

Study Two: Christianity and the West

- The spiritual basis of limited government
 - Western civilization is built on Christianity
 - Our society is biblically illiterate
 - People no longer know the literature, philosophy, and history of the West
 - The worst kind of thinking is someone who thinks they know these things but doesn't
 - The West is built on Athens and Jerusalem
 - Athens: Greece and pre-Christian Rome
 - Jerusalem: Judaism and Christianity
 - Barbarians, not Christianity destroyed Athens
 - There is a Christian ideal of keeping church and state separate which is quite different from the one currently espoused
 - Christianity claims there is one God for everyone
 - Islam extends monotheism into a theocracy
 - Christianity argues for two realms: earth and heaven
 - Heaven is the ultimate kingdom which gives some authority to earthly kingdoms
 - Earthly kingdoms power is defined and limited
 - There are places where earthly government cannot go
 - Tell you what political party to belong to
 - Tell you what religion to be
 - There are places where heavenly government chooses not to go
 - God has given earthly government responsibilities
 - When the lines are crossed, there has been abuses
 - We will not establish God's Kingdom on this earth, that is not the goal
 - This world comes with the choice of accepting or rejecting the good (i.e. Adam and Eve)
 - In the USA, the government is meant to stay out of theology
 - And yet the founders understood they were building on Christian principles
 - The founders also understood the government's need to define morality
 - Today, the freedom of expression of religion has become the freedom from expressing religion
 - Christianity and human fallibility
 - Christianity gave the West the concept of human fallibility
 - People are fallible
 - People have value

- The problem of evil is a problem of the will, Romans 7:19
 - Greek and Roman cultures put down the lowly man
 - Christ set a different example
 - Christianity allowed society to see the world from the view of the ordinary man
 - Christianity built in safeguards for sin and for the ordinary
 - For the first time, family became a godly calling, not a duty
 - Through the analogy of Christ and the Church, love was introduced into the marriage relationship
 - Respect for others led to mutually agreed upon marriages
 - Uniform laws were developed in society
 - Separation of powers address this issue
 - Mark 10:43 became the basis of the servant leader
 - Capitalism arose from the desire to let the ordinary man better himself
 - Capitalism is not selfish, the people who operate it are
 - Christianity built the first hospitals
- The origin of human dignity
 - Christianity brought out the dignity of all human beings
 - To give up Christianity is to endanger this value
 - Greek and Roman culture did not value human life
 - In the ancient world, women had little value
 - Christianity introduced equality in marriage laws
 - Christians began to fight slavery...how can a person be a slave and a brother/sister in Christ
 - Galatians 3:28
 - Christianity introduced the idea of individual freedom
 - Each person is a free moral agent
 - You can express your opinion
 - You can buy/sell property
 - You can choose your own career
- If you remove the foundation, you remove the values