The Voice of the American Coalition of Unregistered Churches

The Trumpet

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" I Cor. 14:8

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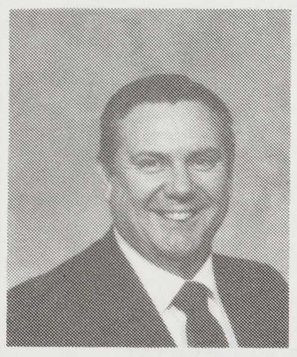
Jurisdiction



Dr. Everett Sileven

Jurisdiction is authority or power exercised under law in a specified and given area.

Over and over I have said that there is only one Law-giver—God; hence, one law—the LAW OF GOD; hence, one jurisdiction or legitimate Authority. God has certainly delegated to civil authority some legitimate jurisdiction. One such area as defined by Romans 13 and I Peter 3:15 would be in the punishment of evil-doers.

Now the question is, "Who is an evil-doer?" Evil-doers are defined by law. The question is, "Whose law?"

Today, men wearing robes and sitting on benches and men sitting in legislative halls passing so-called "law" think that they have the right to determine what are evil deeds; therefore, many people are jailed, fined, and punished as "evil," who really have committed no crime.

You see, if God is the only Author of law, and His law is the only one that legitimately determines who is an evil-doer, then men who punish other men for deeds that are not defined as evil by God's laws are simply TYRANTS!

This brings us to the area of jurisdiction! God has all jurisdiction (Matthew 28:18). He has set out the absolute limits of subordinate jurisdictions. Who are these subordinates? Well, they are Family, Church, and Civil Authority. There are definite jurisdictional limits for each of these subordinates.

Civil authority can execute murderers. The church and the family cannot. The church and the family can educate. The civil authority cannot. The family can punish the child. The civil authority and the church cannot, nor can they restrain the family in such matters unless the parent exceeds his jurisdiction by brutalizing or killing the child. Then the civil authority can punish the criminal and the church can spiritually discipline the guilty party.

Our forefathers did not seem to have a problem with this matter of jurisdiction. That is why Congress was restrained from passing any laws whatsoever in the area of religion. All other governmental bodies were prohibited from passing laws, period! Government was also restrained from passing laws in the area of the family.

Today, however, government has assumed a Godship role and thinks that it has jurisdiction and sovereignty over all things! These humanistic servants refuse to acknowledge either God or His ordained limitations put upon civil authority. They freely pass "laws" controlling churches, families, and private property as if all property and all humans were property of the state.

This is not the first time in history that this has happened and it may not be the last. God overthrew Babylon, Rome, Hitler, and He will overthrow the Communists and the United States tyrants if they continue to assume this role of Godship, and if God's people repent and get into a position to be rescued.

The key has always been God's people. If they willingly accept a wicked and/or foreign jurisdiction, God usually lets them reap the suffering and oppression of it. However, when they have seen the wickedness of it and have refused to bow to it and call out to God for deliverance, He has always destroyed the tyrant.

The big problem in America is that the American people don't mind being slaves as long as the slavemasters are not too hard on them. A slave is one who depends on another for his life. We are all slaves, but to whom do we belong? Some of us are as Paul—slaves: bond-slaves to Jesus Christ. We depend upon Him for everything. Some, on the other hand, are slaves to State and Federal programs. Government has never been a good slavemaster. It always turns on its slaves at some time. We are beginning to see that happen in America now. Pastors are going to jail; Christian parents are going to jail and having their children taken away from them; churches are being padlocked and have been taxed and harassed by the IRS; Christians are being jailed for violation of tax "laws" that don't even exist, etc. When will Americans wake up and realize what is happening to them?

We must learn the true limits of God's ordained jurisdictions. You can only learn them through the Bible and in a Bible-preaching church (one that lives up to its preaching).

The next time you hear someone say "I am challenging the jurisdiction of the court," what they are really saying is that the subject or the person has not been assigned to that jurisdiction by God, the Constitution, or by natural law! In other words, there is no authority to act.

WHOM DO WE OBEY?

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29

Recently, a visiting Christian friend informed us that if he had been around back in 1776, he would *not* have signed the Declaration of Independence.

Furthermore, in his opinion, the American Revolution was an *immoral* war and the Christians who had fomented it and taken part in it had *violated* the ordinances of God.

That brought to mind an article by a professor at a seminary a few years ago who had written much the same sentiments. Unfortunately both of these gentlemen are misinformed about the nature and the purpose of that war for independence.

The American Revolution was not an aggressive war. It was not an attack on England. The war for America's independence was, in every sense, a defensive war.

It was fought *to defend life, liberty, and property;* fought *to defend religious and civil freedom.* It was fought *to defend the colonists against the encroachments of king and parliament.* It was fought *to defend the American Christian's right to obey God rather than man.*

The revolution of 1776 was not a precipitous, humanistic rebellion. For ten years, from 1765 through 1775, the colonists engaged in a *great constitutional debate*—among themselves and with the parliament—about *the defense of their God-given, "unalienable" rights* (rights, incidentally, that were supposed to be protected by the English constitution).

Prayer and Divine Intervention

The prayer of the Americans during those years was that God would cause the king and parliament to see the error of their excesses and relent so that the colonists remain loyal to the crown. Their desire, indeed, was to be Englishmen. *But, God had other plans:* this land was to birth a new and independent nation. Through the 150 years of study in Biblical principles of self and civil government, and through the Great Awakening, He was preparing those early American Christians for the separation that was to come.

If nothing else were to substantiate these assertions (and there are countless documents and manuscripts that do) the manner in which the Lord God moved miraculously to bring *unity of purpose* among the 13 colonies, and the many instances of His *divine intervention* during the war-years...these speak more loudly than all the voices that claim the American Revolution was immoral and ungodly.

Is a Defensive War Sinful?

Once we understand that the American Revolution was a defensive war, the question arises, *"Is a defensive war*

Continued on Page Four

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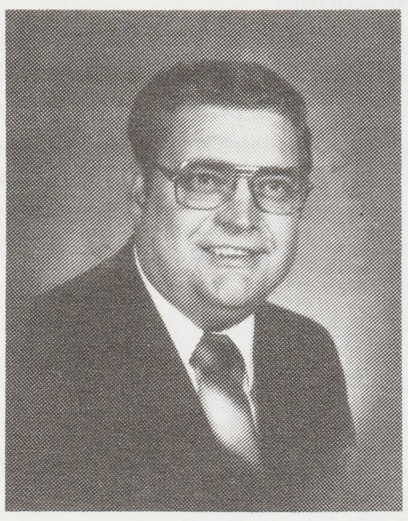
STATE OF THE UNION

By Dr. B. C. Gillispie



Dr. B. C. Gillispie

Bible-believing patriots who have bothered to become informed citizens have learned that when the President speaks to the populace in a "State of the Union Address," in reality we are not hearing of the true "state of the union." Through the most subtle and thorough devices ever employed against humanity, the United States over the last century has been the central target of the "prince of this world." I say the United States in particular for it has been the greatest bastion of freedom worldwide. Many citizens of other nations accept as a way of life the restrictions that Americans are now facing as a result of recent legislation and practices that are playing havoc with our traditionally-enjoyed American liberties. A case in point is the registration and control of church activities which has long been accepted policy in many European countries.

Scripture tells us that one of the names of Satan is the Deceiver. The art of deception is a subtle one indeed, and is nowhere evidenced more widely than in the maze of restrictions that now faces the twentieth-century Christian in the

Continued on Page Two

Inside . . .

22,000 Baptist Ministers Killed .. 2
State of Texas vs. Pastor Otwell .. 3
State of Texas vs. People's Baptist Church 4