

Oregon Bible Conference. Freedom in Christ, part 1.

It should be stated right off that the government of the United States is not God. The analogies that I am drawing here is about the attacks of Satan against the Church's freedom in Christ and the citizens freedom in the United States. Government is not something to be worshipped or blindly served, but is only an instrument that should neither grant favors and gifts, but serves the goals of the citizens and protects their natural rights.

Freedom requires a continuity of established natural rights that are immutable and perpetual.

For America, the Declaration of Independence establishes these rights and the Constitution protects them. These documents must be immutable and the meaning within them are perpetual and cannot be altered. In the same way the word of God establishes the supernatural rights of the born again believer.

Over the centuries, many have attempted to change the word of God, add to it, take away from it, or to just simply change its meaning, yet God has preserved His word and therefore, our rights unto freedom are preserved.

The United States is the oldest country in history that has a continuous constitution. The reason for our continuity is certainly not the people but the things written in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

The Church has continuity and remnants of true freedom in every generation due to the immutable things written in the word of God and is certainly not due to Christians.

In 1763 England won a war with France [7 Years War including the French and Indian War], yet as with all wars it was costly and so with its increased debt and increased power, or so they thought, England decided to tax and regulate the colonies. There was 13 years of crisis in the colonies where they were taxed and tyrannically regulated.

England attempted tyrannical regulation and taxation of the colonies and Satan attempted the same with mankind.

When Satan rebelled against God he likely thought he could pull it off. His new found independence was kindled when God created man. God created man in His image and with a free-will or self determination. Since man could choose could not man also choose to turn from worship of God, rebel against God, and then turn to worship Satan? Satan set out to change the hearts of God's perfect human creatures in order to join him in rebellion against God and so he taxed man with false words.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

Gen 3:3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'"

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Yet, as with England, Satan's taxation of words only went so far. They motivated man to rebel against God but they did not cause man to attach himself to Satan's tyranny.

Man separated from God but not all men attached themselves to Satan's tyranny. God brought the call of freedom to fallen man through blood sacrifice.

England made money but the tension caused the colonies to rise up against England in the War of Independence rather than attaching themselves to England. Great minds stepped in with ideas of freedom and such ideas that opened the eyes of some to a once in a world history opportunity to establish a government that was never seen before. A government that preserved the natural and inalienable rights of every man rather than infringing upon those rights as almost all governments before them had.

Without the divine inspiration of freedom they would have only exchanged one tyranny for another, as the early states did.

As truth stepped in to save liberty for America, so God stepped in to save mankind from tyranny to Satan, to other men, and to their fallen natures.

"The expression of that principle, in our Declaration of Independence, was most happy, and fortunate. Without this, as well as with it, we could have declared our independence of Great Britain; but without it, we could not, I think, have secured our free government, and consequent prosperity. No oppressed, people will fight, and endure, as our fathers did, without the promise of something better, than a mere change of masters." [Abraham Lincoln, *Fragment on the Constitution and the Union*]

In the case of Adam and the woman, God stepped in with an animal sacrifice and thus revealed to them a form of freedom that angels had never witnessed before; a freedom through the grace gift of a God sent atonement through sacrifice of the innocent on behalf of the guilty.

America fought England for 8 years and in 1783 the Treaty of Paris established us as a free nation. Adam and the woman and their sons Able and Seth offered the proper sacrifices and through faith signed a treaty with God and established their own freedom through dependence upon God through a grace that fulfilled the justice of God by means of a blood covenant through sacrifice.

Now, all fallen men could find freedom in their souls through dependence upon God's plan of redemption.

Cain went the way of Satan and became a murderer. There is evil in this world because men and angels are fallen and there is a greater amount of evil in this world because men and angels choose it. Without free-will there cannot be a relationship dependent upon God, yet that same free-will gives man the opportunity to say no to God.

James Madison wrote:

"Religion or the duty which we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence." [James Madison]

A coerced witness always becomes a witness for the other side.

God is revealing His righteousness and justice through us and not being coerced makes that witness true.

I firmly believe that when Satan saw our victory in 1783 and the ratification of our constitution in 1789 and the amendments known as the Bill of Rights in 1791 he set a plan in motion to destroy the independence and freedom of the American citizen.

Just as the crafty serpent in the Garden did not charge straight at the target and demand that Eve eat the fruit neither did he charge straight at destroying the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. There had to be a way to create division and to bend the strict adherence to the Constitution which protects the freedom of the unalienable rights of the Declaration of Independence.

The assertion of that *principle*, at *that time*, was *the* word, "*fitly spoken*" which has proved an "apple of gold" to us. The *Union*, and the *Constitution*, are the *picture* of *silver*, subsequently framed around it. The picture was made, not to *conceal*, or *destroy* the apple; but to *adorn*, and *preserve* it. The *picture* was made *for* the apple—*not* the apple for the picture. [Abraham Lincoln, *Fragment on the Constitution and the Union*]

Alexander Hamilton said that the rights named in both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution "are not to be rummaged for, among old parchments," but rather "they are written, as with a sun beam, in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of divinity itself."

What issue could he use to cause division? He found the answer in lust for wealth which included the slavery issue. How could he bend and shift and lessen the strict adherence to the Constitution while keeping it? He found the answer in progressivism. His plan is to divide and conquer and he has used the same plan against the individual believer and the organism that is the body of Christ or the Church.

Satan's attack on the DOI and Constitution:

Cause division - lust for wealth through the slavery issue.

Soften the documents - Progressivism.

Has not Satan gone after the Church in the same way? He has worked to cause division while simultaneously attacking the word of God, not to remove it, but to soften its rigidity of truth through liberal theology, existentialism, false criticism, etc.

In 1820 two ideas came together in order to bring trouble. Those who believed that slavery was a good thing began to increase. The impetus for this came with the new territories to the west. In order to make slavery work you have to have a large set of laws for slavery, which include laws the behavior of slaves, for owners, and for patrols who enforce those laws. The great question of the time was if there were going to be laws in the new territories to the west that protected slavery or not? All of the founders, even slave owners, condemned the institution of slavery and hoped for a peaceful abolishment of it while maintaining the unity of the country.

NW Ordinance map

The NW Ordinance, which was adopted by the Congress in 1787, was set forth as a model for the expansion of the American republic. It provided a governing structure for the territory that would later become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. It prohibited slavery, protected religious liberty, and encouraged education. However, the slave owner who wanted to expand west would not be able to use his slaves in these territories and so they reasoned that the rights of the Declaration of Independence did not apply to the African man. They reasoned that at some time long ago the African may have been equal with the European, but man is a product of time and conditions and that time and conditions shape us [progressivism] and some became inferior. So it is only right that the inferior be ruled by the superior, which of course was them.

The slavery issue really boils down to wealth at the expense of another man's freedom and not so much the color of a man's skin or his country of origin.

The great cash crops of cotton and tobacco were labor intensive and they wear out the soil and so much land and cheap labor is needed to continue to grow it. The industries in the north were not near as labor intensive since the growing season is much shorter than in the south.

And so the lust for wealth became a place of division and eventually a civil war. Satan has succeeded to use the lust for wealth and power to divide the church as well.

We are not free when we serve earthly masters above our Lord and Savior.

We can only be free when we submit to our true Master. One can't have two masters. To serve mammon is to be a slave to the world system and its ruler.

1Ti 6:3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

1Ti 6:4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

1Ti 6:5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

1Ti 6:6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

1Ti 6:7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

1Ti 6:8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

1Ti 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare [trap - loss of freedom] and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge [drown, plunge into the deep] men into ruin and destruction [loss of well being].

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang [sorrows or pains].

Heb 13:5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

Heb 13:6 so that we confidently say,
"The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.
What shall man do to me?"

Luk 16:13

"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

In 1789 there were 5 free states in the north and 8 slave states. By 1858 there were 15 free states in the north and 17 slave states in the south and in 1861 the Civil War broke out and in four years of bloody battle over one million casualties (3% of the population) were caused.

After the war and the very difficult reconstruction, the idea that man's rights can change over time and with conditions was not lost.

It continued in the progressive movement.

Progressivism: humans and society are evolving and with modern science we can control changing man and create the best society for the time.

This is an idea, hatched long before Darwin's book, that human beings are evolving and society is evolving and that with the tools of modern science we can control the changing man and his society in order to make it the best possible for the time.

This ingenious strategy forces one to look at the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution as good for the time but no longer good for our time. Darwin's Origin of the Species was published in 1859, which was a great help to the progressive movement. The movement began in America around 1880 and has culminated in today's American administrative state.

Satan has assumed the same attack on the Church and the word of God. He has encouraged false ministers to amalgamate the word of God with the world. The thought is to harmonize the word of God with the current needs of man and his latest debates, and to attract the youth by addressing their current preoccupations. Man's culture may change and man's technology may change but man does not change.

Progressives sought to enlarge vastly the scope of the national government for the purpose of responding to a set of economic and social conditions that, it was contended, could not have been envisioned during the founding era, and for which the Founders' limited, constitutional government was inadequate.

While the Founders had posited what they held to be a permanent understanding of just government, based upon a fixed account of human nature, the Progressives countered that the ends and scope of government were to be defined anew in each historical epoch.

God does not change and man hasn't evolved, nor will he ever, and so the principles in the word of God do not change just as natural rights do not change since both emanate from God.

1Sa 15:29

And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."

Mal 3:6

"For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Statute and statue are cognates in Latin meaning to set something firmly in place. In fact with the prefix con, constitution is also a cognate of these words. The word of God has perpetual statutes.

For Israel:

Exo 27:21

In the tent of meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall keep it [candlestick] in order from evening to morning before the Lord; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout their generations for the sons of Israel.

"Perpetual statute" is a phrase used often in the OT.

For the Church forever:

Eph 3:21

to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Heb 7:24-25

but He, on the other hand, because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Heb 13:7-8

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

1Pe 5:11

To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1Jo 2:17

And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

A statute and a statue have a lot in common.

Constitution, statute [doctrine], and statue are cognates in Latin – set something firmly in place.

Everything that is made has four causes: Material, Efficient, Formal, and Final.

A wonderful way of seeing these together is in the example of a statue or sculpture.

Michelangelo's David

Material cause: What's it made of?

David - white marble

America - land and people

God's plan - believers

The white marble depicts purity.

Efficient cause: Who accomplished it?

David - Michelangelo

America - Founders

God's plan - Christ

Formal cause: What should it look like?

David - young hero of Israel

America - Constitution

God's plan - love

David looks like David with the subtle points to it that bring out awe, imagination, fierceness, beauty, God's providence, etc. America looks like the three branches of government. The form is the constitution – it is the way it operates. British kind – executive is inside the legislature. Russian – duma which is independent from Putin, but not in reality. Hitler's government – absolute dictator. All different forms which affect the way it looks.

Why did Michelangelo make the David? It must have been very hard. Painting the cysteine ceiling almost killed him. He loved it. He loved the notion of making it. God loved the notion of saving us and making a plan by which we would be free although fallen.

Final cause: The love of the idea.

David - Michelangelo loved the idea of making it.

America - Founders loved freedom.

God's plan - God is love.

For America it is the DOI. It begins with all time and all people. They loved the law of nature and nature's God. No matter how weak or strong I am, I may not be governed without my consent. I have been endowed with

certain unalienable rights by God, who is stronger than the strongest and most powerful man. If America was to defeat the greatest empire in the world they needed divine help and the founders knew this.

All three are revolutionary in the way of being something that the world has never seen before. All three are conservative in that they belong to permanent principles that do not progress or change and are forever. The first two will not last forever, but God's plan will.

Madison on constitution – we're going to be a big country and this makes us talk out loud, candidly, with no back-room whispering. A lot of people will hear and this will tend for us to make better arguments. The branches are going to have to coordinate. Politicians are elected at different times and for different lengths of time so they're going to have to talk to one another and it will place controls on the government. We need those controls because government is a profound reflection on human nature. Men are not angels and angels do not govern men. The process will discipline us and reason will have to control passion.

George III – he was born to be the king and because of that we have to do what he says. No one is born that way. Jefferson – men are not horses.

Part 2: The theory of the declaration and the constitution.

Satan attempts to destroy the prosperity and strength that comes from equality and liberty. And he has had the same strategy in the Church and in the nation.

Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Someone bullied the Galatians back into the yoke of the Mosaic Law and they were convinced that it was the source of justification.

God has declared that the Law has been abolished and that a righteous life that brings glory to Him is by means of grace in freely receiving the word of God and the filling ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Gal 3:1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

Only a fool gives up his natural right to liberty.

Gal 3:2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Gal 3:4 Did you suffer so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain?

Gal 3:5 Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

The freedom to assemble as you are (minimal standards) and to be as you are (minimal standards of manners) in the local assembly guarantees liberty. The lack of hierarchy that is found in many large denominations guarantees liberty as a believer can leave one assembly that he feels is not teaching the truth and choose another one. Yet, as it is in our current school system, churches of certain denominations are forced to teach the same doctrines, even if they are deemed false by the clarity of the word of God.

Gal 2:4 But it was because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.

We all face the question of pleasing God or pleasing men. People have a way of pressuring others into their belief system for acceptance and ridiculing those who don't conform. The fast ascension of political correctness in our country is a prime example of this.

Gal 1:10

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

God will always provide prepared pastor-teachers to those with positive volition. They will teach the unadulterated word of God from its historical, categorical, and exegetical text. None of them have 100% knowledge but their variance will only be the areas of conjecture and not on sound doctrines that are clearly revealed in the word of God.

There are seven parts to the theory of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in our study.

A. Freedom comes from the clear understanding of Scripture. Satan can't remove it entirely, so the attack is to change the meaning of words.

The Declaration of Independence stated the natural law and the constitution protected those laws.

Declaration of Independence contained the moral fabric of state and federal constitutions.

The first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence:

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

Conservatives and liberals both disagree on different parts, especially the definition of equal. What is important is to know what the founders meant by the word "equal" and "equality."

The believer is to determine what the words of the word of God mean as God meant them through the writers of Scripture. To assist the Church in this, God has given the gift of pastor teacher. God makes sure that in every generation there are prepared PT's with proper motivation who diligently study and teach through a careful exposition of context, original language, and history.

1Pe 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

1Pe 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

1Pe 5:3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

Being a pastor is a career in the capitalistic sense but a life of service and so is the job of a politician, but this has been perverted by opportunities for power and wealth.

2Pe 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

2Pe 2:2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

2Pe 2:3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

2Pe 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter;

2Pe 2:7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

2Pe 2:8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day with their lawless deeds),

2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

2Pe 2:10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

2Pe 2:11 whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

2Pe 2:12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

2Pe 2:13 suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you,

2Pe 2:14 having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

2Pe 2:15 forsaking the right way they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness,

2Pe 2:16 but he received a rebuke for his own transgression; for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.

2Pe 2:17 These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

2Pe 2:18 For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,

2Pe 2:19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

2Pe 2:21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.

2Pe 2:22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

False doctrine uses the same Bible and the same terms as true doctrine just like progressives in our day use the same words with different definitions.

Liberals see "equality" as declared in the Declaration of Independence as not going far enough. Generally they want the definition to include the UN 1948 universal declaration of rights which include a right to social security, rest, leisure, standard of living, untraditional marriage, health care, etc. Equality has become affirmative action. Labor has changed from a free exchange of labor and wages to quotas, minimum wages, and piles of regulation. If someone refuses to work when capable the government must provide public housing and transportation.

To the founders, liberty was the right to be free from the coercive interference of others. They didn't think it included a right of money and services except in extreme cases.

Our constitution of 1787 stated that state government handle domestic policy while the feds handle foreign policy. In this way, a person who disagreed with a state government would have the freedom to move to another that had better policy. In the same way there was to be no organization to the Church other than individual local assemblies. God gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers. The apostles and prophets are long gone. Evangelists' ministries are unto the unbeliever wherever God leads him, though he may be affiliated with a certain local assembly. Therefore, the local assembly is headed by the pastor-teacher and the believer can cast his vote for or against him by attending his messages or not.

B. God provides many local assemblies in order to remove tyranny of the majority. Satan's attack on this is denominations that provide buildings and money to charters who will teach their doctrines.

Federalist 51, James Madison

It is of great importance in a republic not only to guard the society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of the society against the injustice of the other part. Different interests necessarily exist in different classes of citizens. If a majority be united by a common interest, the rights of the minority will be insecure. There are but two methods of providing against this evil: the one by creating a will in the community

independent of the majority—that is, of the society itself; the other, by comprehending in the society so many separate descriptions of citizens as will render an unjust combination of a majority of the whole very improbable, if not impracticable.[end quote]

Madison goes on to say that the first is usually accomplished through self-appointed authority or a power independent of society, like a monarch.

I find it interesting that God does not turn out the power or somehow shut down churches who claim to be Christian and who are teaching false doctrine. Just as He preserved His word with many copies and not one preserved original so He has preserved His church and His doctrine through a vast number of churches. Though Satan has attempted to unify them under one monarch throughout all history, he has constantly failed to do so fully. And although he will be successful in this during the Great Tribulation it will be an utter disaster.

Madison goes on to say:

The second method will be exemplified in the federal republic of the United States. Whilst all authority in it will be derived from and dependent on the society, the society itself will be broken into so many parts, interests, and classes of citizens, that the rights of individuals, or of the minority, will be in little danger from interested combinations of the majority. In a free government the security for civil rights must be the same as that for religious rights. It consists in the one case in the multiplicity of interests, and in the other in the multiplicity of sects. The degree of security in both cases will depend on the number of interests and sects; and this may be presumed to depend on the extent of country and number of people comprehended under the same government. [end quote]

C. God gives each believer a new life in Christ, a new spiritual liberty, and the potential of divine happiness. Satan's attack is to change the meaning of these words.

Second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Since words could not be changed without either changing or removing the whole document Satan set out on a course to change the definition of words one would think are so simple and clear that this would be impossible; men and equal.

Most of the theoretical works authored by Progressives begin with a critique of natural rights principles.

Not many have had the gall that W. Wilson had in an address ostensibly honoring Thomas Jefferson:

"if you want to understand the real Declaration of Independence, do not repeat the preface." [first two paragraphs] W. Wilson.

In other words, do not repeat that part of the Declaration that enshrines natural rights as the focal point of just government not only for the founding era, but for all time.

Equality is not protected by governments or a product of law, but a right of every human being from birth. In the same way, no person can determine equal privilege and opportunity for another person. God has given this equality at the second birth which every believer has the privilege and opportunity to enjoy from the moment they believe in Christ. It does not guarantee happiness but it does guarantee the pursuit of it. And unlike governments, God's freedom to pursue happiness is eternal. It is provided for no matter what circumstances may be since it is a legacy of the new creature in the soul. So no matter what happens, even if earthly freedoms are removed, even if in prison or captured or handicapped in some fashion, God provides the pursuit of freedom for all of His children.

Changing God's words: life does not mean experiencing the life beyond dreams. Liberty does not mean doing anything you want. Happiness is not for those who reject God's will.

All things work together for good to those that love God. Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man all that God has prepared for those who love Him. Life is the new life and liberty is the new spiritual liberty, but a believer must learn and put his faith in the word of God in order to experience the fullness of these in time.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death [life and liberty].

Rom 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 8:4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit [pursuit of happiness].

Isa 61:1-2

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives,
And freedom to prisoners;
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord,

1Pe 2:16-17

Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

1Co 9:19

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more.

Heb 13:5-6

Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

And so freedom comes with duty. I cannot enjoy personal freedom while I try and rob freedom from others.

According the Declaration of Independence, no one is born to become the slave of another.

The fact that all men are equal does not apply to their virtues, talents, dispositions, or requirements.

It doesn't mean equal access to the good things in life, minimum wage, healthcare, or education. Socialism desires to take the wealth produced by one who has applied talent and redistribute it to the one who has no talent. God is not a socialist. Though, unlike the world of men, every believer is born-again with the same spiritual assets, but not identical ones. For example, not everyone is given the same spiritual gift, and if there is a similarity or sameness of spiritual gift, not everyone is given the same ministry.

The investment of the believer into his given assets of election and predestination will lead to the acquisition of further assets such as divine good fruit production.

Every believer has the right to invest his time into the understanding of his primary assets so that he may develop future assets.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,

Col 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

Col 3:11 — a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

An investment into the understanding and faith in one's positional sanctification will lead to practical sanctification and a life of true freedom.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Gal 5:7 You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

Gal 5:8 This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you.

Gal 5:9 A little leaven leavens [gases, puffs up] the whole lump of dough.

As we see in verse 7, Satan has ministers that portray themselves as righteous who are in the business of hindering the hope of righteousness, which can only come through grace. The Law or religion cuts off a believer from the race and he loses his freedom to purchase with the truth the experience of life that is Christ.

This is much like the free market laws concerning the acquisition of property. The founders set laws that allowed the acquiring and possession of property through market freedom. The poor could acquire property by selling their labor. In the same way, God has set freedom upon the believer to acquire the ground of spiritual maturity by investing his labor in the learning and application of the word of God.

Virginia Declaration of Rights, drafted by George Mason as a preamble to the Virginia Constitution. Section 1: That all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

D. Enjoying our own spiritual freedom and privacy means that we have a duty not to violate this in other believers. In love we nourish freedom in others.

Founders took pride in their establishment of religious liberty. Prior to 1776 the prevailing view was that government should forbid or discourage any religious opinions or actions that were not in conformity with the religion approved by government. In 1774 baptists were being jailed in VA for not practicing with a license. IN CT people were being fined for the same crime.

To the founders religious liberty meant not only that all persons may worship God in the way they think best, but also to be able to follow what they believe to be God's laws in their daily lives outside of church. Close a business on Sunday or sac an animal or drink wine in a ceremony. But religious liberty has liimits. "Free exercise of religion," first amendment. However, "And no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained ... for worshipping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience; of for his religious profession or sentiments; provided he doth not disturb the public peace..." [A declaration of the rights of the inhabitants of the commonwealth of MA, 1780]

Tax payer funded religions were accepted in NE, but not in the south. Jefferson was against public funding of certain religions but also wrote, "And 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 of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?" [Notes on the State of Virginia, Query 18, 1784]

The founders also believed that government should support the major religions that supported the laws of nature or the natural laws of the Declaration of Independence. Yet we do see today a very real attack on Christianity in this country for this very reason. Natural law is embedded in the Bible since the Bible was penned by Natures God.

The Bible also contains the morals of divine establishment thought as well as the charity of the believer unto others. These things are vital in a free republic such as ours, and so they are attacked by the kingdom of darkness.

Satan's attack on this is to flame the human ego. Society deems it weak to serve others, especially others who are themselves weak. However, our freedom is enriched when we bear the weaknesses of those without strength.

A prime example of this is the fact that the Greeks hardly ever used the word agape. They more often used phileo or eros for love and friendship since they viewed the sacrificial love of agape to be weak and only done by those who were weak.

As stated here it becomes obvious that rights cannot be separated from duty.

I have a duty not to enslave anyone and a duty not to steal another's property or to inhibit the exercise of religion, no matter what that religion may be (as long as it doesn't violate people's rights), and I have a duty not to murder.

The first sentence of the Declaration of Independence focuses on duty.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

If I am to enjoy the freedom of grace in the Christian way of life I have a duty not to hinder another believer's pursuit of the same. All of us grow at different rates and rather than bullying believers or judging them or slandering them I have a duty to assist them if I am stronger.

Rom 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Rom 15:2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Rom 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me."

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Rom 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus;

Rom 15:6 that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

E. The government is to secure rights according to the Constitution by [5 ways]:

1) Protecting us from other nations and not policing them.

God is the only one to protect our spiritual lives. The Spirit of God has been given to us to comfort, assist, lead, guide, bear witness to our human spirit in teachings us, and empowering us. We are therefore to rely on the

Trinity, have faith in each member, keep our eyes on Christ, keep our prayers to the Father, entrust our souls to the Spirit, and to be alert to our enemies.

God protects our spiritual lives and rights. Our volition must have our eyes on Christ, our prayers to the Father, entrusting our souls to the Spirit, and be alert to our enemies.

Satan's attack is to make us apathetic by convincing us that the flesh isn't that bad and that it can be improved through the proper world systems. He desires to convince us that he is not real and that the KOD doesn't pose a serious threat, and so they take an underground position and work through lies, deceit, and projecting themselves as light and good.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

1Pe 5:7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

1Pe 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

1Pe 5:10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

1Pe 5:11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Satan has levied this same attack upon America by convincing the citizens that the government secures their rights by regulating every part of their lives and protecting them from themselves; from their own bad decisions. The government is to enforce the laws and convict criminals within our borders and to protect us from other nations. The government is not to protect us from the consequences of lacking virtue, hard work, education, poor investments, poor decisions that make for sickness, etc.

2) By enforcement of criminal laws against violence. We are to trust the Supreme Court of Heaven and thus keep stress out of our souls.

Rom 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance [meting out justice and not vindictiveness] is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Rom 12:20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

The attack upon this is to trust your emotions. These people are not your friends and they desire to hurt you. The emotional response is usually quite strong. Yet we are to treat them as if they were our friends through agape love. We trust the Spirit to empower us to love as we apply that love and we will find that we are able to treat them, as evil as they may be, as we would a friend.

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The attack by Satan is to make us concerned that the victimizer is going to get away with it unless we act. Taking vengeance upon yourself is to take the position of judge and this will cause stress in your soul and you will lose your freedom and become enslaved to your emotions. God is patient. He is longsuffering with the sinner, which we enjoy ourselves, but again, freedom cannot be separated from duty and grace received should manifest itself in grace given. God is not slow as some count slowness. We must trust the Supreme Court of Heaven if we are to continue to experience God's freedom.

3) Establishment of civil laws (property defined, deeds recorded, contract legal standards are clear, lawsuits for personal injury, define procedure for marriage and divorce).

Laws of volitional responsibility.

Gal 6:6 And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.

The believer's civil law is grace. In grace God gives freely so that we may receive, enjoy, and use His gifts.

Satan attacks this by teaching the prosperity gospel, which basically states that it doesn't matter what you sow because grace means that you will always reap God's fruit. Yet we see clearly that sowing to the flesh reaps corruption.

Laws of divine discipline.

Col 4:1

Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

4) Establish a moral foundation. Divine establishment law, Decalogue, ethics of the New Testament. The believer's foundation is to produce divine good in all the details of life.

Satan's attacks upon this is to keep any spirituality in the church only. That service to others only happens in the church so that it's kept behind closed doors and the world doesn't see it. He also promotes spirituality in the mind only and not in application. This was a popular Gnostic teaching. This makes the believer act just like any unbeliever while he thinks he is uber-spiritual in his soul.

Col 4:5

Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

Virginia Declaration of Rights; section 15: That no free Government, or the blessing of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

5) Provisions for the poor. Minimal assistance to those who would be, under extreme circumstances, under starvation and destitution.

It would go against liberty to motivate a person not to work who was able by taking money from someone who did work.

The believer is to be extremely gracious to those in need but not enabling to those who only hurt themselves. He freely gives as purposed in his own heart and so does not fall under the slavery of guilt. Many who are only hurt by gifts can lay on guilt trips with expertise. The believer must discern and in love he will be able to discern under the counsel of God the Holy Spirit.

2Co 9:6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

2Co 9:7 Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

2Co 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Satan's attack against this is the guilt trip.

God always gives logistical grace support:

1Ti 6:6-8

But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

Heb 13:5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

Heb 13:6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

In 1Ti 5, Paul instructed that younger widows should not be put on the list for support since they could work. If they remained idle they became gossips and busybodies.

F. Laws must apply to all, including the leaders. Whether advanced spiritually or a babe in Christ the laws of freedom must apply to every believer.

The founders knew all too well that strength was dangerous. Government must restrain itself from violating rights through government excess. Government must act according to rules that all must obey so that corruption can be restrained. Congress lately has in fact exempted itself from certain laws.

The advancing believer must not forget the basics and he must not forget what he was. Sometimes believers forget what it is like to be in weakness in a certain area and begin to condemn the new believer who has not yet found his victory and freedom in that area. That is a violation of the freedom that he once enjoyed and the spiritual civil law of grace.

In fact God became a man and was tempted in all things as we are and He understands our weakness.

Heb 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

God does all that He commands us to do. In fact, when we obey Him we become a manifestation of His image.

Col 3:10

put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

Rom 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

G. Equality does not mean no discrimination. A church has a right to reject anyone who does openly violate the law of Christ in a manner that damages the church or others in the church.

To the founders equality did not mean no discrimination, but a right not to have your life meddled with. If as business wanted to hire all men, all blacks, all Catholics, they should have the right to do so. No business should be forced to hire someone.

However, the law of Christ states that all may come and hear the word of God despite color, gender, area of weakness, social status, etc., but a church has a right to reject anyone who does openly violate the law of Christ in a manner that damages the church or others in the church. This protects the freedom of the church. Our nation has violated this by making laws that violate the first amendment in forcing churches or religious organizations to offer services to those who violate basic principles of doctrine.

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst.

1Co 5:3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.

1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

1Co 5:5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

1Co 5:7 Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

1Co 5:8 Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Also, not ever believer can have the spiritual gift he wants. God the Holy Spirit sovereignly bestows each spiritual gift to each believer at salvation as He wills. God has different ministries for us all in application of our spiritual lives to our experience and a desire to be the same as another, as Peter complained about his own life in comparison to John's in Joh 21, is a violation of freedom and equality. It is not discrimination to be different nor is it inequality.

In his letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, RI, George Washington stated:

"It would be inconsistent with the frankness of my character not to avow that I am pleased with your favorable opinion of my Administration and fervent wishes for my felicity. May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy."

Modern liberalism believes that human rights are no longer based on human nature. For them, liberty demands not just protection of natural rights but programs that provide more for those who have less at the expense of those who have more.

Professor John Rawls of Harvard University, who was given a medal by a president in 1999 stated that "no one deserves the talents they are born with, or deserve good parents, etc. All these should be distributed to the community at large."

God does not redistribute of wealth. God has given every one of His children equal privilege and equal opportunity to pursue spiritual wealth and happiness of the soul.

Luk 19:24 "And he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.'

Luk 19:25 "And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.'

Luk 19:26 "I tell you, that to everyone who has shall more be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

Luk 19:27 "But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."

We have a right to life in Christ and liberty in Christ but not a right to happiness in Christ. We have every right to pursue that happiness and that pursuit does not depend on specific others but in those whom God supplies by means of grace. He has given you a PT and a congregation, everyone gets this, but in essence true happiness comes from His word and Spirit and these I can only pursue by my own self-determination.

The exercise of any right does not guarantee success in an endeavor, but we do have the right to keep pursuing. We do not have the right to accomplish it the first time or the hundredth time since victory is in the hands of the Lord.

Heb 10:35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Rom 5:3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

Rom 5:4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

Rom 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Part 3: The problem of majority tyranny and the necessity of union.

The authority of the word of God as inspired by God the Holy Spirit and preserved intact over time provides a unity in the Church for those who humble themselves under it.

2Ti 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel,

2Ti 2:9 for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.

Without unity through an agreement on spiritual rights, factions occur which destroy churches through division and tyranny of the majority. Therefore unity comes through humility before the word of God. Faction arises from arrogant desires of some members who attempt to recruit others into the faction. If they are successful they bully the minority and destroy freedom.

It was absolutely necessary to keep the unity of the 13 states in order to protect the freedom of natural rights for the whole. Satan however, sought division.

Canonicity, the word of God has been preserved over many centuries and although groups of people, Christian or not, have attempted to alter it in a tyranny of the majority, the word of God has been preserved as the ultimate authority.

Our first Constitution was the Articles of the Confederation, which put almost no power in the Federal government. After the Revolutionary War the federal government was broke. Under the Articles of the Confederation they could only request money from the states, who said no [shocker!]. We couldn't pay the war debt or the interest on the debt. It took war to reveal the weakness of the Articles.

Our liberty is threatened when the government is too weak just as it is when the government is too strong.

In order to amend the AOC there had to be a unanimous vote of all 13 states and so there was a new danger that the states might not remain unified. Laws required 9/13 states in order to pass in congress. If the federal government were too weak then some states would ally with France, or Spain, or Britain which would destroy commerce and certain not bring a united continent.

God and His word are not weak and so our liberty as believers is always preserved.

A new constitution had to be ratified, which is the one we have today. It is the longest lasting constitution in the history of the world. The anti-federalists declared the new constitution to give too much power to the feds and they feared a tyranny of the federal government. While in the long run they were right, but that only occurred because of a weak population that allowed the government to overstep the articles of the new constitution.

Hamilton – it is in our interest to have a strong union. It will serve our independence, safety, and prosperity – a national character. If we broke it up we would each need its own foreign policy, its own army, and have to enter into entangling alliances with European powers (one state goes with Spain, another with France) There would be a pernicious labyrinth of European politics. That would mean that we would lose our independence.

In his Farewell Address in 1796 before he retired to Mount Vernon, George Washington stated:

The Unity of Government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main Pillar in the Edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home; your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very Liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment, that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the Palladium [safeguard] of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned, and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our Country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

The enemies of the unity of the local assembly, internal and external, work covertly and insidiously; constantly and actively.

Every local assembly should be unified in the following ways:

Phi 2:1 If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

Phi 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Some Christians use their freedom as an opportunity for the flesh and then lose out on the life that is Christ and incur divine discipline. We all have an accountability to God.

1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1Co 1:11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you.

1Co 1:12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

1Co 1:13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

God and His word are Sovereign in the sense that they will get their way, the easy way or the hard way.

Isa 46:9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,

Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

Isa 46:11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.

In God's Church there will be times when a certain majority will become oppressive and bully the minority into conformity with false doctrine, but they will not hold this power for long. A remnant in every generation will see the truth of the word of God and will establish their own assemblies for its communication. The veracity and immutability of God's word and Spirit preserves the Church and each believer's individual liberty should he humble himself before them.

In our Constitution the tyranny of the majority was checked with the separation of powers. The most dangerous part of an elective government is the legislature since it forms the laws.

It's happened over and over in the history of the Church that a majority in the church effect the pastor into conformity with their wishes. This would certainly be a weak pastor and if this perfect storm happens the minority lose their freedom and doctrine is either watered down or false or both.

1Ti 6:20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" —

1Ti 6:21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.

2Ti 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom;

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

2Ti 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

2Ti 4:5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2Ti 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Our constitution established a bicameral legislature in the form of a house and senate that are elected for different terms and at different times. It is designed to be slow and cumbersome when legislating. Then we have

the executive office and the judiciary. These are designed in opposition to one another so that tyranny from any one of them would be impossible. All three must establish their own given power and all three need each other in order to be effective.

In republics that have been established in history, especially in Greece and in Rome, the majority became oppressive through the legislature since there was not a separation of powers. Then the minority would revolt resulting in anarchy. These Empires vibrated between tyranny and anarchy. In fact under the AOC the states were doing the same thing.

Federalist 9 and 10 addresses this.

How does one remove faction or partisan conflict within a country and of more importance to us, within a church?

Opponents of the constitution and the republic of the whole nation, stated that a republic can only work in very small areas and not in such an area of the 13 states or even within the realm of the largest states that they thought would have to be divided into even smaller parts. Hamilton replies:

"If we therefore take his ideas on this point as the criterion of truth, we shall be driven to the alternative either of taking refuge at once in the arms of monarchy, or of splitting ourselves into an infinity of little, jealous, clashing, tumultuous commonwealths, the wretched nurseries of unceasing discord and the miserable objects of universal pity or contempt. Some of the writers who have come forward on the other side of the question seem to have been aware of the dilemma; and have even been bold enough to hint at the division of the larger States as a desirable thing. Such an infatuated policy, such a desperate expedient, might, by the multiplication of petty offices, answer the views of men who possess not qualifications to extend their influence beyond the narrow circles of personal intrigue, but it could never promote the greatness or happiness of the people of America." [Federalist 9; Hamilton]

In other words, those who thought in such a way were only interested in their own little and narrow circles of their personal pursuits, their personal love affairs with their own desires and did not care for the prosperity and happiness of others, therefore they did not qualify for the job of decision concerning the whole nation.

A group of believers who in likeminded arrogance put themselves above others will eventually attempt to rob the liberty of others in order to feed their love affair with their own desires.

So it is in the church when we do not put others above ourselves and serve one another. Prosperity in the form of what the world has never seen before will allude such a church.

The disciples became narrow minded about their own individual futures and had no love for the plan of Christ for the whole of His church, not yet.

Luk 22:24 And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.

Luk 22:25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.'

Luk 22:26 "But not so with you, but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant.

Luk 22:27 "For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

Phi 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

Phi 2:4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Phi 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus

Arrogance leads to faction. Humility is the greatest purveyor of freedom since it doesn't have judging, competing, boasting, approbation lust, or jealousy.

Part 4: Consent of the governed & the separation of powers

Not all analogies or types are perfect in their representation (for example: we are not actual sheep) but wonderful in giving deeper understanding. Our ambition and our balance of function continue to lead us to something that America, nor any other nation or type of government, could ever have, a Supreme Ruler in God, the Trinity and the humanity of Christ at the right hand of God.

In the colonies, after the Declaration of Independence enabled them to set up their own state governments they put almost all the power in the elected legislature and gave little power to the governor, who were elected by the legislature. The legislatures could do virtually anything.

This led to disastrous consequences - legislative tyranny of the majority. Ex. paper money schemes, they accumulated a lot of debt, elected legislatures who would print a lot of paper money which became worthless and made laws that debt in gold could be paid back in paper. You had a legalized theft.

The founders learned that the secret to good government was not just an elected legislature. The people could be just as corrupt and incompetent as any monarchy.

A group of people can be just as corrupt as one man.

Madison; *Vices of the Political System of the United States* - "If the multiplicity and mutability of laws prove a want of wisdom, their injustice betrays a defect still more alarming ...

"A still more fatal if not more frequent cause lies among the people themselves... Whenever therefore an apparent interest or common passion unites a majority what is to restrain them from unjust violations of the rights and interests of the minority, or of individuals? [Answer: separation of powers]"

A believer cannot serve two masters. The power of the flesh and the power of the Spirit must be separated in his soul. He can't have both.

They didn't want to have to rewrite the constitution every few years. They knew that they had to build into it a control over the majority. Therefore, to the greatest extent possible, it must be self-regulating from the mechanisms that are built into it.

In Federalist 51 Madison saw two parts to this: Constitutional means and personal motives. The Constitutional means were the checks and balances built into the articles of the Constitution. The executive has veto power, the senate has power to confirm appointments, the congress has impeachment power, and the judiciary has judicial review. These give each branch a means of protecting their own turf.

So if each office has power, what about the person or persons in the office? Power breeds ambition. It was well known that it was naïve at best to actually think that every person with power would be noble. Men who seek office are men who seek power and are therefore ambitious. However, the framers were wise enough to see that they could make one ambition counteract another ambition.

"the constant aim is to divide an arrange the several offices in such a manner as that each may be a check on the other - that the private interest of every individual may be a sentinel over the public rights." Fed 51

The officer can only maintain his prestige and honor if he protects his office, and that's what ambitious people do to protect their reputation.

God devised a plan for the imperfect. The founding fathers were wise enough to devise a republican type of government for the imperfect.

"It may be a reflection on human nature that such devices should be necessary to control the abuses of government. But what is government itself but the greatest of all reflections on human nature?" Fed 51. The founders were not particularly libertarian. They recognized the need for strong government. "We need government because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice without constraint." Fed 15 [Hamilton]. Passions allowed to run wild is anarchy.

When a person becomes born again and saved there is a separation of powers; new creature and crucified old creature.

He now possesses a new creature and a crucified old creature. The execution of the sentence against the old creature will not take place until death so the believer has two branches within himself that are ambitiously fighting for power.

Gal 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

The believer begins in doctrine with a passion for fulfilling that which is asked of him, but he then finds that he has a tremendous struggle.

The great excitement of salvation soon turns into disappointment at one's condition in which he seems powerless to think, say, and do all that is commanded of him.

It is because of lack of understanding that he lacks proper power and motivation. Early on he has a power and a motivation but they are humanly based and not divine. He is attempting to live what he knows of the Christian way of life through his own ability rather than through the power of the Spirit and the word of God together in faith.

Paul related this experience in his letter to the Romans.

Rom 7:15 For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

Rom 7:16 But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good.

Rom 7:17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

Rom 7:19 For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.

Rom 7:20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

Rom 7:21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good.

Rom 7:22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

Rom 7:23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

As the founders pitted the ambitions of one branch against the other so that one branch could not dominate and every branch would remain strong, so God has put an ambition in us.

The freedom to pursue this ambition leads many people astray as they pursue it ignorantly, in the wrong way, or with the wrong motives. There is a part of every person that wants something. This ambition they guard and protect and pursue. In Rom 7:24 Paul wants to be free from the body of death. All people want to be happy and fulfilled. This ambition can be likened to a thirst. God, through Christ, has promised to completely slake this thirst.

Joh 4:13-14

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life. "

Ecc 3:11

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man [alone without God] will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

Through the gospel, eternal life is offered to every man. They don't believe because they are noble or because they desire to glorify God, for they don't even know what that is. They believe because it is an offer to fulfill what they have ambitiously desired.

Yet after salvation, though the promise is fulfilled, in ignorance the believer has yet to learn how and why in any detail. He is given the right to pursue God's happiness by means of the word and the Holy Spirit but he has yet to learn and understand both sources of power. So he attempts to gain the freedom and happiness, ambitiously, by means of his own ability and finds that he cannot.

It would seem that freedom has only led him into another slavery, and yet, while that is true, since he is a slave to Christ, his struggles with his flesh and his ambition bring a very real and awakening revelation.

The ambition to fulfill the plan of God, but doing so ignorantly brings a very real and awakening revelation. The flesh, human ability are very, very weak.

Our initial struggles become a revelation of the real weakness of the flesh that we never before understood or embraced. From that place of weakness we look to deliverance. This is the beginning of experiencing freedom from the flesh.

The power of Satan is even shown to only benefit God's children who trust Him.

2Co 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me — to keep me from exalting myself!

2Co 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

2Co 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

In weakness we dismiss the tyranny of self and embrace the Supreme Ruler in grace.

1Pe 2:16

Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

The separation of powers is designed to show us that there is one unalterable thing that no man, no matter how ambitious, should infringe upon and that is our liberty.

Paul's struggles with his own flesh as well as with the messenger's thorn in the flesh led him to the grace of God wherein there is the only true freedom.

In America, when a President has a very powerful personality or charisma, as FDR did, the congress was to check any attempt at making his office too powerful. Yet FDR realized the power of influencing the populace as his mentor W. Wilson realized it was possible and to him it was necessary to eliminate the slowness of the government. By influencing the people he could have them influence congress and in an end run, legislate. FDR had a new medium from which to do this, which was the radio. His fireside chats influenced the population greatly so that they were indoctrinated with adopting his views of the government, which robbed from freedom and liberty in order to redistribute income.

By so influencing the population he was able through them to greatly influence the congress and by that popular opinion of his own views he was able to greatly increase the power of the executive branch, much more than it was designed to have.

The people should have rejected these ideas that violated the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and should have been thankful that the congress would be able to halt this power grab for the executive branch,

but rather, the congress was greatly influenced by popular opinion, which was anti-liberty, and they acquiesced to a powerful executive.

Ambitious men are all the same in any time or place, but an ambitious man who is willing to cast aside the traditions of truth in order to fulfill his ambition is a dangerous man.

And so it is with our three enemies. They are extremely dangerous to liberty.

However, the congress should have kept their own ambition and not allowed the president his desire. In the same way, the flesh is the flesh, the world is the world, and Satan and the KOD is, and has been who they are in all times and in all places. We are to see them for what they are.

Just as the separation of powers and checks and balances established a balance of function in the nation so the believer who suppresses sin and evil and expresses divine good establishes a balance of function in his every day, practical Christian life. When he fails to do or not do any of the commands from God, he in grace recovers quickly and again taps into the source of real power. If the flesh, the world, or the KOD are successful in fulfilling their ambitions to the maximum then freedom turns to slavery of the worst kind since the masters are of the cruelest kind.

God has allowed our three enemies to exist. He doesn't need them to reveal His goodness (dualism is wrong).

However, as fallen creatures, we need to see our enemies for what they really are.

If we never failed in our flesh our fallen natures would become arrogant and our fallen minds would forget the weakness of the flesh. If the world system never hurt us again or let us down again our fallen natures would trust it and our fallen minds would forget the weakness of the world system. If the KOD could fulfill what they promise, if Satan actually could be like the most High, and if their false doctrines actually could fill the desire for eternity in our hearts then our fallen natures would worship them and our fallen minds would forget the weakness of Satan and the KOD.

Hence, not all analogies or types are perfect in their representation (we are not actual sheep) but wonderful in giving deeper understanding. Our ambition and our balance of function continue to lead us to something that America, nor any other nation or type of government, could ever have, a Supreme Ruler in God, the Trinity and the humanity of Christ at the right hand of God.

Spiritually, the believer must come to understand the struggle for power within him.

He may have trusted in his flesh only to see that the flesh doesn't accomplish anything spiritually. He may then have turned to the world and found that the world system and the religion of the world system also could not accomplish anything spiritually. He may have run with the majority only to find that the majority isn't always right or good and that they demand complete allegiance as a tyranny of the majority.

1Pe 4:1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh [its pain has shown us its inability], arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

"ceased" - middle voice = a willing cessation after suffering the rule of the flesh.

1Pe 4:2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

1Pe 4:3 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries [you now know where these go].

1Pe 4:4 And in *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* [tyranny of the majority] into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign *you*;

1Pe 4:5 but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1Pe 4:6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to *the will of God*.

He may have believed in false doctrines from the KOD that didn't deliver on their promises and without true peace or joy in his heart he may come to understand that only by utilizing the grace gifts from God will accomplish anything within him spiritually.

1Ti 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

1Ti 4:2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

1Ti 4:3 *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

1Ti 4:4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude;

1Ti 4:5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

As powers that are not from God compete for the allegiance of his soul he may turn to God alone in order to halt this power grab and be thankful. God the Holy Spirit and the word of God which is the mind of Christ becomes his only hope and that is a true hope, a happy, confident, future expectation of deliverance, and this hope never disappoints because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts. In love is grace and grace means unmerited gifts. Only in this power and authority is there true freedom and liberty for the believer. There must always be authority and there is freedom only in slavery to Christ.

We all have a minority stake in the freedom and happiness of Christ.

Mat 7:12

"Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

[Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*, p. 52]: When in any exercise of human rights of freedom are evaluated, they can be evaluated on a case by case basis or viewed as a whole. In the example of free speech, if each case is taken individually it will be more often denied. If a vote were taken on whether Mr. X can promote

communist propaganda then it might likely be shot down by the majority. If Ms. Y wants to stand on the corner and promote abortion, it is likely that she'll be denied. If Mr. Z applies for the same permission to stand on the corner but to promote world peace he will probably get his permit. But if we look at all of them as a whole we come to a different conclusion. If we deny X and Y and allow Z how can I be certain that my right to free speech will be protected? As we look at the great many of people who desire to exercise this freedom it becomes more and more clear that we either give free speech to everyone or to no one. If that is presented to the populace for a vote, a great majority are going to vote for free speech simply to protect their own minority stake in the matter.

When we look at the entire body of Christ we see equal privilege and equal opportunity. We see the reversionist in grace as well as the mature believer, however, when we look at a case by case basis our perspective changes. If we focus on one reversionist we are much more likely to judge him and devise ways to stop him and thus invade his privacy. If we focus on one mature believer we are much more likely to lift that person on a pedestal and forget that they are what they are by the grace of God.

In the way of freedom we see all believers through the eyes of our Lord who has forgiven them of all things and will never leave or forsake them.

He will resurrect all of the body into eternal bliss and rulership in His kingdom (even the least of the body will rule over angels and Old Testament, Tribulational, and Millennial believers).

In the same way we are not to micromanage the word of God. There can be a subtle slavery in the word of God when I don't look at or study the entire realm of doctrine. We are to rightly divide the word of truth, not to ignore parts of it that we may think do not apply to us. A full knowledge of God's program in each of the dispensations as well as His program as a whole, both to men and angels, elect and fallen, is vital to understanding your place in it and His desire for you as an individual. If I come to understand His plan for me as an individual then, with faith in that plan, I possess the ultimate in freedom and liberty. I'm not waiting for someone else to vindicate my place and my course, for I know it and am set upon it, and as I walk with the Spirit of God through it, I cannot be led astray from it by another who does not know it or does not know the details of it as I do, no matter how sincere or well intentioned they may be. My confidence in this freedom will give me the vitality to help others to find their own freedom in this way, according to the ways that God has allowed me, in grace, in freedom, and not in violation of their freedom.

Part 5: To secure these rights: Economics, religion, and character.

How does God secure our liberty?

Support of doctrine: God blesses certain local churches who teach the truth of the word of God for the sole purpose of the spiritual growth of the members and the communication of the gospel and all without cost.

Rev 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

Rev 3:8 I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Phi 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Phi 1:28 in no way alarmed by your opponents — which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

Phi 1:29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Phi 1:30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

The founders understood that the government must protect freedom in religion, economics, and to enact laws that fostered character and morality. We will see how God does the same for the Church and each individual believer.

The founders took pride in their establishment of religious liberty. Prior to 1776 the prevailing view was that government should forbid or discourage any religious opinions or actions that were not in conformity with the religion approved by government. In 1774 Baptists were being jailed in VA for not practicing with a license. IN CT people were being fined for the same crime.

To the founders religious liberty meant not only that all persons may worship God in the way they think best, but also to be able to follow what they believe to be God's laws in their daily lives outside of church. Close a business on Sunday or sacrifice an animal or drink wine in a ceremony. But religious liberty has limits. "Free exercise of religion," first amendment. However, "And no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained ... for worshipping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience; or for his religious profession or sentiments; provided he doth not disturb the public peace..." [A Declaration of the Rights of the Inhabitants of the Commonwealth of MA, 1780]

Today: Muslim advocacy of violence - no one has a right to perform the religious rights of human sacrifice, or murder. Laws that protect person and property cannot be violated in the practice of any religion.

In the early states there were some exceptions allowed, as in Quakers not fighting for their country. Washington wrote a letter to them in which he was being polite but firm in implying that this refusal to fight is not justified to the right of religious liberty. "... that (except their declining to share with others the burden of the common defense) there is no denomination among us, who are more exemplary and useful citizens." [Letter of the Annual meeting of Quakers George Washington, 1789]

So we must ask ourselves why laws are given at all. The Declaration of Independence answers that question clearly, "to secure these rights." Laws must secure natural rights which bring about a "social compact" - all will obey the laws that are established to secure the equal natural rights of all. The survival of the community, protection of property and seeking happiness might depend on fighting a foreign foe. Washington went on in his letter to the Quakers..."I assure you very explicitly, that in my opinion the conscientious scruples of all men should be treated with great delicacy and tenderness; and it is my wish and desire, that the laws may always be as extensively accommodated to them, as a due regard to the protection and essential interest of the nation may justify and permit." Unlike the Quakers, the Jews had no problem with fighting in the armed forces, and so Washington speaks of them more acceptingly in this regard, in his letter to the Jews in Newport, RI, than he does of the Quakers who are his fellow Christians.

Government has a certain duty to refrain from acting against religious liberty but how does government protect it? By means of national defense (feds) and enforcement of criminal law (state governments). Religious liberty is more often infringed upon by government failure to act. For instance, today in the Middle East Christianity has almost been eliminated by unpunished criminality while the governments in those regions stand by and watch.

Government support of religion. Tax payer funded religions were accepted in New England, but not in the south. Jefferson was against public funding of certain religions and also wrote, "And 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 of the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?" [Notes on the State of Virginia, Query 18, 1784]

The founders believed that the government has a real motive in promoting sensible religious opinion (those who support the laws of nature - laws of divine establishment). Jefferson supported major religions as promoting public morals. Congress followed this in the Northwest Ordinance - *Article I: No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship, or religious sentiments, in said territories.*

The question begs, does government support of religion violate religious liberty? Many today would say yes, but the founders said no. When government supports religion, no one is being punished for their religious opinions. One may not approve of the religious opinions that the government promotes, but you may not also approve of Jefferson's curriculum at the University of Virginia. My rights are not violated when government uses tax payer money to support something that they think are promoting the security of natural rights.

In like manner, God supports the individual believer no matter who they are. All may come, no matter what.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices.

Col 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

Col 3:11 — a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

The new believer may come and expect not to be ridiculed or bullied by those who have been in the church for years. The babes in Christ are to be accepted just as much as the most mature and should expect not to be made to feel inferior. Parts of the message are geared towards the young in Christ and the mature listen joyfully to what they already know, knowing that someone may be hearing it for the first or second time.

Rom 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Rom 15:2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Rom 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me."

Property and Economics: Government protects the means of acquiring and possessing property. Property rights will benefit the poor and the rich. The conflict between the haves and have not's is unavoidable. How does one avoid the inability for the have not's to acquire and possess property? The answer is an economic one.

Three of the founder's principles:

1. Natural right to private property. Government must defend this right as well as the right to use it as one pleases.
2. Free markets.
3. Stable money.

1. Breakdown: Natural right to private property.

a. Ownership must be defined clearly. There must be clear title, mortgage, title insurance, confidence in continued possession, and collateral. This is actually very rare in other parts of the world where ownership is often determined by who occupies it or who occupies the government.

It is made clear through the grace gospel so that a person can confidently identify themselves as a believer who is saved forever, or a Christian. This is clear title. Every believer is the property of Jesus Christ, and since He

occupies the highest seat of authority, none of His enemies can snatch a believer from His grasp, for those enemies will all be made a footstool for His feet.

2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness."

No creature can take you away from Him as land could be taken from someone in a country without laws concerning clear title and free markets.

Joh 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

Joh 10:28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

Joh 10:29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Joh 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

b. There must be few restrictions on use. An owner should be able to use his land as he pleases as long as he doesn't violate the same right in another.

Each believer is unique and possesses a unique gift. He is not to church hop but can determine for himself his right pastor teacher and therefore, local church. He may listen and not serve in the local assembly as long as he wants as he waits for the Spirit to lead him into service. He is not to be guilted into any service or giving and if he is he has the liberty to leave and find another PT.

c. There must be widespread ownership. Proper laws and free markets would give an end result where many people own land rather than just a few.

There is a tremendous variety of individuals in the body of Christ and each spiritual gift is given to a wide variety of personalities from a wide variety of backgrounds. Christians come in all backgrounds, personality types, economic or social status, sizes, colors, etc. for all are welcome at the Father's table through the work of Christ on behalf of every man.

d. There must be protection of property owners against foreign and domestic threats.

God promises to protect the believer and to take vengeance upon those who hurt the believer.

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

e. Protect owners from harm from the government. Today the government is given wide leeway to take property, search of private property, regulatory inspection, freezing assets, etc. These are all in violation of the Constitution and the form of government that the founders envisioned. All believers are completely protected from the wrath of God forever and are under the same grace of God forever.

1Th 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Th 5:10 who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.

1Th 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

No one can lose their salvation and all of the faith are eternally secure.

Joh 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

We do not ever have to fear that God will change His mind toward us or ever stop the flow or grace, which no amount of sin or evil could ever halt its tide.

Rom 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

God provides the freedom for each believer to exercise their particular ministry in the way that they choose, provided they do not violate the law of Christ. They are not to violate the privacy of others, force themselves on others, if in the local church they are under the authority of the PT, etc. but no two ministries are identical.

2. Free markets: Those must be able to exchange what they produce for the production of others. The markets must be secured so that anyone can sell anything to anyone else at any price. Contracts must be defined and enforced, and there must be equal access to transportation.

This is like the free market in which citizens can exchange what they produce, goods and labor, for the production of others. The government is to secure that the rights of both the buyer and seller are protected so that they may sell anything to anyone at any price and that the contracts of clearly defined and enforced and that all have equal access to move about as they please. To the founders a monopoly was the government granting a particular person the right of commerce while excluding others. They would not have seen Microsoft as a monopoly but rather as an excellent company who was able to corner a market.

1Co 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Co 12:5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

1Co 12:6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

1Co 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

No other believer has the right to tell you how to exercise your spiritual gift when it is within the confines of the word of God.

Today it is customary for government to establish monopolies through licensing requirements in a variety of areas. Licensing has the effect of limiting small businesses and start ups to compete. Freedom of contract and adequate judicial enforcement of them are what prospers an economy. There has to be clear legal conditions about contracts. At the founding a contract was a sign of equality between the two in an exchange of property, labor, price, and free choice of occupation. Today we have minimum wage laws, unionized collective bargaining, a violation of the right to hire and fire as one chooses, affirmative action and discrimination laws.

Equal access to transportation, according to the founders, was not giving everyone a horse, but allowing everyone to travel as they please on public roads and lands.

3. Stable money: Paper money scams almost bankrupted 12 out of the 13 states. The government decided to mandate a gold or silver standard.

What is the standard of exchange in God's plan that guarantees freedom? Love is the gold standard. Under love I exchange that which is of value and not just words which is like worthless paper money.

Eph 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.

The standard of exchange in providing Christian service to others is love. We are to lay down our lives in agape love for one another.

Gal 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Character: It seems silly today that the government should even concern itself with character of morality.

Harvey Mansfield forms the paradox: "Liberty and virtue are not a likely pair. At first sight they seem to be contraries. Liberty appears to mean living as you please and virtue meaning living not as you please but as you ought."

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation *desert* the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in Courts of Justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." [George Washington, *Farewell Address*, 1796.]

President Washington is referring to morality, which is indispensable in a nation and in any community or organization. God, however, has given the Church a code that we term the royal family honor code found in Rom 12-15.

Early in America there were laws on sex and marriage, which are badly understood now. All of these laws had one object, and that was to protect marriage and the family. Laws encouraged people to get married and stay married. The love of married parents for their biological offspring was judged the most reliable motivation for the sometimes unpleasant duties of providing suitable care for children.

God's royal family honor code supersedes all moral law while including it. This code is the greatest potential for prosperity amongst believers in all types of relationships.

In love we are to treat one another with surpassing grace. This gives everyone the freedom to make decisions and not be judged, maligned, gossiped about, put down, made jealous of, etc. It gives all the freedom to succeed with rejoicing or to fail with restoration. It gives the freedom to be ignorant or wise in the word of God with the full knowledge that it is God who is going to correct, discipline, or bless.

We will look at a few portions of the code that deal with the liberty of others.

Rom 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

Rom 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Rom 12:11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

Rom 12:12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

Rom 12:13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Rom 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

Rom 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Rom 12:20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Rom 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Rom 13:9 For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Rom 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.

Rom 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Rom 14:14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Rom 14:15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 14:18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Rom 14:19 So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Rom 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

Rom 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

Rom 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Rom 15:2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Rom 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me."

Rom 15:7 Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

Rom 15:14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another.

Part 6: Crisis of the Constitution; slavery and secession.

"One section of our country believes slavery is right, and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong, and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute." [Lincoln, First Inaugural Address.]

Some very prominent southern politicians thought of slavery as a positive good and that it was good for an inferior race to be slaves and to have superior masters. This issue comes to a head with the expansion west. In the south the money crops are cotton and tobacco and both crops need a lot of land and are labor intensive and slaves are the cheapest labor. With all the land to the west there are great treasures to be made in these crops, but these new territories were as of then, not states with laws, and slavery needs laws on the books in order to work. The question was whether the federal government would make slavery lawful or unlawful? The NW Ordinance made slavery illegal in that territory.

The Missouri Compromise was passed in 1820 between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions in the United States Congress, involving primarily the regulation of slavery in the western territories. It prohibited slavery in the former Louisiana Territory north of the parallel 36°30' north except within the boundaries of the proposed state of Missouri. The Missouri Compromise was implicitly repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, submitted to Congress by Stephen A. Douglas in January 1854. The Act opened Kansas Territory and Nebraska Territory to slavery and future admission of slave states by allowing white male settlers in those territories to determine through "popular sovereignty" whether they would allow slavery within each territory. Because of this the Democratic Party split between pro and anti slavery and the Republican Party was born in Michigan.

With the lead of Jefferson Davis there was an advocacy for the southern slave states to secede from the union.

Division in points of doctrine, especially the doctrines surrounding the person of Christ, caused a lot of factions in the early Church.

Instead of a harmonious rejoicing in Christ as God, as Man, as Savior, and also the joy of the security that comes from salvation by faith as well as the living within the Christian way of life by faith and grace, there began to stir attacks against certain grace doctrines. Denominations formed who wished to secede unto their own and some gained popularity and some did not. Once secession is done, if pride continues, then ones position on certain false doctrines is vigorously defended while the teaching and rejoicing in sound, grace doctrines is attacked.

The American solution to denominational divisions was the National Council of Churches, which eventually became the World Council of Churches. Their goal was to remove all the doctrines that divided church completely and so all that was left was a humanistic religion that's no better than a mix of psychology and state welfare. Obviously this was a "cure" that was worse than the illness.

Often, this denominationalism begins with the desire to secede so that the desire to stay separate is greater than the desire for unalienable truths.

Freedom to openly speak of, or display joy over the pure and unadulterated word of God is attacked. Though many Christians continue to boldly express the truth of the word of God, the hope of the KOD is that it would become too embarrassing or damaging to ones reputation, either socially or professionally. This attack has

certainly worked to silence some, but it has completely failed in others who are more than emboldened to speak and act the truth in the face of opposition.

The believer digs in, in the face of opposition, by drawing on His spiritual strength and trusting God for deliverance in His time.

In this way the believer relies on God's power to preserve his freedom to communicate the gospel.

1Th 2:1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,

1Th 2:2 but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

In some cases, even in early America, certain Christians were put in prison for their faith. In 1774 Baptists were being jailed in VA for not practicing with a license and in CT people were being fined for the same.

Certainly there is division in the Church, the body of Christ, ranging from the minor to the severe. Several Christian denominations communicate the gospel correctly and amongst these there is usually very little conflict. This is an oversimplified statement as so many of the Christian denominations have fractured into sub-denominations and not all churches with the same denominational name (like Baptist for example) believe the same thing.

Definitely more damaging to the soul of a Christian or an unbeliever are the cults, and more importantly, the major cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Christian Science, and to a lesser extent the Seventh Day Adventists.

Using the name of Jesus and the Bible cults have nested in the Church at large while not being a part of the organism and they have led millions into slavery.

While fantastically convincing those involved that they are the most free, they are able, amazingly so, to lead many astray in the name of Jesus Christ.

Mat 13:31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;

Mat 13:32 and this is smaller than all other seeds; but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

The points made here are:

First, the Mystery Kingdom will assume huge outer proportions; second, the Mystery Kingdom will have an abnormal growth until it becomes a monstrosity; and third, this monstrosity will become a resting place for birds.

In the first parable of this series in Mat 13, the birds were agents of Satan.

Within this monstrosity of Christendom, then, will be various satanic elements, cultic groups that claim to believe in Jesus but deny something essential, such as His deity, all under the umbrella of "Christianity."

Certain southerners concluded that the states were sovereign in themselves and therefore had a right to secede from the union. They wanted independence under the umbrella of freedom and protection that was only possible under the union of the states. No one state defeated the enemy in the War of Independence or the War of 1812 or the Mexican - American War, but they desired secession under the umbrella of freedom that the union provided.

"It is known to Senators who have served with me here, that I have for many years advocated, as an essential attribute of State sovereignty, the right of a state to seceded from the Union." [Jefferson Davis, Farewell Address to the senate, p. 581]

The southerners would argue that the state is sovereign and the federal government is merely a creature of the compact that the states made with one another. John Calhoun [popular southern politician] rejected the idea that all men are created equal. He rejects that the authority of the government comes from we the people. He rejects the social contract that every American citizen respect the natural rights of every other citizen. He embraced that the state is sovereign and cannot be overruled by majority in the nation. The national government, to him, was merely a result of the contracts between the sovereign states. If we the people enact legislation that doesn't agree with the majority in the state, then the state can nullify that law and even secede. The union is just a result of state agreements.

In like manner, many Christians are ignorant of the doctrine of the body of Christ and the unity of that body in Christ. Through ignorance of the word of God the divisions of the body of Christ are more easily perpetuated.

Abraham Lincoln argues that we the people are sovereign in his first inaugural address.

Lincoln's argument against secession in his first inaugural address is:

- a) The union is perpetual and indissoluble. It is safe to assert that no government proper, ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination.
- b) One party to a contract may violate it - break it, so to speak; but does it not require all to lawfully rescind it?
- c) The Union is much older than the Constitution. It was formed in fact, by the Articles of Association in 1774. It was matured and continued by the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It was further matured and the faith of all the then thirteen States expressly plighted and engaged that it should be perpetual, by the Articles of Confederation in 1778. And finally, in 1787, one of the declared objects for ordaining and establishing the Constitution, was "to form a more perfect union."

The completion of the canon of scripture is much older than any denomination or cult. One party may violate the word of God but none have the right to change it or rescind it.

Should there really be a need to claim to be non-denominational?

Part 7: The progressive rejection of the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

Progressivism is a movement that began to take hold in America around 1880. Its motivation was to move beyond the ideas of the founders. To the progressives, economic and social circumstances had changed in ways that the founders could have never envisioned and so changes needed to be made to the founder's concept of the laws of nature and nature's God as well as to the structure of the government.

Progressivism - Man is ever evolving and getting more intelligent. He faces problems that the founders could never have imagined. Government needs to change with the time.

The Declaration of Independence sets forth a permanent nature of man and of God. Government is always at its basic level protecting the natural rights. Progressive's rejected this and still do. To them, government is only just according to the current era of time. Since man has evolved, government must also evolve. They believed that science as well as greater wisdom in the science of politics and administration had made government less dangerous to the governed and so it could be entrusted with more power. They thought that man became more capable of wielding the power of the state without violating the liberty of the citizen.

The idea is that man is more capable of solving man's problems than God since man has become smarter. He has become more enlightened in psychology, biology, chemistry, etc.

The majority of the Church has left sound doctrine as the same idea of progressivism has invaded her just as happened to the universities, public education system, and the government. In many churches social programs, counseling, sharing, etc. all offer progressive, humanistic solutions to their parishioners while denying them the true solutions from the word of God, which are eternal and unchanging. Solutions to the enslavement from God's opponents are in the word of God.

The same solutions that a first century Christian enjoyed are exactly the same as what the twenty-first century Christian can enjoy. To offer other solutions is to dissuade a believer from the truth solution.

Progressive era of 1880-1920 found a powerful manifestation in Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson as well as many intellectuals. This was the first time that there were sustained and direct critiques of the constitution from leaders and leading intellectuals. They understood the constitution very well and considered it too old. They knew it was designed to keep government restricted through checks and balances. They knew the constitution was an obstacle to their goals. They also understood that the Constitution was a means to an end. They knew they would have to take on the construction of the Constitution and stand against the bedrock principles of the Declaration of Independence. In other words, they knew exactly what they were doing.

How has Satan taken on the construction of the word of God? Does he understand that the Bible is a means to an end and so he would have to take on her bedrock principles? His game plan hasn't changed. He seeks to destroy America's liberty in the same way he has sought to destroy the liberty of the Church, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

The writer of the Gospel of St. John revealed this technique nineteen centuries ago. It is recorded in his 8th chapter that, when the religious leaders of that day would not accept the claims of Jesus Christ as being the Son of God. They launched a fourfold personal smear campaign against Him. In verse 13 they called Him a liar. In verse 19 they questioned His paternity. In verse 41 they insinuated that He was an illegitimate child. In verses

48 and 52 they went as low as any human being could go: they accused Him (the Son of God) of being possessed with the devil.

If Christianity rejects the supernatural then it must accept the common.

When the Church accepts the common it makes few demands and fills the pews with those who will only accept the common things of the world.

A religion, after all, which rejects the supernatural, makes few demands, and finds no sanction or authority for any proclamation which it makes apart from the small sounds of rhetoric, and it in no way differs from the rough and ready code of most amiable folk. On such a level thousands are ready to make peace with what is left of the Church, especially when the Church, astonishingly, admits past wrong-headedness, and the sound sense of her old opponents' stand. Theologians who thus renounce their heritage are prone to mistake their newfound acceptance in the world as another Pentecost.

Revelation is personal. That means that you have personal revelation through God the Holy Spirit and no one can do that for you.

1Co 2:10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

One of the most damaging ways this progressive notion has hit the church is in existentialism.

Existentialism - to emphasize experience over truth and the natural over the supernatural.

The existentialist has taken this same truth and perverted the word "personal" to mean "different than everyone else." This evolves into the notion, as Karl Barth stressed, a personal relationship with God based on personal experience, while stressing that the Bible is a **fallible** human record of God's word.

Existentialism emphasizes living over knowing, willing over thinking, the concrete over the abstract, and the dynamic over the static, love over law, the personal experience over the doctrine, the subjective over the objective, the non-rational over the rational, and freedom over necessity.

[Norman Geisler; *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics; Mythology and the NT*; p. 517.]

Central to higher critical argumentation is the theory that much of the NT's picture of Jesus and his teachings evolved over time in the social context and theological meanderings of the early church. Jesus the man became lost in legend and myth, buried under supernatural claims of such events as the virgin birth, miracles, and the resurrection. Behind these events were the patterns of Greek and Roman gods. Besides atheists and skeptics, some NT scholars have made such charges. Rudolf Bultmann was in the forefront of this view of the NT. He insisted that the religious records must be "demythologized," or divested of their mythological "husk" to get at the essential "kernel" of the truth.

"The NT documents had to be stripped of this mythological structure, for science had made the supernaturalistic worldview obsolete. Blind acceptance of the NT would sacrifice the intellect to accept a view of the world in religion that we deny in everyday life." [Rudolf Bultmann]

He proclaimed that the resurrection was not an event of past history. "For an historical fact which involves a resurrection from the dead is utterly inconceivable." So he states that it is an event of faith in the hearts of the early disciples.

Even if science justifies its boast ultimately to frame a theory of beginnings, be it of life, of the human mind, or of the universe at large, something deeper in the person of man still calls for wider explanation, for some word on the purpose of it all, and its final goal. To reject the answer which the Christian's faith accepts to all these questionings, is only to fall into another form of faith, that which, likewise without proof, asserts that there is no purpose in the sum of things, no Intelligence behind it all, no "Word which was in the beginning", no discernible goal. [A Layman's Answer, E.M. Blaiklock]

Is progressivism really progress?

[Calvin Coolidge, *The Inspiration of the Declaration*, 1926]

About the Declaration there is a finality that is exceedingly restful. It is often asserted that the world has made a great deal of progress since 1776, that we have had new thoughts and new experiences which have given us a great advance over the people of that day, and that we may therefore very well discard their conclusions for something more modern. But that reasoning can not be applied to this great charter. If all men are created equal, that is final. If they are endowed with inalienable rights, that is final. If governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, that is final. No advance, no progress can be made beyond these propositions. If anyone wishes to deny their truth or their soundness, the only direction in which he can proceed historically is not forward, but backward toward the time when there was no equality, no rights of the individual, no rule of the people. Those who wish to proceed in that direction can not lay claim to progress. They are reactionary. Their ideas are not more modern, but more ancient, than those of the Revolutionary fathers.

No other theory is adequate to explain or comprehend the Declaration of Independence. It is the product of the spiritual insight of the people. We live in an age of science and of abounding accumulation of material things. These did not create our Declaration. Our Declaration created them. The things of the spirit come first. Unless we cling to that, all our material prosperity, overwhelming though it may appear, will turn to a barren scepter in our grasp. If we are to maintain the great heritage which has been bequeathed to us, we must be like-minded as the fathers who created it. We must not sink into a pagan materialism. We must cultivate the reverence which they had for the things that are holy. We must follow the spiritual and moral leadership which they showed. We must keep replenished, that they may glow with a more compelling flame, the altar fires before which they worshipped. [end quote]

Christ came over the Mount of Olives, and at the sight of Jerusalem, lying like a tilted shield before Him, wept. He chose an ass to ride upon, and amid the shouts of acclamation and the waving palm-fronds, entered the city. The sign was clear. He came with peace, no war-leader to rally the land against the Roman garrison. That wild folly was forty stressful years away. It was on His own terms that He offered Himself to men, and when the embittered multitude realized the fact, their "Hosanna" changed to "Crucify". They, like others after them, in this unchanging world, were quite willing to accept Him on terms of their own making—but not on His.

Human nature does not vary, and that is why history repeats itself. The same God encounters men, the self-same Christ. And men persist in accepting Him as they would have Him, as something less than what He claimed to be, perhaps the dead, defeated preacher of the lakeside towns, destroyed by Jewry for its comfort, but not as Christ Victorious, Conqueror of Death in fact, not fantasy.

Those, none the less, are the terms of His coming, terms for acceptance or for rejection, but not for diminution, distortion, or translation into metaphor. To approach God with reservations is to foredoom the mind to misunderstanding, and the basic and inhibiting reservation of the New Theology is that God cannot, or will not, reveal Himself manifestly to man. The shocking situation in which the “God-is-Dead-School” finds itself is the direct result of a blind refusal to believe that God revealed Himself in Christ, and confirmed that fact by raising the Crucified from the dead.

Part 8: The progressive assault on the constitution.

Initially the success of the progressives was at the state and local level. However, in many cases state and federal courts were overturning their legislation (as they gained control of state legislatures) and were causing them fits.

Progressive programs extended the power of government into the private sphere. This is the Lochner era named after a famous case in 1905; Lochner v NY over the regulation on how many hours one could work in a bakery.

This irritated Teddy Roosevelt. He railed against the judiciary.

[Teddy Roosevelt speech, "The right of the people to rule."]

I have stated that the courts of the several States—not always but often—have construed the "due process" clause of the State Constitutions as if it prohibited the whole people of the State from adopting methods of regulating the use of property so that human life, particularly the lives of the working men, shall be safer, freer, and happier.

Freedom is found only under natural law. The same is true of the Christian's freedom. Progressives wanted to go around natural law so they could have what they desired.

Freedom is only found in the believer by submitting himself to the will and therefore, the authority of God.

2Co 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

1Pe 2:16

Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

Due process states that a citizen can challenge a change in the law in court if he feels that law is violating his natural rights. This was overturning many state laws. TR and other progressives were frustrated. They claimed they knew better and should be able to change laws as the "experts" and that their way was the only way that protected the people, making them safer, freer, and happier.

Some claim to be able to give man freedom through false doctrines that only end in bondage. Whether they are quick fixes or empty promises, the believer always has the law of liberty in Christ to fall back on. The Spirit of God leads us into all truth and the truth will set us free from the lies and deceit of falsehood.

TR says that property rights and human rights oppose one another. The founders would think of them as being dependent upon one another. John Locke, an English philosopher who was very influential on the founders, reasoned that one had a right to property because he extended his labor on that property.

Joh 8:31 "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

Joh 8:32 and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. "

TR thought the judiciary of his time misinterpreted the constitution. He thought its ideas were too abstract and that the law must be interpreted in reality of the time.

Same speech by TR: I urge that in such cases where the courts construe the due process clause as if property rights, to the exclusion of human rights, had a first mortgage on the Constitution, the people may, after sober deliberation, vote, and finally determine whether the law which the court set aside shall be valid or not.

The progressive wanted to appeal to popular opinion over natural rights. This is an appeal to faction. In so doing he could influence popular opinion to his own view in the same ways that anyone such self-interested person would; with empty promises and smear campaigns.

Satan attacks the truth by promising prosperity apart from the truth and apart from submitting the will of the creature to the will of the Creator. He promises the things of the earth to those who will bow down before him, which means to bow to his cosmic system.

2Co 11:1 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

2Co 11:3 But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Satan promised Eve a better life if she would violate God's command. He got her to believe that God was holding something back from her that was rightfully hers.

Gen 3:4-5

And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

2Co 11:12 But what I am doing, I will continue to do, that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

TR in that speech also rails against the government institutions. He endorses direct democracy to overrule the legislature that he saw as corrupt, especially the state legislatures (popular ballot). This is faction which Madison denounces in Federalist 10.

Progressives thought the courts were not seeing the constitution as a living thing and that it should be interpreted to fit the demands of a new age.

To Woodrow Wilson the problem was not so much the judiciary but the construction of the constitution itself by resting on a system of divided powers. People have evolved into one mind and have come together so faction need not be feared. The decentralized government is impeding the progress of people to get stuff done through a mechanized constitution. Wilson thought separation of powers needed to be discarded as a young man but then later thought of ways around it. He was an admirer of the British parliamentary model, which has the executive within the legislative and so there was no conflict. He thought of a separation of politics and administration, which idea was realized later to a great extent through FDR and LBJ and has today become the norm. His idea was to have the national political institutions democratized while at the same time having the real work done by administration comprised of government agencies.

Wilson rightly concluded that a business would fail under separation powers, but government is not a business but a means or instrument for protecting natural rights of the people.

A church is not a business either. A church is commissioned with protecting the spiritual rights of its members through the communication of doctrine.

1Ti 6:3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

1Ti 6:4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

1Ti 6:5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

1Ti 6:6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

1Ti 6:7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

1Ti 6:8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

1Ti 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

Wilson saw the separation of powers was inefficient and irresponsible and that it prevented government from solving problems. He desired for the government to run more like a business. He thought it irresponsible for a popular will of the people to be known and the government to be stuck in gridlock. His idea to get around this was to make a power of administration that was not responsible to the checks and balances of the separation of powers. The idea was to have elections and struggles in the political arena while having an administration that could legislate, execute, and judge all in one. Each agency would be staffed with experts who could decide, enforce, and judge as they saw fit, without the stalemates that occurred in the political process. He got his wish because this is how the government is now run.

God is in the business of solving problems, but His solutions are in the soul of the believer and therefore the solutions are not always fast, but they are permanent.

A quick fix is to just take the problem away, yet this is a bandaid and not a fix since another problem is always on its way. A failure to change the heart of the believer so that he always carries the solutions with him only result in a life of conflict and despair. The weak believer despairs for easy circumstances and searches out the easy ways rather than searching out God's will and the mind of Christ, which bring prosperity of soul in all situations.

Jer 17:5 Thus says the Lord,
"Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
And makes flesh his strength,
And whose heart turns away from the Lord.

Jer 17:6 "For he will be like a bush in the desert
And will not see when prosperity comes,
But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,
A land of salt without inhabitant.

Jer 17:7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord
And whose trust is the Lord.

Jer 17:8 "For he will be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream
And will not fear when the heat comes;
But its leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield fruit.

The roots are underground and unseen. The heart is within and unseen and when the heart is filled with the truth of God [the stream] then even in heat and drought, a time when no one would expect fruit, it does not cease to produce it.

False doctrines, legalism, deviations from the truth will only cause the soul to eventually wither and it will never produce succulent fruit.

Mat 21:19

And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it, and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, "No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you." And at once the fig tree withered.

By separating politics from administration of the government, the progressives took power that was unaccountable to the people, while promising the people prosperity. They thought themselves smarter than the common citizen and concluded that they could make the best decisions for everyone.

But if you removed administration from politics you remove these people from being accountable to voters.

Wilson saw the President as the one guy for whom the whole nation votes. He is the one person in government that the whole nation has its eyes on every four years and so he should have more responsibility, especially in legislation. He saw the President as the one who has connection to all the people, or at least a majority of them. And so, to put this massive administration of government under the President would be the way to get the will of the people done and in the quickest possible fashion. The problem with this is that the will of the majority isn't always correct, and in fallen man it hardly ever is, and that this makes the office of the executive a tyrant.

Many men and women have gained tremendous popularity in Christian circles and people have looked to them for deliverance, to the point of trusting them more than the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. All of the cults have begun this way.

Rom 1:25

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Teddy Roosevelt's stewardship theory was that government can do whatever it thinks is necessary unless there is some direct law against it. This is plenary power.

This is a clever and subtle difference from what the founders saw as enumerated powers.

Enumerated powers - A government only doing what they are granted to do.

Will God do something that He has not claimed to do in the word of God? Do we need to add to the word of God more things that God will and will not do? Satan has touted extra-biblical literature as inspired and have thus put many in bondage. The Apocrypha, the book of Mormon, the Watchtower, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, the gospel of Thomas, the book of Enoch, etc. There are many.

If this were followed there would be no need for a Bill of Rights. In other words, we wouldn't need an amendment like, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" If the Constitution never says that they can make such a law, then they can't, period.

In light of this it is interesting to note the 10th amendment.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. Amendment X, ratified Dec. 15, 1791.

Enumerated powers means that restrictions are not necessary since if a power isn't enumerated then it is not given. In other words, if the government is not "given" the power to restrict the freedom of the press then it doesn't have the right to, so one doesn't need the first amendment. The people retain the powers that they do not give to the government.

To the progressives, the executive is the steward of the people's needs, and so he has the general power over the people to do what he wished was for their benefit. This a king within a republic and the two are antithetical.

Is the pastor of a church the steward of the people's needs, or is a steward of the mystery doctrine? Should the pastor legislate fellowship in the church? Should he legislate their private lives? The answer to these questions is obviously no. The pastor is a steward of doctrine and that is what he needs to protect in the church; the communication of doctrine. If people want to fellowship, if they want to hang out with each other after church, if they want to live a certain lifestyle, these things are up to them individually. If the behavior of the people interfere with the communication of doctrine in the church, then they have to be disciplined. Other than that, no powers are enumerated by God to any pastor, deacon, or any other person who has authority in the local church.

Part 9: The Administrative state today.

The thinking and the reform of progressivism brought about the administrative state, which was in full swing at the end of FDR's presidency, and has significantly evolved since then.

The progressive separates politics and administration. The executive will shape public opinion. The president would campaign on certain legislation and then once elected he will use public opinion to put pressure on congress to make laws. Yet this kind of legislation was different in that it was more like a vision statement that was broad and vague.

What should a society look like? Rather than making laws for the means of doing something, like "an employee will not be made to lift something that would cause physical harm," the laws were more about results, "Industrial employment shall be reasonably safeguarded." The laws became: clean air, affordable healthcare, safe workplaces, etc. These are not laws but vision statements. And once the vision statement is passed as a law, then politics ends and administration takes over. Then an agency or a commission comes up with a complex list of rules and regulations. These agencies are not in any way accountable to the voter, and they not only make the rules, the same agency enforces the rules, and adjudicates the rules. Therefore, the agencies become a government unto themselves with a legislative, executive, and judiciary branch, all of which are unaccountable to the voter. The justification is that the agency is staffed with experts.

Should natural law be swept aside and a person's life be ruled by so-called experts?

If rules should be made after someone determines what society should look like, then why not also determine what Christians should look like and make rules for them accordingly.

God gives us commands that are His will. They are not arbitrary to the time or the type of personality in a believer. God does not legislate every aspect of our lives. He reveals His will in the scripture and shows us His virtues. He has given us the power to walk in those virtues in every aspect of our lives without micromanaging our lives. We give as we purpose in our own heart. We serve in the capacity that we determine from our own relationship with Him. God gives us the freedom to take hold of His grace or to ignore it.

The apostles were all different and their ministries were in different places, to different peoples, and all accomplished through their own personalities.

Yet we do find in the history of the Church the charismatic speakers who draw weak minded believers to themselves with promises to fix all their problems through some collective behavior. They might live in communes, have regulated behavior, eat and dress the same, talk the same, avoid the same vices while ignoring the state of the soul. All of this is overt, broad, and vague.

An agency who can adjudicate apart from the limits of the constitution is no different than a believer who judges another believer. God is the only Judge. Each believer functions before God alone on the basis of the privacy of his priesthood.

Rom 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

Rom 14:2 One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.

Rom 14:3 Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.

Rom 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

You must not let those who judge you, and they will, destroy your happiness and contentment and therefore your freedom. You must remember:

Rom 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Rom 14:11 For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall give praise to God."

Rom 14:12 So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Many people want to solve the problems of others, not because they care about others, but because it feeds their arrogance. If they can solve another's problems then they're saviors, smarter, more together, and they can convince themselves that they are above problems; problem solvers. And in their prideful vigor to fix you they violate your privacy and freedom. Yet if a believer truly desired for another to have solutions, he would only lead them to the Lord and to His word. In that there would be permanent solutions from the only One who is wise enough to deal with each person's problems on an individual basis, for even if people seem to be alike and their problems are of the same category, they are very different from one another. No one can see the detail of a person's life as God can. The very hairs of your head are numbered.

Mat 6:32

"For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Your Father knows what you need. No one else knows this, not even you.

FDR thought he knew what everyone needed and so he proposed a New Deal. How was he able to circumvent the separation of powers? He used rhetoric to shape public opinion by exploiting radio through his fireside chats. He was able to convince the public to put pressure on congress so that he could push them to legislate his agenda. The agency use in government was fully on its way by the end of his presidency.

As the new deal period wore on FDR was concerned about rightist reaction. Parts of the New Deal were struck down in the courts, as what happened in *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. US*. FDR was concerned about the rise of an alliance between republicans and conservative democrats, which was a new phenomenon known as the conservative coalition. At his second election they published a manifesto in the New York Times stating their beliefs and opposition to the new deal. FDR was concerned that he was losing control of the regulators that was making the new deal work. The court ruled in the *Humphrey's Executor v. US* case that he couldn't remove regulators because of political disagreements. He couldn't get the conservatives out of the bureaucracy. His

solution was to create an executive bureaucracy. He convinced congress that he needed this bureaucracy in order to manage a modern federal government. Congress passed the Reorganization Act in 1939, which gave him the ability to enact an executive order which created what we now call the executive office of the president. It became the white house bureaucracy where the president could get his own information, push policy, and have the ability to supervise the activities of federal agencies. This became the groundwork for the power of the presidency in the forties, fifties, and sixties. Congress became passive. This protected the accomplishments of the new deal.

People who love power will do whatever it takes to get it and to maintain it. Satan started it and it has occurred in the human race again and again as long as positions of power exist. But this is not the way of Christ.

Mat 20:25 But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.

Mat 20:26 "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

Mat 20:27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

Mat 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

This is not to say that a believer should not attain power or promotion in the world, but that the desire for promotion should not supersede his love for Christ.

An effective leader is humble and a servant and not a tyrant. He maintains his authority and enforces it when necessary, but he is also compassionate, understanding, and fair. He does what he can to suppress those who desire to violate the freedom of others while protecting every legitimate opportunity for the freedom of all in the organization. In this he serves all. Those who lust for power never have the humility to do this.

After FDR's death the next phase in the evolution of the government, especially in the sixties, was the post-war critique. This came from the left. These were concerned that the new deal hadn't gone far enough. They saw the system that the progressives had created as an impediment to further progress. They saw it as an oppressive, centralized bureaucracy.

"The government crushes individuality as it attempts to rationalize everything. Modern central bureaucracy wants everything to be just so. Conform or be forced to conform." [Charles Reich, *Greening of America*]

A good visual on this is the movie, One Flew Over the Cookoo's Nest.

In this we see that every generation, even when they are of the same school as the prior generation, wants more radical change. The post-war critique was made of progressives who wanted more progressivism than the last progressives.

False doctrine in one generation is furthered by another generation. Often an ignorant generation takes hold of a false doctrine that has already come and gone and they tout it as a new doctrine. There is nothing new under the sun. Fallen man has always been the same and so history repeats itself.

"The people enjoy a considerable range of freedom, in buying and selling, in looking for jobs, and in choosing jobs, and expressing their opinions, in moving about. But their liberties nowhere transcend the established social system which defines the needs, their choice, and their opinions. Freedom itself operates as a vehicle of adjustment and confinement." [Herbert Markusa, *Remarks on a Redefinition of Culture (1960s)*]

They saw man as shaped by the system and so they were desperate to recover individuality. They saw the very centralized government governed by a power elite, a very distinct social class. Flax called it liberal corporatism: the corporation and the government and the labor unions all working together to do whatever they wanted and the people had no say. The power elite decides matters for themselves and the rest of us are left out and disenfranchised. But by the 1950s it was already believed that bureaucrats did not represent the people.

Legislating through the courts and bypassing congress:

Now the courts saw themselves as watchdogs over the agencies. The government table grows. The courts expanded the definition of standing, meaning that a person or organization did not have to be directly harmed by an agency to sue it. An example is *Massachusetts v. EPA* in which twelve states, several cities, and several environmental groups sued the EPA for not regulating carbon dioxide. There was no way that these could prove that a lack of green house gas regulations could harm them in any way and so, by law, these should have lacked standing. Yet the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision gave them standing and that the Clean Air Act gave the EPA the authority to regulate green house gas emissions. What this means is that legislation now has a means through the courts, which is something that was never intended for it.

In the 1970's congress passes the Legislative Reorganization Act which forces congressional committees to spend more time overseeing the agencies. This greatly expands the number of sub-committees. Now the power goes from a few dozen committee chairmen to over one hundred and fifty sub-committee chairman. This puts more power back in the hands of congress to compete with the white house bureaucracy. The average house member is allocated 18 full time and 4 part time staff members. There are about 10,000 staffers working for the 535 congress members today. The table of the government expands yet further.

As the president fought to take more power back, President Reagan used a small agency created by the Paperwork Reduction Act in 1980 to regulate agencies overseen by congress; the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). During the latest administration this agency was headed by Cass Sunstein and he transformed it from a paperwork office into a review of all regulations being submitted by agencies. Another avenue of legislation and regulation is created and the table of the government expands even more.

The reality now is that the government is greatly layered and the functions of government have been completely reshuffled. The Constitution is still there. Criminal procedure looks much like it did 200 years ago. But progressivism is still there. The New Deal is still there, the White House bureaucracy is there. The use of rhetoric is there. The agencies, the committees and sub-committees, and the administration that are unaccountable to voters is still there. The regulation of the OIRA is still there and with the expanded definition of standing, the ability to sue another who has not specifically injured you is still there. It has become enormous and incredibly centralized and the reality now is that there are many ways to create policy. If some legislation fails in congress, where is should live or die period, then there are several other avenues to take to make it law, or at least enforced as a law.

You can make policy through the courts, white house bureaucracy, through congress, committees of congress, regulatory agencies, interest groups that pressure any of the above. They overlap and conflict. If one way doesn't work then you find another.

It is no longer as simple as going back to look at Wilson or FDR for the problems with policy making. It is much more complex than that.

Part 10: Modern Conservatism and the Constitution.

What would it look like if we went back and restored the way it should be? There would be smaller government, more autonomy on the local level, a larger private sphere, less regulation, and less regulatory surveillance, so that we can do as we please without government permission. This would mean a tremendous accountability to the law; law of contract, fraud, law of harm against others, law of private and public property. It would mean greater responsibility to our families and dependents. Divorce laws would be far more difficult while today it is easy. Today 41% of children are born out of wedlock which makes difficulty for everyone.

At the founding there was welfare, which was mostly through the churches and local organizations, but it was designed to restore people to work and family. Helping the chronically poor demands some moral transformation in people. It is documented well that if one does three things, 1) finish high school, 2) get married and stay married, and 3) get any job and stay working, he will almost never fall before the poverty level.

Enormous subsidies were given for education, but without forcing them to teach a progressive curriculum. "Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." [Northwest Ordinance, Article III, p. 125 in reader]

It was believed that many people owning property was good for all. Hence the Homestead Act of 1862 gave western lands away for very little cost. In the territories to the west land was given away by the government for the sole purpose of education, but without central control, states and counties controlled it.

The feds would devote more of its work to national defense. There are seventeen clauses in Art 1 section 8 of the Constitution. Eight of the seventeen have to do with national defense.

It took 100 years for the progressive movement to do what it did. In another 100 it can be undone.

There are two fundamentals to the manner of the Republic as it was designed to be.

1. The first fundamental is the manner of constitutional rule. How does it work?

Enumerated powers are followed while the people recognize that we are not angels and we are not ruled by angels. Mankind is flawed and the checks and balances in place through the separation of powers means that we can make the government and the nation good but not perfect. The good will only be preserved through the protection of the freedom of natural law.

The Declaration of Independence has several references to God.

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports. ... 'Tis substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government." [George Washington, *Farewell Address*]

How can you rectify something that you need and make it free, since if it is free, a lot of people are not going to do it?

"Because we hold it for a fundamental and undeniable truth, "that Religion or the duty which we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence." The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate." [James Madison, *Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments*]

What we owe to God each of us owes individually. Piety is of free will. A believer ought to be pious and a citizen ought to be moral, but these cannot be prescribed by force or you destroy the "ought". You can't make it perfect, as a utopia, but you can make it good. There should be no attempt to make it perfect or you remove volition.

"That no free Government, or the blessing of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue, and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles." [George Mason, *Virginia Declaration of Rights*]

You can't be free unless you are just, moderate (not personal excess), temperance, frugality (using money well), virtue. One must constantly ask himself the meaning of these words, and in that you will never misspend a minute. These words apply to divine establishment principles that every citizen is accountable to, but they also apply to the spiritual life of the believer. Words alone are nothing, but the deep meaning of them, the serene contemplation of them in the soul, and the constant striving to be examples of them are what makes a life valuable and useful to the Master.

2Ti 2:21 Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

2Ti 2:22 Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Take the word courage for example. Charging the battle line because someone is going to shoot you in the back is not courage. True courage is a choice. It flows from a free will that sees the value of something to be so great that he is willing to risk his life for it.

In the battle of Thermopylae a king from Sparta who defected to the Persians was asked by the Persian king Xerxes, "Who whips the Spartans to charge the way that they do?" The defector answered, "No one, they just go." Xerxes couldn't understand this at all because he was a tyrant. He made his men charge into battle or they would be whipped, tortured, or executed. Because he only understood tyranny and not freedom, Xerxes could not understand courage.

Satan will never understand the believer's courage. It must surprise him every time. The Christian must have the courage to take hold of the eternal life that was given to him at salvation and so live that life now, forsaking the old life that was common amongst the world.

Good laws can encourage virtue but they cannot develop virtue in a person. Practicing these things will etch virtue in you and develop character.

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

Php 4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.

Impelling destroys the thing that you're trying to produce. It must not be forced. Virtue is not the manner of bureaucratic rule. Bureaucratic rules are made for slaves. Bureaucrats purposely make the rules so long and complex that no one can read and understand them. This solidifies their power since only they know the rules. Compare the brevity of the Homestead Act which transferred millions of acres of land to the people with the incredible length of the Affordable Care Act.

2. The second fundamental is its final cause. The Republic seeks a final cause.

There are two contending for authority in America today. The progressive contends that human nature changes and we can make the society whatever we want it to be. The true conservative contends that the Declaration of Independence reveals unalienable rights and the Constitution protects those rights and that these things are permanent. But what is it that we want? Do we want freedom and the risks that come with it or do we want security by giving all power over our lives to our "representatives" in Washington?

The choice between freedom and risk, or security and slavery will be determined by the one who has the greatest will or the greatest power. Progressivism is all about power. It distills into a doctrine of power. People are asking for power in the name of power and that is dangerous. In other words they desire a power simply for the sake of power, a power which, they will not themselves submit to. The other is according to the Declaration of Independence. They appeal to a standard that they also would obey. The Declaration of Independence doesn't call for power but natural right from nature's God.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Let those flatter who fear ..." speaking of king George III who desired absolute power over the colonies. What did George III lose? He lost the new world and he is known in the pages of history as a blot and a tyrant. What has Satan lost and what will he lose still? Freedom and liberty are found in none other than God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I pray that these pages helped you to realize God's liberty in your own life on a deeper level.

I want to personally thank Hillsdale College for their online Constitutional courses. I am indebted to their pursuit of truth.

The End.