

The Rock and the Bulwark

General Andrew Jackson, commander of the Battle of New Orleans and seventh president of the United States, was known as Old Hickory for his toughness. However, at 78 years of age and suffering from the illness that eventually led to his death, General Jackson showed the softness that respect for the Word of God stirs in the hearts of moral though finite men. In the company of a friend, he pointed to the family Bible and said, "That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests. It is the bulwark of our free institutions."

Why have our freedoms increasingly come under attack in recent years? Why is it with each passing year, the United States seems to be leaning farther and farther left, moving more and more toward socialism and communism? Why are we increasingly governed by a group of people who gravitate toward the no-rules-open-society of the, *Rules for Radicals* rabble-rouser, Saul Alinsky? Why is it that the, change-for-change-sake protégé of Mister Alinsky pursue with alacrity the activity of organizing for the purpose of changing the status quo oft just because it is the status quo, and end up violating the law with impunity?

Why has freedom of religion guaranteed by the first amendment of our constitution been reinterpreted by secularists to mean freedom from religion? Why has freedom with responsibility as foreseen by our founders deteriorated to mean freedom without restraint? Libertarianism in a depraved culture is as a weapon in the hands of the deranged!

Why have the civil institutions which once provided protection for the lives of all our citizens turned into halls of death for the unborn, the infirm, and the aged? Why have God and goodness been vacated and an affirmation for the alleged right to debauch with another of one's own sex replaced them in every station from the seat of power to the sidewalks of city streets?

Is it not that the book once held aloft in the affection of all our citizens as the rock and bulwark of our civil institutions has now been relegated to a place of virtual irrelevance, even as has the national constitution to which said book gives life through the inspiration of generally pious men? Our nation has reached the point at which many have attached themselves to the assertion that their sophistication has outgrown their need for God. They know as well, if not better, what is good for them than the almighty Creator who formed them from the dust and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life. Our barks once guided by the hand that holds the sparrow aloft and adorns the lily beyond the artist's brush facility to represent, are now adrift upon the waves with no captain to navigate the swells of life's stormy seas.

Man without God and His revelation is much like a ship without a rudder, destined to wreck upon the craggy roughness of a stormy shore. A nation whose God is not the Lord is self-condemned and in lieu of repentance destined to fall from the weight of its

own decadence that incontrovertibly follows. Freedom from fear of divine reprisal can only be the companion of the destiny of destruction.

You and I must hold aloft the same Bible that General Jackson so rightly extolled. The pursuit to restore our nation to its love for God and to the humble attitude of submission to the authority of His divinely breathed Word is in your hands and mine. Let us go forth with resolve, longsuffering, and above all the gospel of Jesus Christ and one person at a time turn back the advances of the enemy who from old would desire nothing more than to extinguish the light which for two hundred plus years has beamed in its radiance from the shining city on the hill. Unless the Bible is restored as the rock, the foundation, the underpinning of our national soul, and once again held up as the bulwark and fortification against evil we are destined to fall and as the Lord Himself said, "And great was the fall of it."

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