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Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you [humanists] are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Acts 17:22, 23

## **From The President's Desk**

Tom Anderson at one time was editor of Southern Farms Publications and each year wrote a special editorial to teenagers. Some are really worth considering and the following editorial certainly is...

“Happiness is not what you have in your pocket but what you have in your heart. Money won’t buy happiness. And in spite of what the wags say, it won’t buy a more enduring brand of misery. Those who chase happiness rarely catch up to it. Multimillionaire Jay Gould said before he died: ‘I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth.’ Happiness lies not in pleasure. Lord Byron, after a life of pleasure, moaned: ‘The worm, the canker and grief are mine alone.’ Power won’t produce happiness. Alexander the Great conquered the known world and then wept and said: ‘There are no more worlds to conquer.’ Happiness lies not in believing ‘God is dead.’ Voltaire believed that, and wrote: ‘I wish I had never been born.’

“Happiness is being born again. Happiness is in Christ. He said: ‘Your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.’ As Proverbs 16:20 teaches: ‘Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.’

“Happiness is being a sovereign individual. Learn to sing solo. Anybody can sing when everybody is singing.

“The great and good things of history were performed by individuals, not the mass. Happiness is inequality.

“Happiness is opportunity. But there is no more opportunity you say? Somebody has estimated that 80% of the world’s knowledge has been developed in the past 10 years and is doubling every 10 years. Ninety percent of all drugs being prescribed by physicians today were not even known 10 years ago. Ten years from now  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all people who will work in industry will be producing products that have not yet been invented or discovered.

“You’re unhappy because you have physical defects, you’re not smart, don’t express yourself well? Beethoven was deaf. Edison was a poor student. Churchill lisped as a boy.

“When Queen Victoria exclaimed to the great pianist, Paderewski: ‘Ah, you are a genius!’ he replied, ‘Perhaps, Your Majesty—but before I was a genius, I was a drudge.’

“There are few born geniuses. Genius is composed mainly of sweat, determination and courage. If you want success, do sweat it.

“ ‘Be sure you’re right, then go ahead; be sure you’re wrong before you quit.’ Don’t brood over failures; if you must cry over spilt milk, condense it. And don’t blame your ‘bad luck.’ Luck is a circumstance as rare as an honest politician. Your ‘luck’ is what you make it. Those who complain about the way the ball bounces are invariably the ones who fumbled it.

“Happiness is security—and the only real security you’ll ever have will come from inside you. You are not the same as the others. You are different. Different from any person alive, or who ever lived, or who ever will live. You are you. The only you. What are you going to do about you? That is up to you.

“Happiness is not to ride now, pay later, as the ads say. In the olden days men used to ride chargers, now they marry them. Happiness is riding a charger, not marrying one.

“To know others, know yourself. To like others, like yourself. To be honest with others, be honest with yourself. People who continually complain that people don’t understand them probably don’t understand themselves.

“Nobody can cheat you as badly as you cheat yourself. Nobody can defeat you as badly as you defeat yourself. More important than your good qualities are the use you make of them. Happiness is service above self.

“When a young minister asked his Bishop, ‘What shall I preach about?’, the Bishop answered: ‘Preach about God and preach about 20 minutes.’

“Happiness is knowing how to spend your time. At your age it’s hard for you to appreciate the tyranny of time—there’s so little time for each of us. Seneca observed centuries ago: ‘We are always complaining that our days are few, and then acting as though there would be no end to them.’

“Jesus had only 35 years on earth. Nathan Hale had 22. Joan of Arc had only 19. It’s not how much time you have; it’s what you do with it.

“Happiness is doing nothing you have to hide. Happiness is a clear conscience. Sin is not old-fashioned; sin is real.

“What is morality? It’s what the Bible says it is. Not what some leftwing, over-educated professor or a ‘modernist’ preacher may claim.

“A nice girl is still one who whispers sweet nothing-doings into her date’s ear. Don’t ever let anybody sell you the lie that chastity is out of date. Your children will want their mother to be as pure as you want your mother to be. Happiness is having a future, not a past.

“All that is legal or ‘acceptable’ is not moral. Only the moral deserve to be free. Freedom and morality are indivisible.

“Happiness is knowing. Education is not merely school. Your education is the continuous development of mind, heart and character. Character is like an iceberg; the part which counts for most is below the surface. When you cash in your chips for this life, the only thing of any value which you can take with you is your character. Character is a victory, not a gift. Character knows no race, creed, color or circumstance. If you lack it, it’s nobody’s fault but your own. Happiness is character.

Happiness is freedom. What is freedom? It is freedom to choose. It is the right of every person to own and control his own property, his own mind, and his own labor—as long as he is not infringing on the same rights of others.

“There is only one great giver—and that is God, not government. Governments don’t give freedom: they take freedom. People have to wrest freedom from governments. Then, after the people secure freedom, they have to work constantly to keep it. You can’t have freedom and security. Happiness lies not in the state but in the state of mind.

“Government can give you nothing which it does not first take from somebody else. If you want your government to be your servant instead of your master, you must understand it, participate in it, distrust it and control it. The bigger it is the littler you are.

“Happiness is being self-sufficient.

“Your parents should do nothing for you which you can do for yourself. Government should do nothing which private interests can do as well or better. And the Federal Government should do nothing which can be done as well or better by local and state governments—and that includes practically everything. The bigger the government is the further removed from the people it is, the more crooked, wasteful, inefficient.

“A little boy sitting on a bus between two women unconsciously rubbed his muddy shoes on the white linen dress of the woman on his left.

“ ‘Please!’ she exclaimed to the woman on his right, ‘will you have your son keep his dirty feet off me!’

“ ‘He is not my boy,’ the woman replied. ‘I’ve never seen him before.’

“ ‘I’m very sorry!’ said the anguished lad, whose feet couldn’t even reach the floor, ‘I didn’t mean to!’

“ ‘Are you going uptown alone?’ he was asked.

“ ‘Yes, ma’am’ he replied, ‘I always go alone. My mama and daddy are dead. I live with Aunt Barbara, but she says Aunt Mary ought to do something for me too. So I’m going to Aunt Mary’s. I hope she is home, because it’s raining and I’ll get cold sitting on the steps waiting for her to come home.’

“ ‘But you are such a little boy to be thrown on your own in a big city!’

“ ‘Oh, I get along all right, but I get lonesome sometimes and then when I see anybody I think I’d like to belong to, I sort of nestle up close to her, so I can make believe she’s my mother. I was playing like I belonged to that lady. I forgot to keep my feet still. That’s why I got your dress dirty.’

“Throughout our lives one of our greatest needs is to feel wanted and appreciated. No less pitiful than the unwanted boy on the bus are the unwanted old people relegated to rest homes where they get everything their hearts desire except the one thing they most want: love. Love is the greatest thing there is. Love, honor and obey your God and your parents. ‘For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’

“Happiness is love.”

## Month In Review

Q And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.

Q “Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, ‘What does this babbler want to say?’

“Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,’ because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

“And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, ‘May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.’ For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, “For we are also His offspring.” Therefore, since, we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.’ ”

Q “Evil comes from the abuse of free will.”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

Q “Man is now a horror to God and to himself and a creature ill-adapted to the universe not because God made him so, but because he has made himself so by the abuse of his free will.”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

Q “Nothing would be done at all if a man waited until he could do it so well that no one would find fault with it.”

—John Henry Newman

Q “Keep on going and the chances are you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I have never heard of anyone stumbling on something sitting down.”

—Charles F. Kettering

Q “If it can be documented—and it can—that male homosexuals in North America have a statistical life expectancy that is not much more than half the life expectancy of the population at large, then why is there not an outraged blitz from the media on that topic?

“So that you don’t think this is just a whimsical topic I dreamed up this week, try this exercise. Go to the Google internet search engine and enter the three simple words: ‘homosexual life expectancy.’ Within five seconds, you’ll find thousands of entries under that topic! No one seems to disagree with the main conclusion: that male homosexuals live significantly shorter lives than do other people. Psychological Reports said bluntly in a 1998 article that ‘the average life expectancy of homosexuals is 20 to 30 years less than heterosexuals.’ You will find a host of professional journals that have reported similar findings with virtually no experts taking issue.

“So why isn’t there an uproar in the media? One liberal media friend, a defender of the homosexual agenda, tells me that my concern is a tempest in a teapot. ‘When the life insurance companies start asking applicants to report their sexual preferences, then maybe you’ll have a point,’ he told me. ‘But not until.’

“At first, that seemed to be a fair objection. It is in fact a typically reliable indicator on just about any subject to check in and see what the insurance companies think. They usually gather vast banks of data—and then they have to put their money where their mouth is.

“But neither are life insurance companies exempt from the pressures of being politically correct. Scholar and columnist Walter Williams observes: ‘I think I know the answer. Life insurance companies would be charged with lifestyle discrimination. [And] some forms of discrimination are politically acceptable, while others aren’t’

“While Mr. Williams is certainly right, I think there’s a little more to the issue. If homosexuals made up 8 percent to 10 percent of the population, as they want everyone to think they do, even political correctness wouldn’t allow the insurance companies to overlook so profound a matter. But since in fact they constitute only 1.5 percent or so of the population, according to the most accurate studies, the impact on the insurance companies’ liability and ultimate payout isn’t worth the hassle of bucking the politically correct trend.”

—Joel Belz, World, January 31, 2004, p. 6

Q “While many graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy have spent 2003 defending our nation in Iraq, in Afghanistan or on ships at sea, lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union have been plotting an act of cultural terrorism against the Navy here at home.

“The ACLU is targeting the voluntary lunchtime prayer that has been a tradition at the Naval Academy since its founding.

“In the ACLU’s view, consenting adults have a right to do just about anything they want except say grace in a government cafeteria. Consensual sodomy, it believes, is a sacred right, while consensual public prayer is a sorry ritual to be crushed beneath the boot heel of big government.

“True to its creed, the ACLU began maneuvering against the Navy in April, after the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Virginia Military Institute to cancel its supper prayer.

“Theoretically, VMI violated the First Amendment. ‘Congress,’ it says, ‘shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.’ In essence, the judges concluded that when Virginia allowed its cadets to say a nondenominational prayer it was the equivalent of Congress establishing a federal religion in the very corner of Virginia where Stonewall Jackson used to teach.

“Although absurd, the appeals court decision was the predictable progeny of a long line of abominable Supreme Court decisions. That court banned prayer in public grade schools and high schools. The appeals court merely extended the principle to a public college.

“That gave the ACLU an opening to attack the Navy.

“Maryland ACLU Director Susan Goering sent the academy a letter. ‘We believe that when

you have had a chance to review the 4th Circuit's opinion,' she said, 'you will agree that the Naval Academy's mandatory lunchtime prayer cannot pass constitutional muster, and will therefore cease the practice.'

"Never mind that the prayer is not 'mandatory.' What mattered was Miss Goering's implicit threat to sue. But the Navy did not retreat. In August, it announced it would keep its prayer, and the ACLU went ballistic.

" 'We tried things the nice way, and they've told us to pound sand,' ACLU lawyer David Rocah told the Baltimore Sun. 'If someone is interested in challenging the prayer,' he said, 'we would be perfectly happy to talk to them about that.'

"Republican Rep. Walter Jones of North Carolina did not sit idle at such threats. If the ACLU can't be stopped now, he told me, tomorrow it will 'try to control what prayer is said in the foxhole.'

" 'I have seen the federal courts take one right after another away from people of faith in this country,' said Mr. Jones, 'and I think it's time to fight.'

"He introduced legislation to codify the authority of the military academies to offer 'voluntary nondenominational prayer' at academy events. Designed to send an unsubtle signal to any court that entertains an ACLU suit against the Navy, the proposal is likely to be included in next year's Defense authorization.

"But will it stop a judge from banning the Navy's prayer? I doubt it.

"The same federal courts that declared same-sex sodomy a right and banned the Ten Commandments from state buildings will not be deterred by an ordinary act of Congress.

"If the federal judiciary stays on trend, prayer will be banned at Navy, and the ACLU will set its sights on a bigger target—perhaps banning military chaplains.

"Must Congress surrender? No. Just as the Navy has faithfully defended our democracy, our democratically elected leaders must faithfully defend the Navy. The Constitution says Congress has the power to 'establish' the lower federal courts and that the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court shall be set 'with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.'

"Explaining this language, Justice Joseph Story, who was appointed by President James Madison, said: 'Of course, as the judicial power is to be vested in the supreme and inferior courts of the Union, both are under the entire control and regulation of Congress.'



“If the ACLU files suit against Navy’s prayer, Congress should pass a law lifting the issue from the jurisdiction of the courts. Then, borrowing the words of ACLU lawyer Mr. Rocah, it should tell the ACLU to go pound sand.”

—Terence P. Jeffrey, *The Washington Times*, December 29, 2003, p. A16

Q “Only 4 percent of U.S. adults have a biblical worldview as the basis of their decision-making, according to a new study by Barna Research Group.

“ ‘Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life,’ said researcher George Barna.

“Everyone has a worldview, but few have a biblical worldview, the survey found. Seven percent of all Protestants, 2 percent of mainline Protestants, and less than one-half of 1 percent of Roman Catholics have such a perspective on life; overall, 9 percent of ‘born-again’ Christians have a biblical worldview. The groups with the highest proportion of such adults were nondenominational Protestant churches (13 percent), Pentecostal churches (10 percent) and Baptist churches (8 percent).

“Among the most prevalent alternative worldviews was postmodernism, dominant in the two youngest generations.

“A biblical perspective has a significant impact on behavior, according to the survey, which involved 2,033 people.

“ ‘Adults with a biblical worldview possessed radically different views on morality, held divergent religious beliefs, and demonstrated vastly different lifestyle choices’ from the general population, the research group said.

“Those with a biblical worldview were 31 times less likely to approve of cohabitation than those without such a perspective (2 percent and 62 percent, respectively); 19 times less likely to approve of drunkenness (2 percent versus 36 percent); 15 times less likely to approve of gay sex (2 percents versus 31 percent); 12 times less likely to approve of profanity (3 percent versus 37 percent); and 11 times less likely to say adultery was morally acceptable (4 percent versus 44 percent). Less than one-half of 1 percent with a biblical worldview said abortion or voluntary exposure to pornography was morally acceptable (compared with 46 percent and 39 percent of other adults, respectively).

“People with a biblical perspective were twice as likely to have discussed spiritual matters with other people in the past month and twice as likely to have fasted for religious reasons

during the preceding month, the survey found. Less than 1 percent of people with a biblical worldview had had sexual relations with someone other than their spouse during the past month, compared with one of eight adults overall.

“ ‘These are not perfect people,’ Barna said, ‘but once they catch on to the critical principles found in the Bible and train their minds to incorporate those views into their thinking, their behavior varies noticeably from the norm.’ ”

—Religionjournal.com January 30, 2004

Q “It is a beautiful country to be sure, but the small Balkan nation of Macedonia has some big problems.

“As it works to satisfy cumbersome requirements for integrating into NATO and the EU, Macedonia continues to experience high unemployment and a staggering trade deficit. It has fallen victim to the eastern European criminal network active in trafficking women and children into prostitution. Both its majority and minority political parties are trying to balance national unity with ethnic recognition. It is a ticking time bomb for ethnic violence that could erupt at any moment.

“The country isn’t even allowed to use its rightful name: The Greeks, still apparently reeling from the invasion of Alexander the Great, objected to the name Macedonia during the post-Communism renaming process of the 1990’s. So out of the wreckage of Yugoslavia came its ludicrous official name, FYROM — the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

“Against this backdrop of critical economic and identity development as well as ethnic unrest, the vast majority of Macedonians think that homosexuality is a disease. Therefore, the U.S. embassy in Macedonia is using U.S. taxpayer dollars to erect billboards promoting the homosexual agenda.

“Not just billboards, but graphic billboards. The large photo array includes three pictures of gay men holding each other; three pictures of women in suggestive positions (one even using elderly women); and lastly, a ménage à trios with an Asian woman, a blond woman (neither looking even remotely Macedonian), and a man who looks very much like Jesus of Nazareth.

“The billboards reads: ‘Face Reality, The Campaign to Promote the Rights of Sexual Minorities,’ and in the lower right-hand corner is the seal of the American embassy, Skopje.

“The billboard is prominently displayed in the capital of Skopje, and also in the peaceful, ancient city of Ohrid. It is unclear how many of these billboards dot the Macedonian landscape.

“I saw these myself while there recently to speak to Macedonian and ethnically Albanian women about increasing their roles in the political process. It was promising to see these disparate women discuss politics, ethnic violence, and the universal female kinship of child rearing as they put aside centuries-old differences on behalf of their country. In comparison to America’s hollow heroes of celebrity, it was an honor to be among these legitimately brave and forward-thinking women.

“According to these political activists, supporting coalition building, opening dialogue between factional political parties, and expanding manufacturing and commerce for this emerging democracy should be the primary mission of U.S. interests — both political and economic. There are numerous NGOs and U.S. government agencies currently operating in Macedonia, and the private-sector presence is growing.

“Much of this activity centers around the U.S. embassy in Skopje, headed by Ambassador Lawrence Butler. Ambassador Butler served on the National Security Council staff as director for European affairs for President Clinton, and was made a member of the Senior Foreign Service in 1997 by the Clinton administration. He has been in foreign service since 1976 and has vast European experience, particularly in the Balkans.

“Since arriving in Macedonia in April of 2002, Ambassador Butler has created discomfort and resentment by dismissing the use of a Macedonian translator when speaking in predominantly Albanian areas, and supported a USAID memo that advocated the use of the flag of the Republic of Albania at U.S.-sponsored events in Macedonia.

“It is mystifying why an experienced diplomat with in-depth knowledge of Balkan ethnic unrest and cultural mores would eschew caution and sensitivity when dealing with inter-ethnic protocol. That our embassy would not just support, but sponsor, billboards that offend the entire national spectrum is particularly egregious and ill-advised.

“In 2002, the Swedish Helsinki Committee and the Foundation Open Society of Macedonia did a comprehensive survey of the attitudes toward homosexuality of the four largest ethnic Macedonian communities — Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish, and Roma. The committee’s conclusion is glaring: 64 percent of Macedonians think homosexuality is a disease, only 19 percent don’t, and the rest are ‘not certain.’

“Another 60 percent believe it is also ‘immoral.’ As recently as 1996, homosexuality was a criminal offense, and nearly 35 percent of Macedonians believe that it should continue to be punishable by law. On the personal scale, only 20.5 percent of Macedonians surveyed would accept the homosexuality of a family member.

“Yet into this worldview marches the U.S. embassy, allocating vital financial resources to an in-your-face strategy promoting the inevitability and acceptance of this perceived ‘disease.’ It

seems that in Macedonia at least, support for the homosexual agenda has become the official position of the U.S. State Department.

“The arrival of these billboards has been noticed by Macedonian president Boris Trajkovski, who was ‘appalled to see that the embassy of the United States of America would sponsor something such as this in Macedonia.’

“He told me, ‘U.S. taxpayer funds should not be used to promote alternative lifestyles in my country, and I do not believe that most Americans would appreciate this. We have many more pressing issues that the money could be used for. This is deeply offensive to most people in Macedonia which represents a very conservative mix of the Orthodox Christian and Muslim faiths.’

“Macedonia has been overrun by all manner of foreign invaders for thousands of years — Romans, Turks, Greeks, Nazis, and even billionaire leftist George Soros, who departed in a huff with his investment capital when his efforts to kingdomize the country failed. As Macedonia moves from the economic legacy of Communism to a free-market system, maintaining its stability is a key element in U.S. and international efforts to reduce political volatility in the Balkans, including neighboring Kosovo. The incursion of the homosexual agenda of the American Left — implemented by our diplomatic corps — is yet another incursion not welcomed by the Macedonian people.

“The Macedonian women have it right — America’s greatest gift to their nation should be the export of economic and individual liberty, wrapped in respect for the country’s historic and deeply held cultural and religious beliefs.

—Kerri Houston, National Review Online, January 6, 2004

Q “On September 29, it was reported that the ACLU, fresh from its triumph over the Ten Commandments in Alabama, found a framed copy on the wall of a country courthouse in Georgia. Its shock troops sprang into action. While Georgia citizens rally, in all likelihood the ACLU, sustained by the pagan justices of various courts, will triumph again. Together with their allies, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and People for the American Way, the American Civil Liberties Union, founded for better purposes, has been waging a relentless and almost universally successful war against any evidence of religious faith, especially but not only Christian faith, anywhere in our country. We may properly identify them as a little axis of evil.

“A three-judge panel of the Ninth Federal District Court in California, which momentarily gained fame when one of its panels blocked the October 7 referendum in California (reversed by the full court), has now eliminated the words ‘under God’ from the Pledge of Allegiance recited in public schools, and has done so for the full nine states under its jurisdiction. Now

the ACLU is waging a relentless war against the Boy Scouts of America. Having failed to persuade the practice of excluding homosexuals from being Scout leaders, the relentless ACLU has taken the case to local governments and agencies. As the September 29 Weekly Standard reports, ‘Whenever it can, the ACLU is suing, or threatening to sue, to demand that state and local governments and the United Way cut off all relations with the Scouts, on the grounds that governmental and quasi-public entities [such as the United Way] must not associate with such a “discriminatory” group.’ In late July a federal court in San Diego gave the ACLU what they wanted. The Scouts gave the ACLU what they wanted. The Scouts can no longer get their lease on Balboa Park. A lesbian couple and an agnostic, feeling left out by the policies of the Scouts, found the ACLU to sue the city on their behalf.

“Eventually the slumbering religious community must wake up to the fact that the ACLU represents the lead member in what we dared to call a little axis of evil, together with the Americans United and People for the American Way. While pretending to be interested only in the U.S. Constitution and its most sacred provision, the Separation of Church and State (not actually in the Constitution, but now enshrined there as though it were, by customary usage), actually they are interested in cutting out of national life all of the religious elements that up to now have had a part in giving us such elements of morality and common decency as still exist. They sound like enemies, act like enemies, think like enemies, and cause the damage that enemies cause: therefore, they are enemies and should be recognized and named as such. Most religious organizations are far too nice to mention this publicly; perhaps they do not even realize it. How much longer must the religious heritage of the country be thrown into the mud and trampled before Christians, for example, will at least go so far as calling its enemies enemies.”

—Harold O.J. Brown, Religion & Society Report, October 2003, p. 6, 7

Q “To make proper use of something that has been designed, we have to know how it works. That means knowing how each feature contributes to the fulfillment of its functions. In the body, the heart is for pumping blood; each valve, nerve, chamber and vessel does its part to move the blood along. Every doctor understands this; no sensible surgeon tries to make the heart pump air instead of blood. The reason is simple: when you thwart a thing’s design, it no longer does what it is supposed to do. It either works badly, stops working, or breaks. Something goes terribly wrong.

“These things can be observed, and so become another source of moral knowledge. Because every part of us has meaning, our very bodies have a language of their own; they say things by what we do with them. Bone speaks to bone, organ to organ, skin to skin. A smile means something friendly; you cannot give that meaning to a slap in the face. You can use a kiss to betray, but only because the kiss, in itself, means something else. Conjugal sex means self-giving, making one flesh out of two. By contrast, when a man puts the part of himself which represents new life into the cavity of another man which represents decay and expulsion, at the most basic of all possible levels he is saying ‘Life, be swallowed in death.’ We cannot

overwrite such meanings with different ones just because we want to.

“Design is obvious not just in our bodies but across the whole range of human powers and capacities. The function of fear is to warn; of minds, to deliberate and know; of anger, to prepare for the protection of endangered goods. Everything in us has a purpose; everything is for something. A power is well-used when it is used for that purpose and according to that design. Thus the virtue of courage is not being fearless, but fearing rightly: For the right reasons, in the right way, and to the right degree, neither more nor differently.”

—J. Budziszewski, *What We Can't Not Know*, p. 86, 87

Q “How many legs does a dog have if you call its tail a leg? That familiar fable, often attributed to Abraham Lincoln, comes to mind when we contemplate the redefinition of marriage by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

“In its 4-3 decision last month, the court acknowledged that for three centuries Massachusetts defined civil marriage as stated in Black’s Law Dictionary: ‘the legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife.’ The court then arrogantly determined there is no ‘rational basis’ for such a restrictive definition, which it said reflects a ‘destructive stereotype’ about the instability of same-sex couples and their inability to procreate.

“After pontificating in like vein for several pages, the court ordered that at the end of 180 days Massachusetts will have a new definition of marriage: ‘We construe civil marriage to mean the voluntary union of two persons as spouses, to the exclusion of all others.’

“That formula not only redefines marriage, but also spouse. Although spouse is a gender-neutral word, federal law states the obvious: ‘The word spouse refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.’

“With five months to go before the Massachusetts decision becomes final on May 16, it’s time to consider how such a radical change in the meaning of a word by one state will affect or be affected by the laws of Congress and the other 49 states, all of which adhere to the definition of marriage that Massachusetts just abolished.

“Take one example. The Internal Revenue Code has provided since 1948 that ‘a husband and wife may make a single return jointly of income taxes.’ If Massachusetts law no longer recognizes the federal meaning of husband and wife, then Massachusetts couples, including opposite sex couples married after May 16, will no longer be entitled to file a joint federal income tax return.

“Gay advocates want same-sex couples to claim the 1,049 benefits of marriage under federal law (referring to the 1,049 federal laws in which marital status is a factor, according to a 1997

General Accounting Office report). But what is likely to happen instead is that opposite-sex couples married in Massachusetts after the effective date will lose those same 1,049 federal benefits.

“The 1,049 federal laws recognize and were intended to support marriages as the union of husband and wife, not the union of ‘two persons.’ In our federal system, Massachusetts may well be free to abolish the concept of husband and wife within its borders, but it is not free to label the civil union of ‘two persons’ as a marriage entitled to federal recognition.

“Once the highest court of a state declares a husband and wife are no longer needed for a valid marriage, then whatever unions it creates are not real marriages, no matter what the state chooses to call them. A dog doesn’t have five legs even if you call its tail a leg, and Massachusetts couples will have to get married in another state to be assured of a marriage that other states and the federal government will recognize.

“To try to avoid the consequences of what Massachusetts House Speaker Tom Finneran said is a decision that has ‘legal, moral and social considerations for 270 million Americans, not just 6 million people in Massachusetts,’ the state Senate has asked the state Supreme Court for an advisory opinion about whether same-sex civil unions might be an acceptable substitute for same-sex marriage.

“The state Senate’s request deceptively refers to its proposal as ‘civil union,’ but in fact it is identical in every respect to the court’s redefinition of marriage as the ‘union of two persons.’ The Senate’s proposal does not merely create a separate legal category giving civil unions the benefits of marriage as does the law Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed in 2000.

“The proposed Massachusetts bill states categorically that a civil union is ‘equivalent to marriage and shall be treated under law as a marriage,’ and that ‘all laws applicable to marriage shall also apply to civil unions.’ The bill states that ‘the term marriage as it is used throughout the law shall be construed to include marriage and civil union.’

“This proposed Massachusetts bill further declares: ‘It shall be an unlawful practice for any person to discriminate on the basis of a person’s being joined in a civil union rather than a marriage.’ Note the broad sweep of the restriction placed on ‘any person.’

“Logic dictates that if a civil union is no less than a marriage, then marriage is no more than a civil union. In either case, this legal status should not be recognized as valid outside Massachusetts, and if opposite-sex couples want to be recognized as married by the federal government and by the other 49 states, they will have to travel to another state to pronounce their marriage vows.”