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“Traditions Remembered”

By
Tom Holbrook

Last week I wrote about the beginning of football season and the joy it brings to all football fans everywhere around the country. With that joy also comes a reminder that in this crazy world traditions that have been around our country since its inception are slowly disappearing as political correctness takes precedence over truth, right and tradition. Some of you reading this today are not old enough, unfortunately, to remember the days when it was our right to begin high school and college functions by allowing someone to offer a public prayer over the public address system for safety and goodwill to prevail during the contest about to be waged between opposing teams.

To those of you who weren't around when this traditional expression of our religious freedom was exercised will probably say, “What's the big deal?” In fact, I'm sure there are plenty of you who were around who might be saying the exact same thing, “What's the big deal?” Fortunately there are more of us who remember it and think it was a very big deal when public prayer was removed from our schools.

Having a generation growing up not hearing God's word in their daily lives at school does more than just take away a tradition...it takes away a subliminal nurturing and constant reminder to our children each day that we, the present generation, believe we owe our freedom and way of life to our Creator who found favor with us and allowed us to be born into a country whose foundation is the rock upon which we base our Christian faith and the walls of protection that now surround our country have been carefully laid one upon the other, bonded together tightly with the mortar of God's word and His teachings.

In my reading and preparation for my articles I ran across an article that someone had sent to me awhile back on an event that actually took place several years ago. I thought it would be apropos at this new season of high school football that we be reminded of where once we were and possibly encourage some of the faithful in our educational system to think of brave and creative the word of God and His Son Jesus Christ could still be brought before our children. I will not add a postscript at the end of this article for I could never say what is being said any better than the person who wrote the message you are about to read. It's message will never be outdated.

This is an actual statement that was read over the PA system at a football game at Roane County High School, Kingston, Tennessee, by school Principal, Jody McLeod.

"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games, to say a prayer and play the National Anthem, to honor God and Country." Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a Prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law. As I understand the law at

this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it "an alternate lifestyle," and if someone is offended, that's OK.

I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity, by dispensing condoms and calling it, "safe sex." If someone is offended, that's OK. I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an un-born baby as a '*viable means of birth control.*' If someone is offended, no problem...

I can designate a school day as "Earth Day" and involve students in activities to worship religiously and praise the goddess "Mother Earth" and call it "ecology." I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depicts people with strong, traditional Christian convictions as "simple minded" and "ignorant" and call it "enlightenment." However, if anyone uses this facility to honor GOD and to ask Him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, then Federal Case Law is violated.

This appears to be inconsistent at best, and at worst, diabolical. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone, except GOD and His Commandments. Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be inconsistent at best, and at worst, hypocritical... I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression. For this reason, I shall "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and refrain from praying at this time. "However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank GOD and ask Him, in the name of Jesus, to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law----yet."

One by one, the people in the stands bowed their heads, held hands with one another and began to pray. They prayed in the stands. They prayed in the team huddles. They prayed at the concession stand and they prayed in the Announcer's Box!

Somehow, Kingston, Tennessee remembered what so many have forgotten. We are given the Freedom OF Religion, not the Freedom FROM Religion. Praise GOD that His remnant remains!

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