Democracy; and Madison burned; And Henry breathed, their living fire,
 And Washington their truths inspire; And linked with men like these they sought,
 Their pledge of Freedom, dearly bought...With soul on fire, old Henry pleads,
 The Baptist cause that struggling bleeds...Dismantled Church in ruins laid! But Presbyters at length essayed,
 Establishment for all, the same. By law enforced, that each might claim; And each and all, save Baptists then.
 Petitioned, urged this scheme of men...The Constitution's not complete; Petitions bold from Freemen press,
 Besieging Chief, and States address: And lo! the grandest Trophy past, Their noblest triumph is the last...
 Their glory's now at last attained, As inch by inch the Baptists gained...The Nation's Code eternal stands,
 Amended thus by Baptist hands...Avoid th' extremes of Freedom's reign, By anarch's rule, or despot's chain...
 Oh! Infant Rite is awful crime, That scourged this earth in every clime...
 O Baptists here your duty see, To hold your land and Liberty; These fields you won must cultivate...
 In Science false, Religion too. Our foes are great, our friends are few; Yon Pop'lar tide against us rolls.
 And Truth, alone, our fate controls...**Three things our God will never bless:**
'Tis Ignorance, Sloth and Stinginess..."

"A new survey by the Barna Research Group finds that most Protestants do not tell others about Jesus...Also, a majority of adults who attend Baptist churches, which are known for their evangelistic focus, did not witness in the last year."

(AgapePress, July 11, 2001)

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2 Samuel 1:27 How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

Luke 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will **remove thy candlestick out of his place**, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.