



# The Clarion\* Call

## \* THE CLEAR CALL OF A BATTLE TRUMPET

JESUS SAID, "MY SHEEP RECOGNIZE MY VOICE. I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME." (JOHN 10:27)

From the desk of:

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## WE SERVE NO KING, BUT KING JESUS

When it comes to the very first known Battle Cry of the American Revolution, most people do not know what it was or did not know there even was one. It was: "No king, but King Jesus." Where did it come from— and why?

As stated in the *Declaration of Independence* there were 27-grievances the colonists had against the King of Great Britain. The only one that most people know (today) is: "Taxation without representation." King George III was slowly taking all the colonist's rights away.

Black-Robed Clergymen were preaching across the land and taking part in protesting against Great Britain concerning the rights of American colonists. One such clergy was the Rev. Jonas Clarke. Rev. Clarke was a clergy of Lexington, Massachusetts. He married Lucy Bowes and was close friends with John Hancock— who was Lucy's first cousin. Thirteen children were born to Lucy and Jonas. Rev. Clarke became leader of the militia in Lexington.

On April 18, 1775, John Adams and John Hancock were at the home of Rev. Clarke. In Boston, British General Gage was pleading with the colonists to lay down their arms and all would be forgiven— except for Samuel Adams and John Hancock. That same night, Paul Revere arrived to warn them of the approaching

'Redcoats.' The next morning, British Major Pitcairn shouted to an assembled regiment of colonial minutemen: "Disperse, ye villains, lay down your arms in the name of George the Sovereign King of England." The immediate response of Rev. Clarke was: "*We recognize no Sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus.*"

That Battle Cry soon rang throughout the colonies making this not just a battle for rights, but for religious freedom (as well). That would explain why the 1st Amendment of the *U.S. Constitution* deals with our religious freedoms.

Jonathan Trumbull, a crown-appointed Governor of Connecticut, wrote back to England: "If you ask an American, who is his master? he will tell you he has none, nor any governor— but Jesus Christ."

Many books (today) in the classrooms and libraries in America are telling our young people that the American Revolution had nothing to do with religion and that most of the Founding Fathers were atheists or agnostics. If they were to read the original documents— and not the work of the revisionists of the past 60-years— they would know that what is being taught (today) is nothing but a lie. One of those documents of the past is the *U.S. Constitution*.

In Article VII, the Founders of our nation stated that "the *U.S. Constitution* was done in Convention by the unanimous consent of the states present the Seventeenth day of September in **the year of our Lord** one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven ..."— thus acknowledging Jesus Christ as the Lord of "We the People of the United States" and as the God of this land.

Our Founding Fathers chose each word, each punctuation of the *Constitution* with exactness— subjected to the scrutiny of the finest minds ever assembled at one time.

They had one purpose— guided by the fasting and prayers of themselves and the people. They knew— and our enemies understood— the significance of recognizing Jesus Christ throughout a nation's formation.

This nation, our Republic, is founded on Jesus Christ Himself. The enemies of our freedoms have practically (without challenge) moved unrelentingly to destroy, eliminate, and pervert every last symbol, reference or practice of Christianity in America.

Patrick Henry is said to have boldly declared: "*It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was*

(continued ... on page two)

(continued ... from page one)

*founded, not by religionists, but by Christians: not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.* For this very reason people of all faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom to worship here.”

Unfortunately, most Americans are brainwashed by our secular school system and are basically ignorant of our Christian heritage.

Samuel Adams declared after signing the *Declaration of Independence*: “*We have this day restored the Sovereign to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His kingdom come.*”

Dr. Benjamin Rush was a signer of the *Declaration of Independence* and a principle promoter of the American Sunday School Union. He also served as the Surgeon General of the Continental Army. He helped to write the Pennsylvania Constitution and was a treasurer of the U.S. Mint. In 1798, after the adoption of the *Constitution*, Benjamin Rush declared: “*The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in Religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments.*”

John Jay, the First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, said: “Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as privilege and interest, of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

Lewis Cass was an American soldier, lawyer, politician and diplomat. After serving in the War of 1812, he became the Governor-General of the Territory of Michigan— where he made treaties with the Indians, organized townships and built

roads. He was a U.S. Senator, and served in the cabinets of Presidents Andrew Jackson and James Buchanan. Later, he was the 1848 Democratic presidential nominee. Lewis Cass stated: “*Independent of its connection with human destiny hereafter, the fate of republican government is indissolubly bound up with the fate of Christian religion, and a people who reject its holy faith will find themselves the slaves of their own evil passions and of arbitrary power.*” [This is a good example that today’s Democrat Party is (as they say) no longer your grandfather’s party.]

For over one hundred years school children across America have known the Battle Cry of the American Revolution – “No king, but King Jesus.” But the lack of awareness by today’s young people reminds me of President Ronald Reagan’s words— “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction ...” The same can be said of America’s spiritual heritage.

O God, raise up those who will proclaim our Godly heritage as a new Battle Cry of (today’s) American Revolution. You might ask: Why a new battle cry?

My friend: Don’t you see we are in the midst of a government-imposed moratorium on our freedom to worship— banning our singing, capping our attendance, prohibiting our fellowship with social distancing, and putting restrictions on our method of partaking in holy communion?

I understand, we have no choice (here) at the Chapel. This historic landmark is managed and maintained by the Fort Snelling State Park/DNR— as property of the people of Minnesota. Though we saved it from the wrecking-ball, we rent it for each of our worship services. Therefore, we must abide by the tyrannical dictates of MN Gov. Walz.

But let me be clear: If we owned this Chapel, I would encourage us to exercise our ecclesiastical authority. As the front cover of our bulletin states: Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. He is the King of kings, and Lord of lords— the Sovereign over every earthly authority. And as His people, we are subject to His will and commands— as revealed in Holy Scripture. Therefore, we cannot (and will not) acquiesce to government.

Now some of you might be quick to say: Aren’t we to be subject to governing authorities laid out in Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2? Scripture does mandate careful, conscientious obedience to all governing authority, including: kings, governors, employers, and their agents— Insofar as government authorities do not attempt to assert ecclesiastical authority or issue orders that forbid our obedience to God’s law. While civil government is invested with divine authority to rule the State, neither of those texts (nor any other) grants civic rulers jurisdiction over the Church.

God has established three institutions within human society: the **Family**, the **State**, and the **Church**. Each institution has a sphere of authority with jurisdictional limits that must be respected.

- A father’s authority is limited to his own family.
- Church leaders’ authority (which is delegated to them by Christ) is limited to church matters.
- And government is specifically tasked with the oversight and protection of civic peace and well-being within the boundaries of a nation or community.

To be clear: God has not granted civic rulers authority over the doctrine, practice, or polity of the Church. The Biblical framework

(continued ... on page three)

(continued ... from page two)

limits the authority of each institution to its specific jurisdiction. The Church does not have the right to meddle in the affairs of individual Families and ignore parental authority. Parents do not have authority to manage Civil matters while circumventing government officials. And similarly, Government officials have no right to interfere in Ecclesiastical matters in a way that undermines or disregards the God-given authority of pastors.

When any one of the three institutions exceed the bounds of its jurisdiction it is the duty of the other institutions to curtail that over-reach. Therefore, when any government official issues orders regulating worship, he/she steps outside the legitimate bounds of their God-ordained authority as a civic official and misappropriates authority that God expressly grants only to the Lord Jesus Christ as sovereign over His Kingdom— which is the Church. His rule is administered in local churches through those pastors who teach His Word.

It has never been the prerogative of civil government to order, modify, forbid, or mandate worship. The worship of Christ's Church is not subject to Caesar— rather, Caesar (himself) is subject to God. Jesus affirmed that principle when He was brought before Pilate and told the Roman Governor: *"You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above."* (John 19:11) And because Christ is Head of the Church, Ecclesiastical matters pertain to His Kingdom— not Caesar's. Jesus drew a stark distinction between those two kingdoms when He said: *"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."* (Mark 12:17) Our Lord (Himself) always rendered to Caesar what was Caesar's— but He never offered

to Caesar what belongs solely to God.

Accordingly, the honor that we rightly owe our earthly governmental authorities does not include compliance— when such officials attempt to subvert sound doctrine, corrupt Biblical morality, exercise Ecclesiastical authority, or usurp Christ as Head of the Church ... in any other way.

Now, some of you might say: It makes good sense to address this worldwide health pandemic with the precautions mandated by the State. And that 'might' well be true. [I happen to think the verdict is still out on that one ... with all the skewed statistics and media manipulation.] To be clear: We care about people as our Lord did; we believe guarding public health against serious infections is a rightful function of the Church as well as civil government. It is legitimate for Christians to abstain from the assembly of saints *temporarily* in the face of illness or an imminent threat to public health. But when it began in mid-March, it was supposed to be a short-term stop-gap measure, with the goal to "flatten the curve"— meaning they wanted to slow the rate of infection to ensure that hospitals weren't overwhelmed. There were horrific projections of death. Considering those factors, who wouldn't support the measures by observing the guidelines that were issued for churches. But we did not yield our spiritual authority to the secular government. We cannot be expected to comply with restrictions dragged on beyond the stated goal, or politicians unduly intruded into church affairs, or if health officials added restrictions that would attempt to undermine the church's mission. We took every measure to support the concerns of health officials and accommodate the same concerns among our church members— out of a desire to act in an

abundance of care and reasonableness. But we are (now) more than 26-weeks into the unrelieved restrictions. It is apparent that those original projections of death were wrong, and the virus is nowhere near as dangerous as originally feared. Still, 50% of the year has passed with churches essentially unable to gather in a normal way. A pastor's ability to shepherd the flock has been severely curtailed; the unity and influence of the church has been threatened; opportunities for believers to serve and minister to one another have been missed; and the suffering of Christians who are troubled, fearful, distressed, infirmed, or otherwise in urgent need of fellowship and encouragement— has been magnified beyond anything that could reasonably be considered just or necessary. Major public events that were planned for 2021 are already being canceled— signaling that officials are preparing to keep restrictions in place into next year and beyond. That forces the Church to choose between the clear commands of our Lord and the government officials.

But listen: This is just the beginnings of a slippery slope. It must start somewhere.

What do we do when the government starts censoring what is said from the pulpit— dictating what can be proclaimed from the pulpit? If a preacher is to be true to Scripture, there will be some topics and texts that the 'world' calls 'hate speech'— the inconvenient truths on homosexuality or disciplining of children or our having dominion over all creation or abortion being murder (not a matter of choice). I would be among those charged with 'hate speech'— and there is a Livestream archives loaded with evidence.

My point is: Christ is Lord over Caesar, not vice versa. Christ,

(continued ... on page four)

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not Caesar, is Head of the Church. Conversely, the Church does not in any sense rule the State. Again, these are distinct kingdoms— and Christ is sovereign over both. Neither Church nor State has any higher authority than that of Christ (Himself) who declared: *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* (Matthew 28:18)

It's important that you note: I'm not making an argument from the *Constitution*— even though the 1st Amendment expressly affirms this principle in its opening words: *“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”* The right I am appealing to was not *created* by the *Constitution*. It is one of those unalienable rights granted solely by God— who ordained human government and establishes both the extent and the limitations of the State's authority. My argument is purposely not grounded in the 1st Amendment— it is based on the same Biblical principles that the Amendment (itself) is founded upon. The exercise of true religion is a divine duty given to men and women created in God's image (Genesis 1:26–27; Acts 4:18–20; 5:29; cf. Matthew 22:16–22). In other words, freedom of worship is a command of God— not a privilege granted by the State.

As government policy moves further away from Biblical principles, and as legal and political pressures against the Church intensify, we must recognize that the Lord may be using these pressures as means of purging— to reveal the true Church. Succumbing to governmental over-reach may cause churches to remain closed indefinitely. How can the true Church of Jesus Christ distinguish Herself in such a hostile climate? There is only

one way: Bold allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church is Christ's precious Bride (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-27). She belongs to Him (alone). She exists by His will and serves under His authority. He will tolerate no assault on Her purity and no infringement of His headship over Her. All of that was established when Jesus said: *“I will build My Church; and the gates of Hell will not overpower it.”* (Matthew 16:18)

Christ's own authority is *“far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And [God the Father has] put all things in subjection under [Christ's] feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the Church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”* (Ephesians 1:21–23)

The Church (by definition) is an *assembly*. That is the literal meaning of the Greek word for “church”— *ekklesia*— the assembly of the called-out ones. A non-assembling assembly is a contradiction in terms. Christians are therefore commanded not to forsake the practice of meeting together (Hebrews 10:25)— and no earthly State has a right to restrict or forbid the assembling of believers— again, unless the State operates the gathering place (this Chapel).

I cannot say it enough: Christ is the One true Head of His Church— and we intend to honor that vital truth in all our gatherings. For that reason, churches cannot accept and should not bow to the intrusive restrictions government officials want to impose on the Church.

I offer this Battle Cry without malice, and not out of a combative or rebellious heart; but with a sobering awareness that I must answer to the Lord Jesus for the stewardship He has given

to me as a shepherd of His precious flock. I, hereby, respectfully inform our civic leaders that they have exceeded their legitimate jurisdiction— and faithfulness to Christ prohibits us (the Church) from observing the restrictions they want to impose on the corporate worship of God's people.

I pray that every faithful congregation will stand with me in obedience to our Lord— as Christians have done through the centuries.

If you share my conviction, then join me in prayer.

Let us pray.

In this critical hour of our nation's history, it is past time that the true saints of God give total allegiance to the Kingdom of our Savior— the Lord, Jesus Christ. The crisis of the ages demands that the Church renew the historic Battle Cry of our forefathers— *“No king, but King Jesus.”* Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour. Amen.

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Footnote: This message was preached on U.S. Constitution Sunday (September 13, 2020) from the pulpit of the historic Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. The sermon was largely inspired and motivated by the stance of Pastor John MacArthur and the elders of Grace Community Church who boldly defied CA Gov. Gavin Newsom's order banning indoor worship.



Write the Governor:

The Honorable Timothy J. Walz  
Governor of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr  
Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

\* Please include your return postal mailing address when corresponding.