



# Christian Report

To Win...To Disciple...To Equip...To Win

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## Crisis at the Constitutional Convention—by Bob Flynn

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The contemporary enemies of Christianity and our great nation often lean to a revisionist history in order to promote the endemic gerrymanders that seek to cause the ultimate demise of both. Why is it that so many should endeavor to bury the foundation stones of our nation beneath the graveyard created in the image of an autonomous mankind? Perhaps the words of a devout and prominent secular humanist educator, John J. Dunphy will enlighten us:

**“I am convinced that the battle for humankind’s future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith; a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level—preschool day care or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new—the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new**

**faith of humanism, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never-realized Christian ideal of ‘love thy neighbor’ will be finally achieved.” John J. Dunphy, “A Religion for a New Age,” The Humanist (January/February 1983), 26**

From this rhetoric, it is not hard to see that a revisionist history is required to distance an unknowing population from the very Providence that gives life and breath to our sinews. As a product of the public school system, I had come to believe that our forefathers were not Christians but deists. According to Noah Webster a deist is: “One who believes in the existence of a God, but denies revealed religion, but follows the light of nature and reason as his only guides in doctrine and practice; a free-thinker.”

Now let us consider the words of one of these “deists” as he endeavors to help his fellow countrymen find a way around an impasse that was, in a very real sense, about to sink the ship of state before it was launched. History tells us that in the morning hours of June 28, 1787, Dr. Ben Franklin gave the following address to the Continental Congress:

**“Mr. President—The slow progress we have made, after four or five weeks’ close attendance and continual reasoning with each other—our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many nays as yeas—is, methinks, a**

**melancholy proof of the imperfection of human understanding. We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of government, and examined the different forms of those republics which, having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution, now no longer exist. And we have viewed modern states all round Europe, but find none of their constitutions suitable to our circumstances.**

**In this situation of this assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for the Divine protection. Our prayers, sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting**

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## Crisis at the Constitutional Convention—by Bob Flynn

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in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?

I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, that 'Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided by our little, partial, local

interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves become a reproach and byword down to future ages. And, what is worse, mankind may hereafter, from this unfortunate circumstance, despair of establishing governments by human wisdom, and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service." (*The Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions*



of the United States; *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Benjamin Franklin, LL.D.* and <http://www.house.gov/forbes/prayer/prayerincongress.htm>)

Dr. Benjamin Franklin, LL.D. is known to have held many unorthodox religious views throughout his life. However, his quotation of Psalm 127 and overt statement that "God governs in the affairs of men," and his paraphrase of the Savior's words from

Matthew 10:29, leads me to believe that his faith journey had arrived and his beliefs had matured to the point where he believed in more than some impersonal, far-away God. Rather, his assertions were to the contrary that the Lord Jesus Christ intervenes in the affairs of men.

## The Nuggets of Faith— by SMSgt Tony (T-Bar) Barnes, USAF

Ever have one of those weeks where nothing seems to go right? This week, I celebrated "passover" in mid-November. No, I am not referring to a Jewish holiday. Passover in the military context is an unofficial custom that refers to being denied a promotion. I celebrated this "passover" after learning I had failed to be selected for promotion to the grade of E-9 as I had anticipated. I think we label it a "celebration" to somehow soothe the pain of rejection.

As a result, I decided to address this month's column to the issue of failure in a Christian's life. Looking for a good illustration of someone else failing, I stumbled across a recent pastor's article which claimed that General Douglas MacArthur failed twice to gain admission to West Point. I wanted to verify the pastor's assertion through research, and I even failed at that. After hours, I finally admitted I couldn't find the supporting data to use it as an actual illustration.

It was also a tough week for David when he returned to his home of Ziklag in the Old Testament. In I Samuel 30, David and his men returned to find the village destroyed by fire and their wives

and children taken hostage. The Bible says David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. Not



only must David have felt a failure for not protecting his two wives, but after they had wept David's men grew bitter in spirit and began conspiring to stone him.

Imagine your wife and children being held hostage while all your friends and colleagues conspire to kill you. Could you respond as the future King David did? Most of us would either run or seek a weapon to take out many of our sudden adversaries and preempt their first blow. Yet, the Bible tells us that David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.

The story continues to relate that God assured David that if he pursued the Amalekites, he would be able to rescue his wives. David could have become discouraged in the face of such adversity. But, in his intimate relationship with God, he received assurance and courage to not give up.

In the face of my not being promoted, I could give up. I could submit my retirement papers in frustration. Or, I can choose to acknowledge the

timeless truth in Psalm 75. For years, I have made it a practice to read this Psalm before my annual trek into the promotion testing room. Psalm 75: 6 – 7 says, "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."

I can choose to believe that promotions are decided at a military headquarters. Or, I can acknowledge that it's really God who determines the promotion list. And, if I truly believe it is Him who decides whether I am promoted or not...then I must understand that He has His sovereign reasons. I can fight against it and be upset for being passed over, or I can embrace His will for my life and trust that if I am to be an E-9 in the military, He will ensure it happens in His perfect time. God already knows which rank I will wear at my eventual retirement ceremony.

### Promotions

MGySgt Steve Austin, USMCR  
MSgt Mark Dawson, USAF  
1stLt Imie Mark, III, USAF  
MAJ Jimmy Mullinax, USA

## Marriage and Family—Wives, Submit—Written to Husbands—by Bob Flynn

### “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:22 NET).

The greatest problem with this verse—and the concepts there illuminated—is the English language itself! For this very reason it has been misused, abused and wrongly applied for over 1900 years. I suppose we could fill a library with what it *doesn't* mean. However, critical thinking would preclude trying to describe something by referencing what it is NOT.

Our first observation is that the words “husbands” and “wives” does not appear in the original language—and with good reason! A woman is NOT called to submit to *all* men but rather, “A woman to A man” – A wife to HER husband! This is what the text says. This in itself should dismiss a great deal that has been wrongly inferred through the centuries.

If we look at what I call the Greek “Hupo” words (words that are preceded by the prefix “hupo”), we begin to see the problem with a consistent concept being rightly translated from the original to the English without losing the full flavor of the meaning or adding error in the process. The word “hupo” means “by” or “under.” When added to other words it *adds to* or *amplifies* the meaning of the word to which it is joined. Let us use a familiar word as an example. The word “hupomone,” is translated “patience, patient continuance, or long-suffering.” The question we need to answer then, is what is “mone,” that we should be “by” or “under” it? Thayer’s Greek Definitions yields the following: “G3438 mon-ay, a staying, abiding, dwelling, abode; to makes one’s abode; a metaphor for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer.” Therefore, G5281 hupomone means literally then to “abide under,” “to bear up courageously under suffering” (Vines) – a rather robust definition not fully captured by the word patience!

As we return our focus to Ephesians 5:22, it will help us in our understanding if we look to a list of words that were **not** chosen to be used here and discover something significant:

- Hupeiko - under yield, submit
- hupoballo - suborn
- hupodeiknumi- admonish
- hupodeo - to underbind - bind under one’s self - bind on
- hupodema - what is bound under

- sandal
- hupodikos - under sentence, condemned
- hupozugion - under the yoke - a beast of burden
- hupozonnumi - under gird
- hupopodion - under foot, foot-rest, footstool (definitely not this one)
- hupostasis - a setting or placing under - foundation - support - the substantial quality or nature of a person or thing
- hupostello - withhold under - cower or shrink
- hupotage - subordination - subjection (Listen up men!)

The intent, then, of the word in this passage is NOT to convey suborning, admonishing, binding on or under, condemn, to yoke or burden, footstool, placing under, cower or shrink, subordination or subjection. Rather the word joined in our verse is: “tasso - to arrange in an orderly manner, that is to assign, addict, appoint, determine, ordain, or set.”

Imagine that! The God of the universe considers that within the Body of Christ, the Husband and Wife should be arranged in an orderly manner! When the co-pilot submits or yields to the pilot, is that a bad thing? They are both capable of guiding the aircraft. But could you imagine what it would be like if they were fighting each other at the controls?

Since Paul was a linear thinker, we understand that this verse is a logical extension of the previous verse: “And further, submit (*same word*) to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21 NLT. In fact, in the earlier manuscripts, the verb in question does not appear in verse 22 but is implied from verse 21. Perhaps it would be good here to introduce the husband and wife to each other as “one another”! Two persons, created in the image of God, joined into one flesh, in mutual submission or yieldedness to each other out of reverence for Christ — who have been arranged in an orderly manner!

**In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers**

**will not be hindered. | Peter 3:7 NLT**

**God has made one woman to become a wife to one man, and she is so constituted by God Himself. But this is not due to her being inferior to her husband, for they are both equal before God. It is a willing, personal subjection demonstrated in Eph 5:21, “submitting yourselves [hupotassómenoi] one to another in the fear of God.” The word translated “one to another” is “allelois” (G240), in the plural dative, indicating equality of all concerned. In society all humans, all men and women in various positions of leadership or following and dependence, are equal, yet their functions vary and their responsibilities are diverse. We are all equal before God and the laws of society, and yet we have varying functions and responsibilities. If we accept certain functions under a fellow-human, we must subject ourselves to that individual to accomplish a common goal. So it is with a wife placing herself in the proper and divinely-fitted position under her husband. Only a wife can bear children, and to do this she must subject (hupotássetai) herself to her husband. The functions are equally important although different. And they are different not because we want them to be, but because God made them to be so. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary, Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D., General Editor)**

For us men to fully understand this concept of wives willingly submitting, we must recognize that we ourselves are the bride of Christ! We have this very same obligation to submit to our husband—who is Christ himself! In so doing, we may recognize that out of the fullness of that union we will understand that we are created to be **givers**. We can give to our wives the love of Christ that is so great it cannot be measured. Then we will discover that our wives are created to be **responders**. When our wives are loved with an unending love, they will respond!

What is the aroma of your marriage? Is it honeysuckle covered by a morning dew or something that lies dead in the tomb?

### Association of Military Christian Fellowships Prayer Ministry

**"Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, 'above all that we ask or think'. Each time, before you Intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!" Andrew Murray**

With great affections filling our hearts, we feel the Holy Spirit is calling us to build a **great wall of prayer** around our military. This past year our dear brothers and sisters in the Military Christian Fellowship of Canada followed this same leading to mobilize their nation to pray for the military. As they became obedient to this heavenly calling upon their hearts to pray, God responded abundantly above that which they could dream or ask.

This year the Association of Military Christian Fellowships, in partnership with the Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching and Service (ACCTS), Officers' Christian Fellowship, and Christian Military Fellowship are prayerfully seeking to mobilize the United States of America to pray for our military.

Next year we are hoping that our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will open the floodgates of His bountiful Grace upon our hearts that we may be able to join with the other MCF's from our neighboring countries to build a **wall of prayer** around North America that will culminate in an AMCF North American Regional Conference in August of 2009.

When I read the accounts of the Welch Revival, the one thing that stuck in my memory was the way that the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of the people bringing them to prayer. The comment held in common by these believers who went before us is that they "could feel God's purpose in the air."

Check out the ACCTS website for the PowerPoint presentation that further explains this calling to prayer, and the prayer map where you can become a part of the team as well.  
<http://www.accts.org>

### New Members

Mr. Dave & Melody Addington, Jr.  
Mr. Geoff Andrews  
IT2 Brian & Crystal Avent, USN  
LT Ed & Lisa Bass, CHC, USN  
SSgt Rex & Lori Baum, USAF (Ret)  
MCPO Dan Benitez  
SrA Josh & Terrie Brown, USAF  
Mr. Tim & Penny Carithers, Jr.  
Mrs. Denise Cunningham  
MSgt Keith & Maria Elston, USAF

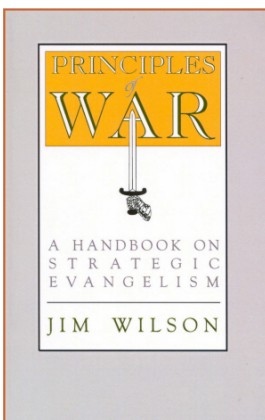
CW2 Tom & Shirley Endres, USA (Ret)  
Mr. Bob & Michele Glidden  
Mrs. Kristin Ives  
SSG John & Jennifer Jenkins, USA  
CPT Dick & Rachele Jones, NG  
Mr. Eric Lewis  
SSG Jason & Christine Lister, USA  
SGT Tracy & Ciria Lostaunau, USAR  
PO1 Andy & Anell Massey, USN  
Mrs. Chrys & Scott Miller  
SPC Richard & Adria Moore, USA  
Maj. Toby & Jennifer Moore, USMC  
SSgt Charly & Trish Moralez, USMC  
FCCM (SW) Tim & Sue Morris, USN (Ret)  
PO2 David & Melissa Sexton, USCG  
MSgt Lance & Theresa Turner, USAF  
LT Betty Ulmer, USN

### Financially Speaking

**"Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in His kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem." (2 Corinthians 8:1-4 NLT)**

### Principles of War — A Handbook on Strategic Evangelism — by Jim Wilson

**W**ar is ancient. It has been fought in primitive tribes, world-wide conflicts, and in Heaven itself. The Lord Jesus Christ says that wars and rumors of wars will be with us until the end. The Christian faces its presence in all forms, but we especially fight for the souls of a world enslaved to sin. Our Commander-in-Chief will decide when this war is over. Until then, we can be thankful that war has been around long enough for Christians to learn something. Since we cannot end it, ignore it, or surrender, it is of some



importance that we learn how to win.

**"In the study of warfare, great men have concluded that there are some overriding principles that, if followed, will always tend toward success in battle, and with equal certainty, if neglected or ignored, will tend toward defeat or even destruction. These principles have been entitled, "the principles of war."**

**All except the most foolish know that in war, it is imperative that those involved apply the principles as the key to assured victory in our spiritual warfare.**

**In the true military style of being brief, perspicuous, and succinct, the author plunges the reader with power, point-blank into the fight—a very present**

**institution. The enemy is Satan, the objective is the acknowledgment and fulfillment of the commandments of God, and the ammunition is the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**The Christian, clothed in the whole armor of God and applying these pertinent guiding principles of warfare—is an army, a communication system, a weapon to be used and a soldier to participate forcibly in the battle, to the glory of our Lord." Granville A. Sharpe, Colonel, Infantry**

**T**his book is offered free to our membership while they last. You may order this and other resources from the "Resources" page of our website or call our toll-free number: 1-800-798-7875.

**"In war then, let your great object be victory, not lengthy campaigns."**