

The Bible, Founding Fathers & Hugo Black
by
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The Northwest Ordinance of 1789, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Washington, contained a key provision pertaining to education. Article III said,

“Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

Meaning, teach religion (the Bible), morals and knowledge in the “schools” “forever.”

And so it was, for roughly 160 years, the following were legal and constitutionally accepted in our public schools: Teaching the Holy Bible. Teachers leading students in prayer. Prayers at school events. Invocations and Benedictions, and teaching the Ten Commandments.

But a huge shift occurred in the 1960’s, where the Supreme Court started to remove these religious freedoms. Why and how did this happen? Did the populace rise up and demand that prayer be removed from the classroom? No! Then what caused this massive change?

I researched this topic for over a year, and put it into my book, BELIEVE, Do We Need A Third Great Awakening? You can find it on amazon.

Supreme Court Justice, Hugo Black misinterpreted President Thomas Jefferson’s letter to the Danbury Baptist. The famous case was in 1947, Everson v. Board of Education, where Black said,

“The establishment of religion clause of the First Amendment means at least this: Neither a state nor the Federal Government can set up a church. Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions or prefer one religion over another. Neither can force nor influence a person to go to or to remain away from church against his will or force him to profess a belief or disbelief in any religion.”

What is he saying? To most people this reads well. Most people will say, this is fine; people will not be forced to support a church or religion, and laws cannot be made to support religion. But there is a major problem! Blacks NEW interpretation sets a dangerous precedent! Now the State cannot support religion in any way. Now “Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions or prefer one religion over another.” What did this lead to? This led to a complete removal of our religious freedoms, under the banner of “a wall of separation between church and state.”

Under this NEW interpretation, teacher led prayer is illegal, teaching the Bible is illegal, Invocations and Benedictions are illegal and school sponsored prayers at athletic/school events are illegal. Look at what our nation has become. What a shame!

One must ask, who was correct. Was it our Founding Fathers who put these freedoms into practice for 160 years or Justice Black? I put my trust and faith in the Founding Fathers.

“Religion (the Bible) is the only solid basis of good morals; therefore education should teach the precepts of religion and the duties of man towards God.” Gouverneur Morris, penman and signer of the Constitution

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