

# **Are Americans Losing Religious Liberty?**

Representative Phil King

7.5.2015

## Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on July 5 2015

Are Americans Losing Religious Liberty

### ■ Questions for “Personal Growth”

- **Monday-The root of all hostility...** The loss of religious freedom in America is a form of hostility and persecution of the church. Let's begin by examining the Scriptural origins of such hostility (Genesis 3:1-7). What is the very first recorded instance of a human being tempted to despise the Word of God? How did the sin of pride befall Adam and Eve? Who was Eve thinking of when she succumbed to temptation? How is spiritual pride (placing oneself above the Word of God) at the root of Satan's hostility and Adam and Eve's original sin? How is rejecting His statutes and Word placing oneself (the created) above the Creator?
- **Tuesday-An assault against Christ...** Please read Romans 1:18-32. What details are given in Paul's discussion as to the root cause of hostility against God, His Word, and His people? Not turn to Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 13:19; Luke 10:16 and Romans 1:16. How is the gospel a personal Word of Christ? Who is actually being attacked/persecuted when Christians are restricted/ mistreated because of their religious beliefs? Does knowing that your Lord and Savior is under attack now more than ever, and that the world would like you to join in that cause, stir you to stand up for Him?
- **Wednesday-A godly response to persecution...** The persecution of Christians in America can, at times, take on a more subtle form. How should believers respond? Please read 2 Cor. 11:23-29; 12:5-10. By whose power was Paul sustained in his weakness? Now read 1 Peter 4. How do we take away from the glory of God when we decide to become self-made martyrs rather than following the will of God? How are we to respond, and what are we never to abandon, when faced with unpleasant circumstances because of our faith? Finally please turn to John 13:35. What is the greatest mark of a Christ follower? Are love and “tolerance” synonymous? How can you put into practice the expression “love the sinner while rejecting the sin”?
- **Thursday-Fight or flight?** Please read Matthew 10:23; Acts 8:1; 11:19-22; 13:49-51 and Luke 10:5-12. Were the disciples running toward their persecutors (offensively) or away from them (defensively). Now please turn to Paul's exhortation in Philippians 1:27-30, as well as Jesus' own example in Luke 4:29-30. John 7:30; 10:14-18; , 11:34-39; 12:44-50; 14:30-31 and Hebrews 5:8; 10:7. On what basis did Jesus make his decisions? What should be our only reference in determining what “crosses” to bear? How are we no different than Adam and Eve when we allow our own agenda to instruct our actions?
- **Friday-Proclaim His truth without ceasing..** We have learned the importance of abiding in the Lord and the dangers of making decisions that are based on our personal causes rather than His will. Yet, Scripture also provides many teachings and examples on the importance of being a “faithful witness”, proclaiming the truth of God, even in the face of opposition. Please read as many of these examples as time permits: Daniel 3:8-30, 6; Matthew 10:19-20; Luke 22:39-46; Acts 4:27-31; 5:17-32; 12:1-7; and Philippians 2:8. Why must prayer and obedience be the cornerstones of our response when authorities compel us to do something that goes against God's will? Does God's Word ever instruct you to stop proclaiming His truth or shrink back in fear of other's responses? Take time this weekend to pray for God's will to reign superior in all of your speech and actions, and for our nation as a whole to turn back to God.