



The JOURNAL

A Summit Ministries Publication

Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Titus 2:13,14

From The President's Desk

Letters from Summit graduates and their parents arrive at our headquarters nearly every day. The content generally assures us that their two-week Summit experience has been a great help in standing firm in their leftist-slanted college classrooms. At one of our famous outrightly-identified Secular Humanist universities a student wrote that his Christian faith is under attack every day. That should be expected.

What isn't always expected is when we hear from our Summit grads attending our Christian colleges and universities only to find their Christian faith under attack there too.

For example, here is a note from Amy: "I'm at Baylor grad school right now studying international journalism. As you can imagine, that department is rife with liberals, but I'm learning to deal with it. I'm writing because I read in the Summit Journal a piece on the Intelligent Design controversy that went on here last semester. Today, an off-campus conservative newspaper produced and written by students was being distributed in the business building. This paper is quite controversial, and the 'official' campus paper doesn't appreciate it one bit, as evidence by the stories it ran about *The Review* last semester in an attempt to delegitimize it. Anyway, the bulk of the paper was about the Intelligent Design controversy. It had a letter from 7 Baylor professors written to U.S. Rep. Souder complaining about supports of ID. Well, the congressman completely blew them out of the water in his reply. I don't know how the paper got a copy of the letters, but I'm sure the profs are boiling mad because it makes them look inept. So you might want to look up this website and see if

there is a copy of the ID letter and articles at www.BaylorReview.com."

Another letter gives us a little further insight into present-day Christian higher education. It goes something like this: "I am writing you to provide feedback and follow-up as a graduate of Summit. I am a freshman at Baylor University. I attended the third session in June this past summer. I am very grateful that I went to Summit and am finding what I learned to be invaluable. I never realized how much I was learning would apply to me. I never thought that I would encounter all the false teachings you warned about at a Christian university, a Baptist one at that. I just wanted to let you know you were right, of course. I have no idea what I was thinking when I registered for Anthropology! All I knew was that I needed a science for my business degree plan. Well, the first day of class I walked in only to see an odd-looking professor, who right away announced that he's a Christian evolutionist. He also took the liberty of telling us that some of us would have problems with the curriculum and we would probably feel like dropping the class. I thought about dropping it, but I concluded that I would learn nothing that way. If nothing else, I will learn more about an evolutionist's point of view. Also, being in that class makes me want to learn more about my views and beliefs so I can defend the creation position more adequately. I have even pulled the Summit notebook off the shelf. I have already heard about the chimpanzees that are our closest relatives, and that we should take the Bible metaphorically and not literally. I am definitely learning to take it all with a grain of salt. I thank God for sending me to Summit every time I enter that classroom."

One more letter before I make a few comments. This one comes from a student attending Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California. It reads, "I am a freshman at Point Loma. I am under the impression that you and Dr. [James C.] Dobson have been putting some pressure on this college for their theistic evolution views. When coming to this school I had no idea about their beliefs in theistic evolution. A major reason that I ruled out other colleges was because they taught evolution in their science department. When I did find out, however, I decided that when it came time for my science class I would take it in stride and stand firm in my creationist beliefs. It is now too hard to ignore. It's my second semester. I have not yet taken biology. But the issue of evolution has come up in three different classes—Old Testament, Psychology and World Civilization—when it really had absolutely nothing to do with what we were studying.

"Not only have I had this evolutionistic view continually thrown at me and basically shoved down my throat, in general I have been attacked as a creationist. I have been categorized as an uneducated, narrow-minded person who refuses to accept facts, refuses to believe what the rest of society believes, and someone who should 'go back to Sunday school.' Another professor compared me to the Roman Catholic Church of the 16th century who when shown they were wrong by factual science refused to accept it because it would undermine its power.

"In my World Civilization class we are discussing how Europe changed during the sixteen hundreds and what brought about those changes. One of the factors was science. My

professor feels the need to say something every single day about the absolutist church. He concludes this overemphasized fact with the phrase 'In the Beginning' in some infantile manner aimed at casting a bad light on the Christians who still hold to creationist views—the ones who are generally middle to lower class and uneducated or just slightly educated. He also sees the need to make a comment about alumni, parents, or ministers who don't agree with the school's view on evolution and raise complaints against them.

"I am appalled at their constant rehashing of this issue. I am also appalled at their blatant disregard for others beliefs. And I am even more appalled that a biology class has managed to brainwash my roommate who came here not solidly grounded in Old Testament truth, and countless other students. When the faculty isn't harping on their liberal propaganda I actually like the school. But it is lessening everyday and soon I may decide to leave. Something needs to happen."

These are our Christian young people seeking a Christian education and receiving a stone in return. A few observations: (a) Pray for these young people as they are on the front lines of the great cultural/educational/intellectual battle vying for their hearts and minds. (b) All Christian students facing evolutionary professors should be reading such works as Jonathan Wells *Icons of Evolution: Why Much of What We Teach About Evolution is Wrong*. Wells (Ph. D in molecular and cell biology) analyzes the 10 most common arguments favoring evolution and finds each one lacking scientific credibility. (c) Point Loma Nazarene University should invite Dr. Wells to debate their campus evolutionists all at one time and in one place and let their students view this debate. These profs should also be required to answer in writing Dr. Wells argument. We will be happy to print their responses to his charges that evolution is not science. Incidentally, Sir Karl Popper admitted that evolution was not science. In *Unended Quest* he says, "I have come to the conclusion that Darwinism is not a testable scientific theory, but a metaphysical research programme." (d) Point Loma should allow at least one creationist to teach biology and allow at least some anti-Darwin (e.g., Phillip E. Johnson) and pro-creationist (e.g., Henry M. Morris) books in their bookstores. (e) Richard Tarnas in *The Passion of the Western Mind* admits that Darwin's theory of evolution is not home free. His exact words, "Moreover, by the later twentieth century, the conventional paradigm structures of other sciences, including the Darwinian theory of evolution, were coming under increasing pressure from conflicting data and alternative theories." Instead of defending a godless theory, Christian colleges should be on the cutting edge making sure it stays under the gun. Darwin's theory of evolution and Marx's theory of socialism have been responsible for the death of millions in the 20th century since both evolution and socialism were the theoretical basis of Fascism, Nazism and Communism. What are Christian colleges doing giving such theories aid and comfort? Would someone, anyone, please explain this to me in simple, clear words?



Month In Review



"Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men."

–Titus 3:1-8

"The Christian knows from the outset that the salvation of a single soul is more important than the production or preservation of all the epics and tragedies in the world."

–C.S. Lewis, *Christian Reflections*

"Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else."

–C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way."

–Edgar Guest

"If we are going to craft a winning strategy for extending Christ's lordship over all of life, we need missionaries in science and in every other discipline and vocation."

–Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?*, p. 429

"God calls us to 'demolish arguments and every pretension that set itself up against the knowledge of God' and to 'take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ' (2 Cor. 10:5). We must not fail to heed this call when it comes to modern science, for otherwise there's no telling what 'compelling' but false new myths scientists may concoct to feed our society's deep spiritual hunger."

–Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?*, p. 430

"Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot [Genesis 19]: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed."

–Luke 17:28-30

"Peter LaBarbera writes (*culturefacts*, 1/12/01) that 'Mary Matalin, the GOP strategist who was recently hired as an aide to President-elect George Bush and as counselor to Vice President-elect Dick Cheney, has an extensive record of supporting the homosexual activist movement and belittling religious conservatives opposed to homosexual behavior.'

" 'Matalin has become a leading advocate within the GOP of the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR), a homosexual activist group that supports "gay marriage," homosexual adoption of children, and federal pro-homosexual employment legislation...'

" 'Matlin—who stepped down from her position as conservative co-host of CNN's Crossfire to join the administration—said she has always spoken out on "gay rights," 'but never had a megaphone until George W. Bush reached out last spring to gays and lesbians,' referring to his meeting with a group of 12 homosexual supporters.

" 'Matalin was a featured speaker at two Log Cabin fund-raising banquets, one held at the Republican convention in Philadelphia, the other at the Democratic convention in Los Angeles. She also hosted a reception for the D.C. Log Cabin affiliate in the new restaurant she owns with her husband, Democratic political strategist James Carville.'

" 'Matalin has made the following statements on the homosexual issue: "I will demonize Republicans that gay bash in 2000. I'm not going to be officially working for anybody. But if we don't get off that, we don't deserve to be the majority party, that's for sure..."—February 14, 1999 guest on NBC News' *Meet the Press*.

" 'I do not believe the [Republican] party has a preponderance of the Leviticus crowd [a slam at Christian and Jewish family advocates who quote passages from the Book of Leviticus to show that God forbids homosexuality]. If science is in any way a part of your life, you just can't agree with them about homosexuality. The party has to come to the consensus that to discriminate or even be judgmental about gays is plain wrong. It's just the trajectory of this nation. But, unfortunately, it's going to take some time.' Quoted by *The Advocate*, a magazine for homosexuals, July 4, 2000.

" 'She praised Tafel for doing "God's work beating back discriminatory attitudes and advancing inclusion" in the GOP.'—Online interview with "gay" activist David Mixner on Gay.com last year.

" 'We are here to honor gay and lesbian Republicans...To be a real conservative is to be pro-gay,' Matalin told a Philadelphia reception for GOP homosexuals. Apparently referring to pro-family groups in the GOP who resist the homosexual lobby, she said, 'The loud voice of the few will not drown out the voice of the many.' At the same event, Log Cabin Executive Director Tafel jokingly compared pro-family conservatives who spoke at the 1992 GOP convention to Nazis: 'And the speakers were better in the original German,' he said.

" 'Matalin lauded her friend, lesbian activist Urvashi Vaid. Matalin plugged Vaid's 1995 book, *Virtual Equality: The mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation*. In a book-cover endorsement, Matalin described Vaid as a 'Renaissance woman whose scholarship is exceeded only by her practicality.' But on page 336 of the book, Vaid links American religious conservatives to totalitarians. Vaid writes that the 'religious right' is 'best understood not as religious or moral, but as fundamentally anti-democratic and totalitarian. ... The religious right stands against the most cherished concepts of democratic pluralism.'"

—*Howard Phillips Issues and Strategy Bulletin*, January 31, 2001, p.6

"Microsoft magnate Bill Gates has given the largest gift ever to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)—nearly \$9 million to the pro-abortion group.

"The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation boasts a \$21 billion endowment, distributing grants in excess of \$2 billion annually. And every year, the amount the foundation donates to the London-based IPPF grows. Gates gave \$1.7 million in 1998, \$3 million in 1999, and now, in

2000, \$8.8 million. That latest grant will be spread over five years.

" 'International Planned Parenthood Federation is an especially controversial organization because they are deeply involved in China's one-child [per family] policy,' said Wendy Wright of Concerned Women for America. 'They not only help direct it, they help fund it, and their hands are everywhere in it.'

"Edward Szykowiak of the American Life League said the contribution is further complicated by the fact that tens of millions of people use software and peripherals manufactured by Gates' Microsoft Corp.

" 'A lot of us use Bill Gates' products, so I suppose you could make the argument that we're giving Bill Gates money to use his products, and Bill Gates is using that money to fund Planned Parenthood,' Szymkowiak said.

"Christian computing experts say that to Gates' credit, Microsoft makes software available to churches and other nonprofit groups at a steep discount. Yet more than \$87 million of Gates Foundation money goes to population-control groups around the world.

" 'That's a sad fact of life in a culture of death,' Szymkowiak said."

—*Citizen* magazine, March 2001, p. 6

"The simple fact that the Democratic Party has come to be known as the party of sexual deviance means that continued expansion of pornography will mean continued expansion of the Democratic vote in upcoming elections. Given the razor thin edge of the last election, this is not good news for Republicans. If they want to survive as a party, the Republicans have to understand first of all, how sexual liberation is a form of political control, and secondly, how the Democrats increase their political power by mobilizing sexual deviance. This means understanding how the Democrats first promote schemes for ensnaring people in sexually deviant behavior—things like pornography and its scholastic variant, sex education, in addition to abortion and homosexuality—and then using either the addiction itself or the guilt which flows from it, turn that sexual deviance into a form of political control. Those who are stupid enough to identify themselves with their sexual vices can always look to the Democratic Party and the dominant media culture as sympathetic to a fault in condoning this sort of behavior as long as the victim continues to identify with and justify the instruments that guarantee his bondage. Anyone who objects to this kind of victimization, especially if he objects from the point of view of personal experience, is immediately branded a hypocrite and a campaign is inaugurated to destroy him. We are now witnessing the first phase of that campaign against John Ashcroft.

"The campaign against John Ashcroft means that obscenity prosecution is going to be a key area of cultural contestation during the upcoming administration. And that means that Ashcroft will be treated to the type of hearings in the Senate which Judge Bork and Judge Thomas experienced. The Republicans, as usual, are badly positioned for this fight, first of all, because for the most part they just don't get it when it comes to sexual politics, and secondly, and more importantly, because big business, always the backbone of Republican support has seized the opportunity provided by the Clinton Administration and gotten into the pornography business too. According to the already-cited *New York Times* articles, 'the business of selling sexual desire through images has become a \$10 billion annual industry in the United States.' The reprieve which the Clinton Administration gave to the pornography industry, coupled with technological breakthroughs like Internet and Pay-per-view TV in hotel rooms, has enabled otherwise respectable businesses to become purveyors of pornography. General Motors, to give just one superficially unlikely instance, now sells more pornography than Larry Flynt, because DirecTV, a GM subsidiary sells more than \$200 million worth of pornography over its cable network.

"Just as the Democrats have this fatal attraction to sexual deviance, so the Republicans have a fatal attraction to companies like General Motors. The Eisenhower Administration's subordination of the country's best interests to General Motors' interests by promoting the interstate highway system is one instance of this. Making Andrew Card, late of GM, White House Chief of Staff, is another. If the appointment of Andrew Card, who is proabortion, is an indication of the course of the next administration on social issues, don't expect a return of the obscenity task force. But Bush seems intent on placing the liberals in positions where their actions are less offensive to conservatives. Yet, having made Andrew Card of GM its White House Chief of Staff, it remains to be seen just how the Republicans can pursue the only course on obscenity that will save them from becoming a permanent minority party. Their most successful attempt to deal with the forces which the post-Cultural Revolution Democrats have mobilized so effectively began half-way through the Reagan administration."

—E. Michael Jones, *Culture Wars*, February 2001, p. 32

"A rural Colorado high school's plans to teach a course on the Bible were derailed recently after heated debate within the community drew the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The Custer County School Board withdrew the class, 'The Bible in a Historical and Literary Context,' after veteran history teacher Marty Slonaker announced she was no longer willing to teach the course, which had been scheduled to start Jan. 22.

" 'All the good things we believe we're accomplishing here are being overshadowed by the controversy surrounding the course,' said principal Harvey Goodman, a former football player for the Denver Broncos who oversees the small school in the foothills of the Sangre de

Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains about 100 miles south of Denver.

"Mark Silverstein, legal director of the ACLU of Colorado, said his group intervened after receiving complaints from 'several upset members of the community.'

" 'People were concerned that perhaps the course wasn't really [a] legitimate historical look at the Bible but actually a way of imparting Christian teachings through subterfuge,' said Mr. Silverman. 'It's legitimate to teach the Bible in a secular education program if it's in a historical or literary context.'

"Mr. Goodman said he added the class to the schedule to expand the school's curriculum. With just 154 students and a dozen teachers, faculty expertise limits the high school's course offerings, he said.

" 'Marty has experience in biblical history, and we're always trying to expand our elective offerings,' he said. "We weren't in some back-room plotting fiendishly on how we could convert children to Christianity.'

"But two school board members and some townspeople objected, noting that Mrs. Slonaker, who has taught history for 25 years, is married to the pastor of the Lift Him Up ministry in nearby Westcliffe, Colo. Others said the class is educational and a valid study of an influential historic document.

—*The Washington Times*, February 1, 2001, p. A2

"Slayer is a death metal band that likes to sing about torturing women to death and then having sex with their dead bodies. In 1995, three teenage boys decided to follow the steps given in a Slayer song to sacrifice a virgin to Satan, in the hopes that it would bring similar fame to their own rock group, which they named Hatred. They lured a 14-year-old girl into the woods, where they acted out the Slayer song step by step, strangling her, mutilating her, and then, after she was dead, raping her.

"The three boys confessed—telling about how they stayed up several nights in a row taking drugs and listening to Slayer planning the crime—and they have been put away for 25 years to life.

"But now the girl's parents are taking another track. They have filed a civil suit against Slayer, its American recording label, and its parent company, Sony. California law prohibits businesses from marketing 'harmful' material to minors.

"In light of the recent Surgeon General's report, which found a definite link between exposure to media violence and aggressive behavior in children, and in light of the Federal Trade Commission's exposé about how such fare is aggressively marketed to children, the parents would seem to have a point.

"Sony's high-powered attorneys are wrapping themselves in the First Amendment, in 'artistic freedom,' but as the girl's father said (as reported by Chuck Philips in the *Los Angeles Times*), 'This isn't about art. It's about marketing. Slayer and others in the industry have developed sophisticated strategies to sell death metal music to adolescent boys. They don't care whether the violent, misogynistic messages in these lyrics causes children to do harmful things. They couldn't care less what their fans did to our daughter. All they care about is money.'

"As the father's attorney pointed out, 'Our society does not allow kids to watch or even get near a snuff film' (a movie that shows someone actually getting killed). 'Still, minors can go out and buy snuff music any time they want without their parents even knowing.'

"Slayer—with songs like 'Tormentor,' 'Kill Again,' 'Serenity in Murder,' and 'Necrophiliac' and lyrics such as 'How I love to kill you'—is only one act in what has become a major stream of pop culture. Eminem raps about raping his mother and murdering his wife, as their little girl watches. Anne Rice novels spin fantasies about what it might be like to be a vampire, and movies like *Hannibal* portray a cannibalistic serial killer as something like a hero.

"These go far beyond the usual complaints of 'sex and violence.' Though it should not be portrayed in a way that may excite unlawful lusts, sex has an important place in human life, within the bounds of marriage. Violence too can be positive, even in art, when it portrays a moral punishment or creates a sense of pity in the hearts of viewers. The real problem, not only in extreme cases such as Slayer but in far milder TV sitcoms and talk shows, is not sex and violence. It is evil. The pleasure it offers is the thrill of transgression."

—Gene Edward Veith, *World* magazine, February 10, 2001, p. 14

"West of Austin, Texas, investigators have found what they believe to be the remains of the archbishop of atheism, Madalyn Murray O'Hair. God rest her soul.

"Mrs. O'Hair and two family members were abducted and murdered in 1995 in the course of a robbery, apparently by a former employee of her American Atheists Inc.

"The lady liked to style herself 'the most hated woman in America'—a title she worked hard to secure. Her outbursts were deliberately provocative. Thus, according to Mrs. O'Hair, the

pope should be tried for 'crimes against humanity' and the Bible is a fraud concocted 'by a bunch of Jews, starved, wandering around the Sinai Desert.'

"Mrs. O'Hair is dead. The revolution she helped to launch—to expunge religion from our public life—is very much with us.

"Mrs. O'Hair was best known for her 1963 Supreme Court case that ended school prayer. Since then, the court has banned invocations at graduation ceremonies, student-led prayers at football games, displays of the Ten Commandments in schools and Nativity scenes standing alone in public places—as well as other horrors lately discovered to constitute an establishment of religion.

"Most of those who have taken up Mrs. O'Hair's cause aren't atheists. Many even have a vague belief in God. But all are obsessive.

"For them, every public manifestation of faith is an attack on the foundations of democratic government. If they can't call it unconstitutional, even under their twisted interpretation of the First Amendment, they complain that it is insensitive or an attack on diversity.

"Mention of Jesus in prayers offered at George W. Bush's Inauguration were 'inappropriate and insensitive,' stormed Barry Lynn, head of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

"These blessings 'excluded tens of millions of Americans who are Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Shintoists, atheists and agnostic,' complained attorney and perennial pest Alan Dershowitz. Perhaps Mr. Dershowitz would like to end the practice of presidents taking the oath of office on a Bible (up to this point, a Christian Bible), which—by his reasoning—would also exclude all of the aforementioned.

"Seth Leibsohn of the Jewish Policy Center notes that references to Jesus were included in prayers at the Inaugurations of Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and that apostle of inclusion, Bill Clinton. And, miracle of miracles, there wasn't mass alienation among American's non-Christians.

"The latest battlefield in this holy war is Mr. Bush's initiative for federal support of faith-based programs that alleviate social ills. Last week, the president established a White house office to coordinate funding of these programs.

"This has elicited the predictable response from secularist Chicken Littles (the First Amendment is falling). The proposal 'violates every premise of the ...establishment clause prohibiting government promotion of religion,' huffs Mr. Lynn.

"Not at all. It would promote drug rehabilitation programs, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and the like, run by religious institutions. Government would aid their charities, not their ministries.

"The return on public investment here is far greater than from traditional government programs. But devout secularists would rather see needs go unmet than have federal funds go to religious bodies doing good work.

"For the disciples of Mrs. O'Hair, whatever they call themselves (secularists, civil libertarians), faith is automatically suspect.

"Any connection between religion and government—even something as innocuous as a minister affirming the president's faith at his Inauguration or a superintendent of schools voicing approval of a private group distributing Ten Commandments book covers—becomes an ominous entanglement of church and state.

"Uprooting God from our culture does society no good. Public manifestations of faith (your faith, my faith, anyone's) are a reminder that there is a higher authority to whom we all are accountable.

"Mrs. O'Hair died horribly, a victim of the world she helped to shape. Without the Deity she fought so hard against, there is no right and wrong, increasingly people are ruled by their passions and humanity is a tragedy waiting to happen.

—Don Feder, *Washington Times*, February 6, 2001, p. A15

"In his new book, *The Revenge of Conscience*, Texas law professor J. Budziszewski recounts his journey into nihilism and out again. He lists his reasons, not as though there are no others, but because they were his: the first was the radical politics of the late 1960s and early 1970s, which prevailed when he was in his late teen years and early twenties, as he himself was moving away from moral law and personal responsibility. Second, he says that he had committed certain sins that he did not want to repent. 'It's a funny thing about us human beings: not many of us doubt God's existence and then start sinning. Most of us sin and then start doubting His existence.' Third, he was taught nihilism in what he calls 'the false anthropology of the times.' Fourth, his high school English teachers taught him the difference between what they called facts and what they called opinions, and moral propositions were always included among the opinion. His social science teachers in college made the same distinction between facts and values. Fifth, he found disbelieving in God a good way to get back at Him after things began to go wrong because he did not believe in Him. Sixth, like so many others—as in the case of William Dembski—he had come to confuse science with the

arbitrary presuppositions of a materialistic world view, in which nothing exists but matter. Seventh, he had fallen under the spell of Nietzsche, imagining himself as one of the few 'who could walk the rocky heights where the air is thin and cold.' Finally, he cites pride: he did not want God to be God, but wanted J. Budziszewski to be God.

"In the course of finding his way back to faith in God, which he describes briefly, he has recovered the moral principles which he says we cannot *not* know, because they are 'written on our hearts' (which is the title of an earlier work he wrote on natural law).

"Prof. Budziszewski's book is subtitled *Politics and the Fall of Man*. If one were asked what Christian doctrine is most essential for a good society, one might well answer, 'the doctrine of the Fall.' Someone has said that the Fall—or rather its corollary, the depravity of man—is the one Christian doctrine that can be empirically proved. It contradicts the fundamental misconception of most idealistic political and social thinkers that people are essentially good and only tend to be led astray by bad influences. If people were essentially good, if the Fall had not taken place, warping human nature, the State would hardly be necessary, as people would naturally work together for the common good.

"The Founding fathers of the United States, influenced by the Calvinist perception of man as fallen, sought to minimize the effects of human sinfulness by establishing not a unitary state, but a confederation with checks and balances built in at various levels. Those who start with the presupposition that human beings are basically good and need only a little education and encouragement to work for the common good rather quickly find that they have to resort to compulsion to obtain even a semblance of the altruistic behavior which, in their view, ought to be natural. Thus, paradoxically, those who believe that man is flawed and that human systems require many checks and balances to forestall evil allow more individual freedom than those who begin with the presupposition that people are good. Those who adhere to the '???' eventually discover that increasingly comprehensive restrictive measures are necessary to keep men behaving in socially responsible ways."

—Harold O.J. Brown, *The Religion and Society Report*, January 2001, p. 1

" 'You can be a sinner and live under a bridge, or you can be a sinner and be the governor of Texas,' George W. Bush said last summer. He didn't say anything about being a sinner and being president, but then he didn't really need to. Of course, Bush wasn't making reference to Clinton, he was talking about his own faith and his belief that the human condition requires a power greater than self—something he says he's found through Jesus Christ. And when it comes to issues of faith, 'good ole George' is the real thing, say his pastors and Christian friends.

" 'I don't think he has a pretentious bone in his body. He's just who he is. You don't get something else—you just get who good ole George is,' said Leighton Farrell, the pastor at Highland Park Methodist in Dallas when Bush transferred his membership there in 1987.

"Farrell recalls a story from 1994, the night that Bush defeated Texas incumbent governor Ann Richards. The Bushes were gathered in an Austin hotel room, watching the returns, with Farrell, his wife and several other close friends. 'They had about three or four televisions, all of them going at the same time, and somebody said, "Ann Richards is making a concession speech," ' Farrell tells *Insight*. 'Well, George didn't rush into the room to watch the television. The first thing that George said is, "Everybody join hands. Leighton is going to lead us in a word of prayer."' Farrell says it was as spontaneous as anything he had ever seen, and it was further indication of Bush's commitment to his faith.

"Pastors, friends and even social activists are convinced that Bush is not 'playing the religious card,' when he makes bold statements such as he did last spring after being asked which political philosopher he most admires and responded: 'Christ, because he changed my heart.'

"While liberal-leaning Jesus Seminar types got bent out of shape about that comment, criticizing Bush for calling Jesus a philosopher, the general public seemed to approve, even though some speculate whether he was invoking the name of Jesus for political purposes.

"But ask anyone who knows Bush on a personal level, and they will confirm that not only is he a committed follower of the evangelical faith that John Wesley brought to America in 1735, but lives it out in his daily actions, words and even attitude.

" 'I've got a structure to my life where religion plays a role. I understand religion is a walk; it's a journey. And I fully recognize that I'm a sinner, just like you. That's why Christ died. He died for my sins and for your sins,' Bush told *U.S. News Online*."

—James Harder, *Insight* magazine, February 26, 2001, p. 24

