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CHRISTIANS, SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION

by Matt Barber

*With the exception of one column previously penned, I pray this becomes my most widely read to date.*

Well Matt, I read it. So it looks like you're off to a pretty good start.

*The secular left has mastered use of the Internet to further its extremist goals. In fact, President Obama’s web-based “Organizing for America” propaganda machine may have given him the 2008 election.*

Matt, you've confused me. How do you figure Obama is part of the secular left? I thought you people said he was a Muslim? And millions of Americans remember him being a long-time member of Reverend Wright's Christian church. Whichever is the case ... neither one is "Secular."

*Let’s beat them at their own game.*

Matt, from what polls are showing about disappearing Christian attendance in American churches, you might want to first consider how to win at ... your own game.

*To that end, I have a strange request. I’m asking each God-fearing, freedom-loving American who reads this column to forward it, post it, tweet it, print it out and give it to every pastor, priest or cleric you know. If you don’t know any, give it to someone who does.*

Matt, that's not a strange request. Everyone is looking for their fifteen minutes of fame and hoping to go viral. You're no different than anyone else on the net.

*Why? I agree with Barack Obama that November 2012 represents the most important election of our lifetimes – perhaps our history. Of course, that’s where my agreement with Mr. Obama both begins and abruptly ends. Here’s the operable question: Do we want America “fundamentally transformed” to mirror the secular-socialist ideals of the radical leftist currently “occupying” the White House?*

Matt, why would a church-going Christian want to transform America into a secular society?

And exactly what qualifies Obama as a socialist? His attempts to help the old and poor at the expense of all your rich benefactors?

You know Matt, he sounds more like Jesus ... than you do.

*In Barack Obama’s America, individual freedom is trampled beneath jackboots as a matter of course. It’s already happening at an unprecedented rate. One need only look to the HHS mandate forcing Christian groups – both Catholic and Protestant – to violate, under penalty of law, biblical prohibitions against abortion homicide.*

Matt, America has many laws that contradict biblical mandates. For example: slavery. Also, we no longer execute adulterers, blasphemers, and disobedient children. So forcing Christian groups to abandon their biblical morals has been going on way before Obama came along.

*Or consider recent attempts by multiple elected officials, all Democrats, to shutdown Chick-fil-A – a private, Christian-owned business – simply because its leadership holds the biblical view of marriage.*

So Matt, by your reasoning, if a business owner held a biblical view of slavery, then he should be allowed to open and run a business according to the Bible?

Matt, remember those recent videos on TV showing long lines of Christians lined up around the block to buy Chick-fil-A? Do you think they all just suddenly got hungry for chicken? Or is it more likely they conspired together to proudly display their bigotry for all America to see?

(Matt, here's a hint: go with the second one).

*Is this George Washington’s America, or Joseph Stalin’s Russia?*

Matt, it can't be Stalin's Russia because the First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion. It is Washington's America, where the Founding Fathers made their intentions quite clear that they were creating the world's first secular nation. Apparently, based on your earlier criticism of Secularism, Washington's America is not your first choice. My guess is, the Ayatollah's system would be more to your liking ... after you swap out Allah for Yahweh.

*It’s definitely not your father’s USA.*

True Matt, my father was raised in an America where the motto was "E Pluribus Unum"; a motto which included all Americans. Christians changed the motto to "One Nation, Under God" which immediately excluded about 25% of its citizens.

*Instead, wouldn’t we prefer the America envisioned by our Founding Fathers? A constitutional republic wherein individual liberty – whether economic, First Amendment or Second Amendment-related – is sacrosanct and off limits?*

Matt, individual liberty has limits. It is not absolute. For example, my liberty to move my fist is restricted ... by the proximity of your nose.

More specifically, dozens of inhuman biblical practices including slavery, genocide, human and animal sacrifice, and others, are prohibited by the rights that your victims have ... not to be your victims.

*Pastors, you’re it. You’re our front line of defense.*

Matt, based on provable history, I would say that many pastors are your front line of offense.

*It’s up to you to rally the troops.*

Hey Matt, I think you just explained how all those people we talked about earlier, all got hungry for chicken at the same time.

*Now begins the second American Revolution and, as with the first, it’s on you – men of the cloth – to take the lead.*

Matt, the first American Revolution was not led by men of the cloth. Perhaps you could supply a reference to support that last claim?

*That is, if you hope to remain free to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Matt, can you provide any evidence to support your implication that the First Amendment is about to be removed?

*Speaking of chicken: In recent years there’s been an epidemic of cultural inaction exhibited by far too many ministers of the gospel. It’s fear-based. “Oh, I don’t talk about political issues,” they say. “You know, ‘separation of Church and State’ and all that.”*

*Baloney. If this is you – and only you and our Lord know for sure – you’ve been deceived by the enemies of God.*

Actually Matt, they haven't been deceived; they have been following the principle that allows them to remain tax exempt. If you are preaching politics from the pulpit, which is obviously the case, then you are in violation, and should lose your tax exempt status. Fortunately for you, in a Christian dominated nation such as ours, those tax laws are not being enforced, so scum like you blatantly violate them and even encourage others to imitate your un-American activities.

*You’ve chosen the easy way out – the path of least resistance.*

Matt, they've chosen to follow the law; something that obviously doesn't appeal to you.

*This is something Christ, whom all Christians are called to emulate, never did – not once.*

So Matt, if you are claiming to emulate Christ, why do you attack a Christian family man like Obama so viciously? Is that what Jesus would have done?

We both know the answer to that one, don't we Matt?

*So, respectfully, man-up, Padre! Be the “salt and light of the world,” as Christ so admonished.*

That's right Matt, and go vote that nigger out of office. That's what "you people" still call them, don't you Matt? (at least when you're among fellow bigoted Christians).

*But you don’t have to go it alone. There are detailed, easily digestible tools available. Civil-rights firm Liberty Counsel, for instance, is distributing more than 100,000 copies of “Silence is Not an Option,” a concise, though comprehensive, DVD and printed material collection informing pastors and churches about what is permissible regarding political activity.*

Matt, since when are you people concerned about what is permissible? You've already admitted to violating the IRS code regarding using your pulpits to interfere in government.

*Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel said:*

*“The church must be empowered to confront the assaults on our culture, our faith, and our freedom. I don’t want any pastor, church leader or lay person to say, ‘What more could I have done to protect life and liberty?’ Silencing people of faith in the public square has always been the goal of those who realize the influence that pastors, churches and people of faith have on elections. I want pastors to remove the muzzle and replace it with a megaphone. Pastors and churches have a lot of freedom to address biblical and moral issues, to educate people about the candidates, and to encourage people to vote. Not one church has ever lost its tax-exemption for endorsing or opposing candidates or for supporting or opposing local, state or federal laws.”*

Matt, it sounds like your buddy Staver just proved the point I made earlier: The U.S. is afraid to enforce tax laws against violators in a country dominated by Ghost Worshippers with a 2,000-year history of violence and destruction. Now Matt continues:

*Did you get that? Despite hundreds of thousands of threatening letters sent by hard-left groups like the ACLU and Barry Lynn’s Americans United, not a single church has lost tax-exemption for socio-political activity – zip, zero, nada. Not even for endorsing candidates from the pulpit.*

Matt, I'm sure the slave owners in the Bible Belt said the same thing: that the government would continue to look the other way - and they were right; until Progressive Christians rose up to die for, and kill other Christians, to right a terrible wrong that was justified by the crap found in your "Holy Book."

*Indeed, if these anti-Christian bullies had been around two-and-a-half centuries ago, and our forefathers had paid them any mind, we may never have had the first American Revolution.*

Matt, our forefathers WERE anti-Christian bullies. That is the only explanation for why they failed to mention your invisible ghost in the Constitution ... even once; and why they created the world's first secular government: a Constitution and government that has been a thorn in the side of Christian Nationalists for over 200 years.

*Don’t let them halt the second.*

Matt, if this is a Christian nation, as you claim, why would you need a second revolution? The only reason you need a revolution is to overthrow our secular government and establish a Christian theocracy.

*We’re on the precipice of the abyss, and, pastors, I think you know it.*

That's what I was saying earlier Matt, Christianity is crashing. The numbers are not going in your direction. That's why you are desperately trying to get the government to force Christianity on the people; to bring them back into the churches.

*But know this too: There’s a whole lot relating to both culture and politics you can both say and do, and very little – if anything – you can’t. Churches can educate about political, moral and biblical issues. These kinds of issues – whether abortion, marriage, feeding the poor or any community issue – are never off limits from the pastor’s pulpit, even if politicians are also talking about them. “Silence is Not an Option” systematically addresses the misrepresentations used to muzzle America’s pastors and Christian leaders.*

Matt, kindly explain how pastors and Christian leaders can be muzzled in a country with a Constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion?

You can't because you are lying. You are not being muzzled, you are simply being restricted from entangling Church and State in violation of the First Amendment, and in violation of the IRS code granting you freedom from taxation in return for that separation.

You are trying to "play the victim": a favorite tactic of all religions.

*Leading up to Ronald Reagan’s landslide presidential victory in 1980, Rev. Jerry Falwell captured the crux of the church’s apathy problem: “What is wrong in America today?” he asked. “We preachers – and there are 340,000 of us who pastor churches – we hold the nation in our hand. And I say this to every preacher: We are going to stand accountable before God if we do not stand up and be counted.” Dr. Falwell’s words ring no less true today.*

Matt, you're assuming that God doesn't wear a turban. Matt ... what if YOU are wrong?

*Imagine the benefit to our culture if thousands of churches across America registered millions of Christians to vote.*

Matt, the problem with that is that most of them are so stupid, that when they go to sign their "X" they wouldn't know whether to start on the left or the right.

*How about pledge-drives wherein pastors ask tens-of-millions of Christians to simply commit to voting biblical values?*

Matt, what would voting biblical values look like?

Reinstituting slavery?

Revoking women's right to vote?

Prison or capital punishment for working on the Sabbath?

Restoring the practice of sacrificing our pets?

Promoting genocide?

Execution for homosexuals as was recently proposed in Christian Kenya?

Holding children responsible for the crimes of their parents; which is undoubtedly one of the most idiotic moral laws to be found anywhere on Earth.

Matt, your Bible is the most vile, disgusting collection of morals to be found in any society, any place in the world, during any time in history. You have to be sick beyond belief to support the morals in that ancient book of horrors.

*Proverbs 4:18 reminds us: “The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.”*

*Shine bright, salt and light. Don’t be choked into dark silence. Because silence is not an option. It can’t be.*

Except for women, right Matt?

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 reminds us:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

Sure Matt, you've got a great book of morals there; provided you are a white male with the mental capacity of a kumquat.

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

Lichen Can Survive in Space:

Space Station Research Sheds Light On Origin of Life and

Potential for Better Sunscreens

You can freeze it, thaw it, vacuum dry it and expose it to radiation, but still life survives. Research on the International Space Station is giving credibility to theories that life came from outer space -- as well as helping to create better sunscreens.

In 2008 scientists sent an experiment package to the Space Station filled with organic compounds and living organisms to test their reaction to outer space.

When astronauts venture on a spacewalk, hours are spent preparing protective suits to survive the hostile conditions. No effort was made to protect the bacteria, seeds, lichen and algae attached to the outside of the Space Station, however. Researchers were exploring the limits of life.

Our atmosphere does a wonderful job of protecting life on Earth by absorbing harmful UV rays and keeping temperatures relatively stable.

In contrast, the space samples endured the full power of the Sun's rays. The samples were insulated somewhat by the Space Station but still had to cope with temperatures changing from -12ºC to +40ºC over 200 times as they orbited Earth.

The samples returned to Earth in 2009 and the results have now been published.

Lichen have proven to be tough cookies -- back on Earth, some species continue to grow normally. These organisms go into a dormant state waiting for better conditions to arrive.

The lichen have attracted interest from cosmetic companies. They can survive the full power of the Sun for 18 months, so knowing more could lead to new ingredients for sunscreen.

Living organisms surviving in open space supports the idea of 'panspermia' -- life spreading from one planet to another, or even between solar systems.

It seems possible that organisms could colonize planets by hitching rides on asteroids. The European Space Agency will be probing this intriguing theory further on future Station missions with different samples.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

JAMES RANDI (Biography previously given)

"JUST CAUSE YOU'RE EDUCATED ... DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE SMART."