

Never in the history of the United States has a presidential inauguration been marked by the controversy that has surrounded the prayers for the inauguration of President Barack Obama. In several previous inaugurations it has been traditional to call upon the Lord Jesus Christ to protect and guide the president and the nation. In his inaugural message and prayer for George W. Bush on entering his first term, Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham, quoted John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes unto the Father but by Me." He finished with these words: "I pray that God will place His great hand of protection on each and every one and especially upon you, Mr. President, and your family. May we as a nation again place our hope and trust in the Almighty God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Redeemer and our Friend. May God bless you and may God bless America."

I am not endorsing Billy or Franklin Graham, but regardless how one views them or the professed faith of George W. Bush, Franklin Graham's words were bold by today's standards. Throughout American history presidential inauguration prayers have varied in references to Jesus Christ or omissions of His name. With the decline of true faith among American citizens, boldness in proclaim-

ing Jesus' name has waned while atheistic and non-Christian insistence on "diversity" has resulted in court challenges to the idea of prayer at any governmental function.

The 2005 inauguration of President George W. Bush witnessed a court challenge by Michael Newdow seeking to prohibit prayer at presidential inaugurations. His challenge failed, but that has not stopped the repeated calls for prohibition from being heard ever since.

Keeping with tradition, the inauguration of President Obama maintained the offering of prayers. Sadly, all those assigned the task by Obama displayed unbiblical approaches. We have transcribed their prayers (in bold type) and offer biblically-based and common sense comments.

EUGENE ROBINSON'S PRAYER

Obama's choice of homosexual Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire Eugene Robinson to conduct the Invocation Prayer at the Opening Ceremony for Inaugural Week speaks volumes about Obama's alleged Christian faith. Robinson's politicized "prayer" reveals his peculiar social-gospel agenda:

O god of our many understandings, we pray that you will bless us with tears—tears for a world in which over a billion people exist on less than a dollar a day, where young

women in many lands are beaten and raped for wanting an education, and thousands die daily from malnutrition, malaria, and AIDS.

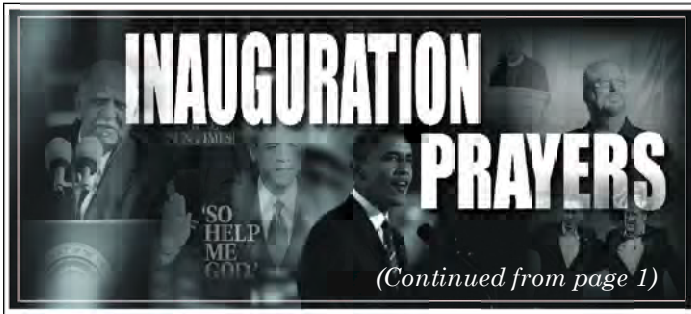
Who is this "god of our many understandings"? Obviously these words were meant to appease the adherents to false religions. Which of the many "gods" of the Hindus is YHWH of the Bible? He is not found in that religion.

The Buddhists have no god per se; the many gods of the many false religions are not YHWH. The Muslims deny that God has a Son, so their Allah is not YHWH.

Robinson was praying to all the "gods" of man's vain imagination—even Satan himself who is worshipped by many. When he invokes these false gods' blessings, approved by the people and/or our leaders, he brings upon the nation a curse from the true God:

"Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: a blessing, if you obey the commandments of YHWH your God, which I command you today, and a curse, if you will not obey the commandments of YHWH your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you today, to go after other gods, which you have not known. (Deuteronomy 11:26-28)

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When a person who claims to be a follower of Christ (a “Christian”) invokes other gods, he reveals himself to be a deceiver and false prophet. He is in the camp of Satan.

The apostle Paul wrote:

But I say that the things that the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God. And I do not want you to have fellowship with devils.

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils. You cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table and of the table of devils. (1 Corinthians 10:20-21)

Robinson’s attempt at a guilt trip for Americans, asking that his “god” bless the nation with tears for the world’s oppressed and hungry, sidesteps the real cause of man’s suffering—sin. Not that everyone’s suffering is the result of personal sin, but that the whole world lies in sin (1 John 5:19). It is not lack of generosity on the part of Americans throughout this nation’s history that is the cause of suffering here and abroad. The billions upon billions of dollars given through charities as well as taxation has often been funneled through greedy heads of state (both here and abroad) and have not found their way into the hands of those they have been allegedly targeted for.

It is a favorite ploy of the godless left to blame Americans for the ills of the world. But regardless of the many faithless Americans—since this country’s inception till today—don’t blame the citizens of this country. Blame the politicians who tax the citizens in order to redistribute the wealth into the pockets of the politicians in other nations.

Bless this nation with anger—anger at discrimination at home and abroad—against refugees and immigrants, women, people of color, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender people.

Bless us with discomfort at the easy, simplistic answers we’ve preferred to hear from our politicians instead of the truth about ourselves and our world, which we need to face if we’re going to rise to the challenges of the future.

Bless us with patience and the knowledge that none of what ails us will be fixed any time soon, and the understanding that our new president is a human being, not a messiah.

Bless us with humility, open to understanding that our own needs as a nation must always be balanced with those of the world.

Certainly this nation has been responsible for injustices, but this is just another attempt to lay a guilt trip on us. As far as the needs of our nation being balanced with those of the world,

again, no nation has been as generous as the United States toward other nations. But the responsibility for the welfare of other nations rests upon the governments of those nations; it should not rest upon our government, and certainly not upon American citizens. Government leaders are sworn to uphold the laws and the welfare of their own nation above all others. They are not sworn in as globalists or international socialists.

Bless us with freedom from mere tolerance. Replace it with a genuine respect and warm embrace of our differences.

And bless us with compassion and generosity, remembering that every religion’s god judges us by the way we care for the most vulnerable.

Are we to warmly embrace the homosexual agenda for which Robinson works so hard? I think not.

And other religion’s “gods” don’t care about the most vulnerable. Look at the still existent caste system of Hinduism. Most religions’ gods are fearful and capricious. Robinson is saying that all the religions’ gods are equal in their judgment. But which of these many gods of “different understandings” is the true God? None of them. YHWH, the God of the Bible is the only God who will judge anyone. And he has already judged the gods of “different understandings.”

“But YHWH is the true God. He is the living God, and an everlasting King. The earth shall tremble at His wrath, and the nations shall not be able to stand His indignation. You shall say this to them: ‘The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.’” (Jeremiah 10:10-11)

Robinson continued:

And god, we give you thanks for your child Barack as he assumes the office of President of the United States. Give him wisdom beyond his years. Inspire him with President Lincoln’s reconciling leadership style, President Kennedy’s ability to enlist our best efforts, and Dr. King’s dream of a nation for all people.

The United States is already a nation for all people, like no other nation on earth. Dr. King said he had a dream for the day when a man would be judged by the content of his character, and not by the color of his skin. But how many people voted for Obama simply because of the color of his skin? Has Obama, who has avowed support for homosexual marriage and the killing of babies, not displayed his true character?

Would Dr. King approve of those who voted for Obama because of his color?

Give him a quiet heart, for our Ship of State needs a steady, calm captain. Give him stirring words; we will need to be inspired and motivated to make personal and common sacrifices necessary to facing the challenges ahead. Make him colorblind, reminding him of his own words, that under his leadership there will be neither red nor blue states, but the United States.

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That can happen only if the “red” states capitulate to his united blue states. Those who seek “unity” are demanding that those who disagree with their perverse agendas change in order to agree with them. But what if we don’t agree?

There is no going back. This nation has been split at least 50-50 on issues where there can be no conciliation. The Communist Party in the United States warned us in the 1950s that communism would work to divide every segment of society it could: black against white; female against male; labor against industry; poor against rich; immoral against moral. They said they would take over our governments, our schools, our judicial system, and, yes, our churches, to do it. History has proven this to have happened. Most communists are not identifiable because they are not card-carrying members of the Communist Party. But their ideology is the same (international socialism).

It has not been by happenstance that we have become a nation irrevocably divided. But the division has been lopsided in favor of evil, while a majority has now been cajoled to believe that what is evil is good, and what is good is evil.

(And how did the media *in concert* happen to assign red [traditionally the color of the left—see all Communist country flags] to conservative-leaning states, and blue (the traditional color of conservatism) to the left-leaning states? This cannot be by happenstance either. This has been done to give the subliminal impression that the leftists hold traditional values while those on the “right” are radicals.)

Help him remember his own oppression as a minority, drawing on that experience of discrimination that he might seek to change the lives of those who are still its victims. Give him strength to find family time and privacy. And help him remember that even though he is president, a father only gets one shot at his daughters’ childhoods.

And please, god, keep him safe. We know we ask too much of our presidents, and we are asking far too much of this one. We implore you, O good and great god, to keep him safe. Hold him in the palm of your hand that he might do the work we have called him to do; that he might find joy in the impossible calling; and that in the end he might lead us as a nation to a place of integrity, prosperity, and peace. Amen.

What about holiness? That is the standard to which all of God’s true prophets and teachers have called the people. Integrity is fine as far as it goes, but people can be true to their own convictions and still be false to the true God.

Prosperity and peace? Is that of greater importance than holiness? But, then, can we expect that call from one of Robinson’s ilk?

In a National Public Radio interview Robinson declared, “...my intention is not to invoke the name of Jesus, and so rather than insert that and really exclude them from the prayer by doing so, I want this to be a prayer to the “god of our many understandings,” and a prayer that all people of faith can join me in.”

A true believer in Jesus would decline to pray rather than deny Christ in such a way. People like Robinson should remove themselves from positions of leadership in the churches. But, then, deceivers must arise among us as Jesus warned His disciples:

“Be careful that no man deceives you, for many will come in My name, saying that I am Christ, and shall deceive many. (Matthew 24:4)

The Lord’s enemies often wear clerical robes, as attested by Robinson’s interview with MSNBC’s Rachel Maddox days before his scheduled prayer to kick off the inaugural proceedings.

Rachel Maddox: The Obama Transition Team insists that Bishop Robinson’s invitation was long planned. It was not at all related to trying to win back the affections of Mr. Obama’s erstwhile, teeth-gnashing supporters who were alienated by the Rick Warren decision.

Joining us now to talk about this and to talk about Rick Warren’s invitation, and to talk about this great honor, is Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Bishop Robinson, thank you for coming on the show. I know you decided to give us this interview exclusively, and I really, really appreciate it.

GR: Well I’m delighted to be here Rachel, and I might point out that my teeth are totally intact.

RM: Very good. Well, but you did gnash your teeth a little bit, even publicly over the Rick Warren decision, did you not?

GR: I did indeed. You know, being a supporter of Barack Obama doesn’t mean we don’t critique certain decisions that he might make. And so many of us in the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and trans-gender community were just stunned, really, by this choice. But I must say that in the intervening days, it appears that Barack Obama is being the person he told us he was, and that he intended to be, by including all voices in this inauguration and indeed in his administration.

RM: As you could tell from my introduction I am a little skeptical about the idea that your invitation and the Rick Warren invitation were totally uncoupled in the minds of the transition team, but you have commented since the invitation that you really don’t think that these were the same decision. You think that your invitation was planned way ahead of time.

GR: You know, I had the great opportunity to meet then Senator Obama early on in the New Hampshire Primary, and the thing that drew me to him was his talk of a vision of governing that was not about polarization but about bringing us all together. I think it’s a message that America hungers for, and it’s certainly a message that religious people should support.

Will Eugene Robinson give up his position for the sake of unity? If not, why should he expect those opposed to his perver-

sions to give up theirs? There can be no unity that is not forced unity. Unless right-thinking people are brainwashed by government, media, and education systems determined to corrupt future generations. Robinson continues:

And then I worked behind the scenes with the campaign, particularly advising Senator Obama around gay and lesbian issues, and so I think it is really based upon the brief but important relationship that he and I have been able to establish.

RM: When you were invited to give the invocation of this first inaugural event on Sunday, how did they approach you, and what are all the events that you're going to be taking part in?

GR: Well they approached me by telephone. It's a wonderful and long-standing custom. And we even have telephones in New Hampshire; it's quite amazing.

Uh, no. I was invited to pronounce the invocation, which is just an amazing honor, and then invited along with my partner to participate in the swearing-in, the National Prayer Breakfast, and a number of other private events, and I think gay and lesbian people everywhere should feel very much welcomed by this administration through that.

RM: You were an early supporter of President-elect Obama, I know, and one of the things that I have talked to a lot of gay activists about since the Rick Warren invitation was issued is that when you compare the Obama, the experience with Obama to the experience with the Clinton administration—as you know, the Clinton administration in many ways through gay people, through the gay and lesbian community under the boss politically—since the Warren decision a lot of activists I have spoken with have expressed the idea that President Clinton's reputation was somewhat redeemed in the gay community because he did keep so many gay people in his inner circle. There were openly gay people around him; he was known to be personally comfortable around gay and lesbian people. Do you have a sense of that same personal—or personnel—inclusiveness from Mr. Obama?

GR: Well I do feel very confident that this president-elect does understand us and stands with us in the issues that are important to us. Of course, we're going to hold his feet to the fire about that. But as you know, as a religious person, no one had a bigger tent than Jesus, and I must say that I think the whole notion of a big tent, where every human being is acknowledged as being a child of God, and frankly, as worthy of our respect and concern, that sort of vision, I believe, is Barack Obama's vision as well, and I long for a government that respects the dignity of every human being, especially those who are less fortunate.

Jesus was not a religious person. He is the object of true religion—the incarnate Word of God who is to be worshipped as God in the flesh. Nor is every human being a “child of God.”

The apostle John said:

He who practices sin is of the devil, for the devil sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Whoever is born of God does not practice sin because His seed remains in him and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whoever does not do righteousness is not of God, neither he that does not love his brother. (1 John 3:8-10)

Those who promote sin in the name of Jesus are especially open to God's judgment. Yet we are not called to destroy such, but to pray for them. True love of our fellow man, including those who pervert the Gospel and champion sin, is to desire that they turn from their sins and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. To keep silent is to deny them the opportunity for repentance and salvation.

RM: One last quick question for you, bishop: *The Windy City Times* has published documents this week that indicate that President Obama's current opposition to same-sex marriage is not a position that he has always held. In 1996—they have found a document that he signed, that he typed, that said that he supported the legalization of same-sex marriage. If it does turn out that he has dramatically changed his position on that subject, how do you feel about that?

GR: Well that would be wonderful. As you know, all of the Democratic candidates virtually stopped short of endorsing gay marriage. What I do believe about this new president is that he believes in equal rights for all American citizens, and in the end I hope that that's where America will move in terms of gay marriage. Certainly as a religious person I will support anything that shows us to be equally valuable to each other and to our government.

RICK WARREN'S PRAYER

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Orange County, California, was asked by Obama to give the prayer at the inauguration ceremony on November 20. His selection was met with protests from the homosexual community because of Warren's endorsement of California's Proposition 8 which amends the California Constitution, defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The proposition passed and was recently upheld by the California Supreme Court after challenges by homosexual groups and their sympathizers. Ironically, Warren has been very soft on homosexuality, and has been a champion for AIDS research and medical treatment through his P.E.A.C.E. Plan. His prayer covertly endorses “inclusiveness.”

Our Father, everything we see, and everything we can't see, exists because of you alone. It all comes from you; it all belongs to you; it all exists for your glory. History is your story. The Scripture tells us, “Hear, O Israel, the LORD is our God; the LORD is one.”

You are “the Compassionate and Merciful One.” And you are loving with everyone you have made.

This accolade to deity as “the Compassionate and Merciful One” is not found in Scripture. Although Scripture does in different ways make reference to the true God as compassionate and merciful, this phrase addressing God as “the Compassionate and Merciful One” is common to Islam, not Christianity. I understood this as soon as I heard it.

Before you accuse me of grasping at straws, go on-line and Google “Compassionate and Merciful One.” Virtually every use of the phrase is attributed to Islamic sources. It is also the invocation that precedes all but one of the suras in the Koran.

Most likely, Warren used this phrase to make Muslims feel comfortable, but why not just praise God for His mercy and love, and, while at it, for His greatness and fearfulness? The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. And if any people needed wisdom today it is the American populous.

Is it true that God is loving with everyone He has made? The world has taken hold of the one Scripture verse it seems willing to accept: “God is love” (1 John 45:8 & 16). But because God’s nature is love, does it mean that God is loving toward everyone, even those who hate Him and love other gods? The claim that God is loving with everyone He has made is an allusion to so-called “unconditional love”—the idea that God loves without condition, and consequently He will forgive everyone regardless of their beliefs or practices. It is the foundation for universalism, not biblical faith.

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.”

Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

Jesus answered and said to him, “If a man loves Me he will keep My words. And My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My sayings. And the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me. (John 14:21-23)

But what about John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son?”

Finish it: “so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” God is loving toward those who love His Son. All others remain outside His love. The truth is that He leaves open the door for men to enter in, but they must make that choice. “Many are called, but few are chosen.”

All are called through the Gospel; only those who respond to the Gospel and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, evidenced by their turning from sin and walking by His Word, may enter into the Father’s love.

God’s love was unconditional only in that He sent His Word to become a man and die for the sins of the world. He did not require that anyone ask this of Him; He did it of His own volition.

Calvinists would say that Jesus died only for the elect. But the Scriptures are clear that God loved the whole world. Even so, He has determined that His love would apply only to those who believe in His only-begotten Son.

Now today, we rejoice, not only in America’s peaceful transfer of power for the forty-fourth time, [actually it’s the 43rd peaceful transfer; the first was by revolution] we celebrate a hinge point of history with the inauguration of our first African-American President of the United States. We are so grateful to live in this land—the land of unequalled possibility where the son of an African immigrant could arise to the highest level of our leadership.

And we know today that Dr. King and a great cloud of witnesses are shouting in Heaven!

Please. I would think that Dr. King, if he is in Heaven, would have more important things to rejoice in than Barack Obama. Maybe GOD! How does Warren “know” that King is even aware of what is happening on earth? And why would all the saints be shouting for joy at the political prospects of the United States?

Such words indicate that these are not truly prayers to God as much as they are political pandering to people with itching ears.

Give to our new president, Barack Obama, the wisdom to lead us with humility, the courage to lead us with integrity, the compassion to lead us in generosity. Bless and protect him, his family, Vice-president Biden—a Catholic—and every one of our freely-elected leaders.

Help us, O God, to remember that we are Americans, united not by race, or religion, or blood, but to our commitment to freedom with justice for all.

Why should God care if we are Americans? Does God wave the American flag? Is unity in America more important to “the pastors’ pastor” than unity in Christ?

Does God really care about personal freedom, particularly when the sin nature of man leads him into all sorts of evil? Are not the problems in America the result of turning away not only from the Lord Jesus Christ, but even from the biblical ethic that, until now, has kept the nation from spiraling into self-destruction?

When we focus on ourselves, when we fight each other, when we forget you, forgive us. When we presume that our greatness and our prosperity is ours alone, forgive us.

When we fail to treat our fellow human beings and all the earth with the respect that they deserve, forgive us.

Not much argument with these words. Except more pandering to the leftist environmentalists who worship the earth and would prefer that mankind not even exist.

Yes, we must respect the earth, but to include these words in a “prayer” is just more pointing out of the “faults” of Americans as if we are somehow more negligent of the environment than other nations. The truth is that the United States is far from being the most offensive polluter of the environment. We are losing our personal freedoms to laws and regulations that respect the earth and animal species more than they respect the species of man.

As we face these difficult days ahead may we have a [unintelligible] clarity in our aims, responsibility in our actions, humility in our approaches, and civility in our attitudes, even when we differ.

Help us to share, to serve, and to seek the common good of all. May all people of good will today join together to work for a more just, a more healthy, and a more prosperous nation and a peaceful planet.

A “peaceful planet”? Is that what we are to pray for? To do so is naïve at best. There will be no peace except, perhaps, for a time under the anti-Christ. The only true peace will come when Jesus returns to establish His rule over the nations with a rod of iron. That is something we cannot “work for.” It is in God’s hands.

And may we never forget that one day all nations and all people will stand accountable before You [TRUE!].

We now commit our new president and his wife Michele, and his daughters Leah [sic], Sasha, into Your loving care.

I humbly ask this in the name of the one who changed my life, Yeshua, Isa, Jesús [pronounced “Heysus”], Jesus, who taught us to pray, “Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

Warren uses the Hebrew name of Jesus (Yeshua) as well as the Islamic name {Isa}, the Hispanic name (Jesús), and, lastly, the English name (Jesus).

This is unfortunate. Not that he would use the Hebrew name; even Christians use that at times. Nor, for that matter, that he would use the Hispanic name; many Hispanics are Christians. What is unfortunate is the further pandering to Islam, acknowledging Islam’s understanding of Jesus as no more than a prophet, and one who is inferior to Mohammad.

Why pander to the most anti-Christ religion on earth?

JOSEPH LOWERY’S BENEDICTION

Dr. Joseph Lowery, who marched for civil rights with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., followed Warren on the inauguration platform and offered this benediction:

God of our weary years, god of our silent tears, thou who has brought us thus far along the way, thou who hast [unintelligible] thy business into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray, lest our feet stray from the places, our god, where we met thee, lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee.

Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand.

True to thee, oh god, and true to our native land, we truly give thanks for the glorious experience we’ve shared this day.

Is this a “glorious” experience? Does it deserve to be glorified?

Granted, the dictionary definition of “glory” includes “praise, honor, or distinction extended by common consent.” But when praying, the term should be reserved for God alone, not for any man. I wouldn’t want the term used of me, especially when calling upon God.

We pray now oh lord for your blessing upon thy servant, Barack Obama, the forty-fourth president of these United States, his family, and his administration. He has come to this high office, and a low moment in the national, and indeed, the global fiscal climate. But because we know you’ve got the whole world in your hands, we pray for not only our nation, but for the community of nations.

Our faith does not shrink, though pressed by the flood of mortal ills, for we know that, lord, you’re able and you’re willing to work through faithful leadership to restore stability, mend our brokenness, heal our wounds,

and deliver us from the exploitation of the poor—of the least of these—and from favoritism toward the rich—the elite of these.

Does the flood of mortal ills include abortion? Or the homosexuality that is gaining such tremendous strength that half our citizens see nothing wrong with homosexual marriage?

None of those praying for America to turn from its evils even mentions these sins which may be the undoing of the nation.

Again, the guilt trip pitting the poor against the rich. Were it not for the rich the poor would be poorer still.

I am not saying that many of the rich have not exploited the poor. But God does not place any more virtue upon poverty than He does upon riches. Virtue is in the heart, not possessions or the lack of same.

The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel when they give an offering to YHWH, to make atonement for your souls. (Exodus 30:15)

The rich and poor meet together; YHWH is the maker of them all. (Proverbs 22:2)

“You shall do no unrighteousness in judgment; you shall not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty, but you shall judge your neighbor in righteousness.” (Leviticus 19:15)

Of course we cannot ignore the many Scriptures that indict the rich who do oppress the poor. But not all the rich are in that category. The point is that such a “prayer” is disingenuous, pandering to the envy of those who are jealous of the wealthy. Why did none of these pray for the wealthy as well as for the poor?

We thank you for the empowering of thy servant, our forty-fourth president, to inspire our nation to believe that, yes, we can work together to achieve a more perfect union. And while we have sown the seeds of greed—the wind of greed and corruption—and even as we reap the whirlwind of social and economic disruption, we seek forgiveness, and we come in the spirit of unity and solidarity to commit our support to our president by our willingness to make sacrifices, to respect your creation, to turn to each other and not on each other.

And now, lord, in the complex arena of human relations: help us to make choices on the side of love, not hate, on the side of inclusion, not exclusion, tolerance, not intolerance. And as we leave this mountaintop help us to hold on to the spirit of fellowship and the oneness of our family. Let us take that power back to our homes, our workplaces, our churches, our temples, our mosques—wherever we seek your will.

Lowery is the third “Christian minister” in this inauguration to imply that God is to be found in all religions. Men do not seek the true God’s will in temples or mosques—not even in most “churches.” They seek God’s blessings upon their own wills. In temples and mosques (and in many “churches”) they deny the very God this “Christian minister” claims to represent.

As well, the term “inclusion” is the buzzword for acceptance of diverse beliefs and practices—particularly homosexuality.

Bless President Barack, First Lady Michelle. Look over our little angelic Sasha and Releah [sic].

We go now to walk together as children, pledging that we won't get weary in the difficult days ahead. We know you will not leave us alone, with your hands of power and your heart of love. Help us then now, Lord, to work for that day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, when tanks will be beaten into tractors, when every man and every woman shall sit under his or her own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid, when justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Another plea for God to help men procure the millennial blessings upon this age. It isn't going to happen because we cannot work for it. When the Lord returns He will implement those blessings. Our responsibility is to lead men to Christ.

Lord, in the memory of all the saints who from their labors rest, and in the joy of a new beginning, we ask you to help us work for that day when Black will not be asked to get back; when Brown can stick around; when Yellow will be mellow; when the Red Man can get ahead, man; and when White would embrace what is right.

Let all those who do justice and love mercy say, "Amen."

Say, "Amen!" Crowd: "Amen!"

And "Amen!" Crowd: "Amen!"

How can a man pray for "unity," "acceptance," "inclusion," and all the other prattling appeals to pacify the mindless masses, then utter this racist remark at the end of his "prayer"? This is not prayer; it is racist propaganda.

It appears as if Barack Obama traded the racist Jeremiah Wright for the racist Joseph Lowery.

Lowery's slap at white people panders to the hatred of non-whites toward whites and ignores the reality of history—that if it weren't for the white, western European industriousness, integrity, and adherence to the biblical ethic that came through the Gospel, as well as for yes, the exploitation of non-whites through colonialism, the rest of the world would be living in dirt. I am not excusing colonialism or racism by whites. But the reality of history is that, had anything been different, had there been no European colonizations; had there been no slavery in the United States; had there been no such evils as well as the good that white men practiced in the past, few if any people living today would have ever been born. We are all products of our parents coming together at a specific time through specific circumstances.

It is not to justify slavery, for instance, to state that had Lowery's ancestors not suffered under that terrible institution they would not have procreated in the same manner. His African ancestors would have met different mates at different times, and he would never have been born.

There is no preexistence of souls waiting to be infused into human embryos at chance intervals. Our siblings are different from us because they are the products of different circumstances of mating.

Slavery was the reason Joseph Lowery was even born. It is the reason Martin Luther King, Jr. was born; it is the reason Jesse Jackson was born.

The Syrian hegemony of Lebanon and the subsequent immigration of my grandfather, bringing my father to Mexico first, then to the United States where he met my mother, is the reason I was born.

We can all find reasons to place blame on those who came before us. But why not rather thank God for the circumstances of history that allowed us to come into the world in the first place, and have the opportunity for eternal life?

But that would not pander to the anger and resentment that people have against others. It would not allow Blacks to forget or to even thank Whites for their part in history.

No one denies that injustices have been done. But exploitation and slavery have never been exclusive to Western Civilization. Even more horrible slavery continues to exist in non-white countries, particularly in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Where it not for the civilizing influences of western European Christians—even if most have been nothing more than nominal adherents to the faith—the rest of the world would be more barbaric than it is.

This does not excuse evil perpetrated by anyone; it is merely a truth that few are willing to state, and at which most stop their ears.

God has moved nations as He has desired, allowing man to work his evil in order to bring either redemption or judgment.

To whom were these men praying at Obama's inauguration? To God or to their audiences? Obviously their words were meant to impress men, not God, because so many of their words were unscriptural and unloving.

There is no doubt that the biblical ethic that has guided this nation since its inception has gradually been discarded by a large segment of its citizens. Recent polls indicate that the nation is almost evenly split on the issues of abortion, homosexual marriage, and other moral issues. This was reflected in the election of Barack Obama, a pro-abortion president who has also waffled on homosexual marriage. Although during his presidential campaign he said that he is against homosexual marriage but in favor of equal domestic rights for homosexuals, as a newly-elected Illinois state senator he stated that he was in favor of homosexual marriages. In a 1996 interview by *Outlines*, a homosexual newspaper, Obama stated, "I favor legalizing same-sex marriages, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages."

After setting his sights on the U.S. Senate Obama changed his tune and stated that he did not support same-sex marriage, but this was more a matter of strategy than of principle.

Following are Obama's responses to a February 4, 2004, *Windy City Times* interview by one of that homosexual newspaper's reporters, Tracy Baim, when he was running for the U.S. Senate:

Tracy Baim: Do you have a position on marriage vs. civil unions?

Barack Obama: I am a fierce supporter of domestic partnership and civil union laws. I am not a supporter of gay marriage as it has been thrown about, primarily just as a strategic issue.

I think that marriage, in the minds of a lot of voters, has a religious connotation. I know that's true in the African-

American community, for example. And if you asked people, “Should gay and lesbian people have the same rights to transfer property, and visit hospitals, (and etcetera)?” they would say, “Absolutely.” And then if you talk about, “Should they get married?” then suddenly...

T.B.: There are more than 1,000 federal benefits that come with marriage. Looking back in the 1960s and interracial marriage, the polls showed people against that as well.

B.O.: Since I’m a product of an interracial marriage, I’m very keenly aware of ...

T.B.: But you think, strategically, gay marriage isn’t going to happen so you won’t support it at this time?

B.O.: What I’m saying is that, strategically, I think we can get civil unions passed. I think we can get SB 101 passed. I think that to the extent that we can get the rights, I’m less concerned about the name. And I think that is my No. 1 priority, is an environment in which the Republicans are going to use a particular language that has all sorts of connotations in the broader culture as a wedge issue, to prevent us moving forward, in securing those rights, then I don’t want to play their game.

T.B.: If Massachusetts gets marriage and this gives momentum to the proposed federal Constitutional amendment against gay marriage?

B.O.: I would oppose that.

So President Obama’s position is one of “strategy” to make homosexual unions equal in the sight of the law to that of the holy institution of marriage. Not that the marriage institution has been kept holy by many. For that matter, many today eschew marriage in favor of cohabitation.

Here is the irony: Who wants to get married today?

The answer: Homosexuals. Heterosexuals just want to live together.

Perhaps God is allowing mankind, who has defiled His holy institution, to reap the consequences. If those who claim to be His people won’t keep it holy, why should He not give it over to the ungodly?

Obama’s support for homosexuality is also reflected in appointments of homosexuals to key positions within his administration. National Zoo Director John Berry is being appointed head of the Office of Personnel Management, the hiring agency of the federal government’s civilian workforce. Fred Hochberg will be chair of the Export-Import Bank, which helps finance the export of U.S. goods and services; homosexual activist Brian Bond will be named deputy director of the White House office of Public Liaison, which conducts outreaches to various constituency groups, depending upon the president’s priorities.

Others expected to be announced soon after this writing are:

Moe Vela, as director of operations in the Office of the Vice President;

Dave Noble, as White House liaison to NASA;

David Medina, as deputy chief of staff for First Lady Michelle Obama;

Karine Jean-Pierre, as White House liaison to the Department of Labor.

Robinson, Warren, and Lowery may offer their prayers that pander to the godless elements in our nation, but that does not mean God will hear them. Jesus spoke of His own generation, but His words are no less applicable today:

“You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied well of you, saying, ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouths, and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.

“But they worship Me in vain, teaching the precepts of men.” (Matthew 15:7-9)

The precepts of men are those beliefs and practices that are contrary to God’s Word. While calling upon God to bless the nation, they endure all sorts of evil and call it “good.” But this, too, does not escape God’s attention:

“Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope—that say, ‘Let Him make speed and hasten His work so that we may see it,’ and ‘Let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come so that we may know it!’

“Woe to those who call evil ‘good,’ and good ‘evil’—that put darkness in place of light, and light in place of darkness—that put bitter in place of sweet, and sweet in place of bitter!

“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

“Woe to those who are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink—who justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

“Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust, because they have cast away the Law of YHWH of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 5:18-24)

Israel and Judah—God’s chosen people—did not escape His judgment, but were cast into bondage to Assyria and Babylon. The citizens of this once great country at one time knew the Word of God; they have known right from wrong; good from evil; light from darkness. But we have allowed every evil spirit of heathenism to invade our shores; we have adopted the ways of the heathen to worship false gods; we have called “evil” those who have brought the Good News of Jesus Christ; we have called “good” those who impose unrighteous decrees that sentence the innocent to death in the womb; we have called upon the ungodly fornicators, the homosexuals, the promoters of perversion, to teach our children their ways in the classrooms of our government indoctrination centers called “public schools.”

I cannot say if there is still time to call upon the Lord in repentance. Even as Judah’s righteous king Hezekiah tore down the idols during his reign, God pronounced His sentence upon Israel because it was too late. But those of us within the true Body of Christ must make a decision for our own sakes. We must turn to God and ask Him to heal us. We may even pray for our nation. But we cannot continue to take pleasure in the world’s evils or to tolerate those evils in our own midst while our children are about to inherit a world given over to Satan. ❖