

"THE WELCOME" OF THE WEST END BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE

Tom Mooty, Pastor



JULY 18, 2010

It is such a joy to greet you in the lovely name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We welcome you to the worship experience of West End today. We proudly stand for the fundamentals of the Christian Faith; and believe in and preach the Blood, the Book, and the Blessed Hope of Jesus' soon return (the Rapture - see above picture)

SCHEDULES OF COMING EVENTS

You are invited to participate in our choir practice at 9:30 on Sunday mornings; and then to attend our Bible Study Classes at 10:00. At 10:30, our "band" assembles for a Southern Gospel concert in the auditorium. The Sunday morning service begins at 10:57 and the live radio broadcast over WLIK opens at 11:01. After some great music and prayertime, Brother Tom begins his message for today's times: "A Warning Against Neglecting Spiritual Things".

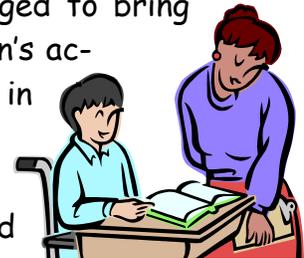
The Family Life Center and the Lion 'n Lamb Café are open for fellowship and activities this afternoon at 4:30; the Choir meets for practice at 5:00; and the Evening Service begins at 6:00 pm. After a great Praise and Worship time, Brother Tom will bring the message from Philippians.

The Family Life Center and Lion 'n Lamb Café are also up and running at 4:30 on Wednesday evenings. The classes for children, youth, and adults begin at 7:00. Everyone is welcomed.

Up-and-coming messages cooking in Brother Tom's oven are: *"Behold, The Lamb of God"* (July 25), *"Grace for the Grind"* (August 1), *"Christ Cleaned their Clocks"* (August 8), *"The Savior and the Serpent"* (August 15), and *"Busy Building Believers"* (August 22).

Our Vacation Bible School: *"Journey with Jesus"* was held yesterday; and we look forward to seeing some of the pictures and hearing some of the good stuff that was done. Great job everyone!

And speaking of children; you are invited and encouraged to bring your children and grand children to any and all of our children's activities. Whether it is one of our three classes for all ages in Sunday school; our nursery for the 0-3 year olds; or the Children's Church for children age 4 - grade 4; you are certain to be pleased with the results, and they will be instructed in the ways of the Lord on their levels.



ORIGINAL INTENT OF 1st AMENDMENT

When Thomas Jefferson was President; he received a letter from a group of Baptists in Danbury, Connecticut congratulating him and expressing their hope that his sentiments on religious liberty would "shine and prevail through all these States ..." Jefferson responded by penning the most explicit, clear and concise interpretation of the original intention of the First Amendment on record.

"Jan 1, 1802

"To messers. Nehemiah Dodge, Ephraim Robbins, & Stephen S. Nelson, a committee of the Danbury Baptist association in the state of Connecticut.

"Gentlemen,

"The affectionate sentiments of esteem and approbation which you are so good as to express towards me, on behalf of the Danbury Baptist association,

give me the highest satisfaction. My duties dictate a faithful and zealous pursuit of the interests of my constituents, and in proportion as they are persuaded of my fidelity to those duties, the discharge of them becomes more and more pleasing.

"Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof", thus building a wall of separation between Church & State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

"I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association, assurances of my high respect and esteem".

"Th Jefferson"

There is no more ominous defilement of our Constitution than that of the faulty notion of a "Wall of Separation" between our constitutional government and our Creator. It is "ominous" because if the knowledge of our Creator (which used to predominate in every educational institution) is constrained, then the general knowledge that liberty is "endowed by [our] Creator" will be equally diminished.

The founders' intent was that the central government would not appoint any state church by act of Congress: "Congress shall make no law..."

But judicial activists have been "interpreting" this First Amendment to suit their political agendas, placing severe constraints upon the free exercise of religion and invoking the obscure and wholly misrepresented "Wall of Separation" to expel outright religious practice from any and all public forums.

As noted by the late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court William Rehnquist, "The wall of separation between church and state is a metaphor based upon bad

history, a metaphor which has proved useless as a guide to judging. It should be frankly and explicitly abandoned. ... The greatest injury of the "wall" notion is its mischievous diversion of judges from the actual intention of the drafters of the Bill of Rights".

In 1796, George Washington admonished the citizenry to "indulge with caution the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion" He concluded that "both reason and experience forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in the absence of religious principle".

The founders affirmed many times, that the natural rights enumerated in our Declaration of Independence and, by extension, our Constitution, are endowed by our Creator.

Thomas Jefferson wrote: "God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time. ... Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever."

Alexander Hamilton insisted that man's rights are not guaranteed by "old parchments" written by man; but by the "hand of the Divinity itself; and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness - are natural rights given by God, not government".

Moreover, it was with firm regard to this deeply held belief that our Constitution was written and ratified "in order to secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." As such, it established a constitutional republic ruled by laws based on natural rights, not rights allocated by governments or those in positions of power.

John Quincy Adams wrote, "Our political way of life ... presupposes the existence of God, the moral ruler of the universe...".

Notably, the conviction that our rights are innately bestowed by "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," is enumerated in the constitutional preambles of every state in our Union.

But, for many decades, those who advocate a "living constitution" have tried to remove faith from every public quarter, ironically and erroneously citing the "Wall of Separation" metaphor - words from Jefferson's 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptists. The letter, in fact, denoted the barrier between federal and state governments, not a prohibition against faith expression in any and all public venues.

This is an attempt to remove the unmistakable influence of our Creator from all public forums, particularly government education institutions, and thus, over time, to disabuse belief in a sovereign God and the notion of natural rights. This erosion of knowledge about the origin of our rights, the very foundation of our country and basis of our Constitution, has dire implications for the future of liberty.

(Written by Mark Alexander; adapted by Tom Mooty)

Our new church website can be accessed at www.webbaptistchurch.org. It is currently "under construction" as we upload more and more information to the site. If you would like a free e-mail service through this site, please see Sharon Ellison about that; and if you had e-mail on the old site (which is gone), you need to allow Sharon to move you to the new site.

FIVE MINUTES WITH TOM MOOTY



We are able to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the Thursday edition of the "Newport Plain Talk". You are invited and encouraged to clip these columns and share them with friends and family. If you have Internet, you can view them through our website: www.webbaptistchurch.org. However you do it, please share these columns with everyone you can. The title for this week's column is "Each Man Get a Man".

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