

“The Year Of The Bible”

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In 1983, a joint session of Congress passed a resolution that was then signed by President Ronald Reagan declaring 1983 as “The Year Of The Bible In America.” A Federal Judge upheld the action as constitutional. In January 2012, Lawmakers in the State of Pennsylvania unanimously passed a similar resolution which declared 2012 as “The Year Of The Bible” in their State. We salute State Representative Rick Saccone for authoring this resolution.

The resolution recognizes the place of esteem and regard in which the Holy Bible has been held by both the Founders of the Nation and well-grounded individuals currently supporting and upholding “one nation under God.” Countless prayers have been raised in the assembly of the saints for governmental leaders who will assist in returning this Nation to its original roots where the Name and mention of the things of God are respected and viewed as sacred. Such prayers are eminently fitting as one can read in his own Bible, “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

High values are sometimes challenged by low people. Such is the case here, for a few days after the resolution discussed was passed a national atheist and agnostic group sued the State of Pennsylvania alleging that the resolution is unconstitutional. The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) not only urged the separation of church and State argument, which the founders of the nation would have been guilty of had the FFRF been around then not to mention that the country itself would very likely never have materialized had it been left up to people with values shared with the FFRF, but also stated disrespect for the Holy Bible by alleging that it contains “violent, sexist and racist models of behavior that FFRF members find personally repugnant.” The FFRF said in the lawsuit that the teachings of the Bible “potentially could encourage persons who rely on them to act in a manner harmful to them and others” (www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/03/27/atheists-sue-pennsylvania...).

The basis of the FFRF’s case rests on a logical fallacy known as “hasty generalization” where scant information emblazons a sweeping generalization. In the textbook of Stephen F. Barker with the Department of Philosophy at Johns Hopkins University, following a similar example he observed, “Here his reasoning is illogical, for he has based a sweeping generalization upon very slight evidence; the probability of the conclusion relative to his data really is very low, yet he states his conclusion as though it were highly probable. His mistake is that he leaps to a conclusion on the basis of very little evidence” (*The Elements of Logic*, 2nd ed. (1974) McGraw-Hill Book Company, p. 230). This assessment is very charitable in regard to the FFRF’s complaint because *no* evidence from the Bible has been presented from which to draw such a conclusion.

Motivation to confront and teach atheists and agnostics like these emerges from our Lord's statement on the Cross where he uttered the words, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). This is precisely why the mission of the church is so important to our society and world today. For, in commissioning His disciples Jesus said, "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name *among all nations*, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46-47, emphasis added).