

2024-04-23 - John Tyler

Prayer

Bible - 1 Corinthians 15:45-47 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Quiz

1. In what century was Andrew Jackson born? 18th (1767)
2. As a very young man, Andrew Jackson served as a courier in what war? Revolutionary or War for Independence
3. As a general, first of the Tennessee militia, then of the US Army, in what war did he famously defeat the British in Florida and at New Orleans? War of 1812
4. When Andrew Jackson was elected president in 1828, what person close to him died before he took office? his wife Rachel
5. On his last day in office, to what new country did Andrew Jackson give formal diplomatic recognition? The Republic of Texas
6. BONUS: What was the name of Andrew Jackson's home in Tennessee, where he came to faith in Christ later in life? The Hermitage

Recitation

President - John Tyler (1790-1862)
tenth president (1841-45)

1790 born in Virginia - his father, John Tyler, was friend and college roommate of Thomas Jefferson
1797 mother died when he was 7; he was sickly as a child
homeschooled by tutors; age 12 went to William and Mary high school and college; graduated age 17
age 19, became a lawyer in Richmond
1811 entered politics age 21 Virginia state legislator, governor, US representative, US senator
1813 organized a militia company as its captain; saw no action
married Letitia Christian; had eight children; she died of a stroke in the White House
two years later, married Julia Gardiner
-her father had been killed in an accident
-she fainted
-Jackson carried her to safety himself
-they had seven children (youngest born 1860 when Tyler was 70)
1840 elected vice president
1841 became president upon death of President William Henry Harrison
1845 signed bill offering statehood to Texas

Text - letter July 10, 1843 regarding religious liberty

Letter from President John Tyler to Joseph Simpson

Mr. Simpson, to whom the letter is written, was a prominent Jew of Baltimore, MD., and the matter of his complaint had relation to General Scott, then General of the United States army, presiding at a missionary conference.

Washington, July 10, 1843

Dear Sir,

The Notice which you mention in your letter of the 3d instant has only been called to my attention by your reference to it. I presume that it is nothing more than a contemplated assemblage of certain officers of the army and navy in their character of citizens and Christians, having for its object the inculcation upon others of their religious tenets, for, as they believe, the benefit and advantage of Mankind. A similar call on the part of any other religious sect would be alike tolerated under our institutions. The Government has nothing to do with the publication, nor has it issued from any one of the departments. Whether General Scott is to preside over the meeting, I am not in any way other than through your letter informed. If he attends, it will not and cannot be in his character of General in Chief of the army. He will necessarily for the time being lay aside his sword and epaulets, and appear, it is true, as a distinguished citizen, but in no other light than as a citizen. Was he a Hebrew and of the same tribe with yourself, his right to preside in your synagogue, if permitted or required by your laws would in no manner affect him in his military character; nor would it make him obnoxious to the censure of the Government for so doing. The United States have adventured upon a great and noble experiment, which is believed to have been hazarded in the absence of all previous precedent — that of total separation of Church and State. No religious establishment by law exists among us. The conscience is left free from all restraint and each is permitted to worship his Maker after his own judgment. The offices of the Government are open alike to all. No tithes are levied to support an established hierarchy, nor is the fallible judgment of man set up as the sure and infallible creed of faith. The Mohammedan, if he were to come among us, would have the privilege guaranteed to him by the constitution to worship according to the Koran ; and the East Indian might erect a shrine to Brahma if it so pleased him. Such is the spirit of toleration inculcated by our political institutions. The fruits are visible in the universal contentment which everywhere prevails. Christians are broken up into various sects, but we have no persecution, no stake or rack — no compulsion or force, no furious or bigoted zeal; but each and all move on in their selected sphere, and worship the Great Creator according to their own forms and ceremonies. The Hebrew persecuted and down trodden in other regions takes up his abode among us with none to make him afraid. He may boast, as well he can, of his descent from the Patriarchs of Old — of his wise men in council, and strong men in Battle. He may ever more turn his eye to Judea resting with confidence on the promise that is made him of his restoration to that Holy Land, and he may worship the God of his fathers after the manner that that worship was conducted by Aaron and his successors in the priesthood, and the AEGIS of the Government is over him to defend and protect him. Such is the great experiment which we have tried, and such are the happy fruits which have resulted from it ; our system of free government would be imperfect without it.

The body may be oppressed and manacled and yet survive; but if the mind of man be fettered, its energies and faculties perish, and what remains is of the earth, earthy. Mind should be free as the light or as the air.

While I remain connected with the Government be assured, Sir, that so far as the Executive action is concerned, the guarantees of the Constitution in this great particular will know no diminution.

For your kind expression of good will towards me personally, I beg you to accept my thanks along with my best wishes for your health and happiness.

John Tyler

Underlining by JRY; quote from 1 Corinthians 15:47, KJV.

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