

# **The American Gospel...**

## **that damns men's souls**

Christian nationalism and patriotism do not aid the work of Christ in the world. These actually oppose the gospel of grace. Claims that Christian faith call us to safeguard political rights and civil liberties by reforming government and culture are evidence of idolatry. Aaron erred in leading the people to commit idolatry in the wilderness, appealing to lusts of the eye and the flesh. America's modern day 'golden calf' is more sophisticated. This idol attracts reverence by appealing to the pride of life. Even sincere souls practice idolatry, bowing to nationalism. Either they do not discern truth from error (1 John 4:6) or else they willfully refuse to put away idols of man's making.

National idols revered by evangelicals include embrace of, and even devotion to documents *conceived and written by men* including the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. But these are not divinely inspired and are not used by God to further His work in the world. These documents do not carry the weight or possess the value some try to invest in them. (This, despite the fact of so called 'ministries' pushing this idolatry, making false claims that indoctrinate followers with the lie these documents are sourced to the Bible.) Idols in the hands of the carnal and deceived, truth is compromised, leading to claims it is Christian duty to fight to defend and maintain "freedoms", "liberties" and "natural rights" that God provides "loyal citizens" by these documents.

Standing along side this idol is another --the popular belief that mere men, "founding fathers", are spokespersons for "God given rights" and freedom; this idol calls Christ's body to remember, defend and propagate the words and work of these fallible men. Yet the mind-set of the 'Founding Fathers' is an idol that attempts to wed itself to the pure, perfect truth of the one gospel that saves souls, providing true freedom and liberty in Christ.

These idols subtly offer a false gospel which is another gospel, a different gospel (Gal 1:8). The most egregious demonstration of the American Gospel from the father of lies is the claim that shed human blood works hand in hand with Christ's shed blood on the Cross. (One idolatrous symbol of this gospel is expressed by the slogan "Only two forces have ever died for your freedom..."). This is the truth: there is no biblical connection between armed combat and Christ's gospel that secures freedom from sin. Fighting for earthly peace does not make it possible for you or me to witness for the gospel of peace. Christ's death on the cross and resurrection did not secure earthly rights or civil freedoms for anyone. ***Born again souls are spiritually freed from the eternal penalty of death*** while they endure this fallen world. Christ's death did not gain for men civil and temporal liberty through physical warfare conducted in His name. This idolatry is an affront to the true gospel. Note Matthew 16:26.

Many claiming identity as blood bought, born again, spirit filled children of the Most High God ignore their unconscious idolatry. These are guilty of leaving their first love; they are way off course in the race Paul calls them to run—they are guilty of embracing American idols that are false gospels, different and impotent. Proponents of the American Gospel substitute the pure gospel of grace that saves with honoring carnal, man-devised politics, nationalistic pride and patriotism. Followers of Christ are called to repent of idolatry before they experience loss of reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ, or worse, their idolatry is exposed as false faith that ends when that soul is condemned to hell where all idolatry ends.

**“Christians don’t fight for victory.**

**We pray for it.”** Unity Baptist Church Knoxville, TN

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