

## **Problems And Solutions:**

### **Lack of Christian (Biblical) Influence - Acts 27:25-29** **Sunday AM 08/19/18**

#### **Introduction:**

Notice in the title I did not say religious influence but Christian and Biblical influence. Our government institutions seem to be sympathetic toward certain religions such as Muslim but not very understanding of Christians and their practices.

#### **I) Background**

##### **A) Government that used to encourage Bible reading and teaching of moral principles.**

1. Used to be the Bible was read in many classrooms. Used as a textbook in literature, poetry, geography, and even history.
2. Now it is seen as a threat to education as no real school or teacher would dare to use the Bible.
3. McGuffey's Readers - a series of primers for levels 1-6 widely used as textbooks in public schools in the mid-19th century to the mid 20th century.
  - a. Taught moral principles such as the value of work, telling the truth, obeying parents, etc.
  - b. Also taught the dangers of being lazy, not listening to authority, use of alcohol, etc.

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**B) Today the Bible and McGuffey's readers have been replaced**

1. Do not meddle, The Righteous Never Forsaken, Man and the inferior animals, The goodness of God, Control your temper, Death of Absalom, No excellence without labor, Effects of gambling, Religion the only basis of society, Scriptures and the Savior, etc.
2. Those are not used today because they might offend someone, viewed as controversial.

**C) Our society ridicules Christians and wants them to be quiet.**

1. Some "Christians" have compromised their beliefs in order to get along.
2. Some have perverted the Gospel by emphasizing a social gospel.

**D) In our government**

1. It used to be seen as a positive thing to be a Christian but now it is seen as being dangerous.
2. People selected by the President for a certain job or office are often asked about their religious views. Their writings are scrutinized and often made to sound like they are unfit for certain jobs.

## II) Understanding The Problem

### A) The number of "Christians" compared to the rest of the population is small.

1. Jesus spoke of this fact in *Matthew 7.13-14*.
2. Looking at the Old Testament one sees the number of faithful Jews compared to the Jewish nation at times was small. *1 Kings 19.18* "7,000 has not bowed to Baal.."
3. How many bowed and worshipped the golden calf in *Exodus 32*? 3,000 men died that day.
4. Even among the priest there were some who were not consecrated as they should have been. *2 Chron. 29.34*.
5. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because there was not 10 righteous people in those cities. *Genesis 18 & 19*.
6. The Old Testament speaks of the remnant who will remain faithful. A remnant came back out of captivity to re-inhabit Canaan.

### B) Think of the different ways people are treated.

1. Tim Tebow was highly criticized when he took a knee after scoring a touchdown.
2. Others are praised when they take a knee during the national anthem.

### III) The Power Of The Few

#### A) **Matthew 7.13-14**

1. While small in number the faithful few have always had influence in whatever society they were in.
2. Sodom and Gomorrah would have been spared if their had been a few more holding to God's word.
3. Daniel and his 3 friends had great influence in Babylon.
4. Book of Esther teaches us some of the Jews in captivity remained separate from society, *Esther 3.8*.

#### B) **Matthew 5.13-16 Salt and light.**

1. Salt in the ancient world was different from our salt today. One could buy a piece of salt but it often had impurities in it.
  - a. If the salt had a lot of impurity one had a problem of getting rid of it. Could not throw it on the ground, could not put it in the food or water, often cast on the road to get rid of it.
  - b. But salt that was useful was greatly valued.
2. Our task is to keep ourselves pure.
  - a. One challenge we face is to influence others while not letting them influence us away from God.

- b. *James 4.4* friendship with the world is enmity with God.
  - c. Problem of people professing to be "Christian" but living like the world.
- 3. Light is bright and draws attention. Has many good uses- illuminates, exposes and drives out darkness. No one would light a lamp just to cover it up.
  - a. Christians should not hide their religious beliefs.
  - b. *Phil. 2.12 -16* God is working in you, you shine as lights in the world.
  - c. *1 Peter 2.11-12* Gentiles will see your good works and glorify God.
- 4. Stand up for God's word, use your influence in your sphere of influence.

**Conclusion:**

July 3, 2017 - Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, a Republican, signed House Bill 128 into law. Also known as the "Bible Literacy law," it will require the Kentucky Board of Education to institute "an elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures, Old Testament of the Bible, the New Testament or a combination of the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible."