

Ten Tortured Words, Part 4

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • January 3, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Nash Crisp – Romans 13.1–7

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

Prelude:

- I. The annual letter from Barry Lynn.

Persuasion:

- I. Our Age

“WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF FAITH AND YET AN AGE WHEN FAITH IS feared. We live at a time when men yearn to believe and yet doubt those who do. We live in a day when religion lifts men to greatness but also makes them vicious and hard, when a vision of God makes nations noble but also leads to unspeakable horror.”

– Stephen Mansfield. *Ten Tortured Words*. Page 113.

“What distinguishes the crises of faith in our day, though, is that they are often rooted more in fear of faith than in lack of faith. Earlier generations who moved away from traditional faith simply chose not to believe. They did not fear religion; they quietly concluded that religion wasn’t true. We dare to believe religion might be true but fear the consequences.”

– Stephen Mansfield. *Ten Tortured Words*. Page 113.

“Yet our generation has been given good reason to suspect faith. After all, Feuerbach told us that man created God and not the other way around, Freud told us that God is a projection of man’s own psychology, Marx told us that religion is like opium, and Nietzsche told us there is no God but that in His absence the State will do just fine. This was all before various New Age religions told us that we are God.”

– Stephen Mansfield. *Ten Tortured Words*. Page 114

- II. Quotes [Read How Mansfield introduces the quotes.]

- III. Founding Fathers on Religion:

“Statesmen, my dear Sir, may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand.”

– John Adams

“Religion and Virtue are the only Foundations, not only of Republicanism and of all free Government, but of social felicity under all Governments and in all Combinations of human Society.”

– John Adams

“Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

– John Adams

“From the day of the Declaration...they [the American people] were bound by the laws of God, which they all, and by the laws of the Gospel, which they nearly all, acknowledged as the rules of their conduct.”

– John Quincy Adams

“Our country should be preserved from the dreadful evil of becoming enemies to the religion of the Gospel, which I have no doubt, but would be the introduction of the dissolution of government and the bonds of civil society.”

– Elias Boudinot, Delegate at the Continental Congress, Congressman, Director of the United States Mint

“Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore, who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure, which denounces against the wicked, the eternal misery, and insures to the good eternal happiness, are undermining the solid foundations of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.”

– Charles Carroll, Signer of the Declaration, Senator

“Religion is of general and public concern, and on its support depend, in great measure, the peace and good order of government, the safety and happiness of the people. By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed upon the same equal footing, and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty.”

– Samuel Chase, Signer of the Declaration, Supreme Court Associate Justice

“History will also afford frequent opportunities of showing the necessity of a public religion, from its usefulness to the public.”

– Benjamin Franklin

“Whoever shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world.”

– Benjamin Franklin

“No human society has ever been able to maintain both order and freedom, both cohesiveness and liberty apart from the moral precepts of the Christian Religion applied and accepted by all the classes. Should our Republic ever forget this fundamental precept of governance, men are certain to shed their responsibilities for licentiousness and this great experiment will then surely be doomed.”

– John Jay, First Chief Justice

“The Christian religion when divested of the rags in which they have enveloped it, and brought to the original purity and simplicity of its benevolent institutor, is a religion of all others most friendly to liberty.”

– Thomas Jefferson

“God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever.”

– Thomas Jefferson

“Religion is the basis and Foundation of Government.”

– James Madison

“The belief in a God All Powerful wise and good, is...essential to the moral order of the World and to the happiness of man.

– James Madison

“It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage...Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe.”

– James Madison

“The American population is entirely Christian, and with us Christianity and Religion are identified. It would be strange indeed, if with such a people, our institutions did not presuppose Christianity, and did not often refer to it, and exhibit relations with it.”

– John Marshall

“It is foreign to my purpose to hint at the arguments which establish the truth of Christian revelation. My only business is to declare, that all its doctrines and precepts are calculated to promote the happiness of society, and the safety and well being of civil government.”

– Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration, Surgeon General

“I have always considered Christianity as the strong ground of republicanism. The spirit is opposed, not only to the splendor, but even to the very forms of monarchy, and many of its precepts have for their objects republican liberty and equality as well as simplicity, integrity, and economy in government. It is only necessary for republicanism to ally itself to the Christian religion to overturn all the corrupted political and religious institutions in the world.”

– Benjamin Rush

“True religion affords to government its surest support.”

– George Washington

“Religion and Morality are the essential pillars of Civil society.”

– George Washington

Exhortation:

- I. Romans 1 proves these Founding Fathers correct.
 - A. Read verses 18–32
- II. The history of the kings in Israel and Judah prove these men correct.
- III. The history of every nation proves the correctness of the Founding Fathers.
 - A. They knew history and
 - B. they knew the Bible.
 1. Then they gave us a Constitution
 2. that should ensure the best government that men can provide.
 - a) However, we have been content to let the secularists:
 - (1) Run our government
 - (2) Run our schools, especially the universities
 - (3) Run our media
 - (4) Run everything else in our nation
 - b) However, it is time for us to take action.
- IV. Take action by praying and by encouraging young people to pursue careers in places of influence