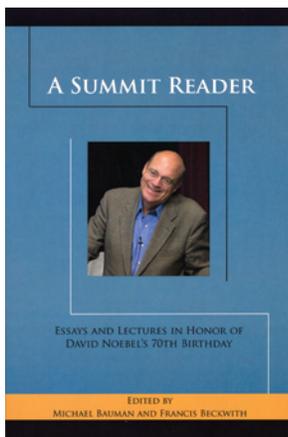




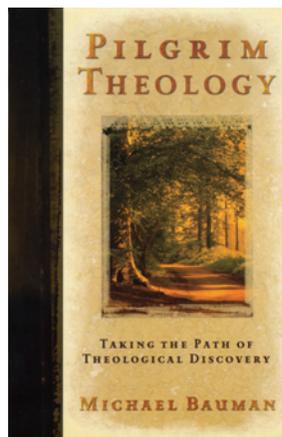
# The JOURNAL

A Summit Ministries Publication

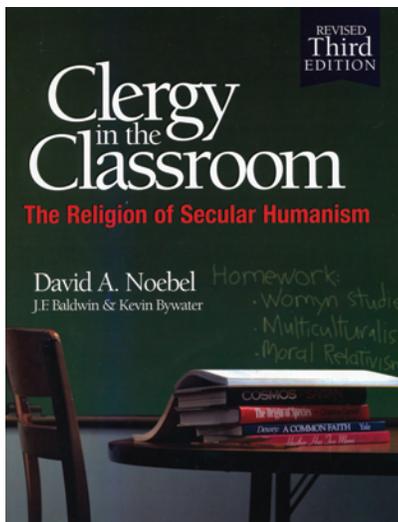
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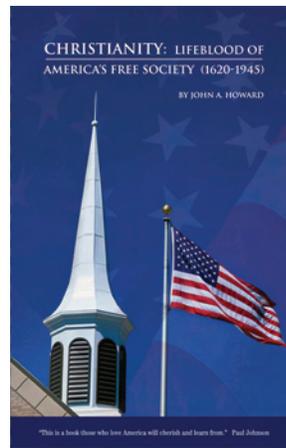
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"The fool says in his heart, 'God does not exist.' They are corrupt; their actions [including child sacrifice, sun worship, etc.] are revolting."  
—Psalm 14:1

## MONTH IN REVIEW

❑ “For God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.

Therefore God delivered them over in the cravings of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

—Romans 1:18-25

❑ “[When I was an atheist] my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such violent reaction against it? ... Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist—in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless—I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality—namely my idea of justice—was full of sense. Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

❑ “As if we were back in eighteenth-century France, atheist tracts are abroad in our land, their flamboyant titles defiant. *The God Delusion, god Is Not Great, Letter to a Christian Nation, Atheist Manifesto, Atheist Universe*: These are not subtle insinuations against God, requiring inferences from readers, but open opposition inviting readers to join in thumbing their noses. *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism*, newly published, offers comfort and scholarly reassurance, if not consolation, to atheists who might otherwise feel lonely—as, believing what they do, they surely must.

“Atheism isn’t what it was in the eighteenth century. Now, the focus of the attack is not the Church, which is no longer dominant, but religion itself. The disdain one used to hear for ‘organized religion’ extends now to the individual believer’s faith. Despite the change, politics is still the thrust of the attack. It’s just that the delusion of religion is now allowed to be the responsibility of the believer, not of some group that is deluding him. A more direct approach is required.

“In our time, religion, having lost its power to censor and dominate, still retains its ability, in America especially, to compete for adherents in our democracy of ideas. So to reduce the influence of religion, it is politically necessary to attack it in the private sphere

## — UPCOMING EVENTS —

### SPRING ADULT CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar for Summit’s one week worldview crash course at Glen Eyrie Conference Center – February 17-22, 2008. [www.gleneyrie.org/summit](http://www.gleneyrie.org/summit) – 877-488-8787

### DR. NOEBEL’S TRAVEL INCLUDES

Impact 360, Pine Mountain, GA October 22-24

Worldview Weekend, Rockford, IL, November 16-17

Summit Australia, Melbourne, January 13-19, 2008

West Houston Bible Church Worldview Conference, March 10-12, 2008

Iowa Prayer Breakfast, Clive, IA, March 19-20, 2008

### MORE SUMMIT SPEAKERS IN YOUR AREA

#### John Stonestreet:

October 4, ACSI\* Convention, Aurora, IL

October 5, Teacher In-Service Training, Cornerstone Christian Academy, Bloomington, IL

October 8-9, Teacher In-Service Training, Spiritual Emphasis Day, Parents Meeting, Asheville Christian Academy, Asheville, NC

October 19-20, Worldview Conference (w/Dr. Frank Beckwith), West Houston Church of Christ, Houston, TX

October 22-26, Worldview Lectures, YWAM Discipleship Training School, Mazatlan, Mexico

November 2-3, Worldview Workshop, Kings Academy, Calaway, MD

November 4-6, ACSI Senior High Leadership Conference, Eagle Eyrie, VA

November 10, Worldview Workshop, Illinois Home Educators Chicago, IL

November 15-16, ACSI Senior High Leadership Conference, Black Rock Retreat, PA

November 19, Biblical Worldview Institute, Prestonwood Christian Academy, Dallas, TX

November 20, ACSI Convention, Washington, DC

#### Chuck Edwards:

October 5-6, Worldview Seminar, Crawfordsville, IL

November 1-2, ACSI Convention, Greensboro, NC

#### Todd Cothran:

October 11-12, ACSI Convention, Pittsburgh, PA

November 1-2, ACSI Convention, Greensboro, NC

November 19-20, ACSI Convention, Washington, DC

Worldview conferences are open to the public. Contact the speaker for more information.

Teacher training is available for those using Summit curricula. This is a valuable tool for those teaching *Understanding the Times*, *Lightbearers* and *Building on the Rock*. For more information about any of these programs or for teacher training, contact [amanda@summit.org](mailto:amanda@summit.org).

\*Association of Christian Schools International

as well as in the public square. This suggests that the distinction between public and private, dear to our common liberalism, is sometimes a challenge to maintain.

“If religion, then, cannot be defended merely on the ground that it is private, what might be said in its behalf for the public good? We know from behavioral studies that, to the embarrassment of atheists, believers, or at least churchgoers, are better citizens—more active and law-abiding—than those who spend Sunday morning reading the *New York Times*. But why should this be so? And is it really true that atheists, with their newfound aggressiveness, are not public-spirited?”

—Harvey Mansfield, *The Weekly Standard*, August 13, 2007, p. 13

❑ “But surely not just any politics, arbitrarily posited. We must have a politics that aims at justice. The atheists say that God is unjust because He allows injustice to exist, to thrive. Worse than that, God is complicit in injustice. The reason why ‘God is not great,’ in Christopher Hitchens’s book title, is that God allows himself to be used, hence diminished, by His believers. Note that the atheist Hitchens, like a believer, wants God to be great. A God of limited powers is not God; God must be omnipotent to ensure that justice triumphs in the world. Hitchens doesn’t believe in God, but that is because he does believe in justice. Justice must be realizable if the reproach to God is that He is unjust.

“Now we must take a further step guided by human reason alone. Edmund Burke said, with a view to the atheism of the French Revolution, that we cannot live justly and happily unless we live under ‘a power out of ourselves.’ By this he meant a power above us, transcendent over our wills and our choices. We must choose to live under a power that limits our choices. In America we have a Constitution that limits our choices, not so much by forbidding things as by requiring us to make our choices through a political process of checks and balances, enforced by a separation of powers. But Burke means to argue that humanly contrived constitutional limits are not enough. Human government is not viable or sufficient without divine government above it in some unspecified relationship.”

—Harvey Mansfield, *Ibid*.

❑ “The judicial branch of Government is changing. Judges and a variety of activists working with them are effectively redefining the judicial power in response, they argue, to the changing social context by adding an expanded repertoire of therapeutic techniques to solve a broad range of social, economic and political problems among individuals and entire communities. Judges are transitioning from decision makers to life changers, employing new techniques to manipulate individuals and entire communities for the purpose of modifying individual and collective life. And they purport to do so without sacrificing any of the ‘traditional’ forms and processes.

“Because of the complexity of this movement, it will be difficult to adequately convey the magnitude of changes taking place in the state courts all across the United States. Nothing even remotely comparable to the transformation presently taking place in the judiciary can be found in modern history. At some point in the future, historians may see, in retrospect, a dramatic shift in power from individuals to the state and a reapportionment of power from

the popular branches of government to the courts. There have been revolutionary transfers of power countless times in history, but the term revolutionary hardly describes the changes currently taking place in the American courts. It is a quiet revolution; no bombs are being thrown, no buildings burned. It is, however, demolishing a branch of government; and a shining new, conceptual edifice is rising up in its place, filled with new people and new ideas about life and government. All of this is taking place in plain view of anyone with an interest in court politics. As a consequence, judicial activists have been essentially unfettered in their efforts to reinvent the courts....

“Perhaps the most important feature of this period of American history was the widespread rejection—particularly by radical students and intellectuals associated with the New Left—of authority of all kinds, including the law and legal institutions. The religion and laws of ‘dead white men’—the foundations of Western Civilization—were rejected outright as a sign of contempt for everything the United States represented. Young radicals and intellectuals identified with the American Left, when not engaged in sex or incapacitated by drugs, marched through the streets of college campuses proclaiming the death of God, burning draft cards, bras, and the American flag. Some of the more militant Leftists, inspired by the Vietnam War and very real injustices in the area of racial discrimination, prepared themselves for a Bolshevik-style revolution in the United States.

“The New Left denounced law as the tool of oppressors. As such, they argued that law reform was futile since it only served to divert attention from the central task of overthrowing a corrupt and unjust social order. Intellectuals within the legal profession and academia, being either sympathetic to the militants or uncertain about whether or not they were right, decided to debate the matter.”

—Frank V. Williams, III, *Campbell Law Review*, Volume 29, Number 3, Spring 2007, p. 595-598

❑ “The revolutionary spirit of the 1960s has carried over to the present day. Leftist ideology gained new life in the 1980s with what Peter Collier and David Horowitz called ‘a riptide of a Sixties revival.’ ‘The growing interest in the Sixties coincides with a renaissance of the radicalism that was the decade’s dominant trait and is now being used to jump start the Next Left,’ they observed.

“Reforming and regenerating law to meet changing conditions has been and continues to be the product of considerable thought

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# From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

This issue lists the dates for several upcoming Summit programs: the February 2008 Adult/Educators conference at the Navigators' Glen Eyrie site in Colorado Springs; the 2008 two-week summer programs in Colorado, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia (the Virginia Summit is new for 2008 and will be held at Liberty University); Summit Semester for fall 2008 (a three-month program of study designed to solidify the Christian footing of high school students preparing to attend college or those who have earned some college credits already); and the brand new overseas Summit Ministries Oxford Studies Centre program set to begin in September 2008.

Before sharing some heartfelt comments from parents and former students, let me say a few words about both Summit Semester and the Oxford program (officially named Summit Ministries Oxford Studies Centre or SMOSC).

Summit Semester is designed primarily for high school graduates as well as a sprinkling of college students who desire to prepare themselves intellectually and spiritually for college life. The scholar-in-residence is Dr. Michael Bauman (Hillsdale College) who will be assisted by Dr. J. P. Moreland (Talbot Seminary) and Dr. Don Williams (Toccoa Falls College). Students will find Summit Semester's academically challenging coursework taught in a Christian environment a great help as they prepare themselves for the rigors of college academics as well as the inevitable assaults on their Christian faith. Home-schooled students will benefit from this friendly, away-from-home learning environment. Summit Semester is held south of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at a former Young Life camp (lodge and dorms). The dates for 2008 are September 5 - November 29, 2008. For further information, call us at (719) 685-9103.

Summit Ministries Oxford Studies Centre is designed primarily for Summit summer program or Summit Semester graduates who have accumulated at least two years of college credits (with good grades obviously!) and who desire to study abroad for a semester or even two.

As we reported in an earlier *Journal*, the Oxford Studies Abroad Programme challenged us to recruit young, conservative Christian evangelicals who are highly academically oriented to pursue studies in their chosen fields at Oxford University in England. (If their major is history, SMOSC wants them to study history, etc.) The prerequisites for SMOSC include previous participation in a Summit worldview program and successful completion of a minimum of two years of college coursework. SMOSC also welcomes applications from home school students who have attended a Summit worldview program and have successfully completed a minimum of two years of college coursework as well as college

graduates who have earned a B.A., B.S., M.A., or doctoral degree (Ph.D., Sc.D., Th.D., etc.). In addition, Christian college professors are welcome to consider this unique opportunity not only to expand their horizons but also to include Oxford University study in their vitae. The application for SMOSC is posted on our website (Summit.org) along with a more detailed explanation of the program. Interested students may also visit the Oxford Study Abroad Programme at <http://www.studyabroad.com/osap/>. For further information, call us at (719) 685-9103.

Now let me share a few letters that should encourage all our *Journal* readers.

"Dr. Noebel,

"We just picked up our son Stephen from the Summit this morning. I can see the change in him already.

"He came home with a renewed fire to serve the Lord and I am absolutely thrilled. My wife and I are so blessed by your ministry.

"Stephen wants to attend the Summit Semester and as soon as he gets his essays written we will get his application sent in. He wants to attend Hillsdale College, but as we didn't get an application in soon enough, he almost definitely will not be accepted in time for the fall semester, so it might work out perfectly, scheduling-wise.

"Thank you very much for what you and your staff do there."—M.S., Denver, Colorado

"Dear Dr. Noebel,

"Enclosed please find a letter that our granddaughter recently sent to us.

"We paid her tuition for Summit when she was 16 years old along with several other grandchildren and many other students.

"We have loved seeing the results of that investment! Please use her letter as you wish. She gave permission to send it.

"Thank you for the wonderful ministry of Summit.

"Sincerely In Christ,"—J & M Brown, Neenah, Wisconsin

"Dear Grandfather & Grandmother,

"Thank you for the Summit Home School Curriculum. I'm sure it will be top notch! We really, really appreciate the fact that you're encouraging and proud of and supportive of us regarding home schooling. I'm truly thankful that you two helped us kids to go out to Summit. That was surely a wise investment. (Just last week I made 3 phone calls to our governor and another representative to encourage them to make a specific decision regarding a moral/ethical topic in a bill.) That was an ambiguous sentence. Anyhow,

I called about the “Education Funding Bill,” which included some filthy immoral junk they want to teach to kids in public schools. I strongly urged the governor to veto it.

“Having attended Summit equipped and emboldened me to make those types of phone calls. So thanks!

“Love,”—Becky

“Dr. Noebel,

“I am a senior at Texas A&M in College Station. I am in the Corps of Cadets there and will be serving as the 2nd Regiment’s Chaplain next year. I just wanted to take the time to write to you and thank you for what your ministry has meant to me.

“I attend the second to last summer session in 2004. I expected to grow in knowledge. What I did not expect was to grow in my faith. God moved in my heart at Summit. I had known the Lord for many years before I attended, but He did a deeper work of faith in my life there. The staff and speakers were as different as night and day, but they all shared an amazing love for our Savior and they all walked in humility.

“How I got to attend Summit in the first place is an interesting story. My aunt had sent me a packet about Summit Ministries. I looked at the brochure and was interested, but then I saw the price tag. While this was a very reasonable price for what was offered that next year was going to be my first semester at college and my parents and I were already going to be spending a lot of money on me. I prayed a quick prayer, ‘Lord, I cannot go to Summit this year, so if it is your will for me to go, you will have to provide a way.’ I was interested in Summit, and a little guilty for brushing it off so quickly, so that prayer was a simple way to escape guilt and go on my merry way. Of course God wasn’t going to really answer my prayer, but I prayed and had put the ball in God’s court so it

wasn’t my concern any more. About a month later I was at the Jr./Sr. Banquet. I attended San Antonio Christian High School. Instead of a Prom, they have a banquet where the Jr. Class honors the Sr. Class. The principle, Mr. Burrows, was speaking and introducing some awards. I had attended the banquet last year as a junior and I remember there being a Timothy award, which is a scholarship award given for having the qualities of Timothy. (I knew I wasn’t going to get that award!) However, I did not remember any other awards that my school gave during the banquet. Mr. Burrows finished giving the Timothy award and introduced the Summit Award. My ears perked up, where had I heard that name before? As Mr. Burrows described the Summit’s ministry and experience in the mountains of Colorado it all came back to me in a flash. I remembered the letter, the prayer, and I was filled with more than anticipation, what I felt was closer to dread. My all powerful God had answered my snide prayer of disbelief and I knew before Mr. Burrows called my name, that I was going to get that award.

“He called my name out and I rose shakily to my feet and walked forward dumbstruck to the podium to receive my certificate. The audience thought it was funny how shocked I was, and my Mom said it is the only time in my life where she had seen me at a loss for words. The award was a full scholarship to attend a two week summer conference at Summit Ministries. I had my answer, God wanted me to attend Summit. That is how I knew the Lord was going to move in my life before I even got on a plane for Colorado.”—Caleb R., Texas

Again, thank you for making this ministry possible by your gifts, your prayers, and your concern for what we are attempting to do to reach the next generation of Christian leaders, movers, and shakers.

*continued from Page 3*

and deliberation. Until recent decades, however, court reform was still thought of in the constitutional context of adjudication.

“During the 1960s, activists from many disciplines—sociology, political science, education, psychology, management, and others—worked primarily from outside the judicial system, utilizing the results of numerous empirical studies of human life to produce change in the nature and purpose of law and the work of the courts in society. Every avenue, forum, and technique available to the intellectual community has been employed to redefine the rule of law (beginning with constitutional law), adversarial proceedings, and, consequently, the role of judges in society. The changes which have resulted are not the result of some popular grass-roots demand, but rather the demand of relatively few militants, so-called scholar/activists, and intellectuals who were essentially in agreement with the need to overthrow the existing foundation for law and the courts. These people chose to bring about the same changes by deliberative processes rather than by armed revolution. The end result, however, will be the same.”

—Frank V. Williams, III, *Ibid.*, p. 599, 600

□ Editor’s note: Every Christian lawyer needs to become aware of what is happening in our legal system and especially in our state courts. Williams’ article is nearly 140 pages in length and needs to

be read carefully. It is available on the web at [www.law.campbell.edu/lawreview.com](http://www.law.campbell.edu/lawreview.com). Here I quote a few paragraphs to give our readers a taste of what the legal issue is.

□ “[Dr. James] Dobson should save his ammunition for real—not perceived—attacks upon Christianity such as a movie coming this Christmas. During the holiday season, *The Golden Compass* will appear in theatres, a movie based on Philip Pullman’s first book in the best-selling *His Dark Materials* trilogy.

“The timing of the movie’s release is ironic considering that Pullman hates Christianity.

“In *The Washington Post*, Pullman admitted that, through his work, ‘I’m trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief.’

“Pullman also holds disdain for C.S. Lewis and his *Narnia* tales; he claims that Lewis is celebrated ‘bullying, racism, misogyny.’

“Publicly and in his fiction, Pullman pulls no punches.

“To sell tickets, the movie trailer connects the tale to Tolkien’s stories about Middle Earth. Yet Tolkien, a Catholic, would have been aghast at Pullman’s tale.

“Throughout Pullman’s wonderfully entertaining and creative stories, one finds anti-Christian pokes, anti-Christian symbolism and even anti-Christian diatribes.

“Children are treated to arguments such as ‘Every church is

the same: control, destroy, obliterate every good feeling.’ None of Tolkien or Rowling’s subtlety here.

“Pullman also enjoys reinterpreting the Biblical story of the Fall as the beginning of true human freedom.

“To top it off, his trilogy ends with what is clearly meant to represent the death of the Christian God, the ‘Authority,’ a demented, decrepit angel with delusions of grandeur.

“If Dobson wants to start giving thoughtful Christian criticism of popular children’s fiction, there is no better place to start than Phillip Pullman’s series.

“No one would blame Dobson for warning parents not to load up on sugar-coated anti-Christian propaganda dressed as children’s fiction.”

—Perry Glanzer, *Austin American-Statesman*, August 4, 2007

❑ “Christian parents and churches need to face up to a problem long hidden in the dark: Evangelical teenagers are just as sexually active as their non-Christian friends.

“In fact, there is evidence that evangelical teenagers on the whole may be more sexually immoral than non-Christians. Statistically, evangelical teens tend to have sex first at a younger age, 16.3, compared to liberal Protestants, who tend to lose their virginity at 16.7. And young evangelicals are far more likely to have had three or more sexual partners (13.7 percent) than non-evangelicals (8.9 percent).

“What about abstinence pledges? Those work—for a while—delaying sex on an average of about 18 months, with 88 percent of pledgers eventually giving up their vow to remain virgins until marriage.

“These are the findings of sociologist Mark Regnerus, himself a Christian, published in his new book *Forbidden Fruit: Sex & Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).

“It isn’t that evangelical teenagers do not know any better. Some 80 percent of teenagers who say they have been ‘born again’ agree that sex outside of marriage is morally wrong. Still, as many as two-thirds of them violate their own beliefs in their actual behavior.

“We can blame the culture. Regnerus gives evidence that correlates the sexual activity in the schools that Christian kids go to with their own behavior. Peer pressure is real, and Christian teenagers are not immune.

“But might we also blame the culture of the church? Not only because so many of today’s evangelical churches follow the path of cultural conformity as a way to grow bigger and bigger. It goes deeper than that.

“Churches used to teach and exemplify self-control, the necessity of keeping one’s emotions in check, the discipline of self-denial and mortification of the flesh. Today the typical evangelical church, in its example and practice, cultivates ‘letting go,’ emotionalism, self-fulfillment, and an odd religious sensuality.

“The Bible is utterly realistic about the weakness of our fallen flesh. The law alone and external restrictions cannot make anyone righteous. We need Christ for that. An encouraging finding of Regnerus is that the 16 percent of American teenagers who say that their faith is ‘extremely important to their lives’ are living

chastely.

“Evidently, many ‘evangelical’ and ‘born again’ teenagers still need to be evangelized. They need to be brought closer to Christ, so that a growing faith can bear fruit in better conduct.

“And the Bible does offer a direct solution for people who are burning in lust: marriage (1 Corinthians 7:9). Adolescence—that time when a person is physically an adult but socially a child—is a modern invention. In the past, people married much younger, as soon as they were sexually ready. Today’s culture postpones marriage while stretching celibacy to the breaking point.

“A counter-cultural church may do well to encourage younger marriages. The young couple may still need the financial support of their parents and the social support of their fellow Christians. But this would be better than the current hypocrisy and guilt. And it would fulfill God’s positive purpose for sexuality.”

—Gene Edward Veith, *World* magazine, August 11, 2007, p. 10

❑ “With the recent hysteria regarding ‘a climate crisis,’ let me summarize some key facts on the theory of man-induced global warming. Unlike many voices on this issue, I am an atmospheric scientist.

“Data show the earth’s lower atmosphere has warmed one degree Fahrenheit in the past 100 years. That discounts the fact that some of the data has been corrupted by the massive amounts of concrete that have appeared around measuring sites over the years. Such heat-absorbing surfaces bias the data toward nighttime warmth. Recent trends show some warming, but the period 1940 to 1980 actually saw mean global temperature cooler than the longer term mean.

“There has been an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide from 280 parts per million to about 380 parts per million in the past 100 years. CO<sub>2</sub> is neither the most abundant greenhouse gas (water vapor is) nor the most effective. Others include methane, nitrous oxide and halocarbons.

“Sea level increases have been small (2.8 millimeters per year on average or about 10 inches in 100 years) and have not covered large parts of the oceans. If the oceans were getting markedly warmer they would expand and mean sea level would rise significantly. The past few years have actually seen a cooling in sea surface temperatures.

“The ocean-atmosphere is the most complex physical system humans have to deal with. Meteorologists use computer models to forecast the weather. With the most complex models and fastest computers, weather forecasts are useful out to only about 10 days. Beyond that, they give results that have no relation to reality. Predicting climate variability is more difficult.

“The modelers must know the physics of atmospheric-ocean surface interactions related to heat and water vapor transfer, the thermal structure of the ocean, the absorption of solar energy by soil, vegetation and water, and how clouds reflect and absorb solar radiation. The physics in many areas is so complex that the models are ‘parameterized.’ That’s a fancy name for fudged.

“Modelers ‘play’ with constants and variables in their models to make them reproduce historical data. Such ‘fudged’ models have no proven predictive value. Also, current climate models do not consider important factors such as the solar wind that deposits

huge amounts of energy in the upper atmosphere. They exclude the effects of cosmic rays.

“So look skeptically at anyone who says they can model the climate 50 years in the future. Exhibit A is the forecast for the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season. According to the best models and best authorities it was supposed to be an active and severe tropical storm season. The reality was that it was one of the most benign.

“Is climate change occurring? Certainly, and it has been forever. Greenland hosted farming as recently as 900 A.D. So it was clearly warmer there a thousand years ago. The real question is, to what degree is human activity contributing to that change? Everything else being equal, increased greenhouse gases would cause warming. But in the complex ocean-atmosphere system, everything else is not equal. A lot of things are changing simultaneously, and there are complex feedback effects. Increased greenhouse gases probably play some role in warming but to an undetermined degree. Is it possible that the worst case scenarios will play out? Yes, but it’s more likely that they won’t. To a large degree that is unknowable now. In fact, there is some chance that a cooling trend may emerge in the future.

“Let me close with this from renowned climate scientist Richard Lindzen, Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “There is no compelling evidence that the warming trend we’ve seen will amount to anything close to catastrophe. What most commentators—and many scientists—seem to miss is that the only thing we can say with certainty about climate is that it changes. The earth is always warming or cooling by a much as a few tenths of a degree a year; periods of constant average temperatures are rare. Looking back on the earth’s climate history, it’s apparent that there’s no such thing as an optimal temperature—a climate at which everything is just right. The current alarm rests on the false assumption not only that we live in a perfect world, temperature-wise, but also that our warming forecasts for the year 2040 are somehow more reliable than the weatherman’s forecast for next week.”

—Gene J. Pfeffer, *The Colorado Springs Gazette*, August 1, 2007, p. M7

□ “It doesn’t pay to take your constitutional right to free speech seriously anymore—at least, not if you live in Oakland, California. There, a handful of African-American Christian women recently found out that their free speech rights had effectively been outlawed.

“The women, who are Oakland government employees, had formed an organization called the Good News Employee Association. As their flyer put it, their group was ‘a forum for people of Faith to express their views on the contemporary issues of the day with respect to the Natural Family, Marriage, and Family Values.’

“As columnist George Will relates, the women posted their flyer after other employee groups, including those advocating gay rights, had advertised their activities on the city’s email system and bulletin board. When Good News asked for equal opportunity, they were told to forget it. City officials destroyed their flyer. They accused the women of Good News of being ‘determined to promote harassment based on sexual orientation. If the women posted any more flyers, or sent their message via email, the city warned, they

would be disciplined and perhaps terminated.

“In effect, as Will notes, Oakland ‘has proscribed any speech that even one person might say questioned the gay rights agenda and therefore created what that person felt was a ‘hostile environment.’ While homosexual rights groups used the city’s email system to advertise ‘Happy Coming Out Day,’ the terms ‘natural family’ and ‘marriage’ and ‘family values’ are considered intolerably inflammatory, he adds.

“This is why so-called ‘hate crimes’ laws, like the one being considered by the U.S. Congress, are so dangerous. They can be used as a weapon to censor peaceful political speech that someone doesn’t like. The goal of homosexual groups is not to stop violence or truly hateful speech, it’s to silence anyone who says that homosexual behavior is a biological disorder or a moral wrong. Mere disagreement is redefined as hate.

“The Good News group has gone to court over Oakland’s attack on their First Amendment rights, and the super-liberal Ninth Circuit Court, not surprisingly, has ruled against them. The group now hopes the Supreme Court will intervene.

“You and I need to be aware of attempts to encroach on our right to speak out against moral evils. We must also understand that this is ultimately a spiritual battle.”

—Chuck Colson, *Breakpoint*, July 25, 2007

□ “Never judge a book by its cover, so goes the old expression. But what’s true about books is even more true about legislation. For example, a bill pending before the Senate is titled the ‘Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007.’ Since few people want to promote ‘hate crimes,’ preventing hate crimes sounds like a laudable goal. Right?

“Not if you read what’s between the covers. The title of this bill ought to be the ‘Thought Control Act of 2007.’

“I told *BreakPoint* listeners and readers about the bill when it was pending before the House. Unfortunately, that bill passed the House and now faces Senate ratification—this time, in typical Washington fashion, as an amendment tacked on to the National Defense Authorization Act.

“The law is just as dangerous now as it was then.

“This bill would give the federal government jurisdiction over local criminal offenses believed to be ‘motivated by prejudice.’ Not just any prejudice, mind you, but prejudice based on ‘race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of the victim.’

“Watch those phrases sexual orientation and gender identity, because they tell you which groups are pushing hardest for this bill. The committee rejected amendments that would include other groups, like veterans, the homeless, and senior citizens.

“That still leaves us with ‘why?’ Do crimes against homosexuals go unpunished? Are people free to attack gays with impunity?

“Of course not. There are already laws against assaults on people and property. Moreover, according to the FBI, crimes against homosexuals in the United States have dropped dramatically. In 2005, out of 863,000 cases of aggravated assault, just 177 cases were crimes of bias against homosexuals—far less than 1 percent.

“For the bill’s supporters, it is not enough to walk down the



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street in complete safety. Nor is it enough to be able to work and live wherever you please. Like the state song of Kansas, they want a place where 'seldom is heard a discouraging word' about homosexuality.

"See, the bill is not about crime prevention or even civil rights. It's about outlawing peaceful speech—speech that asserts that homosexual behavior is morally wrong. That's why the House judiciary committee rejected an amendment stipulating that nothing in this law would limit the religious freedom of any

person or group under the Constitution.

"We've seen where laws like this can lead: Hate crimes have been defined to include verbal attacks—and even peaceful speech. The Thought Police have already prosecuted Christians under hate-crime laws in England, Sweden, and Canada. And in Pennsylvania, 11 Christians were prosecuted under the state's hate crime law for preaching on a street corner against homosexuality."

—Chuck Colson, *Breakpoint*, July 17, 2007

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