

A Layman's Perspective On Christian Leadership

by Woody Needham

*A Living Voice Awash in the
Stormy Sea of Contemporary Life*

A Paper Presentation Collegially Attached to Session 4:

*The Anglican Way and the Challenges of
Post-Christianity, Islam, and Internal Disarray*

Of the Joint Fall Conference Sponsored by the

Anglican Guild of Scholars (AGS) & Fellowship of Concerned Churchmen (FCC)

*September 17-19, 2009, St Mary's Church,
Wilmington, Delaware*

Of all Human Living in God's Creation
The VERY last thing

The individual person can afford to lose is not death but Dignity; and

An Institution can afford to lose is not existence but Credibility.

On these two facts does this author build the arguments he freely
Places upon Christian Leaders.

{Please note: *italics*, underlining and **bold-lettering** are the author's.s.}

The Anglican Way and the Challenges of **Post-Christianity**

Post-Christianity is a severe challenge to Anglicans for a simple reason. Life is eternally constant in all God's creation and time matters not. *Living* today, however, is substantively different than living in the yesterday of Christ's time on Earth. With far less age, living in the USA in 2009 is vastly different than living in the revolutionary days of our nation's foundation.

Life to an infant, child, adolescent, adult, and member of the geriatric set is *constant* in the physical need for air, water, rest, clothing, *constant* in the mental need to experience success amidst the labor to maintain independence and comfort during the stress of retaining dignity, and *constant* in the awesome task of accepting spiritual humility in the face of God's awesome creation. Yet the conditions and circumstances of living in either stage is ever the same.

The life God designed does not change; the living humans endure constantly changes. Keeping God alive, significant, meaningful, purposeful, fulfilling is the responsibility of his anointed leaders in each age and place. The church is home, the altered place where God awaits the chance to give people his spiritual rest, spiritual sustenance, and the spiritual peace that surpasses knowledge. The Christian leader IS his disciple and in his home the duty IS to meekly serve, is to supply the rest of prayer, to provide the sustenance of worship, to impart the peace imbued by awe of all that is divine. Yet as in all homes, leaders *live* beyond those walls and outside is where people live life. *There* is where Christ commanded his disciples to spread, plant, nurture, and ripen his Word for the harvest of God's kingdom – here on the Earth he created.

Before Christ ascended, he left the Holy Ghost to be the LIVING presence of God, himself. The third person of the Holy Trinity is not a splinter of imagination but IS a living spirit. *This* Ghost is alive, is actual, is real – and yet is he, she or it, for I know not God's gender, invisible. Neither do I know whether love is fathered or mothered; what I do know is that love is equally invisible, equally alive, equally actual and equally real. Were it visible, I'm positive we, humans, would have commercialized it even as Jesus, who was alive, actual and real, was also visible, and Christ's birth and death have been commercialized in the market place of the living.

It is not easy or simple for the Christian disciple to live midst human living. Yet it is where the Christian deeds advocated by St. James must demonstrate the Christian faith. If that means sitting down and getting dirty, then sit and get dirty. If that means fighting, then put on God's armor; hearken to the battle cries of Jericho. Outside, I don't want sermons from my disciple; I *need* a stalwart Soldier who marches with Jesus and Stands Up for Christ in the market place. I *need* David to use the slingshot of love to defeat the modern foes of injustice. I *need* my priest to shoot commandment arrows to persuade contemporary Pharaohs as Moses did. Yes, as a man, I like, applaud and honor the strong conviction Christ gave to his ministry. He did not back down when faced by either death or Devil.

INTERNAL EXAMPLE:

A Hollywood actor made "*The Passion of Christ*," a movie which many acclaimed and leadership in the Roman Catholic Church endorsed. Scenes showed the Saving Victim horribly whipped and unmercifully bloodied. Yet LISTEN to what the Gospels said of the aftermath of Christ's trial.

According to The KJV Rainbow Study Bible:

Matthew (27:27-31) "...Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him..."

Mark (15:15-20) "...And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified. And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium, and they call(ed) together the whole band. And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head. And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him..."

Note: "scourge" = to whip, to harass or destroy, to punish or criticize severely
 Note: "reed" = the stalk of any tall grass (but definitely not horsehide leather.)

Luke (23:23-26) "...And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them of the chief priests prevailed. And Pilate gave sentence that should be as they required. And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will. And as they led him away, they laid hold of one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus..."

John (19:16-18) "...Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha. Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst..." (Note the symmetry of Synoptic chapters and verses (27—27) (15---15) (23---23) though not John (19: 16-18).)

In the sum of *Biblical* brutality, Jesus was spit upon, mocked, ridiculed, and made to carry his own cross ---yet neither Gospel reports Christ shed one drop of blood. Since Gospels continue the Words of God, no man, woman, priest, nun, bishop, archbishop, Pope or rabbi dare change or alter *those* words. To even interpret them places humans in a pitiful plight; and woe to the translator whose pen trembles not. Afterwards, while spiked to the Cross and *after* he was dead, John (19:34) reports "...But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith

came there out blood and water..." I speculate: is this an interesting "mix?" Might the blood represent the humanity of Christ, the water his divinity?}

Christ's trial, the immediate aftermath and what followed in the Crucifixion and Resurrection constitute a most if not the most momentous event in the New Testament. Getting the character of primary participant "right" is critical if we are to comprehend the event's significance.

In this regard, please note:

- (1) Pontius Pilate was a Roman Governor (or Prelate for the technically minded) and no Roman soldier would *dare* impose punishment on one washed clean by their leader. By tradition, his wife, Claudia Procula, was *canonized* a saint by the Greek Orthodox Church for the guidance she gave her husband.
- (2) According to Luke, Herod Antipas, youngest son of long dead King Herod, *concurred* with Pilate and found *nothing treasonous* about Jesus' activities. Similarly therefore, troops of the *tetrarch* (prince) of Galilee and Perea would not *defy* their leader.
- (3) We must conclude what the Gospel authors concluded: no physically brutal act was committed against the personage of Christ. Divine blood was not shed till later.

Accordingly, the movie literally subordinated (if not desecrated) The Word of God in order to cauterize emotion of viewers to instead focus on falsehood. *Why have not our leaders, who do continue Christ into the 21st Century, insisted upon the Truth about Christ be told and upheld by all who would offend our Lord.* By inaction, Christian leaders partake in the loss of *Christian* credibility --- and doth do they drain divine blood as surely as did the soldier's spear.

EXTERNAL EXAMPLE:

School Prayer is a legacy of the First Amendment. In 1960, the Murray v. Curlette case brought suit against the Baltimore, MD, public school system. Maryland required "10 verses of Scripture" be read daily. Local judge dismissed case; Maryland Court of Appeals denied Murray's petition. Accepted as US Supreme Court case, however, and a 1963 ruling favored the petitioner. Justice Hugo Black wrote the majority opinion: "It is no part of the business of government to compose official prayers...The Regent's prayers are inconsistent both with the purposes of the Establishment Clause and the Establishment Clause, itself." Though the ruling only pertained to the "regent's ruling" and not voluntary prayer (yes, individuals may pray in school silently,) the ruling halted the practice of prayer in public schools throughout America.

Bio: The lady was born in Pennsylvania to a Presbyterian family; nee: Madalyn Mays; married John H. Roths in 1941; committed adultery with Wm J. Murray, a Roman Catholic who refused to divorce his wife; bore his child, stole his name (Murray); divorced Roths in/about

1945; bore a second son out of wedlock in 1954; married Richard O'Hair in 1965; long maintained herself to be an atheist; murdered in 1995.

What was the Church reaction in that day? According to the School Prayer Case History (www.allabouthistory.org/school-prayer.htm) the *National Council of Churches* and several Jewish organizations *favored* the case made by an avowed atheist. Personally, I think no institution, organization, system, group, church or nation has the right to *force* adults, children or even beasts to pray. Our Lord IS a loving God who *requires* free choice. Teach and encourage, yes; condemn and require, never.

My fervent conviction cannot avoid the *failure* of the Defenders of the Faith to ACT --- not against the ruling --- but against the Supreme Court, itself, to protest against its *authority* to rule on this case.

I rely on two Constitutional facts.

(1) The Articles of Confederation (AOC) was a league of friendship formed by 13 sovereign nations (not colonies) and was, literally, our 1st Constitution. Think of it as you do the League of Nations in the 20th Century. The AOC named "The United States of America" as a permanent union which *continues to this day*. Every ordinance set by the AOC *continues to this day*. Article 3 of the Northwest Ordinance states: *Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the pursuit of happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.* i.e., religion and schools ARE PERMANENTLY bonded to the very existence of the USA. Is Article 3 pertinent to the 2nd Constitution and the "Madalyn Case?" The factual evidence replies: Absolutely.

1st, the AOC literally named, for the first time, the "United States of America." The USA continues – yet it is nowhere found in the 2nd Constitution. Why, because it would have been redundant.

2nd, The AOC enacted two laws, the Land Ordinance (1781) and the Northwest Ordinance (1787) which were and remain the law of the land. They combined to form the legal requirement by which all territories followed in order to become States. In other words, the 14th through 50th States USED those ordinances as territories to become states in the USA and so stand ready to access the 51st.

3rd, President Lincoln's opening words in his Gettysburg Address were: "Four score and seven years ago, our..." Well, a score is 20 years x 4 = 80 + 7 = 87 years. 1863 – 87 = 1776. The Declaration of Independence, the revolution and our 1st and 2nd Constitutions are integral today to the "permanent union" which continues unbroken to this very day.

The confederation not suitable to solve current problems, primarily of finance, AOC leaders gave up some sovereignty to establish Uncle Sam "superior" in certain regards---but ONLY UNDER the authority of the *Preamble* which "ORDAINED and ESTABLISHED" this Constitution. When or where is "ordained" used in a non-religious context? Ah, but does the Preamble have omnipotence? Yes, it, alone and only, has power – but take not my word.

“...when they act, they act in their States. But the measures they adopt do not, on that account cease to be the measures of the people themselves, or become the measures of the State governments. From these conventions, the **constitution derives its whole authority**. The government proceeds directly from the people, is **ordained and established in the name of the people**, and is declared to be ordained in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity. The constitution...is emphatically, and truly, a government of the people. In form and in substance, it emanates from them, and for their benefit.”

Source: the opinion written by Chief Justice John Marshall in arguably the most famous US Supreme Court case: McCulloch vs. Maryland of 1819, which challenged the right of Congress to establish a Bank of the United States.

The first point, then: is (a) the 2nd Constitution is limited to SERVING “we the people” in six ways and they APPLY ONLY TO FEDERAL matters – not to matters “retained” by 50 States or left to people. (b) Inasmuch as “education” is nowhere found in the Constitution and since it cannot judiciously be assumed operant under the Preamble’s “general welfare,” the only place the Supreme Court can gain “constitutional authority” to speak about or dictate *educational* matters to anyone except federal activities is derived from Article 3 of the Northwest Ordinance. In acting on matters of education, therefore, Justices (and judges) must COMBINE education WITH religion and WITH morality. To borrow a judicial phrase, the three are as un-severable as the three named unalienable rights named in the Declaration of Independence (Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness) --- and, one joyfully adds, as un-severable as the Holy Trinity. The “10 verses of Scripture” are integral to religion, to morality and to education.”

(2) The 1st Amendment specifically precludes Congress from certain activities: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”

(a) Congress is NOT the State of Maryland; Maryland has its own legislative body, thank you.

(b) Beyond the facts already established in the American continuum, Maryland required the reading of ten verses. Factually, Biblical verses cannot be stretched into a “religion” and reading ten does not “establish” a religion.

In view of the 1st point and mindful of the 2nd one, the OBVIOUS reason people keep things simple is to prevent the stupid from getting things wrong.

(a) The State of Maryland is, by *federal constitutional declaration*, free to make its own law(s) as long as not one of them violates the federal Constitution. In what manner did ten verses violate a law made by Congress? The “establishment clause” (the 1st Amendment) *prohibits* and otherwise forbids Congress from making a law which Maryland can violate. As a generic term, the interpreters authorized as the Judicial Branch under the 2nd Constitution are “under the gun” fired, if you please, by the 1st Constitution which established the “precedent” of Article 3 of the Northwest Ordinance.

(b) Which religion or denomination or sect EVER declared any two Biblical chapters or verses, pick or chose as you will, to constitute an “*establishment* of religion?” Consistent to the pertinent case, which “verse” IS, we are want to ask, a, “prayer” (or group thereof) and thus constitutes a religious “*establishment*?”

Did the best known *prayer* in Christendom, The Lord's Prayer, establish, say, a Lutheran “establishment of Christianity?” I think not. The overriding fact is: no segment of scripture nor combination of verses (or even prayers) can rightly be argued, contended or otherwise presented as, “a religious establishment.” The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) used “religiously” by Anglicans has oodles of prayers. Is the BCP a religious establishment? The constitutional preclusion harkened Americans back to the shadow of the Mother Church, the Church of England which WAS an establishment of religion. Ditto the Papal See; ditto Islam in every Arabic nation; ditto the struggles witnessed today in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ceylon and India over and against established state religions.

Perhaps, Anglicans will wisely “confederate,” as did 13 nations, amongst all 413 denominations, or whatever the silly number, into a single definition of the momentous religion known as, Christianity.

(c) In final argument, Maryland lawyer Leonard Kerpelman placed before the court saying, “...prayer in public schools had been *tolerated* for so long that it had become traditional.” However, the Supreme Court Justices, in their 8 – 1 decision, denied his argument saying, instead, “anything unconstitutional does not become constitutional through tradition.” Really? 1st where IS the law which was or is un-constitutional? The USA does not sponsor a religion; Maryland did not sponsor Christianity. 2nd, **Where were the Christian leaders?** Enough with unfairness. Since tradition does not count in the counting of Supreme Court affairs, how does the same seated Justices account for the statement by Justice Tom Clark: ‘*Religious freedom, it has long been recognized that government must be neutral and, while protecting all, must prefer none and disparage none.*’

I am sorry, Justice Clark, but when in human affairs has *long been recognized* failed to constitute a legal *tradition*? If tradition does not legally exist, how does the Court account for such juicy items as, “precedent?” Does not the concept of “Law and Order” particularize longevity --- say in the case of the permanent union begun in 1776 or the 2nd Constitution ratified in 1789? Since when did the faith of the people, embraced by *belief* in law and order, cease to be a hallowed tradition within American culture?

Surely, Christians, especially Episcopalians, Catholics and Anglicans have LONG utilized tradition in litany, in liturgy, music, Book of Common Prayer, the Holy Trinity, Eucharist, Baptism and Marriage. Practiced with fair frequency since the 16th Century, perhaps our leaders, comprehending the fullness of tradition and the significance of the meaning of words, should give counsel, an amicus brief, to all Courts about the value among people, among citizens, of religion. Similarly, should “language” be mentioned to the Supreme Court as hide-bound by the cultural tradition of “RESPECTING” the MEANING of words? How may citizens communicate *without* the habit of common meaning? Might sign language be established without the tradition of common meanings?

In the “Madalyn” case, the Supreme Court WAS and IS the issue, the wrong-doer. That the woman was an adulteress is not the issue. Nor that her first born child was illegitimate, nor that a second son was, as well, not even when the fact the second son became a “born again Christian” who accused his mother of lying about his Maryland education. The clear issue is NO one stood up to the Court.

Again, I, too, repeat: *where were Christian leaders? Moping about the churchyard? Why were flaws not identified by the clergy in 1963?*

The journalist reported: “*Remarkably, the National Council of Churches and several Jewish organizations favored Madalyn O’Hair’s case. Not a **single** Christian organization filed a brief in support of school prayer. The federal government considers **atheism** to be a religion, and the Supreme Court ruling favored atheism, at the expense of the Christian majority.”*

The great issue is the lack of Christian response. Example: IF and WHEN others believe or think atheism, itself, *is a religion*, then I dare say the course of history which followed 1963 was, for Christianity, a foregone conclusion, to wit, a litany of lost credibility. Come, Leaders, is atheism a “religion?” If not supreme justices, task the journalist.

What Christian leaders FAILED to do --- did create a *greater impact* on people than what they did do. Please note the conclusion drawn by this source: “the federal government considers atheism to be a religion, and the Supreme Court ruling favored atheism at the expense of the Christian majority.” I do not know the veracity of such statements---but as a man and as a Christian, or so I trust myself to be, I do know the *cost* of non-action. In-action siphons faith and empties the tank of energy on which living **for** Christ, pledging, fidelity of worship and steadfastness to the Faith depends.

Hypocrisy Plain and simply said, the “Madalyn” case is a grave example of Supreme Court hypocrisy. The charge is not unfamiliar to Christian leaders; experienced, they ought to speak against it because they (ought to) know how damaging it is to the Holy Ghost of God and Christ. How can **federal** Supreme Court Justices declare a memorial in a *State* (Alabama) courthouse legally wrong because it contains the Ten Commandments when the fresco on the building which houses the Supreme Court celebrates Moses and the Decalogue? How dare “the nine” enter the *chambers of justice* when the very doors into it are embossed with the Ten Commandments? How can the nine render justice against the synagogue and church which Moses “fostered” when the very walls at which they sit *display* the Decalogue? The nine **are** hypocrites in deed and in fact. Neither the “faith of the fathers” nor the “faith of citizens alive today” can bear the weight of legal misdeeds, cannot carry the cross of *their* betrayal of the very *Preamble* they, as Justices, are compelled to support.

Is the fresco “old hat”, too old to be creditable in a “modern” courthouse? No. The actual fact is that *until* the Great Depression, the US Supreme Court had no “home to call its own.” The fact is, their home was constructed during the decade of the 1930’s. Is the distance from, say, 1935 to 1963 too short to constitute a tradition? If religion in or on the public domain is bad, bad, bad why honor Moses on the outside and the inside their building? Why is the

Decalogue embossed on the very doors to and walls of the chamber in which the Justices sit, listen, inquire and cast their vote?

The reason is clear: the 10 Commandments gave and give the ORDER which enables the community of man to defeat chaos. The testimony offered by "USA government" IS religious, IS faith in, and IS knowledge of the one true God. Why else place *In God We Trust* on our currency? Why Pledge Allegiance TO America if not because it IS *One Nation UNDER GOD*?

Examine judicial hypocrisy from a different perspective. Decisions rendered by the US Supreme Court and Appellate Courts are seldom unanimous and often close: e.g., 5/4 and 6/3. Yet *all* jury trials must be unanimous (12 to 0) to convict anyone charged with a crime. Why the "judicial disparity?" If twelve citizens are dumber than nine citizens, then forfeit the pretence of a "trial by peers." Do nine judges actually know *justice* better than the twelve citizens? My answer: balderdash. Because: the impact of the jury trial is on an individual? Piffle that paffle, too. Does not the 5 to 4 ruling on abortion impact a numerical mass of individuals? Having to read "their rights" does not impact millions of accused citizens or the personages of police? Ah, who but Madalyn profited by the 8 to 1 decision that denied a State's right to act "for the people?" Ah, and who suffered from it? Just several generations of Americans, just several hundred million citizens. And what merit was gained for God by the failure of Christian leaders to act against "the devil" of judicial error?

And so, I seek Christian leaders who will, as friends of the court, file "an amicus brief" to warn nine Justices and all who judge against the dangers inherent in hypocrisy and the harm hypocrisy carries to individuals. What better way might we honor Christ who taught us to honor the "things" which are Caesars? We, Christians, must act AS Christians. Indeed, not acting is an un-Christian action. Don't preach to Caesar; rather, O Clerical Men, lead by example in the market place. Yes, willingly and literally "carry Christ's cross" unto public places --- bewail hypocrisy and as though at the great Wailing Wail to bewail falsehood.

Since the whole constitutional issue rests on "the establishment of religion," why do not our bishops, priests, ministers, nuns, pastors and rabbis, too, meet to *define "religion"* for the courts? Yes, define it in the generic example and invite Buddhism, Islam, Jains, Confucius, and even pagans to join a religious definition or statement which is passed to elected political representatives and courts, and to all worlds, the systems of academia, the world of commerce and the world of entertainment in order to resolve a single truth – the glory of individual people. From our knowledge, we know God created creation. Even those who know him not know neither created humankind. As for those who believe in "evolution," send them to me. As the hymn calls us to act, Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus, your credibility is at stake, Christian. Speaking of that:

Is America a Christian Nation? The leaders of the American Revolution knew, as other participants of a struggling infant among government adults beyond our shores did not, to comport themselves and to saddle their heritage with a constitutional prohibition, not against religion, but a "state religion." Mother England and the Church of England were certainly the alignment type forbidden, just as Rome was to Italy and many religions around the world to their nation-states.

The example was found in the Colonies. Virginia sponsored a religion, the Church of England, and, among others, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison did in 1786 *fight* (verbally one assumes) to end Virginia's established church by helping pass the Virginia Statute for Religious Liberty which became the law of the new Nation-State to guarantee religious freedom to all. Jefferson is credited as saying it was "for the Jew and the Gentile, the Christian and the Mahometan (Muslims), the Hindoo (Hindu), the infidel of every denomination."

Indeed. And though devout themselves, those who fathered Uncle Sam were, please pardon the expression, hell bent to ensure foreigners that the new USA baby was NOT bathed in Christian waters, was – literally, NOT a Christian nation.

Treaty of Tripoli Background President George Washington among other Occidental leaders of his time was mightily concerned about the "Barbary Pirates" who raided free shipping with such frequency they could demand payment in terms of money and respect. According to an essay by Robert Boston published in 1997 in Church & State Magazine: "... *the Barbary States were essentially outlaw nations that made money through piracy on the high seas. The great naval powers of Europe, primarily Great Britain and France, were accustomed to paying annual sums {is custom a, tradition?} in tribute to the Barbary nations to keep their commercial shipping safe. When American ships began appearing in the Mediterranean, British officials urged the Barbary pirates to prey on US vessels. Algeria formally declared war on the US in 1785 and within a few years, 300 US citizens, mostly sailors, were in captivity in Northern Africa. Barlow {see below} was authorized to promise Algeria, the leading Barbary state in their loose confederation, a payment of \$800,000---a staggering sum at the time---and an additional \$20,000 in naval supplies every year.*" {Does "every" approximate a, tradition?" Hey, this is our federal government in action and we must not have double-talk.}

The {draft} Treaty was signed by the Plenipotentiary of the USA, Joel Barlow, on January 3, 1797, and by Hassan Bashaw, Dey, on *Argill 4, 1211* (Arabic keeping of time – these dates being the same date in the two cultures. The Annals of the 5th Congress record the following events as facts. On June 7, 1797, the following treaty was sent to the Senate. "Read aloud in its entirety, it was unanimously approved and none other than President John Adams signed it and proudly proclaimed it to the Nation." (www.stephenjaygould.org/cirl/treaty_tripoli.html.) {Note: 1797 – 1211 = 586 in Mohammed's birthing time.}

Title: *Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the United States and the Bey and Subjects of Tripoli of Barbary.* It has twelve Articles. One is germane to this Paper:

"Article 12 *As the Government of the US of A is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion, as it has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquility of Mussulmen; and, as the said States never entered into any war, or act of hostility against any Mahometan nation, it is declared by the parties, that no pretext arising from religious opinions, shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries.*"

Please note, Christian leader: 1797 is some eight years after this nation's 2nd Constitution was ratified. With such declarative straight forwardness, both President and Congress presented the fact Christianity *was* and is an "establishment" of religion and thereby did they endorse the First Amendment. Or are we who follow to presume you, Christian leader, now agree with the Supreme Court: that one prayer or ten constitute a religious establishment?

How about that? Devout Christian leaders in 1797 acted to officially proclaim what their nation had not established a religion. Yet we, as well the Supreme Court, say prayers ARE? My, my, how times have changed our leaders.

(Note: a minor revision was made in October, 2009 by the author.)

The Anglican Way and the Challenges of Islam

K-12 Islamic Schools According to Islamic website (August 8, 2009) the following K-12 Islamic Schools are identified (with addresses as of 1-27-2005.) The reader's attention is invited to www.Islamicedfoundation.com/ischools.prO1.htm (Islamic Education Foundation) for more complete information.

Total	<u>238</u>	
England	4	
Bosnia	1	
Virgin Isles	1	
Canada	21	Alberta (3) Ontario (10) British Columbia (2) Nova Scotia (1) Quebec (2) Manitoba (1) Saskatchewan (2)
USA	211	AL (4) AR (2) AZ (4) CA (22) CO (2) DC (2) DE (1) FL (10) GA (8) ID (1) IL (14) IN (1) IO (1) KS (1) KY (2) LA (3) MA (7) MD (6) MI (18) MN (1) MO (8) NJ (13) NY (22) NV (1) NC (4) OH (9) OK (2) OR (2) PA (8) SC (1) TN (3) TX (18) VA (10) WA (3) WV (1) WI (2)

Are they legitimate? Yes; absolutely as legitimate as private Christian schools. But their legitimacy is a skirt which hides that which is ill-legitimate,

Higher Education According to the Christian Action Network and various newspapers, e.g., USA Today, Muslim activities are maintained at numerous American colleges.

USA Today (7/26/07) Article by Oren Dorell: *"Some public schools and universities are granting Muslim request for prayer times, prayer rooms and ritual foot baths, prompting debate on whether Islam is being given preferential treatment over other religions. The University of*

Michigan at Dearborn is planning to build foot baths for Muslim students who wash their feet before prayer. An elementary school in San Diego created an extra recess period for Muslim students to pray. At George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, Muslim students using a "mediation space" laid out Muslim prayer rugs and separated men and women in accordance with Islamic beliefs. Critics see a double standard and an organized attempt to push public conformance with Islamic law.

"What (school officials) are doing...is to give Muslim students religious benefits that they do not give any other religion right now," says Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel at the Thomas More Law Center, an advocacy group for Christians. Zuhdi Jasser, a Muslim and chairman of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy, which promotes separation of mosque and states, says he is concerned about these accommodations: "Unusual accommodations for one faith at the cost of everyone else does not fall on the side of pluralism."

At least 17 universities have foot baths and nine have prayer rooms. Other Universities: Virginia, Stanford, Boston, George Washington, Temple, Emory (Atlanta, GA). Snopes, com (email "watchdog" which strives to determine the veracity of claims) reported the following example. "School for Scandal" *Email Claim*: Seventh graders in California are subjected to an intense three-week course in Islam in which they are required to pray for Allah and memorize Koran verses." (Whoops, there's that contagious word again.)

Snopes: Status: (claim) not quite (true.) (The) course has 7th graders memorizing Koran verses, praying to Allah in the wake of September 11 {2001}, an increasing number of California public school students must attend an intensive three-week course on Islam, reports ASSIST News Service (ANS). The course mandates that seventh-graders learn the tenets of Islam, study the important figures of the faith, wear a robe, adopt a Muslim name and stage their own jihad. Adding to this apparent hypocrisy, students must memorize many verses in the Korean, are taught to pray in the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful," and are instructed to chant, "Praise to Allah, Lord of Creation."

"We could never teach Christianity like this," one outraged parent told ANS. Elizabeth Christina Lemings, a teacher in the Bryon, CA Union School District, was unaware of the course until her 7th-grade son brought home handouts (which).included a history of Islam and the life of Muhammed, its founder. There are 25 Islamic terms that must be memorized, six Islamic (Arabic) phrases, 20 Islamic proverbs to learn along with the Five Pillars of Faith and 10 key Islamic Prophets and disciples to be studied.

Snopes Findings: "As part of their social studies curriculum, Grade 7 pupils throughout California do study ancient Muslim *cultures* and the *impact* of Islam on world history, but only as one of eleven units that comprise that year's social studies course, not as a special indoctrination into a *particular* religion as the ASN article presents. **The intent is to teach the position of this belief system in history, not the religion itself...**"

Sound innocent? Fair enough. What Snopes, the ASN, and the curriculum standard barons for the State of California FAIL to note is that Islam IS the nation. This religion and the government in which it is practiced do NOT "separate" church and state. So when Iran or Iraq or

Saudi Arabia are taught as “history” or “social studies” they ARE teaching the Islamic religion. Muslim government has NO history that is NOT Islamic. Before Mohammed, those lands were “the cradle of civilization,” were Babylonian, were Mesopotamia.

So again, I ask: where are the Christian leaders? Why have they not been the watch dogs at the Watch Tower, ever ready to announce the arrival of the Lord to the people? Is not their way prepared? Should the cheek of peace be turned to evil doers?

Headlines Saudi-back School Accused of Extremism in Virginia Plans Expansion. (see www.christianaction.org/july-2009/) “The planning commission of Fairfax County, Virginia, has recommended that the Board of Supervisors *allow* the Islamic Saudi Academy, a school *backed by the Saudi Arabian government*, to expand to accommodate a total of 1,200 students. The school has been repeatedly accused of using *textbooks littered* with Islamic extremism. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that the State Department close the school in the fall of 2007 *after reviewing* its teaching materials which included statements such as “the hour [of judgment] will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them,” according to the Washington Post.

The Commission complained that the Saudi government was refusing to send them copies of the texts being used in the classrooms for further review. After claiming the texts were cleansed, the school again criticized by the Commission in June 2008 for using schoolbooks that contained anti-Semitism, said the killing of adulterers and those who converted away from Islam was justified, along with other intolerant statements. “The most problematic texts involve passages that are not directly from the Koran but rather contain the Saudi government’s particular interpretation of Koranic and other Islamic texts. Some passages clearly exhort the readers to commit acts of violence. One graduate of the school has been convicted of having a role in an Al-Qaeda plot to assassinate President George W. Bush and two were deported upon arriving in Israel due to signs they were planning on carrying out in a suicide bombing...Despite warnings of bigoted, pro-terrorist teachings, Fairfax County approved Islamic Saudi Academy land lease for 2008-09. Oh, by the way: Fairfax County, Virginia, pocketed \$2.2million from Islamic Saudi Academy leaders in exchange for a new lease.

“Andrea Lafferty of the Traditional Values Coalition led the list of speakers against the pro-Islamist pay-off for county land. ‘This school may be promoting violence against Americans in general and Jewish, Christians and other non-Muslims, specifically,’ Lafferty said. ‘I am concerned the Board of Supervisors is renewing the lease even though the contents of a curriculum study have not been made public.’ She and several others urged supervisors to hold-off a decision until Islamic Saudi Academy’s curriculum is thoroughly reviewed against alleged controversial teachings. ‘Children at the school are exposed to extremist, Wahhabist indoctrination; this is not moderate Islam.’” (Note: others spoke pro & con in the article.)

Actions by Others (www.ChristianActionNetwork.org/april-2008/) North Carolina Representative Sue Myrick delivered a 10-point contract against the wellsprings of terrorist infiltration in America. She says we must probe Islamic military and prison chaplain endorsements made by Abdurahman Alamoudi, a convicted Islamic terrorist, and we must clean-up the Arabic translators selection process at the Pentagon and FBI (points 1 thru 3) ...(4)

examine the nonprofit status of the Council on American-Islamic Relations; (5) make the public all for violence against Americans officially an act of sedition. (6) audit sovereign wealth funds in America; (7) cancel scholarship student visa programs with Saudi Arabia until proposed textbook reforms are verified. (8) restrict religious visas for Imams if they are sent from countries that restrict against non-Muslim clergy visits. (9) cancel contracts to train Saudi police and security in U.S. counterterrorism tactics. (10) Block the sale of sensitive military munitions to Saudi Arabia.”

Representative Myrick calls it her “Wake up America” agenda...In a recent editorial, Myrick commented on the need to rise up against the *habit of ignoring* the growing threat posed by radical Islam. Maybe the lady means, wise up. “We have underestimated the will and capability of our enemy for more than 30 years,” she said. “They are patient and determined to achieve their radical agenda...if we fail to emerge victorious, our radical enemy threatens to establish fascist, Taliban-style governments in many parts of the world.” Myrick used an evidence exhibit from the U.S. prosecution of the Holy Land Foundation in Dallas, Texas, as an example. “This memo explains the ‘Civilization-Jihadist Process’ strategy of the Muslim Brotherhood in the United States...*They describe their work in America as a path to eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within...so that it is eliminated and the Islamic religion is made victorious over all other religions...*” (italics & underlining added.)

Scholarly Attention is invited to Attachment 1, a [Policy Review by the Hoover Institution on the Advantage to Islam of Mosque-State Separation](#). Policy Review No. 147, February & March, 2008. ([www.hoover.org/publications/policy review/](http://www.hoover.org/publications/policy_review/))

“Mosque-State Separation and religious freedom appear to have stalled in Muslim-majority countries, leading scholars, theologians and policymakers to conclude that a theocratic model of governance is inevitable for the Islamic world. An objective look at the facts, however, uncovers quite a different picture...In the battle between supporters and opponents of mosque-state separation, there can be little doubt that the Islamic fundamentalists are currently winning. Most countries in the region do not separate religious and political authority. The Saudi Arabian constitution, for example, declares that it is the state’s duty to protect Islam and implement Shari’a. The result is a country there a typical year sees roughly 50 public beheadings...Women are not allowed to drive cars and the Muttaween (religious police) patrol public spaces to punish conduct or styles of dress they deem too liberal. Infamously, this has included an intervention in which they drove young schoolgirls back into a burning school building to die, because in fleeing they had neglected to properly don their veils. In Iran, too, the theocratic regime in power since 1979 operates a virtual police state. Minorities, such as Baha’is, have been largely driven out of the country. Flogging is common penalty for personal ‘transgressions,’ and adultery is still punishable by stoning. In 2004, a mentally handicapped 16-year old girl was hanged in public for ‘crimes against chastity.’...”

Islamic Magazines.(www.islamicedfoundation.com/magzaine.htm) may add perspective to the depth Islam has penetrated the American culture.

Summing Islamic Things Well now, Christian leader, what additional evidence is required to “move you” into action? To paraphrase an old saying: *is not the danger clear; is it not present?* I seek not ill-advised, emotionally charged appeals of outrage; I do not seek sanctimonious declarations of pious intent; I do not desire to see the Holy Trinity preached from the rooftops of this country. I do want the action of convinced churchmen and women who trust God, Christ, the Holy Ghost and the Bible, to gain legal authority from government and recognition in the population of the right to protect Christianity---even as the military the USA and police protect communities.

To wit: Christian and Judaic values and moralities are no less **EQUAL** to that of any religion in the *heart and minds and souls* of America's political decision-makers and social processes orchestrated by society. Said equality applies not merely to outside the synagogue and church which houses them but to inside where they are taught for practice outside and beyond.

Pardon my expression but — to hell with political correctness; rather, let Christians deal in correction. Yes, I now place myself amongst those Christians who can act and do act. As surely as ancient Hebrews feared God, I fear the void of authenticity in the LIVING of Christian life, and in the loss of Christian credibility. And I cry out---LOVE must prevail – for LOVE mandates action to fulfill the human soul, grip the human mind, and corral the human body within the fence of private JOY. For **if** LOVE is illegal in the community, and which came from the Judaic-Christian morality, ain't none of God's children gonna survive.

The Anglican Way and the Challenges of Internal Disarray

Forward Numerous concepts activate my drive to be a Christian. Yet they often place me at odds with the church---not God, mind you, but the church. The canonization of the Patriarchs may well undergird the foundation of our Church; yet their wisdom, not their religion, shines full force in my face as surely as the sun blinds my eyes to other theocracies. The rod they used to select which books to manifest the New Testament as the divine Word of God spans the loins of my spiritual soul. The axiom employed to set books in Biblical concrete is absolutely brilliant, and likely one of the most brilliant ever committed to human culture.

The Text without Context is Pretext

Christ IS the context. Yea -- the Book without Christ is Pretense -- is so clear to my inward vision my external eyes fairly teem with tears at the sound of their beauty. So long, Gospel of Mary Magdalene.

Before St. Jerome completed the Vulgate, the Patriarchs tussled over a range of 22 to 27 books. With ruling magic, The Text without Context is Pretext abides today to automatically

and quickly determine the authenticity of any work offered. By example, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene is focused on Mary Magdalene – automatically excluding it from inclusion in Christianity simply because the writing must EVER focus on Christ – alone.

When my eyes read the books included in what we erroneously describe as the “Old Testament,” my heart trembles from the tonnage of sorrow that tries to drown goodness. I see a family struggling through the ages so that I am enraptured by lives of various characters and sundry event who constantly strive to be worthy of God’s admiration rather than to stray and, thus, earn his admonition. Hebrew scrolls are very human and in that context God becomes radiantly clear as they grapple to do his will and to live by his laws against outlandish odds.

To me, two simple classic examples exist to demonstrate how different we Christians are from Jews in the words chosen to reveal God **IN** the Bible. When God made Adam, we say the material used was, dust, whereas the Hebrews wrote how God used red clay. Set aside the Hebrew fact, “Adam,” means red clay; clay, itself, is pliable and many objects are formed with it so that it is easy to “see” God working his will into humans. However, my imagination balks at trying to see dust molded. It is not that one is do-able, the other not so; rather, the words appeal to the very senses God instilled in mankind in one case yet not the other.

Similarly, the opening words of Ecclesiastes report the Preacher saying: “All is Vanity.” But Koheles records him reporting, “All is Futile.” The difference in these two words is huge. Vanity comes from within where the “ego” speaks and whines over ones fate; futility in *Kituvim* (see the last section) verbiage is *always* referred to “as under the sun,” as under Heaven, meaning anything man attempts to bring in the way of happiness or peace or success is futile without God the centerpiece of the person’s life.

The opening verses of St Mathew are vivid to my imagination. Israelites gravitate around the 42 generations identified in the first chapter as descendents of Abraham, as the blood line of God’s covenant with female and male genders and through the linkage supplied by Joseph the covenant is continued by Christ.

In sharp contrast to Hebraic family struggles, the same eyes read the books set forth in the New Testament. In all twenty-seven, the focus is ENTIRELY on, WHOLLY on one Christ, one God formed in the living image of a human Son. I submit all who have lived since the Ascension, would not be able to know Jesus had not the true wisdom of the Patriarchs not been stumbled upon. The TEXT without CONTEXT is PRETEXT. Were Christ not the center piece, the focal point of all of Paul’s texts, were they instead focused on Paul, and some came close to so being, he would have remained Saul and died without conversion in the dry desert sands of lunar time.

I did not need the New Testament to know God nor the truth of his Creation. Yet this single axiom, the singular focus on Christ is what girds the passion in my conviction and that is the weapon employed when I enter today the tent of Christianity’s Internal Disarray. I will begin with a few serious pet peeves.

Bad, bad Boys and bad Girls, too. Current prominent TV ads encourage men to purchase a growing assortment of brands to achieve “male enhancement.” Many mature Christians react with disgust. Fair enough. Yet I suggest Christian leaders ought to view modern marketing techniques as “signs of the time” which deserve examination from a different, Christian perspective.

Doubt reigns not in my mind that one of today's pastoral problem is directly linked to the release of “the pill” some sixty years ago. By and large, at least at the 95th level of confidence, women were released of the consequences of “risking all.” In the context of history, the break in male dominance midst the intimacy of moments came to an abrupt halt. Unable to “keep up with women,” masculine potency became embarrassingly weak.

Oh Christian leader, what is the impact and what are the results of feminine superiority on individual Christians – and people in the generic sense of humanity? If scientific research bears the test of accuracy, “sex” starts a whole lot sooner than “the old days.” Inside females, in physical women no more than mental children, many if not most “come experienced” into wedlock – with the magic key of superiority now switched from the hand of the male gender to the other with an ever ready ability to open the door to new opportunities --- for delayed marriage, for boosting one up the ladder of career success, for wives, not chance, to determine the number of offspring willingly birthed, to a plenteous harvest of feminism and a rapacious growth in lesbianism.

Karen Armstrong (RC Nun for 7 years; forsook her oath; graduated from Oxford & is now considered one of the foremost authorities on religious history. She teaches Judaism and is honored by Muslims for writing about Islam as a social science. The lady has several published several books, I understand, one of which is, *The Gospel According to Woman; the Christian Creation of Sex War in the West*. Christians ignited the sex war? Wow. I've yet to read her work but the title entices me to do so soon. For a person experienced as well as knowledgeable in the clerical world, Armstrong certainly is well-positioned to be critical of the Christian establishment. The mere title is sufficient to form its own definition without my help.

Cecilia Guthrie Boone delivered the address at the May 16, 2009 Commencement of Converse College graduates. Among other interesting items the lady mentioned, here's one I found placed Christians on a “reverse” parallel path with American women --- as though one rail of the train track ran forward, the other backward. She warned the seniors: “...*be on guard against the most insidious form of discrimination: self-discrimination. As women, many of us step back from recognition and from power. We step up to responsibility but we step away from acknowledging and using the power that should come with it. We are inclined as a gender to wait to be recognized and acknowledged for our good work and accomplishments. We have to help each other get over that. What is holding us back? What is holding me back? We can't wait to be offered equity. If it hasn't happened yet, it's not going to happen on its own.*”

How well do male clergy listen to voices---better said, how well do they read literature outside Church? My question in this moment is, will male clergy read and respond to the attainment of feminine peace? Has diaconal or jurisdictional guidance acted to give Christian relief to ourselves or to the reported three million females, some of whom are children and most

of whom are teenagers, who have been *literally* made sex slaves, prostitutes in the USA out of sheer fear for their lives?

The police have tried to help the girls. In a recent raid, police in an unnamed town recaptured, if you please, twenty-three girls and offered them refuge and help instead of condemnation and jail. To me, Anglicans could not more gloriously reach-out for Christ than by literally feeding on church property the young mothers without fathers and the destitute of their cities and towns this Thanksgiving and this Christmas and the coming Easter --- until this generation has passed into eternity, either below or above. Personally, I do not want to get "hung-up" somewhere in between. Uno, purgatory ain't for me.

Christians cannot be "porch dogs." Porch dogs don't hunt. Did not a recent national Commander-in-Chief initiate a "Don't Tell" policy for men and women in the uniform services? But homosexual males and lesbian females NEED the comfort best offered by the Holy Ghost? Yet what have our leaders done, accomplished, achieved for the Christian good people who WANT to tell, to be themselves?

And oh by the way, might distaff members of the Christian family, seeing how they now wear the hat of intimate superiority, feel challenged to dress anew, to serve Christ with great vim and mighty vigor by the simple act of wearing clerical robes on the altar side of the rail? Said otherwise, have Christian rulers ever examined the *cause* of feminine entrance into the priesthood? I'd love a good read.

Contemporary Christians cannot hide, ostrich-like, from contemporary realities. With the western mindset changed, living's orientation is now *primarily mental*, alterations underway in gender social roles, and old values challenged by undefined new ones, the current crop of Patriarchs must make manifest a new axiom to guide both church, state and adherents. The times ARE stormy and the work will exhaust them. Yea; they will receive no thanks and only history will show a glimmer of appreciation---yet for the sake of Christ, the mandate is manifestly clear.

Warning! Warning! Christians ought to be aware: ancient Hebrews and contemporary Jews do NOT consider Judaism an "Old Testament." Their idea, their theocratic act in the array of books reveal the *ORIGINAL* divine Word of God and it is as fresh and new and sweet and tender in their holy lives as any sweet date tasted in the Oasis of their Septuagint. In layman's terms, "OT" is Christian mumbo jumbo. Not only does it not work black magic on Jews, not only does it demonstrate disrespect for Hebrews, the attitude communicated may well constitute a huge, rational obstacle in the way of the deep need for Judaism and Christianity to be reconciled---the one to the other.

What "they" *know* (not what they believe in but what they know) about early divine presence on Earth are **Torah** (the Laws in 5 Books of Moses), **Nehi'im** (17 prophets) and **Ketuvim** (17 books). These three, I am advised, are incorporated in the Jewish Bible as, Tanakh (or TNK pronounced, TaNak.) (Editor's note: "h" is silent.) Tanakh is, historically speaking, a relatively recent or modern acronym. Please do not confuse the term with, Talmud, which is a collection of writings which constitute Jewish civil and religious laws. Talmud has two "parts," Misnah, meaning *text* (as a Torah law) and Gemara, meaning *commentary* on the text.

Please review the distinctive differences in both number and titles drawn by Bishop Ussher in the 17th Century in his classical compilation of Biblical History. It was incorporated picturesquely into an intriguing document called, **The Timechart of Biblical History**, which chronologically depicts the time-events-individuals so vital to the Bible in a continuum drawn from or inspired by the bishop's good work. This publication is a wonderful gift.

Now, let us move to the obvious yet mysterious Biblical distinctions.

Hebrew/Judaism	Protestant	Catholic
<p>TORAH (5 Books of Moses) Bereshit Shemot Vayikra Bamidbar Devarim</p>	<p>Pentateuch Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</p>	<p>Same 5 Books but not "categorized"</p>
<p>NEHI'IM 6 <u>Former</u> Prophets; Joshua, Judges, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings</p>	<p>5 Major Prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel</p>	<p>Josue, Judges, 1,2,3,4 Kings 1&2 Paralipomenon (1&2 Chronicles)</p>
<p>15 <u>Latter</u> Prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah Hosea, Joel, Amos Obadiah, Jonah, Micah Nahum, Habakkuk Zephaniah, Haggai Zechariah, Malachi</p>	<p>12 Minor Prophets Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah & Malachi</p>	<p>1 Esdras (Ezra) 2 Esdras (Nehemiah) 1&2 Machabees Tobias, Judith, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Canticle of Canticles, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, Isaias,</p>
<p>KETUVIM (13) Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth Lamentations, Koheles (Ecclesiastes) Esther, Daniel, Ezra Nehemiah, 1&2 Chronicles</p>	<p>Histories (12) Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah Esther</p>	<p>Jeremias, Lamentations Baruch, Ezechiel, Daniel, Osee, Joel, Amos, Abdias, Jonas, Micheas, Nahum, Habacuc, Sophanias, Haggeus, Zacharias, Malachias</p>
<p>Totals:</p>	<p>Wisdom & Poetry (5) Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Solomon</p>	<p>44</p>
<p>39</p>	<p>39</p>	

My purpose in reporting Biblical distinctions is not to drag the Word of God through the mud of numerical count. At some point in life, however, quantity does take on a qualitative value. Such being the case, I am rather hard put to resist the temptation to inquire: *since the Bible IS the divine Word of God, how DARE the Catholic community pick and choose, pleasing themselves with renaming His word in Latin titles and making selections from the Apocrypha denied by Hebraic/Jewish minds in their exclusion from the original scrolls?*

Good grief! Was Jesus a Gentile? Was God a “Latin-o?” Tis understandable to re-write Latin Good News in another Mother’s tongue in order to spread The Word of God – because linguistically is the way PEOPLE comprehend. It is, in my conviction, inconceivable and not acceptable to re-title or pick and choose, add or delete as though Roman editors had authority to so act for God. Simply because a fervent saint, Jerome, did the hard work of compiling the first ever “book of books,” did not then enable that man nor does it now enable us to reestablish our own pedantry upon the words that inspired earlier men.

Said otherwise, since Christ came to *fulfill* the Laws and the Prophets, what has He fulfilled for Catholics the rest of Christianity missed or only partially observed? Nay, nay, I say; neither I, you, nor they are free to change one syllable, one letter in the Word of God *given* to Hebrews. Christians were not PRESENT. It is hyper-super-egotistical to change what WAS written and which we proclaim to the world as the Word of God as though the Bible is ours to do with as we please. The Christian leader who desires to see the HIGH importance given to God’s words by Hebrews and Jews are invited to read *The Wisdom in the Hebrew Alphabet*, by Rabbi Michael L. Munk (ISBN: (hard cover) 0-89906-193-11; (paperback) 0-89906-194-x. You will find each LETTER in each word has Divine Meaning.

Mindset Change Till roughly the 18th Century AD, humans were primarily oriented to a physical life. Since, we have crept into a paradigm shift of incalculable impact on humans, at least those in the Occident. The human mind has since been magnified by the formalization of learning, euphemistically called, “getting an education.” After all, isn’t school a Vocabulary Store where bits and facts are selectively purchased by schools and sold to students? Thus no different than a grocery store, we learn as we want, when and where we want. And if something untoward occurs, then the fault strictly lies with the goods packaged and sold --- Right?

Wrong. The fault ALWAYS lies with people. As rendered earlier about the collapse of the Soviet Union, the new mindset of “an education populace” is the same sort of “intellectual game-playing” which helps loosen the bonds that bind Christianity *inside* the “Judeo-Christian Ethic.” Objection was not raised by religious leaders, or raised wrongly if it were, about the affect of learning on individuals and, yes, groups – perhaps because School was invented by rabbis during and after Rome laid Israel to waste during the old age of Gospel writers.

Several years ago, I *formally* (in a notarized petition) charged the State Senators and Representatives of South Carolina with three major crimes: stealing youth from young people, robbing teachers of professionalism, and denying dignity to local trustees and administrators. It is the same sense, I charge Christian leaders, especially Anglican clergy, of a Christian crime against Christians by their failure to pick-up Christ’s cross and carry it in the name of the Holy Ghost through all the streets of America.

Does not our inaction discredit the Bible? No individual and no establishment of Christians can, should or ought to attempt to change or alter or revise the Word of God *even through* interpretations do and the dangers inherent in translation merge in the forest of mother tongues where sounds are incomprehensible shouts and groans, and moans of misunderstanding. Dare any believer desecrate HIS word? Yet we do so at a frequency that amounts to frenzy all the time. What thereafter remains divine?—IS a legitimate question. For if men can so change, then, ipso facto, divinity becomes a façade. Whose house do we next invade, excuse me, visit and assume ours? Surely, that is what Christian leaders have committed against Hebraic deed and Judaic creed.

Were I of a mind to “destroy Christianity,” not Christ, mind you, but the establishment, I would be hard put to outdo the damaging evidence provided or should I better say supplied by Christianity, itself. Regardless of ones reasons and justifications, the fact remains---Christianity has failed to honor the Torah, the Nehi’im and the Ketuvim. We do so by re-naming the Judaic collectively gathered as, the Tanakh. Further proof is added by the bothersome fact Christianity has sufficiently damaged itself by “allowing,” permitting if you please, Catholics to establish 44 books in *their* “old” testament. I reckon no Jew recognizes *their* way to God. Review, please, the facts.

Scroll	(Place)	Essence or Theme	Chapters	Written	Duration Covered	Lunar Time
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Tanakh
<u>Sources: Jewish Virtual Library Citing Hebrew Titles</u>

Numbers in Parenthesis = Book’s Place in the Tanakh
(Essence and Time Horizons from KJV Rainbow Study Bible)

Torah (5 Laws Composed by Moses) Pentateuch

Bereshit (Genesis)	(1)	Creation	50	1450 -1400	2 369 years	3760 - 1635
Shemot (Exodus)	(2)	Deliverance	40	1450 –1400	143 years	1634 - 1491
Vayikra (Leviticus)	(3)	Holiness	27	1450 –1400	1 month	1203 -- 1023
Bamidbar (Numbers)	(4)	Discipline	36	1450 –1400	39 years	1203 -- 1164
Devarim (Deuteronomy)	(5)	Obedience	34	1410 –1395	5 weeks	1164 -- 1164

Nehi’im (21 Prophets)

Former (6)

Joshua	(6)	Faith	24	1410 –1350	25 years	1164 -- 1144
Judges	(7)	Judgment	21	1043 –1004	271 years	1144 -- 873
1 Samuel	(9)	Jealousy	31	1050 – 931	115 years	1171 -- 1056
2 Samuel	(10)	Anointed One	24	1010 – 931	38 years	1055 -- 1017
1 Kings	(11)	Wisdom	22	640 – 550	119 years	1017 -- 898
2 Kings	(12)	Kingly Appraisal	25	640 – 550	8 years	846 -- 590

Latter (15)

Isaiah	(23)	Holy Comforter	46	750 – 695	65 years	Uncertain
Jeremiah	(24)	Patient Weeping	52	627 – 586	41 years	
Ezekiel	(26)	God Hates Sin	48	593 --- 565	22 years	
Hosea	(28)	God is Only Way	14	520 --- 518	2 years	
Joel	(29)	Repentance	3	806 --- 800	Eternal	
Amos	(30)	Righteousness	9	760 --- 753	7-10 years	
Obadiah	(31)	Pride is Sin	1	588 --- 587	1 year	
Jonah	(32)	God’s Omnipotence	4	793 --- 753	20 years	
Micah	(33)	Judgment	7	735 --- 698	25 years	
Nahum	(34)	Patience	3	663 --- 612	Unknown	

Habakkuk	(35)	Faith for Life	3	609 --- 5879	Unknown
Zephaniah	(36)	God is Un-Prejudiced	3	640 --- 612	Unknown
Haggai	(37)	Complete Labor	2	520 --- 520	4 months
Zechariah	(38)	God is the Only Way	14	520 --- 518	2 years
Malachi	(39)	Tithing	4	420 ---397	14 years

Kituvim (13 Wisdom Sayings)

Ruth	(8)	Human Love	4	1011 – 931	12 years	1080 --- 1068
Psalms	(19)	Praise & Trust	150	1090 -- 1020	1000 years	uncertain
Proverbs	(20)	Wisdom	31	960 -- 890	unknown	uncertain
Koheles (Ecclesiastes)	(21)	Futility (Vanity)	12	960 – 940	unknown	uncertain
Song of Solomon	(22)	Marital love	8	980 – 900	1 year	uncertain
Lamentations	(25)	Wrath	5	586 – 585	1 year	
Daniel	(27)	Courage	12	605 – 530	72 years	
1 Chronicles	(13)	Family	29	450 – 400	3540 years	4004 --- 464
2 Chronicles	(14)	Revival	36	450 – 400	427 years	1065 --- 638
Ezra	(15)	Re-dedication	10	570 – 444	80 years	587 --- 507
Nehemiah	(16)	Goal Setting	13	445 – 420	33 years	uncertain
Esther	(17)	Internal Beauty	10	485 – 435	12 years	uncertain
Job	(18)	Suffering	42	unknown	unknown	uncertain
Tanakh	39 Scrolls	929 Chapters		Span of 3607 Years (4004 – 3607 = 397 BCE)		

New Testament

NT Book	Essence or Theme	Chapters	Written AD	Duration Covered
Gospel of Matthew	True God of True God	28	50 --- 70	4 BC - 33AD
Gospel of Mark	Positive Witness	16	50 --- 70	29 -- 33
Gospel of Luke	Jesus Understands	24	58 --- 70	5 BC --33
Gospel of John	God Loves Each Human	21	85 --- 96	29 -- 33
5/ Acts	The Holy Ghost Leads Us	28	61 --- 63	33 -- 62
Romans	All Born of Sin	16	56 --- 58	56 -- 58
1 Corinthians	Christ Cleanses	16	55 --- 57	55 -- 57
2 Corinthians	God's Goodness	10	55 --- 57	55 -- 57
Galatians	Live by Faith	6	49 --- 55	49 -- 55
10/Ephesian	Holy Ghost Bonds Us	6	60 --- 61	60 -- 61
Philippians	God Never Fails	4	60 --- 62	60 -- 62
Colossians	Jesus is God	4	60 --- 61	60 -- 61
1 Thessalonians	Steadfastness	5	50 --- 51	50 -- 51
2 Thessalonians	Active Faith	3	51 --- 51	51 -- 51
15/1 Timothy	Discipline	6	62 --- 64	62 -- 64
2 Timothy	Holy Ghost Presence	4	66 --- 67	66 -- 67
Titus	Deny Worldly Lust	3	63 --- 65	63 -- 65
Philemon	Sin of Men, Sin against God	1	60 --- 61	60 -- 61
1 Hebrews	Christ's Blood Cleanses Sin	13	64 --- 70	64 -- 70
20/James	Faith Must be Lived	5	45 --- 49	45 -- 49
1 Peter	Eternal Life	5	63 --- 64	63 -- 64
2 Peter	Be not Deceitful	3	64 --- 66	64 -- 66
1 John	God is Love	5	85 --- 96	85 -- 96
2 John	Antichrists do Exist	1	85 --- 96	85 -- 96
25/3 John	Family of God	1	85 --- 96	85 -- 96
Jude	Know False Teachers	1	65 --- 80	65 -- 80
Revelation	End Life here/begin Eternal	22	90 --- 96 AD	90 -- 96
27 Books	Chapters	260	100 yrs (4BCE – 96AD)	

Note: Compare 3607 years to compile the Tanakh vs. 100 to compile the NT

Christ, The Perfect Division Between Biblical Time.

A Unique Perspective

Recap	Malachi 39 th Book	409 BC	
	Christ born	00 BC/AD	Nigh Half way Between
	Vulgate Bible	405 AD	

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Likely, the most beautiful demonstration of reverence for Christ in my Christian experience, this book needs no explanation from me. Yet when it comes to the Epistles and Gospel readings, I have a severe concern some will consider intemperate.

Fair enough. In my childish mind, I remember being taught that Epistle came before a Gospel lesson because, ahem, pardon me, the Old Testament came before the New Testament precisely the same as Christ came to fulfill what preceded him even as he preceded the New Testament. By dictionary definition, however, Epistle means an apostolic letter (or book) in the New Testament and Gospel means one of the four Gospels therein, as well. Okay. Now examine the Epistles and Gospels (from Advent, page 90 through the Saints finishing on page 263), ten Epistles come from Tanakhian books: Isaiah 5 times, Joel 1, Jeremiah 1, Malachi 1, Ezekiel 1 and Deuteronomy 1.

Yet I ask myself and am too incompetent to answer me: since 39 books preceded Christ and 27 followed him, and all 56 constitute the Biblical Word of God, why --- in God's name --- do we not honor all 56 during the Christian year?

CONCLUSION In, *ROOTS*, author Alex Haley revealed an ancient African saying. As a parent holds a newborn to the night's starry skies, he or she says: *Behold, the only thing greater than yourself.*

I reckon precious few mothers would willingly take their child to a modern court where the judge was King Solomon. God created all life and all life includes we, humans, and it is HIS design which compels individuals to survive and to seek to sustain survival – and in many ways. This certitude is the great stage upon which humans walk, dance, prey and sometimes pray. We must not judge any mother who knows or feels her child is “greater” than God – precisely because He designed our nature “that way.”

He set survival as a “priority duty” as surely as he breathed life into us and made us EVER after value air a number one priority, to the most precious in our lives today. Precious few humans can endure without air longer than two to three minutes. So that if one tries to drown a human, killing the drowner is acceptable unto God. Have Christians not honored that intimate fact in the act of baptism? Do we not affirm that act when the infant reaches the age of “discretion,” by having he and she Confirm the oath of Baptism? Indeed, what judgment would we pass had Joseph and Mary not defended their first born? The African parent's declaration resonates within Christianity

Preaching to choirs is one reason, I submit, we are a declining population. For if true Christians were numbered the count would be abysmally small. I do not, of course, include “the charismatic” crowd among the righteous simply because accepting Christ as my master, following in his footsteps as a disciple has naught to do with being entertained – nor even being entertaining. It is the despicable same with any clerical person to preach without an altar --- simply because God, himself, gave specific instructions on how to build a tabernacle, an altar worthy of his worship.

Exodus is an example. At what point on the Exodus trip did God fail to defend, even to the point of slaying enemies, the people he chose? Christ is our example, also. He did not hesitate to toss money-changers out of the Temple and neither should we hesitate to defend the faith.

I do NOT call for a modern crusade; I would not join were one to summon me. I call for Christian leaders to lead me on the way to rightfully live a life of love IN the culture in which I was born and reared and stay. While I hasten to join every holy Eucharist, for my soul needs feeding as much as my mind and as much as my body, my life cannot be lived INside the church. Christ's hand of love urges you to leave his house of worship and spread his word to the outermost reach of your community. My fidelity is assured; your credibility is at stake.

Come out, Christian leader, come out. If not yet convinced, please try Isaiah 49:5-7.