

## GET OUT OF THE LEFT LANE AND TURN RIGHT

### John 8:33-36

Intro: To know the truth of the Gospel is to be set free. The word “free” here means, “to deliver”. 2 Corinthians 3:16-17 says: “Nevertheless when it [Israel] shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.” To have true liberty, there must be a recognition of and belief in the source of real LIBERTY: the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The only hope for our nation is a revival of truth. The truth that sets the soul free, and the truth that will set us free from the high hand of overpowering government power. I believe that the two are intertwined, and you cannot have lasting liberty and freedom as we have known in this nation, without a sure foundation and that foundation must be Christ Jesus.

David Whitlock, President of Oklahoma Baptist University says: “political freedom is a byproduct of spiritual freedom in ways that cannot be overlooked or swept away under ideas which seek to denigrate or dethrone God from His rightful ownership of this present world.” (Baptist Messenger 1 July 2010)

Far too many citizens today, Christians included, have been misinformed, misguided and misled. The true history of the founding of our country has been muddled and outright distorted by revisionists who rewrite history to promote their socialist agenda.

To get out of the left lane and turn right, we must know not only the Gospel truth, but the truths that make the United States great.

#### I. THE TRUTH ABOUT SOVERIGN STATES

A. July 4, 1776 is a great day in American history. On this day, the Sovereign States established their independence.

1. Virginia had been the first state to declare their independence, doing so on May 15, 1776. On this day, the delegates ran up their flag of Sovereignty on the flagpole at Williamsburg.
2. States became sovereign on the very day that they declared their independence from Britain.

B. Alexander Hamilton, who at times is confusing on the matter of states rights, makes this admittance in

Federalist 23: “The circumstances of four country are such as to demand a compound instead of a simple; a confederate instead of a sole government.” (Gutzman 41)

C. John Taylor, Virginian and philosopher-statesman, made this observation: “If sovereignty lies with the states [peoples of those states] then the states [citizens] will have authority over the federal government, but if the federal government is sovereign, it will have power over all the states [citizens of those states]”. Taylor made these remarks in 1823. Today, we are experiencing the truth of Taylor’s words.

D. Congress-- its meaning as it relates to sovereign states.

1. Congress has always denoted the assembly of representatives of sovereigns.
2. At the Virginia Convention, Richard Henry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee, said that congress needed to declare “that these United Colonies are, and of the right ought to be, free independent states, that are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection with them and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be, totally dissolved.”

## II. THE RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGN STATES

A. The Tenth Amendment has come under much scrutiny over the years. There are even conservatives who say that it does not guarantee states sovereignty. It plainly does.

1. The Tenth Amendment reads: “The powers not delegated to the United States, by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.” The only way that the Tenth Amendment can be rightfully understood is as a limitation of the Federal Government.
2. Even before the Constitution, the Articles of Confederation (1777), in Article Two spelled out the intent of the founders as to States Rights. The Amendment reads: “Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and

every power, jurisdiction and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled.”

- B. At the end of the Revolutionary War, England signed a peace treaty with states, the United States. The opening words of the treaty says: “His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz., New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, to be free and sovereign, and independent states.” England made a peace agreement with thirteen sovereign, independent states.
- C. The state delegates to the Constitutional Convention carried with them authority from their home states to voluntarily join the Union without losing their States Rights.
1. Georgia’s delegates opened their remarks with these words: “The State of Georgia, by the grace of God, Free, Sovereign, and Independent.” No mincing of words here!
  2. The closing remarks of New York delegation said: “This 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the independence of said state.” Sounds like states sovereignty to me. And listen to these stipulations by New York: “The powers of government may be reassumed by the people, whensoever it shall become necessary to their happiness.” Do you that? New York reserved the right to leave the Union when they saw fit to do so. If the Federal Government became overbearing, over taxing and abusive to the right of the state New York, by right, states right, could pull out.
  3. The Virginia delegation in their acceptance of the Constitution proclaimed: “The powers granted under the Constitution, being derived from the people of the United States may be resumed by them, whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression.”

4. Although Mississippi did not enter the Union until 1817, it recognized the sovereignty of the original thirteen colonies and their rights with the adoption of the 1894 state flag the description of which reads in part that the flag is "...emblazoned with thirteen (13) mullets of five pointed stars, corresponding with the number of the original states of the Union."
- D. After the War between the States, Grenada, Mississippi citizen, Senator E.C. Walthall, former Major General in the Confederate Army, at the dedication of the Mississippi Confederate Monument in Jackson, Mississippi said this about the cause of the war and what the State of Mississippi fought for: "We did not go to war for slavery, though slavery was woven with the causes, and intensified the bitterness of the war...We did not take up arms because we were dissatisfied with our form of government, for we valued that then as we value it now; and we loved the constitution for its safeguards of liberty which we read in it, that we fashioned our confederated constitution after it as a model. We loved the flag, too, with its stars telling of co-equal states in a common union, so long as it floated above us with that symbolism...The war, with us, did not originate in ambition, nor did we fight for spoils, for conquest or for fame. With us it was no war of invasion or of revenge. It was not to build up some leaders fortunes nor to elevate some popular favorite to place or power. We went to war for none of these; but it was 'to save the constitution,' as we read it, and to save ourselves and to preserve our cherished form of government. We resisted those perversions which we believed would destroy that constitution and us, and subvert that form of government." (Cross 71)
  - E. At the time of the War for Southern Independence and for many years before the conflict, the attack on States Rights was a well-orchestrated "effort to increase the power of government in Washington." (Kennedy and Binson 190)
  - F. In 1866, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court rejoiced in saying that "States Rights died at Appomattox."

### III. TO GET OUT THE LEFT LANE WE MUST TURN RIGHT

#### A. We must get right with God individually and as a nation.

1. The hope of America is a righteous people.
  - a. A people trusting in Christ, the one who makes us righteous (2 Cor. 5:21)
  - b. Romans 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” We need to believe the truth of Romans 10:9.
2. A people living righteously will bless America.
  - a. We need to take the words of 2 Chronicles 4:17 seriously.
  - b. Proverbs 13:34: “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”
  - c. Christ died for us, not just to save us from hell. “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness...”(1 Peter 2:24).
  - d. “Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame” ( 1 Corinthians 15:34).

#### B. America needs to go back to her roots with men of principle, character and courage who understand the Constitution and will defend it.

1. Our forefathers foresaw what would happen if we wandered from the clearly marked channel of a true republic.
2. We do not need socialism, the founding fathers did not want that type of government.

Conclusion: We need to wake up and get right, do right and stay right.