

A Lot of Protesting

By: Minister Joshua P. Yonts at First Christian Church of Pinckneyville

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As our nation has departed from a Christian worldview, this has inevitably led to a mistrust of objective truth and a denial of universal authority. These are the things we are seeing today in our own society. According to Pew Research Center, they released a major new report, “In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace.” It seems as I (and many others) engage the lost, there does appear to be a common thread among folks within our society. One may claim to be “spiritual”, they may even cite a religious creed, or religious affiliation, or lastly maybe a family denomination. But it doesn’t take long in engaging them, that one will discover very quickly that Christian truth claims do not bind the conscience. This is to say, we are at the point of the dismantle of objective binding authority. It is, *gone with the wind*, literally. The moral liberalism of the age is seeking to rare it’s jaws and devour not only babies in the womb, but also the desecration of all religious liberty (i.e. our first freedom). Which would give them what they want; government oppression. The Christian Church must be prepared to face this head on with courage and conviction. The closer you get to American colleges and university towns the closer you find yourself in secular territory. They are the vehicles that demons use to drive the culture into secularization and the ultimate denial of truth. Two ways they do this is by (1) outrage demonic protesting (2) seeking for rescue in political conquest. I must be clear here that as Christians, we must never down play the vital importance of our democracy and election. We as Christians have an utmost responsibility to vote as a good steward with Christian conviction and conscience. However, we must never believe that political conquest will shelter ultimate and or any lasting peace. We need not a radical political crusade, but a biblical centered, Christ exalating, truth defending, God fearing, Spirit illuminated, error refuting, passion ignited, world rejecting protest! That is a call back *to* and commitment *to* let God’s words speak, *a.k.a.*, a theological protest!

As biblical Christians we have the greatest tool, the word of God. We must confront the secular culture with it. Our love for neighbor is what drives us to do just that. We are also driven by good and faithful laws that advocate and endorse human dignity and support all justice and all righteousness. However, we must remember that bearing the name Christian means that the knee will only be bowed to Him; who ultimate allegiance belongs, that namely The Lord Jesus Christ. If we are truly born again and heirs of Christ, then Scripture alone is our definitive authority. In the words of Thomas Campbell (1763-1854) who was one of the leading figures of the Restoration Movement that began in this country in the 19th century, he along with men like Alexander Campbell (his son), Barton W. Stone, and Walter Scott, sought to unite believers by abandoning the creeds and denominations of men and return to the Bible. So too, God help us to see Scripture rightly proclaimed, the church built up and this precious gospel extended to all the earth! In a speech delivered in 1808, Thomas Campbell set forth an idea that became a motto for the Restoration Movement.

“Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent”

Let us not be silent! God has spoken; thus, we speak!

Josh P. Yonts