

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

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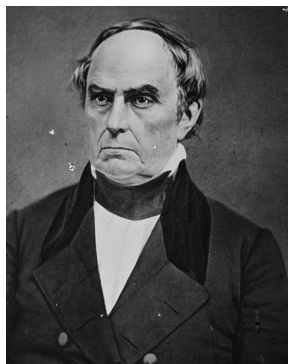


The Combined Wisdom of Daniel and Noah Webster

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

*"Whatever makes men good Christians,
makes them good citizens." - Daniel Webster*

If you are even a casual reader of my daily devotional messages, you know that I frequently use quotes by Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Not only was his theology "spot on", but he also had a gift for expressing deep spiritual truths in a rich and profound way.

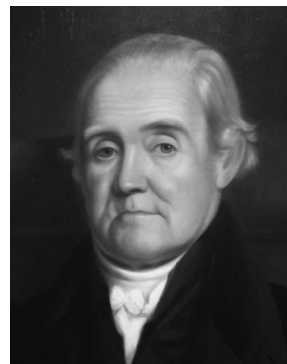


Over the years, you may have also gathered that I am politically active, having run for public office twice in New Jersey and once in Florida. Each time, my platform was a simple one: Faith, Family, and Freedom... and my positions on the various issues came straight from one of two different sources: the Bible and the U.S. Constitution.

Apparently, Charles Spurgeon and I were cut from the same cloth. One of my favorite Spurgeon quotes is "I often hear it said, 'Do not bring religion into politics.' This is precisely where it ought to be brought, and set there in the face of all men as on a candlestick." Sounds like the "Prince of Preachers" is applying Matthew 5:13-16 in very practical terms!

Many of our Founding Fathers thought the same way, linking their deep religious faith with the fight for liberty and independence. Among them were John and Sam Adams, John Hancock, John Jay, John Marshall, Patrick Henry, and Benjamin Rush... all of whom were strong evangelical Christians.

And then there was Noah Webster, Daniel's cousin, who compiled and edited our first dictionary and laid the foundation for the



American educational system. Here, in his own words, is what he thought about mixing religion, education, and governmental affairs...

"The moral principles and precepts

contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from - vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war - proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible."

"To give children a good education in manners, arts, science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties."

"Our liberty, growth, and prosperity was the result of a Biblical philosophy of life. Our

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Charles Spurgeon's Boiler Room

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

"We are miserable men if we miss the help of your prayers." - C.H. Spurgeon, referring to the dependence of pastors on the prayers of their congregations

Charles Spurgeon, who - with apologies to Charles Finney and D.L. Moody - was arguably the greatest preacher of the 19th century, was often called upon for advice by young men who were aspiring to become ministers themselves. Rather than hide from them the challenges awaiting them, Spurgeon emphasized the gravity of their calling.

"Brothers," he wrote, "our work is solemnly momentous, involving good or ill to thousands; we deal with souls for God on eternal business."

Likewise, Spurgeon urged his own congregation to lift him up in prayer regularly, earnestly, and fervently. "May God help me," he told his flock, "If you cease to pray for me! Let me know the day, and I must cease to preach. Let me know when you intend to cease your prayers, and I shall cry, 'O my God, give me this day my tomb, and let me slumber in the dust.'"



Here is a story that reinforces the importance that Spurgeon placed upon the intercessory prayers of his church members...

A group of young ministers came one day to visit his church. After showing them the massive sanctuary, Spurgeon offered to show them his "boiler room." The guests were not interested because boiler rooms were not pleasant places to visit. They were hot and dirty; usually located down in the basement. In Spurgeon's time, steam was the power source of the day; boiler rooms were the powerhouses, the driving forces of everything. Spurgeon led the young ministers down to the basement where they found about one hundred people in prayer. "This," Spurgeon said with a smile, "is my boiler room." Whenever Spurgeon was asked the secret of his ministry he always replied, "My people pray for me."

My friend, pastoring is a high - and often lonely - calling, one in which a man and his family are subject to stresses, strains, and spiritual warfare that laymen can only imagine. PLEASE PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR!!!

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine." I Timothy 5:17 (NKJV)

The Knot of Hatred

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

"I realized I had so many brothers running the same race with me, and I was not alone in this grieving."
- Manoj, an Indian Christian facing persecution for his faith

The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) serves persecuted Christians in areas of the world where it is both difficult and dangerous to follow Christ. Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his wife, Sabina, founded VOM in 1967 after being imprisoned for their Christian beliefs in Communist Romania. Over the past 58 years, VOM has told the stories of persecuted Christians, thereby inspiring a deeper commitment to Christ and the fulfillment of the Great Commission, no matter the cost.

One such story is that of Manoj, the Indian man quoted above. He and other Indian pastors were recently treated to a spiritual retreat held in a quiet and peaceful town in the Indian mountains. Ironically, they were transported there in an ambulance and housed in a hospital to convey to the attendees that they were there to be ministered to holistically.

Throughout India, pastors are routinely arrested... bringing shame, isolation, and financial insecurity to themselves and their families. They are often evicted from their homes and publicly beaten while their churches and homes are frequently vandalized. The relentless persecution in a country with severe anti-conversion laws that target Christians leaves deep physical and emotional scars.

"The most prominent lesson for me personally," Manoj

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Are You a Grumbler?

by Alistair Begg

“And all the people of Israel grumbled.”

- Numbers 14:2

There are grumblers among Christians now, just as there were in the camp of Israel of old. There are those who, when punished, cry out against the affliction. They ask, “Why am I afflicted? What have I done to be chastened in this manner?”

A word with you, grumbler! Why should you grumble against the dealings of your heavenly Father? Can He treat you more severely than you deserve? Consider what a rebel you once were, but He has pardoned you! Surely, if He in His wisdom considers it necessary to chasten you, you should not complain. After all, are you punished as severely as your sins deserve? Consider the corruption that is in your heart, and then will you wonder that so much of the rod is necessary to root it out? Weigh yourself, and discern how much dross is mingled with your gold; and do you think the fire is too hot to purge away the amount of dross you have? Doesn't your proud

rebellious spirit prove that your heart is not thoroughly sanctified? Aren't those grumbling words contrary to the holy, submissive nature of God's children? Isn't the correction necessary?

But if you will grumble against the chastening, pay attention, for it will go hard with grumblers. God always chastises His children twice if they do not respond properly the first time. But know this - “He does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.”¹ All His corrections are sent in love, to purify you and to draw you nearer to Himself. Surely it must help you to bear the chastening with submission if you are able to recognize your Father's hand. “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”² “...nor grumble the way some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.”³

1. Lamentations 3:33

2. Hebrews 12:6

3. 1 Corinthians 10:10

Devotional material is taken from “Morning and Evening,” written by C.H. Spurgeon, revised and updated by Alistair Begg. Copyright © 2003, Good News Publishers

The Combined Wisdom of Daniel and Noah Webster

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continued freedom and success is dependent on our educating the youth of America in the principles of Christianity.”

“In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government, ought to be instructed.”

In other words, as Daniel Webster said, good Christians usually make good citizens.

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.” Romans 13:1 (NKJV)

“Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.” I Timothy 2:2 (NLT)

The Knot of Hatred

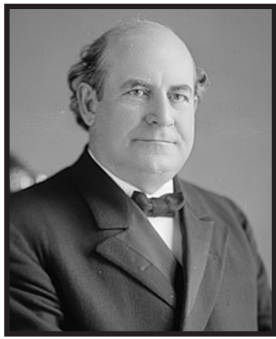
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said following the retreat, “was that we need to forgive people and let the past go so we can live a life full of freedom. The knot of hatred must be loosened.”

My friend, have you ever been abused physically or emotionally? Have you been ridiculed or persecuted for your faith? If so, I encourage you to learn two very important lessons from Manoj and his experiences.

First, you are not alone. Millions of others share in your pain and sorrow and as a result, can provide a listening ear or a shoulder to cry or lean on. There is truly safety in numbers. Second, as difficult as it may be, it is vital for your spiritual and emotional health that you seek to forgive your tormentors. Doing so will set you free and allow the healing process to begin in earnest.

“Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.” I Peter 5:7 (BSB)



A Tribute to William Jennings Bryan in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Indian River County's Incorporation

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

7 PM - 8:30 PM

Heritage Center

2140 14th Ave, Vero Beach

Featuring... a brief biography of William Jennings Bryan, 3-time candidate for President of the United States, U.S. Representative from Nebraska, and Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson

Also featuring... the biblical account of creation, as presented by William Jennings Bryan during the "Scopes Monkey Trial," by Eric Hovind of Creation Today

Also featuring... a brief history of IRC's incorporation by Col. Tony Young (ret.), former Mayor of Vero Beach

And... an extensive collection of William Jennings Bryan memorabilia from his remarkable life and three presidential campaigns

Tickets are \$10 and include light
refreshments

Visit www.risktakersforchrist.org
to purchase online



Join us for a 3-day Creation Camp!

June 30 - July 2

9 - 11:30 a.m.

Genesis Church in Vero Beach

- ▶ Ages 5-15
- ▶ \$15 per day / \$40 for all 3 days
- ▶ Two Bible-based lessons each day

Games - Snacks - Fun

Featuring Eric Hovind
from Creation Today



Midway Bible Fellowship

Proclaiming God's Truth & Demonstrating His Love

9:30 a.m. - Coffee & donuts

10 a.m. - Worship service

1950 S US Hwy 1, Vero Beach FL

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