

ADA's summer conference What difference does it make?

By Bill Johnson

From the Bottom Up

Having just returned from a big “conference” of sorts, I am reminded again of how important messaging is. We each benefit from spiritual messaging that brings knowledge, wisdom and application.

Many of us are burdened for America.

Recently, we’ve seen the U.S. House Democrats hold a sit in on the U.S. House floor in support for tighter gun control. Indeed, there is an increasing assault upon the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

There is also abundant evidence of a strategy to undermine the First Amendment. When we hear liberals in power, like President Obama and Hillary Clinton, using the phrase “freedom of worship” as opposed to the “freedom of religion,” it’s a sign that they are “greasing the skids” for the day when the Freedom of Religion will mean speech only within the walls of a place of worship - not in public life.

Clearly, America and everything it’s stood for is in trouble. **If there’s ever been a time when America needed educated and passionate Christians to stand up for her, it is today.**

We’ve always put together our conferences with the goal of addressing the current cultural issues and strengthening believers to deal with them.

Gary Bauer, Kamal Saleem, Donald E. Wildmon, Pastor Anthony Moore, Frank Gaffney, Mat Staver, Steve Coughlin and Janet Porter. These are the names of the

speakers we have had in recent years. Each bringing a high level of excellence in their life work and influence.

This year will be no exception.

Dr. Joel Beeke’s message in keeping with the theme of this year’s conference - “*From the Bottom Up*” is entitled: The Need for National Repentance and Action: “From the Bottom Up”:

Dr. Beeke’s message will be dealing with Ezra’s example of repentance and action against gross national sin from Ezra 9.

We sought out Dr. Beeke two years ago knowing that with his passion for God, the Word, the church, and the nation, he would apply Scripture to whatever circumstance he saw this country facing. Beeke is the President of the regarded Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is also a prolific author, international speaker, pastor, husband and father.

Our other featured speaker is Curtis Bowers who is primarily known as the award winning producer of the highly acclaimed documentary “Agenda: Grinding America Down.”

Curtis’s message is entitled “Grinding America Down and Rebuilding: From the Bottom Up” and his ministry epitomizes the theme of the conference, “**FROM THE BOTTOM UP.**” Curtis’ message speaks to people of all ages, but particularly young people as he speaks

so practically and understandably. He believes in simply living before the face of God one day at a time, moment by moment.

His wife and 9 children travel with him on a big bus joining Curtis as they minister together in music. In recent years, the Bowers have spoken and ministered in 43 different states, blessing and encouraging wherever they go.

We have done our best to put together a conference that meets the needs of Christians striving to affect Godly change in our ungodly culture.

We are convinced that what America needs more than anything is not the right politician or the right policies, but for the church to remember what it means to be the church.

We hope you’ll join us to be reminded, informed, and encouraged on how to be what God calls us to be in a world that prides itself in doing what He hates.

ADA Summer Conference “From the Bottom Up”

Friday, July 22, 2016

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Location: Harvest OPC church

930 52nd Street SW

Wyoming, MI 49509

Cost: Free will offering

**To register call our office
at 231-924-4050 or email**

kimberly@americandecency.org



From the desk of Bill Johnson

“Donald Trump and the NYC Taxi Cab Driver”

You may have heard about the Donald Trump meeting that recently took place with evangelical leaders in New York City on June 21. I was invited to attend this gathering which, though initially anticipated to be attended by 400 Christian leaders, expanded to over 1,000 ministry leaders from across the country. While I struggled with whether or not to attend, I thought it was important to be aware of the information presented.

It was billed to be “*A Conversation with Donald Trump*.” It started at 8:30 in the morning and went until roughly 3:30, though I left early to catch a taxi to the airport (more on the taxi driver in a moment).

In stating that I was at this meeting with Trump, I know that you are going to want my take away. This, I want you to understand, is like a minefield. I counted that cost even as I contemplated whether to discuss the Donald Trump meeting or not. People, as you have probably seen, are “all over the map” on this one:

1. I have heard very few Christians who are unabashedly supportive of Donald Trump. Most have strong concerns about him, yet have even stronger negative concerns about Hillary Clinton.

2. Others believe that a support for Trump would be a complete sell out to their Christian principles.

3. Some see it like this: We know what we are going to get with Hillary Clinton, but at least it’s a “gamble” with Trump. Will Trump do what he says? What he says about any given subject may change two weeks later, but at least there is a chance that Trump will land rightly on something(s).

4. Others believe that it is time that true Christian conservatives send a message to the Republican establishment that they can no longer be counted upon to vote for the moderate/liberal candidates that the RNC gets behind every four years.

I can understand and empathize with all of those points, and it’s not my desire to push you in either direction.

Contrary to what you may have heard, this meeting was not about endorsing Donald Trump. It was an opportunity to hear the candidate’s answers to the questions that many evangelicals are asking.

On this particular day, Trump addressed questions, and, generally speaking, made a good impression on those in attendance. Isn’t this what Donald Trump does best? Markets himself well to this group or that one?

So, what do I think?

I think there is a lot of confusion. **Case in point:** I was sitting next to a gentleman who is in leadership with a well-known conservative college. This bright and engaging man (in his early 60s I would guess) stated that he has been supportive of Trump, even in the primary, and thinks Trump is honest, while his opinion of Ted Cruz was that he was not electable because Americans perceive Cruz as snobbish and arrogant.

Further, I am amazed that a person like Ben Carson could end up endorsing and working in the Trump campaign after Donald Trump compared him to a pedophile on the campaign trail, yet Cruz is the one that Carson labeled a “liar.” And that Mike Huckabee, a former pastor, similarly endorsed and supports Donald Trump for President.

Pastor David Jeremiah stated he prays for Donald Trump to be President. Jerry Falwell, Jr. is a strong supporter of Donald Trump, as is Sarah Palin who was once seen as staunchly Christian and conservative.

I can understand feeling backed into a corner and forced to support Mr. Trump, but, in short, I am surprised, if only at the energy and passion that these conservative and Christian leaders, since early in the primary season, have poured into electing a philan-

dering casino, strip club, and escort service owner to be their president!

However, let me say this:

I also believe that America is in rapid decline on virtually every front: military, immigration, justice, education, employment, the economy, morality, and spirituality.

Our nation is ripe for the taking and our enemies (and we have many) know it! To say that our society is at a crossroads is a vast understatement. That’s as much as I’m going to say at this point about what I’m going to do with my vote come November. Each of us must prayerfully weigh all of these considerations when making a decision at the ballot box.

So what about the New York City taxi cab driver?

As I left the Donald Trump meeting, I had prayed a brief prayer that the Lord would send me a cab driver that I could minister to. My driver was from Bangladesh. He was in his thirties and had been to America for about four years.

As we were zooming in and out of traffic congestions, he pointed out the window at the diversity of the masses of people of different skin colors, dress styles, cultures. He said, “Not that New York City doesn’t have its problems, but what other massive city around the world has so much opportunity and diversity yet is able to live largely at peace with one another?”

This young father of two makes about \$4000 a month working sixty hours a week. His rent is \$1800 a month. He is very engaged and knowledgeable and absolutely loves America and the blessings of freedom.

We also talked about the U.S. Constitution, which he had read several times. He acknowledged that it was a brilliant document and I pointed out that its brilliance flowed out of men with a clear understanding of the Bible, which they considered to be the foundation of the very inalienable rights that this young immigrant so much loves in America and is not seen or experienced in any other country.

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Donald Trump and the NYC Taxi Cab Driver

by Bill Johnson



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“You can find anything in the world that you desire right here in this very place,” he said, “including your religion of choice. And the peace to think and believe as you so choose.”

He stated that he also goes to a mosque sometimes. He said not because he believes the Koran or Islam, but because he meditates in the quiet. “I am a seeker,” he said. He told me that he also found help from the Dalai Lama and Pope Francis. In fact, just the day before he had listened to someone speaking about peace and tranquility and had decided to try yoga for himself.

At this point, I’m thinking to myself, “am I just going to let this dear young man keep talking about all his seeking, while I sit here with the answers to his questions - the truth of the Gospel?”

I asked “So what about God?” He responded by saying something like, “I believe God is within us, teaching us day by day.”

He had told me he had read the Koran and the Bible numerous times.

“What about sin?” I asked, “The Bible says that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, what do you think about that?” He responded that through education man can strive to live moral lives and be on the path that he has now taken with energy - to pursue morality.

He said, “See this?” He proudly lifted up his cell phone as he was darting in and out of traffic, doing what New York City taxi drivers have to do best. “This cell phone has changed my life. I can listen to things and learn.”

That’s what he liked about Christianity, he said - that Jesus came to help and heal and

teach and show needy, lowly people how to live morally. He did not believe that Jesus was fully God and fully man, but rather a good man who had lived long ago.

“But Jesus himself made clear that He is the very Son of God, that He came to set the captive free,” I told him, “that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

He asked, “but other religions make similar claims so what do you say to them?”

I responded that no other religion reveals a God who came in the flesh, suffered, was crucified, died, was buried, rose again from the dead and yet lives today and forever for all eternity; that Christ left us with the Holy Spirit comforting, teaching, exhorting, assuring us, His children. He lives within us, the Holy, loving, personal God.

He stopped for a moment and said, “That’s why I say I’m seeking. It might very well be your words that I am reminded by, and I bow my knee to your God one day.”

The time was short. The door closed. We both acknowledged a blessed time together.

I liked this fast-paced “seeker” man living in a fast paced world. I was moved by His love for America; how he stated that America is the only country that can keep hope alive for freedom.

While I believe you and I also share the love for America as expressed by this cab driver, we know that our ultimate hope and freedom comes not from a country or a presidential candidate, but from God. How can we save our country? Trick question. We can’t. Although our future has always been in God’s hands, a political climate like this one extenuates the trouble that we can get ourselves in when we trust in mankind.

Donald Trump and the New York City taxi cab driver. May God have His way in both of their lives - and in yours and mine.

Drummed Out

by Steve Huston



During the birth pangs of our great nation, General George Washington drummed out homosexuals from the Continental army. Today, General Jerry Boykin has essentially been “drummed out” of a military speaking engagement for teaching and speaking on Judeo-Christian values. While Washington forbade the sin of homosexuality in the army, homosexuality and other perversions of nature are embraced by today’s military leaders, denying the rights of other soldiers who would desire to hear about God and courage.

Where we once made statements from moral correctness, like General Washington’s: *“His Excellency the Commander in Chief [George Washington] approves the sentence and with Abhorrence and Detestation of such Infamous Crimes [sodomy] orders Lieut. Enslin to be drummed out of Camp tomorrow morning by all the Drummers and Fifers in the Army never to return; The Drummers and Fifers to attend on the Grand Parade at Guard mounting for that Purpose.”* We now bow to political correctness and tell a highly regarded General that he cannot come and speak to a group of military men because it might hurt the feelings of less than 20 percent of our fighting men.

As Biblical correctness is replaced by political correctness the state of our military readiness and national defense is put in jeopardy. In General Boykin’s words, *“How can we expect to win wars with a military like this gripped by such political correctness? If there are people who are scared of me, what does that say about how the 1st Infantry Division would fare against ISIS or any other determined enemy?”*

The American public cannot afford to sit by, as it has in the past, allowing our front lines of protection to continue disintegrating before our very eyes. While this is only a symptom of the problem, speak out and let your voice be heard. These soldiers fight to defend our freedoms. Now it’s time for us to help defend theirs.

The Meaning behind ADA Logo



Here is the message behind our logo. We hope that when you receive our ministry materials and see the logo it will serve as an encouragement and reminder to you of our shared mission in Christ as it really is in the dark world we find ourselves.

1) The symbol of the cross, represents the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ that sets us free from the bondage of sin and leads to our victory over the grave. "Oh grave, where is thy victory. Oh death where is they sting?"

The power of the cross, the Gospel. The Gospel is the power of God to live with hope and boldness for Him.

2) The multiple lines criss crossing horizontally and vertically represent the highways and byways of life – the increasing busyness of our culture. Our ministry finds itself having a significant message of hope, truth, reconciliation and restoration to a world caught up in helter skelter living that is prone to substitute a lie for a truth.

3) The fish, the ichthus. During early Christianity, Christians were often put to death for practicing their faith, so they worshiped in secret places. A fish painted on the outside door of a house let other Christians know that they would be safe and welcome inside.

4) The fish points upward to the right not to the left. This world is not our home. We are strangers in a foreign land. Increasingly, we recognize we are swimming upwards against the tide – not conformed to this world.

5) The fish, representing believers in Christ, is on the cross. We are called to join in sufferings and afflictions of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we see, in our beloved America the increasing diminishment of faith, how can we not see that true believers will

increasingly experience scorn, mocking, belittlement, persecution? The positioning of the fish on the cross speaks to that which more and more will face.

6) The lines of white shining through the dark lines symbolizes our light shining in a darkened world. Let your light shine. We must not hide it!

Boycott Target: If not now, when?

by Steve Huston



We at American Decency Association are asking our friends to join with us as we come alongside our longstanding friends at American Family Association (AFA), in calling for a boycott of Target stores.

In standing for the safety and privacy of our women and children, AFA called a boycott of Target after the corporation announced on their website, "[W]e welcome transgender team members and guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity. ..."

In essence, if you are a man but you "feel" like a woman today, feel free to use the women's restroom.

The AFA's main concern has been that sexual predators will take advantage of such a policy, thereby putting America's female citizenry at great risk.

Since April 20, AFA has gathered over 1.3 million online signatures plus hard copy boycott signatures which have been mailed to Target.

When AFA's Abe Hamilton III attended the Target shareholders meeting he asked if they

had conducted a cost benefit analysis before putting this policy in place. No one would give an answer. Admitting this before their shareholders, seeing the sales drop 18-20%, and seeing the 1.3 plus million signatures still did not bring Target to its senses. Apparently they would rather own these negative outcomes plus the risk of being sued for negligence than reverse their commitment to social engineering. Neither customer safety nor customer satisfaction seem to be a concern to those who run this chain of stores.

Add your signature to the ever-growing number of concerned Americans who will spend their hard earned money elsewhere, showing Target that you care about the safety of America's women and children. Join us in helping AFA reach its goal of 2 million signatures.

Please sign the American Family Association's petition to boycott all Target stores at <https://www.afa.net/action-alerts/sign-the-boycott-target-pledge/>.

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Air Force Fires on Freedom

by Lisa Van Houten



“... Let us pray that God will reflect with admiration the willingness of one nation in her attempt to rid the world of tyranny, oppression, and misery. It is this one nation under God that we call, with honor, the United States of America. God Bless our flag. God bless our troops. God bless America.”

Who would think that those words would be forbidden on a U.S. military base?

Yet because the name of God was uttered, retired Senior Master Sergeant Oscar Rodriguez was forcibly dragged off the stage during a solemn flag-folding ceremony at Travis Air Force base by several uniformed airmen, escorted out of the building, and thrown off the base.

“That can’t be true,” you’re probably saying right now. Perhaps in communist China, but not in a country where every cent of our money is emblazoned with In God We Trust and our pledge of allegiance states we are a nation under God. This must be one of those preposterous Internet rumors spread around Facebook like Elvis is really alive or a scientist who claims the moon really is made out of cheese.

Incredibly, this account is all too real as religious liberty in our military is being systematically targeted and undermined.

This incident occurred in April when Master Sergeant Charles Roberson retired from active duty at Travis Air Force base where he had served in the 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. In planning his retirement celebration, Roberson asked retired Senior Master Sergeant Oscar Rodriguez to deliver the flag-folding speech which is part of the retirement ceremony. Roberson had recently seen Rodriguez perform the flag-folding speech

at a friend’s retirement ceremony and was so moved by his presentation, he asked Rodriguez to make the same speech at his upcoming retirement. Rodriguez is also an Air Force veteran, having retired in 2013 after serving his country for 33 years. Because of his strong voice and inspiring presentation, Rodriguez is frequently asked to deliver the flag-folding speech at retirement ceremonies and other functions and has done so over 100 times. The recitation Rodriguez gave and that Roberson requested is the traditional flag-folding speech which ends with the quote at the top of this article.

However this time as Rodriguez began to deliver the speech, several uniform airmen dressed in fatigues rushed the stage and literally dragged him out of the room. Video of the incident shows Rodriguez continuing to recite the speech as he is pushed out the door. Mr. Rodriguez described the ordeal as “one of the most humiliating experiences of my life.”

What makes this even more egregious is that Rodriguez was in attendance as a private citizen dressed in civilian clothes, performing the speech at a private retirement ceremony – not an official Air Force function.

In another sign of the assault upon Christianity in the military, this standard flag-folding script was purged of any reference to God by the Pentagon in 2005. However, many service members prefer the traditional version and, until this incident, have the freedom to use the traditional version at their retirement ceremonies. In fact, as confirmed by Air Force spokesperson Ann Stefanek, “Air Force personnel may use a flag folding ceremony script that is religious for retirement ceremonies. Since retirement ceremonies are personal in nature, the script preference for a flag folding ceremony is at the discretion of the individual being honored and represents the member’s views, not those of the Air Force.”

However when Roberson’s squadron

commander, Lt. Colonel Michael Sovitsky, learned that Rodriguez would use the traditional speech mentioning God, Sovitsky attempted to pressure Roberson and told him Rodriguez couldn’t give the speech. However Roberson showed the mettle you’d expect from a U.S. service member and stood his ground, stating his desire to have Rodriguez perform the speech, as was his right.

As PJ Media reported, “Roberson and Rodriguez tried to clear the speech through higher authorities at Travis Air Force Base, even offering to place notices on the door informing guests that the word “God” would be mentioned. They never received a response from the authorities.”

First Liberty Institute, the largest law firm in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to defending religious liberty, is representing Mr. Rodriguez free of charge. First Liberty has sent a letter to the U.S. Air Force and to the commanding officer at Travis Air Force base promising legal action unless the following demands are met:

- (1) A written admission of wrongdoing and unlawful actions by the responsible member(s);**
- (2) A written apology to Mr. Rodriguez;**
- (3) A written assurance that, henceforth, no member of the 349th Air Mobility Wing will commit assault or battery against Mr. Rodriguez because he is attempting to engage in constitutionally protected conduct;**
- (4) Punitive action against those determined to be responsible for violating Mr. Rodriguez’s constitutional rights.**

“Mr. Rodriguez has a constitutional right to free speech and religious expression, even on a military base. The military broke the law and abused its power,” stated Mike Berry, director of military affairs for First Liberty.

Indeed, isn’t freedom exactly what our military is supposed to defend? As Mr. Rodriguez stated: *“I have given more than three decades of service to the military and*

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Air Force Fires on Freedom



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made many sacrifices for my country. To have the Air Force assault me and drag me out of a retirement ceremony simply because my speech included the word 'God' is something I never expected from our military. To even imagine that I would be removed while the American flag is being unfurled and open—the flag which represents freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press ... it's horrifying."

The very same freedom that these two men spent decades defending was denied to them.

This is but one of countless examples of open hostility to Christianity within the military under President Obama.

On June 8 the Pentagon held its annual LGBT pride ceremony in the Pentagon courtyard, as it has done for the past five years. God's name can no longer be mentioned in our military, but "Gay Pride Month" is celebrated. President Obama has forced his radical sexual agenda upon the military first with his executive repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and now by pushing for transgenders to openly serve in spite of the turmoil and adverse effects upon our fighting force. While the welcome mat is put out for LGBT recruits, Christians are literally being booted out the door. Our Commander-in-Chief has made it clear that the sexual preferences and perversions of servicemen and women will be protected, but not Christians' freedom to exercise their faith.

To see video of the assault upon Oscar Rodriguez and read a copy of the traditional flag-folding script, go to: <http://firstliberty.org/cases/rodriguez/>

Misquoted—Misrepresented—Mystery

by Steve Huston



Jesus was often misunderstood; as His followers, we should expect no less. We hear the Bible misquoted, Christians misrepresented, and yet it's still a mystery to me that in America there can be so much Biblical illiteracy. Leftist reporters, politicians, and their followers seem to run rampant in misusing Scripture and misrepresenting Christians both as a whole and individually.

Is it on purpose? Maybe sometimes, but when looking at some Barna data about the Bible, one wonders. According to the Barna Research Group (2014): Even though 88% of American households own a Bible (on average 4.7 Bibles per household), only 37% of Americans read it once a week or more. And only 19% of people read the Bible at least four times a week and believe it's the inspired Word of God.

Whether on purpose or through ignorance, the Christian will be misquoted or misunderstood, and sometimes both, even as our Master was. You may remember back in January of this year what Kathleen Parker had to say about presidential primary runner, Senator Ted Cruz.

Parker made this televised statement: *"One observation. ... Ted Cruz said something that I found rather astonishing. He said, you know, 'It's time for the body of Christ to rise up and support me.' I don't know anyone who takes their religion seriously who would think that Jesus should rise from the grave and resurrect himself to serve Ted Cruz. I know so many people who were offended by that comment. And you know if you want to talk about grandiosity and messianic self-imagery I think he makes ... Donald Trump look rather sort of like a gentle little lamb."*

Wow, misquoted, misrepresented, and misunderstood. Here's what Senator Cruz actually said, *"If we awaken and energize the body of Christ—if Christians and people of faith come out and vote our values—we will win and we will turn the country around."* Perhaps the biggest mystery is the silence of the three other participants; no one corrected her ... maybe they didn't understand what Senator Cruz was saying either.

These public misrepresentations are coming more frequently from the media and political realms to further their own unconstitutional and nefarious agendas. Most recently, we've seen this in relation to the Orlando shooting, with Omar Mateen.

Mateen was a self-identified radical Muslim with terrorist ties. The FBI investigated him—more than once—with no results. According to his ex-wife, he was abusive. He was a registered Democrat and came from an anti-American family.

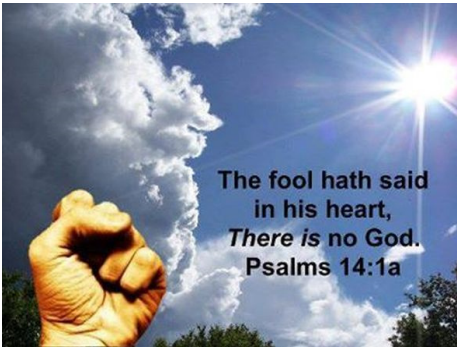
Yet what's the take away according to the politicians and the media on the Left? An attack on those who support the Second Amendment. Never mind that this nightclub was a gun-free zone; forget the fact that **just one armed citizen may have been able to stop Mateen's murderous rampage.** It doesn't matter that the cities which have the strictest gun laws are the cities that also have the highest crime, and that nations which embrace gun rights have lower incidents of violent crime.

In the wake of this shooting, by a registered Democrat, we see the Republicans blamed and the Democrat party filibuster for 15 hours as they promote stricter gun laws. Then these same politicians stage an unruly and chaotic sit-in, making business all but impossible until they succeed in making it difficult for law-abiding citizens to purchase firearms, infringing upon our constitutional right to bear arms.

What's the spin from our government and the Leftist media? Christianity is to blame, complete with the New York Times

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Misquoted—Misrepresented—Mystery



misquoting Scripture, stating that Romans calls for the execution of gays. Never mind that the Apostle Paul never called for the execution of homosexuals anywhere. Forget that Mateen called 9-1-1 aligning himself with radical Islamic terrorists. It doesn't matter that according to the Washington Post, Mateen called 9-1-1 stating, "I'm the shooter. It's me. I did it for ISIS. I did it for the Islamic State." Even though this self-proclaimed radical Muslim takes credit for the shooting and gives the reason behind it, the media says the fault lies at the feet of Republicans, Christians, guns, those who stand for traditional marriage...anywhere but at the feet of a radical, Islamic supremacist agenda and its terrorist followers.

Sean Davis of the Federalist sums it up well: "In the fantasyland of modern progressive politics, if a boy identifies as a girl, then he's a girl. But if a gay Muslim registered Democrat identifies as a martyr for the Islamic State, he's still a Republican." I would add, **and it's the Christians' fault.**

Why turn these events upside down? Why make the beauty of Christ look like the beast? **There's an underlying agenda to all this, the stripping away of the First Amendment, the crown jewel of the Bill of Rights.** In order to steal this precious jewel they must convince everyone that Christianity is a great danger and that it must be muted. After all, Romans **does say**—not misquoting or misrepresenting—"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (10:17) And the attack on the Second Amendment is the route to go because the right to bear arms

is, in part, the major defense of all our other rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Throughout history Christians have been accused and abused for speaking and living the truth. Darkness doesn't like to be dispelled and will cling to the corners as long as possible. It pushes against light trying its best to make itself look like merely a shadow instead of the darkness it is. Truth is seen to be evil and dark becomes gray in the minds of those who are deceived.

Michael Brown lays it on the line: "**Followers of Jesus do not pick and choose what we believe. As Augustine once commented, 'If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.'**"

It's not up to us to reinterpret a biblical truth because society doesn't like it or because it's considered out of fashion. It's not up to us to tell the Creator what's best for His creation or tell the Ruler of the universe how things on earth should go, nor is it our job to lecture the Judge of the world about justice."

As we see the illogical stance of the Left, as the media and politicians spin this world's events against us, as this evil agenda unfolds hoping to snuff out our light, don't stand amazed. Think upon the words of Ryle:

"The very same person who is quick and clever in worldly things will often utterly fail to comprehend the simplest thrust of Christianity. He will often be unable to take in the plainest reasonings of the gospel. He will see no meaning in the clearest statements of evangelical doctrine. They will sound to him either foolish or mysterious. He will listen to them like one listening to foreign language, catching a word here or there, but not seeing the whole (I Cor. 1:21)."

As darkness encroaches upon America, there's no overemphasizing the need for prayer and repentance within the church and our nation. As evil is spoken against us, remember the words of Jesus, "Love

your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

It's impossible to stop the false spin and the outright lies; don't be surprised. Instead, listen to what is said, speak and live the truth in love. Repent of apathy and anything the Spirit convicts you of; and pray, seeking the face of God. Pray for our nation, its leaders, and those who "despitefully use you, and persecute you."

Thinking of our desperate need for repentance, we encourage all to attend our summer conference on July 22 at the Harvest OPC church in Wyoming, Michigan. **Our nation, the Church, and we as individuals are in need of repentance and revival; it starts from the bottom up—it starts with you and me.** That's the theme of our summer conference, "**From the Bottom Up,**" and it will affect each one of us.

Save the date—July 22 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM—you don't want to miss out on this! Join us for a time of blessing at the Harvest OPC, located at 930 52nd Street SW in Wyoming MI. We're praying for and expecting a moving of God.

To register for this event contact American Decency at 231-924-4050; or email us at kimberly@americandecency.org; or feel free to sign up online at www.americandecency.org

We look forward to seeing you there; please join with us in prayer.

Conference Wrap-up! The Pursuit of Holiness

by Steve Huston



[Conference speakers]

WOW! As we encouraged you to come to the conference at the Shack June 3-5, we told you that it would be a blessing. It was! Amid the serene surroundings of The Shack, guests from as far as Indiana felt the peace of God and the stirring of the Spirit to further pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. **Many spoke of being blessed through the speakers and through times of interpersonal communication between sessions, at meals, or around a banana split in the evening.** It was wonderful to watch the Holy Spirit use individual attendees to sharpen one another and to encourage each other, sharing their personal experiences, neediness, and love for Jesus.

I was particularly blessed by the first speaker of the conference, Ron Workman, as he brought a message entitled *“Holiness is for you.”* He began by reminding us that “Be holy” is a command, not a request. Quotes from A.W. Tozer were well placed throughout his message; one of them being: *“We have learned to live with unholiness and come to look at it as an expected thing.”* In response to these things, Pastor Workman used Daniel as an example of how to be holy. His exhortations to holiness included: 1) Be a lover of God’s Word 2) Be a prayer warrior, interceding 3) Be a person of integrity—believing and trusting in God and 4) Be committed.

The last session of Friday evening was led by Ken Smith; his topic was *“Holiness is not optional.”* In his winsome and jovial manner, he strongly urged that as we pursue holiness, we must first pursue peace with all men. In other words, **we need to show love to people before correcting them.** Pastor Ken’s message was filled with Scripture, combined with his many counseling experiences, which made for a

sound and interesting presentation.

“The assault on holiness” was the first topic on Saturday morning, which I had the privilege to present. This message asked, “How have we moved so far from our national moorings of holiness to the unholy state we now find ourselves?” Looking at the assault on holiness from several fronts, I closed with the assault on personal holiness. How do we combat the assault on personal holiness? 1. With Scripture 2. With assurance 3. With Devotions as preventive maintenance 4. Like Elijah, recognizing that we always stand before the Living God.

Founder and head of the American Decency Association (ADA), Bill Johnson, was next, with a personal testimony and his call to begin this ministry as he spoke on “In the world but not of it.” With passion he shared of the ways in which the Holy Spirit has led and provided throughout the years. Bill shared his journey as he went from school teacher to working with the American Family Association (AFA) to founding the ADA. He shared about his personal struggles and how he gained victory through Jesus.



[ADA staff panel discussion]

Just before lunch, the ADA staff was interviewed in a panel discussion by Bill. Each one got their turn on the hot seat and, according to many in the conference seats, each was a blessing as they shared about their life, their views on various topics, and their love for the Lord was witnessed as they answered.

After lunch Ken Smith returned to the podium to talk about the *“Implications of pursuing or not pursuing holiness.”* As Pastor Smith broke out 2 Timothy 3:10-17, he began by talking about “falling on Christ

or Christ falling on you.” Admittedly, neither is a comfortable position but falling on Christ is certainly preferable to Christ falling on you. For me, the biggest take away from this session was, “Truth is truth and it’s self-authenticating.”

The final session—but not the final thing—was a panel discussion with the speakers and Bob Azkoul, the minister of music for the weekend. Bill asked questions about their pursuits of holiness, about their ministries, and families. It was interesting to hear their personal stories and how God has led them, worked and continues to work in and through them.

Saturday evening—the Grand Finale—All the sessions, questions, interpersonal conversations, and atmosphere of The Shack culminated in a beautiful moving of the Spirit on Saturday evening as Bob Azkoul led the group in a worship service of group singing, duets, solos, readings, and prayer.

For those who were able to stay until Sunday morning, Pastor Ken Smith opened the Word of God for us. It was a beautiful close to a precious weekend.

We at the American Decency Association would like to extend a huge thank you to all who came and participated in this event on pursuing holiness.

If you wish you could’ve been there, were only able to make it for a couple sessions, or would like to listen to these sessions again, they are available for purchase on CD or DVD. See the enclosed response card for information.

