

Revolution is Revival

"In the declaratory exordium which prefaces the Declaration of Rights we see the solemn and majestic spectacle of a nation opening its commission, under the auspices of its Creator, to establish a Government, a scene so new, and so transcendently unequalled by anything in the European world, that the name Revolution is diminutive of its character, and it rises into a regeneration of man."

Thomas Paine, The Rights of Man

"The first and greatest commandment of government is to love liberty. The second is like it—to love your neighbor's as your own. All the law and constitutions hang from these two pillars, from which no crown can conceive a gallows."

Viktor Perez Chilon

Podcast: [Project Schoolhouse - Fort Wayne](#)

Podcast: [The Precipice](#)

Introduction

Christians are profoundly ignorant of government. We proclaim the hope of the world, as if it were the enemy of the state. We practice the administration of the Gospel like a cult; we're a rambunctious, ever growing enigma to the world. We've let a deep state convert us into a mysterious club, as they have has granted us a 501© 3. Afraid to lose our tax-exempt status, we avoid any mention of politics from the pulpit. Pastors preach the tithe, but can't address politics. Ushers take donations, but donors have limited rights in appropriation. High and mighty ministries need hundred dollar bills to continue, but have zero respect for Dr. Franklin who is staring back with a doleful look of disgust. We think we have perfected our theologies or methodologies, our execution of ministry. Truthfully, we have totaled our vehicle, the means to carry the gospel—the executive, the legislative and the judicial branch is a Holy Trinity that crashed and burned on our watch. Dropping the ruling scepter was our biggest fumble...ever. *Wake up—when Israel came out of Egypt, the church was the state; nothing has changed but our affections for the job. When we left the government, we left the church.*

Ever since Moses, Ezra, Nehemiah, Thomas Jefferson or Alexander Hamilton, governing has been a rightful extension of God's hand. It was plain that God commanded Moses to form a civil government (Exodus 18, Proverbs 11:14), and the Puritans, upon their arrival, made haste to replicate this biblical model. But the modern western church is skipping down the yellow brick road, hoping a man or a minister can save us. A president, a pastor, a board, a major, a congressmen, a tsar or a wizard. Christian's think, rather hope that governing is not their job—as if brushing shoulders with senators is a privilege and not a right; that ruling is a vile unnecessary evil and not our Christian duty. I've heard proud ministers say, "I need

no king! I need no Saul to rule over me". Well, if they had any brains in that head, they'd recognize that they desperately need a government. I'd further question this Nebuchadnezzar—do you not have a retirement account affected by national politics? Do you not have a business, mortgage or grandchildren affected by state and federal politics? Do you not drive on roads, eat at restaurants or stop when you see red and blue flashing lights? How many churches have a building loan? Maybe you friend, are the Wizard of Oz himself, and you simply need to float away in your hot air balloon, back to the "land of E Pluribus Unum".

Immersed in a rich faith establishment, our nation, and national body of Christ remains wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. A couple Gideonites are catching on, running for offices; Jack and Jill went to Capitol Hill, to run in the election, Jack fell down and broke his crown, his wife came tumbling after. Thinking a local or state office was a cushy throne easily surrendered, they got their butts handed to them. So Jack went down, in a priestly gown, never overturning abortion. Losing that first election, some gave up. The Christians that might have voted for them? Well, they're the spunky millennials chasing the revival (Emerald City) in a valley of poppies. "Jesus saves! Jesus Saves!" says the progressive Jesus people. Well, Jesus can save a man's soul, but it takes a holy trinity to save a nation.

*"For the Lord is our judge, The Lord is our lawgiver, The Lord is our king;
It is he who will save us."
Isaiah 33:22*

The judiciary, the legislature and the executive—the holy trinity we fumbled at our youth group super bowl party. A cord of three strands is not easily broken, but our three branches of government are falling into chaos. Do judges have heart? Do lawmakers have brains? Do executives have kingly courage? We approach government, church and missions from a positional leadership perspective, hoping to implore some wizard pastor or mighty government official. Maybe the Wizard of Oz can make all our personal convictions a societal reality. Maybe a pastor can pray away abortion. Maybe a prayer ministry can pray away a pandemic. But God will not send any manna in this wilderness, because it would spoil us and render us even more useless than we already are. Good government!—the world doesn't know how to drive that vehicle. We hit cruise control for them and bailed out. We wrote a letter, hosted a prayer breakfast, and gave a few bucks; we pat them on the back and returned to our "revival", our "kingdoms". Reader, government is Godly because Government was ordained of God. Government is our Christian identity and sacred trust—not a secular pursuit passed down by men in white wigs. *The Christian mind makes no connection with revival and the establishment of government. They gag when I say "this revolution is our revival."*

Chasing Revival

Today's Christians have no idea what a revival looks like. In America, none of us have ever seen a national move of God in our lifetime. It goes beyond gay

marriage, or the high crimes of the Democratic Party. As far as national revival, only glimpses, silver linings here and there. Take note of this—the first great awakening immediately preceded the American Revolution (1730-1755). And, the second awakening (1790-1840) succeeded it. In the west, Christians are waiting for the next “revival” (assuming God must send one), sound asleep in their American dream. Modern Christians, slobbering drunk on “new wine”, are severely malnourished in their souls. They are milk-babies, bordering on little or no American History or church history; sheep wandering in church foyers, conferences and concerts. We are comfortable and approving of the jean culture—Levi’s establishment (pun for Levitical priesthood). Will pastors wearing trendy attire bring America Revival? Will coffee bars and fog machines save us from a rising super state? Will another non-profit organization produce the tithe or prolong our impact? Who will champion revival for us? Disconnected from courage, we follow the yellow brick road. Like the lion, scarecrow and tin-man, we seek council with a wizard who can fix this mess.

If anything can be learned from American history, it’s that the Church never was, and never did perceive itself as separate from the state. The church always was the answer to despotic governments. Over time, what was common sense to Ezra and Nehemiah is either an impossible crusade or a taboo topic today. Government is the power of God, but we aren’t using it. *The growing sentiment of “we’ll just keep being the church, and the world will just keep being the world” needs to die.* This essay will illuminate our next steps. 2020 is hindsight, and I beseech you to look back even further.

The Establishment

Certainly the Assemblies of God, or any sizable, national denomination are not a universal papacy of hegemonic horrors. Still, the ratio of size to our national impact screams of pure impotence. The American Church presents as massive as the early Catholic Empire, and our programs and pleasantries resemble her same deceitful indulgences. Maybe if we just keep “giving to the establishment” we will save America; if we keep “giving to missions” we will save the world. When no one is giving tithes, we indulge in bake sales and fund raisers, hoping to make ends meet. *We can’t serve God and money too. Some of us will have to leave our jobs in ministry to administer public funds in righteousness.* Lower taxes makes for higher tithes.

We know that size and money can’t earn salvation; Martin Luther made this clear long ago, and still today, most Christian denominations properly adhere to salvation through faith alone. Still, we must entertain the possibility (rather the blatantly obvious) that *our establishment* is ineffective. What have we built over here in the west? Have we built a tower of babel with thousands of denominations, tongues and prophetic voices? Or have we built an an ark? Maybe seminary has become an ark of the covenant, an expensive gold box full of parchments—the dissertations and PhDs we parade around with? Pursuing revival like gypsies, maybe we’ve build a tabernacle, a nomadic church culture, roaming from church to conference, event to event? And the latest fad, the digital church; terabytes of

teachings, podcasts and live meetings. Well, we can't serve two masters. Luther's disparate remnant is more divided than Washington DC, and since 1973, we have killed as many American babies as WW2 claimed human lives.

What if

What if revival was bigger and stronger; what if revival is more ridged and robust, more stalwart than the church were building? What if revival was a longsuffering pursuit, gradually forming a seamless, strong, autonomous body of Christ across denominations, cultures and ethnicities? What if this power source of God's glory was funded by free markets, secured by clear borders and defended with actual military garrisons? Good laws on the books, and good news in the air, directed to the nations and protected under constitutional rights? I promise you, the three hundred or even twenty thousand gathering at your church, serving under by your elected board, made sovereign by your church constitution (rather fettered by Satan's 501©3) is no such organization. Fed up with government, the Church created a fake version. Fed up with the real, they are caught up in the surreal fantasy of uniting all Christians and reprobate civilians into one proper expression of faith. This is the togetherness doctrine in full force—the vestiges of an expanding Roman system, hardly tolerating a pure Christian presence. Our withering Western meritocracy is directly to blame by bad "kingdom theology", and the death count rests my case.

Christians are mad at the government. Getting furious is proper for a time; but if there is no fruit, then we will fall as a nation. Do we want a third awakening in America, or a third Reich? Even conservative media feels and sounds like pure anarchy; the wild and defamatory rhetoric of each outlet, showing no love and making no coverts. Just what are we building? Thomas Paine made it clear in 1791, when he wrote,

"I am inclined to believe that what is called the present ministry, wish to see contentions about religion kept up, to prevent the nation turning its attention to subjects of government. It is as if they were to say, 'Look that way, or any way, but this.'"

Maybe the church we have built in the west is the result of our philosophical understanding of *America*. Having Moses as the biblical framer of government, maybe we westerners should study some history? Many Christians have no understanding of east, west, north or south; no geography, world history or comprehension of national sovereignty period. Families, cities, neighborhoods are ravaged. If the state of our union is in shambles, then each believer is partially culpable. It's not for lack of effort, but of understanding (and a lot of empathy). This knowledge might bring sorrow, but carry on—I have not brought my formal charges forward. I'd rather proclaim this with pride, than edify you to death.

Indictment

Still failing to understand the marriage of Christ and kingdom, church and state, we hold to a form of Godliness while denying its power. We hold our services, host our events, while denying the power within us. We prophesy or pray over a civil leader, and that's it. Our willful departure from governing has rendered our religious observations just that—sermons, songs and dance. I think Amos had something to say about a church that excelled in the musical arts, while justice was perverted or ignored (Amos 5:21-24). The theatrics (from the perspective of the world) of the Pentecostal is quite a comical pantomime; the political puppets moving under Satan's strings couldn't give a care—we don't vote let alone run against them. In our religious deception, we thought the fivefold ministry was more powerful than the District of Columbia. *If we are to be Christ in the world, maybe the government was placed on our shoulders?* Brace yourself for the grand indictment:

The Protestant reformation was a revolution of Luther's day, but her surviving vestiges are the over organized, under performing bastard children—the worthless aristocracies of the modern American clergy. Not knowing how to handle politics like Ezra and Nehemiah, we formed a Monarchy and called it "the kingdom of God".

Yes—a big church is a monarchy (separate paper). In 1517, Luther's 95 was breakthrough, divulging to the masses, an original truth of salvation through faith alone. Five centuries later, in 2021, the remnant of reformation is a lukewarm aristocracy: a private school, university or center for ministry; businesses and seminaries—cold hearted, brick and mortar establishments of silence. We don't protest. We don't build on the fundamentals. We are hidebound, hell bound, spellbound sheep without a shepherd. We've made His precious body a brand, and His holy temple a good ole boys club. Golf outings, fundraisers and heartwarming holiday productions. Revival? Hardly. PHD's? Pathetic. This is country club Christianity without the accompanying political power our forefathers foraged for us in the wilderness of their callings. How dare we divide the sacred texts into "Old" and "New"? From the very first commandment, we were called to build civilization (Genesis 1:28). The "bride", (the body of Christ) is an ancient metaphor which we have maligned into a building—a promised nation we have neglected in our organizational idolatry.

Jeremiah 2:1-2

"I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through a wilderness, through the wilderness, through a land not sown."

The bride in the wilderness was commissioned to build! The land of Canaan had plenty of wells, houses and vineyards for the taking. What they did not have was a Godly government. (Deuteronomy 6:11, Joshua 24:13, 2 Samuel 7:10, 1 Chronicles 17:9). This power vacuum in our nation, absent of Godly leaders has been filled with biblical types (Ahab, Jezebel, Absalom). Babylon has risen on our poor understanding of revival. The election fraud hasn't set well with many bible

believing Christians. They want to see change, but haven't moved from anger to action. We haven't flipped any tables yet, or voted out any political incumbents. Maybe Jesus used a whip, because he was foreshadowing the future need for a majority whip in your statehouse? Maybe the 153 fish in John 21:11 represents the total number of governmental branches across all fifty states? (50 states x 3 branches + three federal branches of government).

Angry Christians—they're not making enough impact. We complain, but incumbents don't care. We sing, but no one hears; we dance, but not naked, we preach, but darkness is not shaken. Moreover, we tithe, but were in debt, we marry, but divorce, we work, but we are losing our promised inheritance. What the hell is going on? You might spring up, full of piss and vinegar and cry out for revival. Ugh! That word revival, begs to question...what in the world is it? Seminary grads who studied Luther's 95 theses, are now scavenging for an n95 mask to cover their mouth. What an amazing object lesson of just how silent and stupid we are, as we hide from the coronavirus pandemic. We are more afraid of Covid-19 than the Planned Parenthood downtown. One virus kills < 1% of the elderly, while the other kills 100% of babies). Heck, early in the crisis, we were persuaded to stop meeting in the building, while abortion centers would rocking and rolling. God is getting our attention, the way he always did with his prophets and apostles; with a loud and proud history lesson. Every single time Israel backslid, obstinate men took to the stage. What did they do? They taught a comprehensive history that left the religious leaders plugging their ears and calling for security (Acts 7).

Revival is a Blanket

What is revival? Well, spiritual revival is a blanket statement and very broad term. But spiritual breakthrough, is what engenders national breakthrough. Revival is a protective covering, much like a gigantic Amish quilt. *Not too long ago, richly colored and beautifully stitched patches of revival covered the United States like the swaddling clothes for a "coming baby".* The first great awakening (1730-1755) was a covering, like a quilt for the "coming messiah". The early American colonies, among their rudimentary dwellings spawned pockets and patches of revival; these movements were not the messiah, just the ragged manger and humble swaddling clothes. *The precious promised child was the baby—the emerging Republic, the United States of America.* Every Herod and Pharaoh of the day tried to abort this firstborn child. Therefore, spiritual revival was like a large quilt that kept a new baby warm and safe leading into, and coming out of a revolutionary age.

Revival needs a Cause

Revival is like cash, a spiritual currency immediately useful to the man. It invigorates, esteems, and energizes the soul. Revival heals a man and his family, but revival cannot stop there. Like not getting taxed by a tyrant, revival forms resistance. The obvious truth to the 18th century apostles and prophets was this: *America did not just need revival...revival needed an America.* No, the United States is not the center of the world, nor the only place undergoing church growth; but to

the church of *that* day, unquestionably, *revival united their states*. Moments before America was formed, the Word of the Lord came in power. On the verge of losing everything we worked for, suffered for, married for, studied for, and tithed for...everything we braved crossing the frigid Atlantic for—on the precipice, a prophet entered our midst. Thomas Paine was the voice in the wilderness:

"The Sun never shined on a cause of greater worth. 'Tis not the affair of a City, a County, a Province, or a Kingdom, but of a Continent—of at least one eighth part of the habitable Globe. 'Tis not the concern of a day, a year, or an age; posterity are virtually involved in the contest, and will be more or less affected, even to the end of time, by the proceedings now. Now is the seed-time of Continental union, faith and honor. The least fracture now will be like a name engraved with the point of a pin on the tender rind of a young oak; the wound will enlarge with the tree, and posterity read it in full grown characters."

Scratch that into the pew in front of you. Listen—*America is the cause revival fights for*. The Herod of the day tried to snatch his head, but Paine dodged the French revolution Guillotine. The church, like America, has size, but no power. Consuming spiritual knowledge as our staple diet, and spending our time at work and church functions, we've forfeit the power to impose goodness. We let the devil rule the land. God sent us revival, so we could enter a revolution, and depose these tyrants from their places of power and influence. The early colonies needed a spiritual boost to know their worth, value and potential. They became self-aware of their right to life; they felt the baby kick, and they were willing to suffer the labor pains to bring it forth. America has been through much, but the ultimate shift took place when abortion became acceptable fifty years ago. *America is the cause the church must fight for in this hour. America is the baby getting aborted.*

Make America

In 1776, Thomas Paine founded the "Make America" movement. Seeing the unsurpassable potential, he called on everyone to leave Britain and "Make America". As the ancient Exodus produced a new nation, so did the American Revolution. Moses, inspired by his own personal revival, went on to lead the first and greatest revolution in history. With little assistance from *his* tribes (Hebrew colonies), this baby in a basket, birthed that original firstborn: ancient Israel.

"Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son...' (Exodus 4:22)

In 1300 BC, God trumped Pharaoh, and the exodus arose to generate a nation. In 1776, liberty trumped Tyranny, and God ordered his people to regenerate, to "Make America". It's just that simple. The great awakening jump started the engine, kick started that jalopy Moses used to drive. As the inhabitants experienced personal revival, it conceived a clear path. As Britain became the Pharaoh of this Exodus, the only path was a revolution. *Revival conceived revolution, and revolution birthed the Promised Land*. Men with high rankings in the European establishment gave up those stations for a greater *cause*. Even our mighty Moses, the privileged Egyptian citizen

gave up a great job in Egypt. He also left the job working for his father in law. English and French philosophers and statesmen almost simultaneously gave up their titles and affluence. Of the fifty six signers of the declaration of independence, nearly all lost life, limb or property. Isn't that exactly what Christ meant, when he said to "die to self"? Who convinced you that building a congress is not a cross to bear?

Cause of all mankind

As Paine introduces his world renown classic Common Sense, he writes, "*The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind*". Is the not cross of the Jewish carpenter, not also the cause of all mankind? So we came together to receive the baby—the newborn—this metaphorical "messiah". Franklin, Jefferson and Adams—these foreign "wise men" followed the star and brought their many gifts. Cash. Administration. Prophecy. Teaching. Crushing all crowns, they laid their gold, incense and myrrh at the foot of the manger. Here, the American church became a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19) as the baby, the nation was crowning the birth canal. The British Empire thrashed against our plight, but the world received us with joy and thanksgiving. In the furnace of refining, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo would survive their test of faith; the executive, legislative and executive were protected by a fourth that walked among the flames. In the shadow of His wings, we *breached the British monarchy (Satan's establishment)*. Here, this holy trinity, three branch kingdom of God was once again shadowed on earth. Not a Jewish paradise, not a Western utopia, but a shadow.

Finney & Paine

Finney was an evangelist. Paine was a prophet. There is a demonstrable relationship between church ignition and state stability. The way Charles Finney explains the excitement of revival, is similar to how Paine describes the American Revolution. In Lectures on Revivals of Religion (1835), Finney writes,

"A 'Revival of Religion' presupposes a declension. Almost all the religion in the world has been produced by revivals. God has found it necessary to take advantage of the excitability there is in mankind, to produce powerful excitements among them, before he can lead them to obey. Men are so [spiritually] ¹ sluggish, there are so many things to lead their minds off from religion, and to oppose the influence of the gospel, that it is necessary to raise an excitement among them, till the tide rises so high as to sweep away the opposing obstacles. They must be so excited that they will break over these counteracting influences, before they will obey God."

Paine writes, forty four years prior (1791), in his *Rights of Man*

"It appears to general observation, that revolutions create genius and talents; but those events do no more than bring them forward. There is existing in man, a mass of sense lying in a dormant state, and which, unless something excites it to action, will descend with him, in that condition, to the grave."

Would men like Steve Jobs, Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, Elon Musk or Jeff Bezos have been so successful in other societies? Have their inventions, products and

offerings not blessed the church immensely? What would happen, if these innovators and earth shakers were suddenly excited about Jesus Christ?

Closing argument

The preacher and the political activist agree. *Basically, a nation is born or dies the same way a church is born or dies.* The genius, the talents lying dormant, would be put on display in Paine's future America. Or, they would be absorbed by another nation that does not honor God. This is exactly what happened in the book of Daniel. Daniel excelled in the arts and sciences, and so his talents were taken advantage of by the Babylonians (Daniel 1:1-5).

Thomas Paine describes a revival of "sense, genius and talent"; ironically, this "mass of sense" birthed the nation that contained and blessed Finney's church. *Nothing made more massive sense, than the American model of church and state.* Finney describes a revival of souls and the excitement of serving God. Salvation is the focus—to align the individual man with his need for a savior. But the inventions, economy, art and agriculture are also the things of God. The bible is saturated with stories of architectural feats, political victories and economic principles. The excitement of revival works naturally with the revolution to "bring talents forward": statesmanship, craftsmanship, orators, philosophers and evangelism of many types. Trade, banking, academia and national defense. Then, in the aftermath of our revolution, the newly won country safely harbored and fostered those talents, so the church could redeem them for Christ's glory. Our big fancy church needs both the country and benefits the nation provides. Where does our help come from? Jesus. But where do tithes offerings come from? A small business (much like a carpentry shop in Nazareth). American innovators were diligent to produce the very tools that make us excited to do ministry: Graphic design. Sound engineering. Email systems. Online platforms, social media, books and paintings.

My friends—we desperately need those proficient pagans, for more things than just notches on our belt. Question: are you going to engineer your own sound system? Maybe your church staff can build their own jet to fly to Jerusalem? From where does the private tithe originate if not the avenue of public commerce? Your mission trips, utility bills and special ministries are all publicly funded, as they are made possible by the *blessings of a state*—goods and services rolling down public roads and highways. Tithes and offerings are protected by labor laws and increased by free market capitalism. The government builds the roads our ministry busses travel on; the same government, if left alone indefinitely, will produce unspeakable terrors. This doctrine of "church separate from state" or "in the world and not of the world" should be burned at the stake already. It's a pile of crap someone sold you for in exchange for a denominational membership.