



Marriage and the Rule of Law(yers)

They were God's covenant colors -- a warm arc of red, oranges, yellows, greens, blues, and purples -- transformed and splashed across the White House in defiant display of pride. It was a stark contrast to how the Supreme Court was lit up -- with the candles of hundreds of men and women gathered to pray. Heeding a call that spread like wildfire through social media, Christians from across the city made their way to a vigil until the sidewalks were covered with the lights of God's people.

One by one, they pleaded for mercy, protection, and forgiveness in these difficult days. "God's not looking for a lot of people," FRC's Chase Jennings said. "He's looking for a faithful people." And those faithful people have an important mission: showing the love of Christ by speaking the truth of Christ. But to do it, the church needs to rise up and realize that this isn't the end of the struggle for marriage -- but the beginning of the fight for freedom.

The court, like the nation, may be deeply divided on marriage -- but it still recognizes the sacredness of belief our Founders fought and died to protect. "It must be emphasized that religions, and those who adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned," **Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote.** "The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faith, and to their own deep aspirations to continue the family structure they have long revered."

Even the President called the country to a tolerance so few on his side seem to exercise. "I know that Americans of good will continue to hold a wide range of views on this issue. Opposition, in some cases, has been based on sincere and deeply held beliefs. All of us who welcome today's news should be mindful of that fact and recognize different viewpoints, revere our deep commitment to religious freedom."

Already, the Left's army is marching on its next target: the First Amendment. On MSNBC, Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) set her sights on men and women of faith. "Certainly the First Amendment says that in institutions of faith, there is absolute power to ...observe deeply-held religious belief. I don't think it extends far beyond that," **She claimed.** "[T]hey're talking about expanding this far beyond our churches and synagogues to businesses and individuals across this country. I think there are clear limits that have been set in other contexts and we ought to abide by those in this new context across America.

If Sen. Baldwin swore to uphold the Constitution, then she at least ought to know what's in it. Nowhere does the First Amendment say "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment or religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof if..." It applies to every American, in every occupation, of every faith. For Sen. Baldwin to argue that religious liberty is limited to the four walls of a church is like saying the Second Amendment only applies in gun clubs. But unfortunately for conservatives, her view is increasingly the prevailing one.

That's why, as Rep. Raul Labrador (R-Idaho) tweeted this morning, this marriage ruling 'means we must speed action on the [First Amendment Defense Act] by me and Senator Mike Lee to protect religious freedom.' And not just for evangelicals, but for **orthodox Jews and Catholics**, who are just as determined - and vulnerable to attack. In Texas, Attorney General Ken Paxton is taking swift steps to shield the state from the government's retribution. "This newly minted federal constitution right to same-sex marriage can and should peacefully co-exist with longstanding constitutional and statutory rights," **he pointed out,** "including the right to free exercise of religion and freedom of speech." In a special legal directive, he gave public officials the right to opt out of same-sex marriage -- and in a separate statement advised them that numerous lawyers were ready to provide representation in necessary.

No wonder conservative leaders are rushing to build a firewall around religious freedom. Before the ink was dry on the Supreme Court's opinion, news outlets like **Time magazine were urging** Washington to hurry and do what Solicitor General Donald Verrilli threatened -- and strip the tax exemptions from faith-based groups, schools, and charities. "Rather than try to rescue tax-exempt status for organizations that dissent from settled public policy on matters of race or sexuality, we need to take a more radical step. It's time to abolish, or greatly diminish, their tax-exempt statuses," author Mark Oppenheimer argued.

If there were ever a time to contact your congressman and senator, it's now. Ask them to stand with the majority of Americans on the front lines of religious liberty by supporting Senator Mike Lee (S. 1598) and Representative Labrador's (H.R. 2802) First Amendment Defense Act. Let them know that what happened on Friday (June 29, 2015) hasn't changed our course -- it only makes it more urgent.

Shared information with those that love the Lord

Pastor Donald L. Smedley "15"

Words of Encouragement

Serve

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

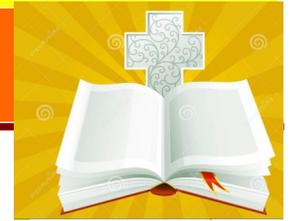


Inside this issue:

Marriage and the Rule of Law(yers)	1
Pastor's Corner	2
Pastor's Corner (Continued)	3
Essential Prayer	3
Women of the Bible: Courage	4

Special points of interest:

- *Prayer Service, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 @ 6PM*
- *Independence Day, July 4th*
- *Enjoy this month's issue!*



TABERNACLE –2

The Tabernacle is also called a sacred tent, a portable sanctuary, said to have been erected by Moses. It was the place at which the God of Israel revealed Himself to and dwelt among His people.

All of its parts represented Jesus Christ and His atoning, intercessory, and mediatorial work. In this volume of "The Trinity Tablet" we will discuss the first five (5) parts that make up the Tabernacle and how each relates to Jesus Christ.

The Fence materials were said to be Snow White, which represented the righteousness of Christ. Whenever the believer places his faith in Christ the righteousness of God is granted to the believer. The fences remained in place by posts made of shittim wood, which came from the acacia tree; it was wrapped in gold with a silver top. The gold was symbolic of His deity and the silver portrayed redemption, meaning the believer expressed his/her faith in Christ only. Everything about the Tabernacle portrayed Christ in either His mediatorial, atoning, or intercessory work.

The Gate that led into the Court was 30 feet wide. The total width of the enclosure on the east, as well as the west, was 75 feet. So, the Gate in front took up nearly half of the space. Its colors of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twine linen portrayed Christ in every capacity. He alone is "the Door!" So Israelites who came to the Brazen Altar with his offering had to pass through this Gate of the Court; the priest who placed incense on the Golden Altar had to enter by the Door of the Tabernacle; and the high priest who entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement had to do so through the Veil, thus realizing the thrice-repeated proof of the only way of access to God.

The Brazen Altar was the first thing the sinner would see when he came through the gate to bring his sacrifice for it to be offered up. The Brazen Altar was the largest sacred vessel in the Tabernacle. It was seven and one-half feet long and seven and one-half feet wide. It was four and one-half feet tall. This was typical of the Cross of Christ. When the lamb was burned on the altar, the flames that went up all typified the judgment of God that would be poured out on His Son instead of on you and me. There were four horns on the altar pointing in all directions to represent the whole world. The fire on the altar was never to go out. The horns were covered in copper, and copper symbolized judgment. (Num. 21:8) The serpent on the pole symbolized Christ on the Cross. In both the Brazen Altar and the Brazen serpent, we see the awfulness of sin. We see that it is so horrible, so deadly, so degrading, and so destructive that even though God could speak worlds into existence, He could not speak redemption into existence and continue to be true to His nature. Sin and all of its effects had to be addressed, and the only way this could be addressed was for the price to be paid regarding atonement.

The High Priest was a type of Christ represented by the garments that he wore. Their beauty defied description, and they were the only garments known to man designed by the Holy Spirit. All the designs concerning the priestly garments were given to Moses by the Lord, and he was to adhere strictly to the design because every bit of it pictured Christ in some manner. (Ex. 39:1-2). The "Holy Place," the first room of the Tabernacle, presents the major service area of the priests. In this place were the Table of Shewbread, the Lampstand, and the Altar of Incense. The "ephod" was the outer robe worn by the high priest. It was made of two parts, one covering the back and the other the front, with these being joined together at the shoulder by golden clasps, which formed the setting for the onyx stones. (Ex. 39:3-4).

Continued on Page 3

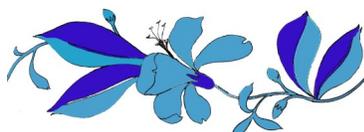
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Not only did the Lord design these garments for the priest, but as well, He gave the workmen the cunning skill required to tailor each piece. The colors in the garments represented not only who Christ was, God and King (gold and purple) but, as well, the manner in which He would redeem humankind, i.e., the shedding of His blood (scarlet). The linen (white) represented His righteousness, while the blue emphasized the fact that all of this originated in Heaven.

The "*curious girdle*" (Ex. 39:5), was a sash tied around the waist. It was made of the same materials as was the ephod. It speaks of preparation for service. The "*breastplate*," (Ex. 8-9), had the same colors as the ephod. The Scriptures do not tell us exactly how these colors were embroidered into these garments. Many scholars believe that the garments were all of white but around the borders, there was a gold thread or wire, followed with a colored band of blue, and then of purple, and then of scarlet. The breastplate also had a pouch, which contained the Urim and the Thummim. The "*Urim and the Thummim*" (Ex. 28:30), were kept in a pouch next to the heart of the priest. Some believe that each of these were stones, used in rendering a judgment; therefore, the judgment rendered would be perfect. Whenever an inquiry was made of the high priest, his answer would be to give the inquirer a stone with the word "yes" or "no" on it.

The Sacrifice was the most important thing for the believing sinner. This sacrifice was a lamb, goat, heifer, oxen or a turtledove. Most of the time the animal to be sacrificed was a lamb. When the sinner came through the gate, he walked past the Brazen Altar to give the lamb to the priest. He, the sinner, was to place both hands on the head of that little animal. He was to confess his sins and then he had to take a sharp knife and cut the jugular of the animal, as the blood poured out into the basin held by the priest. This typified the Son of God who would one day give HIS life at Calvary's Cross for you and me. Lord have mercy. The hide was stricken from its body and the intestines were burned on the altar along with the whole carcass. Remember Jesus is the Lamb that takes away our sins! Lord have mercy.

God Bless
Pastor and Louise "15"



Essential Prayer

Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life; and to say a man lives a life of faith and yet lives a prayerless life is every whit as inconsistent and incredible as to say that a man lives without breathing. He that lives a prayerless life lives without God in the world.

How can you expect to dwell with God forever if you so neglect and forsake him here?

—Jonathan Edwards

Women of the Bible: Courage

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Zelophehad's Daughters (Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah) – They had the courage and faith to defy tradition and ask for what they deserved.



After Moses had led the children of Israel out of Egypt and they had wandered in the wilderness for some time, the Lord commanded Moses and Eleazar to *Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years old and upward* (Num. 26:2). This census was done in order to know how many men they had to go to war as well as to help them divide up inheritances in the Promised Land once they obtained it. During this numbering it was noted that one of the heirs of the tribe of Manasseh, Zelophehad, had no sons but five daughters... Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah & Tirzah (Num. 26:33).

Their father was *the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph* (Num. 27:1). After he died in the wilderness, these five young women approached Moses, Eleazar the priest, the princes, and the whole congregation of Israel to petition on their father's behalf. Because they had no brothers, they were afraid that their father's name and inheritance would be lost forever. They said, *"Why should the name of our father be done away from among his family, because he hath no son?"* and then requested, *"Give unto us therefore a possession among the brethren of our father."* (Num. 27:4)

On hearing their request, Moses *brought their cause before the Lord* (Num. 27:5). In return the Lord told him, *The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren; and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them.* (Num. 27: 7) Furthermore, the Lord created a new *statute of judgment* for Israel saying, *And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, if a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter. And if he have no daughter, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his brethren.* (Num. 27: 8-9).

When the time came for Joshua to divide up the land into inheritances for each tribe, the daughters of Zelophehad again approached Eleazar the high priest, Joshua, and the princes and reminded them that the Lord had commanded Moses to give them *an inheritance among our brethren* (Josh. 17:4). Accordingly, Joshua gave each daughter two portions of land (making a total of 10 portions) because their father was the first-born son and thus entitled to a double portion (Josh. 17: 5-6). Their inheritance was, *beside the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side Jordan... and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead.* (Josh. 17:5).

Answers to this month's Black History Quiz:

- 1) Dr. Elijah Saunders
- 2) Pauli Murray (1910-1985)
- 3) July 21, 1896

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www.mtpisgahame.org

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