



HOW IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO!

June 2016

President Reagan's remarks on lighting the National Christmas Tree, Dec. 12, 1985. - From Legal Alert (12/06).

"My fellow Americans, thank you for joining Nancy and me on this festive evening. The menorah stands lighted in Lafayette Park, for this is also the time of Hanukkah, and this season is rich in the meaning of our Judeo-Christian tradition. In a moment we'll be lighting the National Christmas Tree, carrying forward what is now a 62-year tradition first begun by Calvin Coolidge. Tonight we are drawn in warmth to one another as we reflect on the deeply holy meaning of the miracle we shall soon celebrate. We know that Mary and Joseph reached the stable in Bethlehem sometime after sunset. We do not know the exact moment the Christ Child was born... Suddenly, a star from Heaven shining in our eyes, shining with brilliant beauty across the skies, a star pointing toward eternity in the night, like a great ring of pure and endless light, and then all was calm and all was bright. Such was the beginning of one solitary life that would shake the world as never before or since. When we speak of Jesus and of His life, we speak of a man revered as a prophet and a teacher by people of all religions, and Christians speak of someone greater -- a man who was and is divine. He brought forth a power that is infinite and a promise that is eternal, a power greater than all man's military might, for His power is Godly love, love that can lift our sorrows and heal our wounds and drive away our fears. He promised there would never be a long night that does not end. He promised to deliver us from dark torment and tragedy into the warming sunlight of human happiness, and beyond that, into paradise. He has never been a halfway giver; His generosity is pure and perfect and sure.

This, then expresses the true meaning of Christmas. If each of us would give but a fraction to each other of what He gave to the whole human family, how many hearts would heal, how much sorrow and pain could be driven away? There's still time for joy and gladness to touch a sad and lonely soul, still time to feed a hungry child, to wrap a present for a kind old man feeling forlorn and afraid, and to reach out to an abandoned mother raising children on her own. There's still time to remember our Armed Forces, to express our profound gratitude to those who keep watch on faraway frontiers of freedom... They are not and never will be forgotten. And there is still time to remember the deepest truth of all: that there can be no prisons, no walls, no boundaries separating the members of God's family. Let us reach out tonight to every person who is persecuted; let us embrace and comfort, support and love them. Let us come together as one family under the Fatherhood of God, binding ourselves in a communion of hearts... May we give thanks for an America abundantly blessed, for a nation united, free, and at peace. May we carry forward the happiness of the Christmas spirit as the guiding star of our endeavors 365 days a year. As we light this magnificent tree, may all the youthful hope and joy of America light up the heavens and make the angels sing. Merry Christmas, God bless you all. And now we are going to light the tree." (Ed. Note, it was not a Holiday Tree).

Ed. We'd not agree with every statement above, but it shows that only a few years ago Christianity was permissible in public life. Can you imagine a public official speaking like that today, when Christ, Christmas and everything related to Christianity is being banished from public life? The Constitution doesn't require hostility to Christianity!

FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE

JULY 10 – 15, 2016

Sunday: 9:30, 10:45 & 6:00

Mon.-Fri: 10:00, 11:00, 7:00

Refreshments under the tent - 10:45

THEME:

**“IT IS TIME TO
SEEK THE LORD”**

SEVERAL SPEAKERS * SPECIAL MUSIC

FELLOWSHIP TIME * REFRESHMENTS

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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE!

A preacher told of an old country store that had this sign over the door: *“There is no place anywhere near this place like this place so this must be the place.”* He suggested it ought to be placed on the Church. The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence. If we stop to think about it, we would probably not want to trade places with anyone else. One man became dissatisfied with his house and put it up for sale. Then, he began to look for another house. He saw one advertised which was the house of his dreams. How shocked he was to find it was his old house. Let's all take the attitude, *“There's no place like this place...It's not perfect, still, there's no place like this place”*

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

“Don't approach a goat from the front; a horse from the rear or a fool from any side.” -See Proverbs 26:4,5.

Some people are like a wheelbarrow: No good unless pushed and easily upset.

Honesty is still the best policy, but sad to say, many are satisfied with less than the best.

Better never to have been born at all than never to have been born again!

“Statistics show that 10,000 people are killed by liquor where only one is killed by a mad dog. Yet we shoot the dog and license the liquor dealer. What sense is this?”

Blessed is the man who has nothing worth saying and who is able to refrain from saying it.

The closer you get to God, the further you will get from this present evil world.

THE FAITH WAY IS GOD'S WAY. It is God's way to have your sins forgiven – have faith in Christ and His death on the cross for your sins. It is the way to live the Christian life. God says, **“Without faith is impossible to please Him.”** ~Hebrews 11:6. A school teacher gave three bright students a difficult problem. He said, “You will find it very hard, but I promise you there is a way to solve the problem.” After several attempts without success, one of them gave up saying, “There is no way!” A little later, the second pupil also gave up. He said, “I think it can be done but I do not know how.” The third student worked on for some time and though he was somewhat worn out, labored on saying, “I know there is a way because the Master has said it.” We believe and act upon the Word of God because it is the work of the Master. If the Master, the Lord Jesus has said it, it must be so! One of the simplest definitions of faith I know is: “taking God at His Word.” It has been said: “God said it, I believe it; that settles it!” I think a better statement is, “God said it; that settles it!” The Bible says concerning the Christian: **“For we walk by faith and not by sight.”** ~II Corinthians 5:7. I John 5:4 says: **“...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”** C.T. Studd said: “Yes, let us ever see the impossible, Yes, the utterly impossible, and then go to God and ask Him to do it. This glorifies Him, magnifies Him, or gives Him a chance to magnify Himself – which is best of all.”

ONE SERIOUS SIN! What is it? It is a lack of Faith. We pray but we don't believe God is going to answer' **“Without Faith it is impossible to please Him...”** ~Hebrews 11:6. Without this we are only getting what we can do – not what God can do and wants to do. The Christian life is supposed to be a life of Faith!

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

HARVARD PROF ON HOW LIBERALS SHOULD TREAT CONSERVATIVES.

A Harvard law professor has proposed dealing with what he calls conservative “losers in the culture wars” with a hard line similar to what was done to Germany and Japan after World War II. His suggestion comes in a blog post at [Balkanization](#) outlining what he says should be an abrupt change in mindset of liberal thinkers to finally abandon “defensive-crouch constitutionalism” in a desire to shape the courts and their rulings. Prof. Mark Tushnet says now that the courts are dominated by those appointed by Democratic presidents, it is time for judges to stop worrying about reversal by the Supreme Court if they take aggressively liberal positions. In the blog post, Tushnet, one of the more controversial figures in constitutional theory, writes: “For liberals, the question now is how to deal with the losers in the culture wars... My own judgment is that taking a hard line (“You lost, live with it”) is better than trying to accommodate the losers, who — remember — defended, and are defending, positions that liberals regard as having no normative pull at all. “Trying to be nice to the losers didn’t work well after the Civil War, nor after Brown (And taking a hard line seemed to work reasonably well in Germany and Japan after 1945).” NewsMax (5/12/16) Ed. Harvard is the epitome of liberal thought. The campus is less than five miles from our Church. They like compromise until they come into the dominant place.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ORDERS PUBLIC SCHOOL BATHROOMS BE OPEN TO TRANSGENDERS.

The Obama administration on Friday ordered every public school district in the United States to allow transgender students to use the bathrooms that match the gender identity they have chosen. “No student should ever have to go through the experience of feeling unwelcome at school or on a college campus,” Education Secretary John King Jr. [told The New York Times in a statement late Thursday.](#) “We must ensure that our young people know that whoever they are or wherever they come from, they have the opportunity to get a great education in an environment free from discrimination, harassment and violence.” “There is no room in our schools for discrimination of any kind, including discrimination against transgender students on the basis of their sex,” Attorney General Loretta Lynch said in a statement accompanying the directive. The order, signed by the Education and Justice departments, describes what school districts should do to ensure that no students are

discriminated against. It will not have the force of law, but carries an implicit threat: Schools not abiding by the Obama administration’s interpretation of the law could face lawsuits or a loss of federal aid. The decree comes amid the administration’s battle with North Carolina over transgender rights and is most likely to renew attacks by Republicans that the White House is involving itself in state issues. The Justice Department and North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory sued each other over the transgender bathroom law he signed in March. The law requires transgender people to use the public restroom matching the sex on their birth certificate. The ordinance only applies to schools, universities, government buildings and highway rest stops. NewsMax (5/13/16). Ed. We wonder when God is going to say enough!

TRANSGENDERS IN THE MILITARY.

The Pentagon is four months past one deadline — and looking at months more — to agree on how to move forward with new policies aimed at allowing transgender service members to openly serve, [The Washington Post](#) reports. Disagreements still exist within the Defense Department about how to proceed. “If there was consensus on it, yeah, we would have done it,” Peter Levine told the Washington Post. “But obviously there are different views from different officials in the services.” Levine, the Pentagon’s acting personnel chief, said the goal is to get it done “in this administration,” meaning President Obama’s second and final, which puts Defense Secretary Ashton Carter on the clock. Waiting in the balance are an estimated 12,800 transgender military members, according to the Palm Center, an independent think tank. One major issue, among many, at the center of disagreement between military branches is how long should a transgender service member wait post-transition before being allowed to join the military. The Army and Marine Corps advocated 24 months while the Navy and Air Force thought 12 months was sufficient, according to the Post. NewsMax (5/16/16)

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!

There is a lot of “News You Should Know About” but we can only include a small portion in the Challenge. However, if you will look on our website you will find two whole pages every month: www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org. If you do not have internet, we will be happy to send it to you if you will send us a self addressed, stamped envelope. Believe me, there is a lot of news that you ought to know about every month. The items we include relate to religion, morality, governmental issues, and more. We need to take a stand in these evil days!

A PARDON THAT DID NO GOOD

Over one hundred and fifty years ago in Pennsylvania a man was convicted of murder while committing a train robbery. Back in those days the country was a little more interested in law and order than today; he was sentenced to die. But there was an appeal made to Andrew Jackson, President of United States. Jackson granted the guilty man, George Wilson, a pardon. But Wilson refused to receive it. He said that he wanted to die and argued that he wasn't pardoned until he accepted it and this he refused to do. Nothing like this had ever happened before. Who ever heard of a murderer refusing a pardon? The State's attorney said the law was silent on that so, it was taken to the U.S. Supreme Court. The celebrated John Marshall, Chief Justice, handed down this decision: "*A pardon is just a piece of paper unless it is accepted by the person which is implicated. If he refuses the pardon, then, it is not a pardon. George Wilson must hang.*" And he was hanged! Over 2,000 years ago the Son of God, Jesus Christ, died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world, *for your sins*, and because of that fact, God offers you a pardon. **"In whom (Christ) we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."** ~*Colossians 1:14*. Will you receive God's wonderful offer? God says, **"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."** You don't have to reject this pardon like George Wilson did - all you have to do is neglect it. Refuse to take it. The Bible warns: **"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation."** Receive Christ and His pardon right now!

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FIND YOUR PLACE AND FILL IT

The Bible says, **"Let us not be desirous of vain glory."** Gal.5:26. I remember reading of an incident that happened during the Civil War. A certain man wired President Lincoln saying that he was volunteering to serve as a General in the Union Army. Mr. Lincoln wired him back saying that they already had plenty of generals, but they did need a lot of good privates. The Bible also exhorts: **"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..."** ~*Romans 12:3*. The Church needs leaders, but it needs a lot more followers, foot-soldiers. Over the years, I have seen any number of individuals who would have made excellent "privates" (or corporals, etc.) but they insisted on being "generals." In Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12 we are told that the Church (the local Church, there is no Scriptural universal church) is one body with many members and the members are given gifts by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishing of God's will. Please note that it is God who gives the gifts; we do not select for ourselves where or how we are to serve. I believe it is quite evident that every member has at least one gift. There are no useless members in the Body of Christ. You may labor diligently, but if it is in a place which God has not given you, will He be pleased? Will the Lord reward someone for performing some service that was not God's will? Let us all find the place God has for us and then do our best to fulfill it faithfully. If you are saved and have not been baptized and/or are not a member of a local Fundamental (Baptist) Church, you are out of the will of God!