

Freedom of Speech

by Kevin Cauley

As far as the Christian is concerned, everything that he is, does, and says, belongs to God. So, the Christian's speech is to serve the Christian's Lord. This means that the Christian is free to speak, but only in a way that would honor God (Colossians 3:17).

There are those, however, who suggest that freedom of speech gives us the right to say just about anything that we please, including vulgar language, obscenities regarding other people, backbiting, gossip, and just about any other kind of foul speech imaginable. One of my favorite verses in that regard is Psalm 12:3, 4 "The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?"

While the one type of speech is approved by God, the other type is sinful, and we all recognize that. However,

speaking from a legal/constitutional perspective, the courts have determined that both kinds of speech are legally protected. That is, one may stand up and utter vitriolic and vicious words that cut and destroy OR one may stand up and speak the sober truths of righteousness that are contained within the gospel of

Christ, right? Well, that's what we think, at least.

Three news stories have appeared in my email in-box recently regarding seemingly unrelated incidents. One of them had to do with the rantings of one Whoopi Goldberg at a fund raiser for Kerry

and Edwards. I won't get into the sordid details (and I do mean sordid), but Goldberg's potty mouth spewed just about every form of obscenity in the book and added a couple of new entries. Concerning that event, the Kerry campaign stated that it was "the heart and soul of America." You can draw your own conclusions.



Now, if someone had suggested that Goldberg go to prison over saying such things, no doubt, someone would have yelled, "Free Speech! Free Speech!" and the whole matter would have ended.

On the other hand, there is a man in Wisconsin who has made a couple of banners to be held over freeways on a pedestrian overpass that state, "Homosexuality is sin" and "Christ can set you free." What has happened to this man? First, the city ordered him off the overpasses. Of course, he cited free speech, but as of late, a federal court judge has sided with the city. If he tries to do this again, guess what? He goes to jail.

In yet another incident, a conservative member of the National Education Association was kicked off of her position in the NEA because she objected to the NEA giving an award to a homosexual activist. Simply for standing up and saying that she didn't think that this homosexual (who is on the record as saying he wants kindergarteners exposed to homosexuality) deserves an award, she was given "da boot."

So, here is one incident where a woman can utter the filthiest kind of speech imaginable known to man

and be praised for it but on the other hand, two people who stand up for what is right and good and holy, are shut down, no doubt as harboring that politically correct term, "hate."

How is it that one form of hate speech can be completely ignored (Goldberg's), but that another form of "hate" speech (which really isn't) must be legally dealt with and prohibited? There is really only one explanation. Satan has convinced people that wrong is right and that right is wrong. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20).

Do we think that we have a constitutional right to free speech in our churches today? That may be changing before we know it. Today it is the overpass that is being censored, tomorrow, the pulpit. Awake to righteousness! It is time for good Christian people to take back control of our nation.

Fighting Against God

by Tim Dooley

Throughout Scripture we find mankind striving against God's will. In Numbers 21-25 we read of several instances of this futile human versus Divine interaction. While the children of Israel are in the wilderness following the exodus from Egypt they have defeat snatched from the hands of victory. They call on God to deliver them from their enemy and then turn around and murmur against Him. Balaam has to have a discussion with his donkey to hear God and he was a prophet. Balak keeps saying "Let's try over here." "No?" "Let's try over here..."

Is it really that hard to hear the Lord and do what He says? We certainly can be, and have been, hard on these fickle and unfaithful biblical characters, but do we not often act in the same way? Do we strive against God's will in our own lives? If our interactions with God were recorded for future generations how might they view us? Foolish or faithful?

When faced with the reality of sin, death and eternity do we strive against God's will for us to be saved, receive grace and mercy, and enjoy an eternal

reward? When confronted with sinful behavior do we repent with godly sorrow or do we stubbornly and with prideful arrogance continue to walk in darkness believing we are in the light?

God is true. God is faithful. God is righteous. Do you really think you can fight against the will of God and live? Look to Jesus, humble yourself, and submit to His will today. One day you will bow your knee to Him. Better to do it now than to be forced to do it then. Be faithful!

Correspondence/Encouragement

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org

House to House, Heart to Heart

In Search of the Lord's Way

Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies

The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv

WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

Leadership

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Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052

Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Ministers

Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)

Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)

Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Connie Ivie, Tina Roughton's aunt, suffered a heart attack Wednesday. She has minimal damage to her heart and expected to stay at Baylor through Friday.

Continue to Remember: James Ainsworth, Gayle Garner, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Patty Williams, Meagan Gould

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

Important Dates:

Boys' Leadership Initiative - July 29-31
Summer Youth Series (Here!) - August 2
Discipleship University - August 5-6

Birthdays This Week

July 11 - Wayne Prater, Emily Roughton
July 12 - Keitha McDougald
July 14 - Debbie Banks, Bella Webster
July 16 - Donal Butler, Rachel Williams

Next Week's Adult Class

Jesus and Zacchæus
(Luke 19:1-10)

Announcements

We Rejoice that Nick Tooley was baptized into Christ last Sunday. His address is on page 3. Please, take a moment to meet Nick and welcome him to our Westhill Family.

Registration is Now Open Online for the Boys' Leadership Initiative. Please, register. All of the information is available online with the form.

Evangelism 101 Follow-up tonight after services in the Family Room.

Vacation Bible School this week! Monday through Wednesday, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

We Need Cookies for VBS. Sign up sheet is at the back of the auditorium. Please, indicate how many you'll be bringing.

Ladies' Birthday Lunch this Wednesday, July 13, at 11:30 AM at Cotton Patch. All Westhill ladies are invited; ESPECIALLY those with July birthdays.

The Mission Trip Begins this weekend. We will meet at the building Saturday at 7:30 AM and leave at 8:00 AM. We will return Wednesday, July 20.

Mission Trip Assignments due ASAP!

There are still a few spots available for our yearly ladies retreat at Summers Mill in Belton September 23-24. Cost is \$65, and the t-shirt (optional, but always cute) will be \$12. See Lanette Stewart, Vicki Ivy, Lee Owens or Julie Dilbeck to sign up. **Payment is due to Lanette ASAP!**

Records for July 3, 2016

Bible Class	128
AM Worship.....	231
PM Worship.....	146
Wednesday	140
Contribution	\$8,441.00

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Cory Myers
Opening Prayer	Dan Gibson
Communion Leader	Russell Bankes
Communion Servers	
Tim Cooke	Millard Dowdle
Jim Haden	Nick Hoffman
James Horn	Clay Jackson
Eric Olsen	Greg Olsen
Brody Owens	Larry Rowden
Dalton Shastid	Justin Williams
Closing Prayer	Darrell Olsen
Nursery	Tina Roughton & Jenniffer Sosa
Security	Scott Barham, David Baumgartner, Brian Hand
PM Song Leader	David Dilbeck
PM Opening Prayer	Wade Hall
PM Closing Prayer	Hank Jett
Wed. Song Leader	VBS
Wed. Summer Series Speaker	VBS
July Contact Elder	Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228