

Welcome:

We just celebrated with fireworks our celebration of the date July 4, 1776, which marks the beginning of the 239th year since the amazing ***Declaration of Independence*** seeded the most unique country ever formed on earth. Today we sit here as citizens of that nation. It holds the oldest governing documents ever belonging to any nation that has existed, and this country has had unprecedented peace over these years allowing us to hold original copies and paintings of our founding Fathers.

Last week unprecedented decisions have come from the "Supreme Court" of our nation. Everyone has a reaction, it seems, to these decisions, and especially the same-sex-marriage position taken by the Court. They range from total praise from the collective Left-leaning media to cautious acceptance from the non-churched individual, to radical condemnation from the Right. My initial reaction was to think of what God's reaction is:

Psa 2:1(1-12) Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,

Psa 2:3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

Psa 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.

Psa 2:5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

Psa 2:6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

Psa 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Psa 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

Psa 2:9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

Psa 2:10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

Psa 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

These verses are clear. Here's how we can "kiss the Son"

The "Prayer for Our Nation" piece reproduced above has in recent years come to be attributed to venerable evangelist the Rev. Billy Graham, and before that it was circulated as "Paul Harvey's Prayer" (or "Paul Harvey's On Air Prayer"). However, it was neither written nor first presented by either of those men.

This prayer burst into the public consciousness back in January of 1996, when the Rev. Joe Wright, senior pastor of the 2,500-member Central Christian Church in Wichita, was invited to deliver the opening prayer at a session of the Kansas House of Representatives. On that occasion he offered the following "Prayer of Repentance" (which was not entirely of his own crafting but rather was a version of a prayer written in 1995 by Bob Russell, who had offered it at the Kentucky Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Frankfort):

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and seek your direction and guidance.

We know your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that's exactly what we've done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your Word and called it moral pluralism.

We have worshiped other gods and called it multi-Cultural-ism.

We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building esteem.

We have abused power and called it political savvy.

We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us O God and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas, and who have been ordained by You, to govern this great state.

Grant them your wisdom to rule and may their decisions direct us to the center of your will. I ask it in the name of your son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

---- Author, Bob Russell in 1995, at the Kentucky Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Frankfort.

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