

Prayer Targets: **WILL THE CHURCH REMEMBER?** May 20, 2015

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. [2 Timothy 4:2-4](#)

The late [Dr. D. James Kennedy](#) (1930-2007) founded Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, FL, serving as Senior Pastor for 47 years. He produced several world-wide ministries that have profoundly impacted the church and America. His radio and TV programs are live via [Truth in Action Ministries](#). On Memorial Day, 1997, Kennedy preached, "[Will the Church Forget?](#)"

On Memorial Day we remember those who have fallen in the great fight for freedom—those who have given their lives or limbs so that we might worship without hindrance. But will the Church forget what many thousands have fought for, those who gave the last full measure of devotion to defend? Will the Church forget the principles upon which this nation was founded -- liberty, godliness, piety, and morality?

I'm afraid that not only will the Church forget them, but largely the Church has already forgotten them.

The media makes a mockery of Christians, the Christian faith and Christian values, and those who speak out for the sacredness of life are branded as extremists... And 300,000 pulpits are silent. Christian morality cannot be taught in schools, but atheistic immorality is... And 300,000 pulpits are silent. Rock music fills the airwaves and our children's minds with music that legitimizes rape, murder, sadomasochism, adultery and even satanic worship... And 300,000 pulpits are silent. A majority of states now have lotteries and gambling is no longer a crime... And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

The Church hasn't always been silent. Through the centuries churches have moved to get rid of most of the great evils of our world. It was through the work of Christians that slavery was eliminated from Great Britain. Two-thirds of the members of the Abolition Society in New England were Christian clergymen.

No, the Church was not always silent. The Church spoke out on child labor laws and wives being beaten and abused. The Church has spoken out about prison reform and reform of asylums for the insane.

God needs men who will speak out on the issues of the day. Martin Luther said something to the effect, "Though we be active in the battle, if we are not fighting where the battle is the hottest, we are traitors to the cause." Be not afraid, Christ is with you! If the Church doesn't speak out, who will?

I have debated and confronted face-to-face the leaders of the abortionist movement, the leaders of the homosexual movement, the leaders of the feminist movement, the atheists, the evolutionists, and all of the left-wing cadre—and they are all full of passionate intensity.

If right now this country were suddenly filled with passionate intensity for the cause of Jesus Christ, for the spread of His Gospel, and for the advance of His morality throughout the nation, next Sunday the churches of the land would be packed to overflowing!

Where is the intensity? They have it! One historian said that the people who have that intensity are the people who always win. Ultimately it is going to be a decision as to which side lacks conviction and which side is filled with passionate intensity. Will it be those who oppose Christ, or those who are for the kingdom of Jesus Christ? Christ says "...seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness..." (Mt 6:33 KJV).

Pray that God will fill you with intensity to do whatever you can to become involved, to get out of the bleachers and onto the playing field, and become a participant in the greatest struggle in the history of the world—a struggle for goodness, a struggle for godliness, a struggle for Christ against Satan. That is the battle we are in. (<http://www.truthimpact.me/index.php/2012/06/will-church-forget/>).

We must lead with intense, extraordinary, passionate prayer—public and private. Our churches must become "Houses of Prayer" ([Mt 21:13](#)). Tune in to FRC's [Watchmen on the Wall Pastors' Briefing](#) beginning Thursday morning, May 21 at 8:10 AM. Pray that churches and families across America will prepare and take part in the [Call2Fall, Sunday, June 28, 2015](#).

<http://www.frc.org/prayerteam/prayer-targets-will-the-church-remember-transgender-tyranny-disney-grunge-louisiana-for-liberty>

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DYING TO BE FREE ?

Without dead Christians, there would be no freedom in America. Exaggeration? Nope, understated. Even a shallow review of American history reveals how the Declaration of Independence grew from the blood-stained soil of persecuted believers reading their Bibles - willing to lay down their lives for this liberty.



The Declaration says *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."* Do you understand the distinctions?

Jesus said, ***"render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*** The Bible reveals which is which. And it makes it clear that Christians are not to surrender to Caesar. God's Word rules over all, the governors as well as the governed. Our rights come from the Creator. And God ordained government to protect these rights, with powers granted by the people, in accord with God's divine design. Our unique three branches of government find their inspiration in Isaiah 33:22, ***"The LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our King, He will save us."***

You can trace the paper trail of freedom from the Declaration back to the Great Awakening, as early colonists retrieved these truths from the Bible. They recovered principles upon which the early colonies modeled their constitutions and founding documents, echoing the Mayflower Compact, which embodied the teachings of the Pilgrims and non-conformist Christians of England, Scotland and Wales - who escaped to America with their lives in order to obey God's Word.

The same truths sustained Christians throughout persecutions of the Reformation, as the Bible was printed in the everyday language of the people, pointing to individual liberty and self-government, not tyranny. These truths from the Bible had already brought increasing freedom to people - through great Christians including St. Patrick and King Alfred the Great, and documents including English common law and the Magna Carta. The history of freedom intertwines with the history of Christian liberty.

American soldiers take an oath to uphold our Constitution. Like our founding fathers, they pledge their lives for the principles of freedom. ***Is it worth dying for?*** The 1st Amendment declares, *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."* The 2nd Amendment assures *"the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."* The 14th Amendment states in part *"nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."*

But many Christians notice how different this Memorial Day seems. This national holiday remembers those who gave their lives in military service to maintain the freedoms of America - freedoms which are based in religious liberty and the principles of Christianity. Yet, the way Christianity is being criminalized and under attack in the public square these days, it makes you wonder if or when we'll be forced to replace all the white crosses in cemeteries that mark fallen soldiers.

Where are the people willing to die for freedom of speech? freedom of religion? Increasingly the voices in our public square demand that Christians reserve their speech and their worship behind closed doors. They say your religious beliefs, based on God's unchanging Word, must acquiesce to the ever-changing fluidity of public opinion, judicial fiat, executive order, legislated and regulated tyranny.

That's the challenge ahead for America. Across the oceans, there are totalitarians threatening the very existence of these freedoms - in the name of "a religion of peace" which beheads those who resist. But it's not just Islamism and it's not just elsewhere. It's here, across state lines and statehouse aisles, where tyranny threatens. The real target is always the authority of God's Word, which reveals true liberty.

Historically, it has been Christians who understood, framed, and defended the principles of liberty. **But - who understands today? WHO will lay down their lives for liberty? Will you ?**