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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SINS OF THE CHURCHES OF AMERICA

American Coalition of Unregistered Churches
Prayer and Fasting Convocation
Covington, Georgia
October 15-19, 1984

HAVING BEEN LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT to seek the Lord in a special week of prayer and fasting October 15-19, 1984, in Covington, Georgia, and to seek His blessings upon our lives, our ministries, and our nation in this day of great spiritual and moral crisis, we, in the fear of the Lord, have examined the state of the churches in America.

WE BELIEVE that the following sins, while not exhaustive, accurately describe the Sins of the Churches of America.

WE FURTHER BELIEVE that these sins have brought the churches to a state of spiritual powerlessness and our nation to the very brink of disaster and destruction.

1. The churches have sinned by denying the Lordship and Headship of Christ over His church by recognizing and co-mingling with other lords and heads. Incorporating, accepting licensure, receiving tax identification numbers, paying taxes, paying social security taxes, record keeping and tax collecting for the government, applying for and accepting government recognition and tax exemption are some of the manifestations of this sin.

2. The churches have sinned by failing to pray as commanded and taught and practiced throughout the Scriptures. Agonizing, travailing, interceding, prevailing, and unceasing prayer is no longer considered a vital and essential function of the churches. The sin of prayerlessness has brought the churches to a state of spiritual deadness, spiritual powerlessness, and spiritual bankruptcy.

3. The churches have sinned by dishonoring the Lord's day. Amusements, pleasure excursions, sports, entertainments, and other worldly excitements that have defiled the Lord's day have likewise invaded and defiled the churches.

4. The churches have sinned by failing to obey God's law.

5. The churches have sinned by failing to worship and praise the Lord as commanded in the Scriptures.

6. The churches have sinned by grieving the Holy Spirit. The convicting power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit have been replaced with human efforts and inventions, including contests, programs, movies, entertainment, and other appeals to the flesh.

7. The churches have sinned by pursuing popularity and social respectability and acceptability. This has resulted in compromise and the loss of the particular identity of the church.

8. The churches have sinned by substituting programs of Hollywood-style entertainment and an unscriptural emphasis on sports and social activities for sound scriptural preaching and worship.

9. The churches have sinned by becoming so program-oriented that they have weakened and destroyed family life by robbing families of essential time for family fellowship and activity.

10. The churches have sinned by endorsing and promoting an easy membership; this action has filled their membership rolls with unsaved, uncommitted, and worldly members.

11. The churches have sinned by condoning and failing to deal with the sins of divorce and remarriage, fornication, adultery, sodomy, and other sins of immorality that destroy marriages, families, and homes.

12. The churches have sinned by ignoring the sins of worldliness, such as public nudity, unisex and transvestite clothing, public swimming, movies, rock music, and other popular sins that have weakened and virtually destroyed the churches' testimony of Godly and scriptural separation and holiness.

13. The churches have sinned by failing to exercise the scriptural ministry of church discipline. This failure has encouraged sin and disobedience within the church, brought a reproach upon

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"Soviet Style Religious Freedom"

Dr. Robert McCurry

(Continued from last issue)

Examples Of Assault On Religious Freedom

The problem *continues* to proliferate across America at this very moment.

- Things have now reached such an intensity that a *State Court Judge had the Faith Baptist Church in Louisville, Nebraska padlocked on Sunday, September 13, 1981, because of a refusal to submit to state licensure and employ state certified teachers for its daily educational ministry.*
- Pastor Lester Roloff of the Peoples Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas was sentenced to jail three times, thrown in jail twice, and made to pay thousands of dollars in fines for refusing to secure a state license and submit the daily ministry of the church for wayward young people to the control of the state.
- Pastor David Holmes of the Miletus Church in Cross Plains, Texas served eleven days in jail for refusing to submit *all* church records, names and addresses of members, etc. to the Internal Revenue Service. The decision was later reversed by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. It is frightening that it could and did happen in America.
- Pastor Dale Dykema and the Church of Christian Liberty in Brookfield, Wisconsin continue to wage a battle to prevent the Internal Revenue Service from securing all of the church records—a case they won, but it has been appealed by the IRS.
- A large, unspecified number of churches across America have received extensive and probing questionnaires and directives from the Internal Revenue Service. These demand information about every aspect of their ministry and threaten them with the loss of tax-exempt status if they do not comply.
- The IRS refuses to recognize the ordination of ministers for Social Security exemption as provided by law if they are not a member of an IRS registered and approved church.
- The Tennessee Southern Baptist Convention has been fined over $14,000 for refusing to file Form 990 with the IRS because the IRS has determined that the children's home ministries are not "exclusively religious." The Convention has refused to file the form or pay the fine.
- Over 100 churches in California almost lost their property to the state for the collection of assessed taxes because they refused to file annual reports and answer extensive questionnaires involving their ministries.
- In Atlanta, Georgia it is illegal to conduct regularly scheduled Bible studies or prayer meetings without a government (city) license (permit). City Ordinance Section 16-9003 requires a church to secure a "special use permit" (license) to exist in a residential zone.
- In Franklin, N.J. a judge has banned church activities—preaching, praying or singing—at homes in single-family residential neighborhoods.
- The Department of Building and Safety for the City of Los Angeles issued "cease and desist" orders to two religious groups of approximately twenty persons each meeting in private residences for Bible

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Does The State Now Own Our Churches?

By Dr. Ron Tottingham

Effective January 1, 1984, a new Social Security Bill has been put into action. President Reagan has entered, the Congress and Senate passed, and again President Reagan has signed this new legislation. There have also been two Supreme Court rulings, one being the infamous Bob Jones decision. With this new legal framework the churches of America will be affected. The American Bar Association and other law reviewing organizations have been writing concerning how the courts and the law profession will now be viewing churches in light of this new legal structure.

There are a few very critical issues that I would like to raise in this article. Some of the following will be objective; some strongly subjective. Some of it is for you to draw your own opinion as you read it. Nonetheless, some of the issues are very sobering, of which you have the right to know.

First is the issue of public policy, or the ramifications of the Bob Jones decision. The judge stated that all religion *"must serve a public purpose and not be contrary to the established public policy."* In other words, what the judge is saying is that public policy overrides the Constitution of the United States of America. Thus any church or any ministry thereof that takes a position against public policy (according to the law reviews) and does not serve or encourage public policy, is declared a detriment to society. According to the court, it does not deserve the right of tax-exempt status.

On the other hand, we know that according to the Supreme Court, public policy now dictates that abortion is legally

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