

NEWS AND UPDATES: WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUNITY BIBLICAL GOVERNANCE

April 2013 Edition

Encouragement from a Georgetown Township Board Member

We received communication from a Township Board member encouragement to continue promoting governance according to Biblical principles. We can be thankful that there are community civil magistrates with a desire to see us head in a more Biblical direction.

Invitation Letters Distributed

We have been distributing invitation letters to various residents of West Michigan, encouraging them to join with us. Prayer is needed that many would become convicted that we need to follow a Bible-based path in our politics, and not follow a course of mere expediency and pragmatism not grounded on sound Biblical principles.

Hope for a City Upon a Hill: God can Deliver Even a ‘Little City’ from Danger

We have been encouraging the establishment of an example reformed “city upon a hill” here in West Michigan. One concern and fear that many would have about such a proposal is that the federal government, ACLU, etc. would never allow it to survive. But there is encouragement in this text from scripture:

“[There was] a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it: Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city...Wisdom [is] better than strength...” (Ecclesiastes 9:14-16)

Even a little city can overcome great obstacles and withstand great opposition if God blesses it with wise leaders and counselors. We should not be discouraged if we reside in such a little city, if God has graced it with wise leaders. So perhaps many fears and concerns are misplaced. We should fear more that we reside in a great city opposed to God rather than a little city with God’s smile upon it.

Following in the Footsteps of the Jews of Nehemiah’s Day and the Plymouth Pilgrims

The circumstances God’s people find themselves in today are not so different from circumstances God’s people have found themselves in earlier times. For instance, in the days of

Ezra and Nehemiah, God's people found themselves in a heathen empire. They did not rebel against the empire, but rather they sought to take advantage of opportunities afforded them to establish a covenanted reformed community within that empire. God blessed their desires, and the covenanted community of Jerusalem was re-established.

Hundreds of years after Nehemiah's day, but following in his footsteps, the Pilgrims that settled Plymouth by God's grace raised up a covenanted reformed community. They had been persecuted by King James, but they did not rebel against him. Rather, they sought an opportunity to set up the reformed community under King James' rule, and through diligent perseverance God granted them the desires of their heart, protecting them in the midst of many dangers.

Oh, that God would give us the same vision, courage and diligence that He gave these people of God in past times.

A Covenanted Reformed Community is as American as the Pilgrims and Thanksgiving

American history did not begin in 1776, but at the time that English and Dutch Protestants arrived in North America, forming colonial settlements. This started occurring more than 150 years before 1776, and it is in this period that the foundational principles of American society were laid. What they established were reformed communities and colonies explicitly recognizing Jesus Christ as their Lord and the Bible as their moral guide. They had established Protestant churches protected by the civil magistrate. And they sought to uphold both tables of the Ten Commandments. This was the foundational American model of civil government. Sadly, this foundational model has over the centuries and decades been compromised away one step at a time, and the reservoir of strength it provided has been progressively depleted. But it is not too late to ask for God's mercy and to return to the model that served us so well.

Still on the Michigan Statute Books (Waiting for a Reformed Christian Civil Magistrate to Uphold)

There are still many laws on the statute books in Michigan which are testimony to the Christian morality that has historically guided us. They include laws against abortion, blasphemy, adultery, contraception, indecency and immorality, and the like. Many can be read at: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28isp1em55gef11yaj41emguh%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=MCLIndex&objectname=mcl-chap750> . May God be merciful to give us repentance as a people and return to the moral principles of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This Newsletter is produced by the West Michigan Chapter of the Campaign for Community Biblical Governance. The Campaign for Community Biblical Governance is sponsored by the Reformation Party (www.ReformationParty.org) in an effort to promote Biblical reformation at the local level.

Chapter Coordinator and Newsletter Editor: J. Parnell McCarter

Email CampaignForBiblicalGovernance@gmail.com , Tel 616-457-8095