

In the bygone days of early America, an election sermon was a common occurrence. A minister would stand before Congress or newly elected officials and remind the officials that they were to be ministers of God to us for good (Rom. 13). I have no doubt that most if not all local governmental officials do what they do out of concern for their local communities and wish to do all they can to better and upgrade the community under their influence. However, none of us know the whole truth on any one subject and grave errors can result from our human failures and everyone in the community can suffer for these errors for a long time. This is why the preachers of old gave an election sermon---to encourage the elected to seek truth and hold fast to it. This will be somewhat along the lines of a sermon.

I read that Stalin and the Bolsheviks overthrew Russia and Stalin's purges were responsible for the slaughter and starvation of 30 to 50 million white Russians. I was not a white Russian and that happened a long time ago, so I was not concerned.

Nero burned Rome and blamed it on the Christians. That too happened a long time ago, so I was not concerned.

It appears that a demolition team (or teams) demolished (pulled) the World Trade Center twin towers and WTC building # 7 and shot a missile into the Pentagon and blamed it on the Arab terrorists in a successful effort to turn public sentiment against the Iraqis and go to war against them. Now that is getting a little closer to home and I was concerned, but I felt there was little I could do about it anyway.

I got wind of a potential hog factory immediately upwind of me! Now I am really concerned!!!! All my senses are tuned----especially my nose!

This is the thought that occurred to me as I found myself at my first CAFF meeting. Thank goodness my apathy was broken soon enough that I wasn't the only victim left. Many others were also in attendance. Everyone should have a proposed hog factory being planned next to them. I guarantee that it would awaken you from your long apathetic slumber! They may seem like a wonderful idea for "economic development" and "jobs" and "justifying your job" and "getting votes", but they just don't cut it when it affects your own life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Then the shoe is on the other foot! But as I stated at the last planning and zoning meeting, I can understand why farmers are looking for innovative ways to remain viable in their farms. They must to survive. I myself would encourage them to continue to search for new and better ways, but I hope to convince both farmers and those on planning and zoning commissions and county commissioners that trampling on the individual rights of others is not a justifiable way to remain viable or to create a robust local or state economy.

So why is this happening? How can this be in the land of the free and the home of the brave?---that basic individual rights and their right to property can be trampled for the good of special interests? -----a perversion of Law.

When I was in school, I hated history----memorize names and dates----it meant nothing. As I grew older, observations of life caused me to ask the question---Why? Why is this happening? Then I started to learn the "why" through history.

History is like GPS (global positioning). Without GPS on a foggy night, one cannot tell where he has been, probably doesn't know where he is, and doesn't know where he is going. History is the same. We only live maybe 80 years----a mere speck of

time. If we learn from history, we can know where we have been and can get a “fix” on that era of time. Change comes gradually. 80 years isn’t long enough to understand the changes. When we learn from history, we get a clear picture of where we have been---we can see where we are at in relation to history, and can clearly track the trends---we can project where we are going.

Law has been perverted. If you study history, you will find that the law of the west (during the westward migration of America) could be summed up with the statement, you could do anything you were damn well man enough to do-----as long as you didn’t cause your neighbor harm of any kind----he just might take offense and shoot you, or bloody your nose, or tar and feather you-----depending on the offense!---and his neighbors and the law would back him! He had a basic right to defend his life, liberty, and property.

If you go a little farther back in history, the Constitution states: “we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”.

If you go back still further to the 1600’s, you would find that our forefathers came to this country for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith-----guess where they got their civil laws? Directly from the Holy Bible! Read William Blackstone’s Commentary on the Law, or John Locke, or James Montesquie. George Washington and all the founding fathers regularly quoted them. When William Penn, who the state of Pennsylvania is named after, first sailed up the river to Pennsylvania, he found hundreds of established farm and villages. They were neat, peaceable, well ordered and happy living under God’s Law. They knew God’s Law was not done away with and nailed to the cross and they had nothing to do with so called “separation of church and state”. America was not named after Amerigo Vespucci. America in the Gothic language means “Heaven Kingdom”.

Some twenty odd years ago, I was privileged to be in a courtroom and witnessed a judge telling an older lady that he would not permit her to bring her Bible into his courtroom. I wonder why? In bygone days, when the judge entered the courtroom, **HE** carried the Bible!---the bailiff said: “All rise” so that all in the courtroom could pay homage to the **BIBLE** (the Law), **NOT** necessarily the judge. On another occasion, I witnessed another judge tell a defendant that he was not to mention the Constitution in his courtroom one more time or he would find him in contempt of court. Again I wonder why? A perversion of Law? With this history to guide you, can you see why “they” are so anxious to remove the 10 commandments from our schools and courtrooms? History is like GPS---it allows us to see where we have been-----we can see where we are now in relation to that history-----and we can see with clarity where we are surely heading-----are we willing to go there?

I would like to make available a treatise called “THE LAW” by Fredric Bastiat, written in the 1800’s to anyone who is willing to read it. I would like to read a few quotes from it:

In the introduction, page xvi it states: “Herein lies Bastiat’s famous distinction between illegal and legal plunder, which is at the center of his analysis in “The Law”. The purpose of government, he says, is precisely to secure individuals in their rights to

life, liberty, and property. Without such security men are reduced to a primitive life of fear and self-defense, with every neighbor a potential enemy ready to plunder what another has produced. If a government is strictly limited to protecting men's rights, then peace prevails, and men can go about working to improve their lives, associating with their neighbors in a division of labor and exchange."

On page 1, Bastiat begins: "The law perverted? And the police powers of the state perverted along with it? The law, I say, not only turned from its proper purpose but made to follow an entirely contrary purpose! The law become the weapon of every kind of greed! Instead of checking crime, the law itself guilty of the evils it is supposed to punish! If this is true, it is a serious fact, and moral duty requires me to call the attention of my fellow-citizens to it."

On page 2 What is Law? "Each of us has a natural right---from God---to defend his person, his liberty, and his property. These are the three basic requirements of life, and the preservation of any one of them is completely dependent upon the preservation of the other two. For what are our faculties but the extension of our individuality? And what is property, but an extension of our faculties? Every person has the right to defend---even by force--- his person, his liberty, and his property, then it follows that a group of men have the right to organize and support a common force to protect these rights constantly. Thus the principle of collective right---its reason for existing, its lawfulness--- is based on individual right. And the common force that protects this collective right cannot logically have any other purpose or any other mission than that for which it acts as a substitute. Thus, since an individual cannot lawfully use force against the person, liberty or property of another individual, then the common force---for the same reason---cannot lawfully be used to destroy the person, liberty, or property of individuals or groups."

Page 4 The Complete Perversion of the Law: "But, unfortunately, law by no means confines itself to its proper functions. And when it has exceeded its proper functions, it has not done so merely in some inconsequential and debatable matters. The law has gone further than this; it has acted in direct opposition to its own purpose. The law has been used to destroy its own objective: It has been applied to annihilate the justice that it was supposed to maintain; to limiting and destroying rights which its real purpose was to respect. The law has placed the collective force at the disposal of the unscrupulous who wish, without risk, to exploit the person, liberty, and property of others. It has converted plunder into a right, in order to protect plunder. And it has converted lawful defense into a crime, in order to punish lawful defense. How has this perversion of the law been accomplished? And what have been the results? The law has been perverted by the influence of two entirely different causes: stupid greed and false philanthropy."

Page 7 Victims of Lawful Plunder: "Men naturally rebel against the injustice of which they are victims. Thus, when plunder is organized by law for the profit of those who make the law, all the plundered classes try somehow to enter---by peaceful or revolutionary means---into the making of laws. According to their degree of enlightenment, these plundered classes may propose one of two entirely different purposes when they attempt to attain political power: Either they may wish to stop lawful

plunder, or they may wish to share in it. Woe to the nation when this latter purpose prevails among the mass victims of lawful plunder when they, in turn, seize the power to make laws! Until that happens, the few practice lawful plunder upon the many, a common practice where the right to participate in the making of law is limited to a few persons. But then, participation in the making of law becomes universal. And then, men seek to balance their conflicting interests by universal plunder. Instead of rooting out the injustices found in society, they make these injustices general. As soon as the plundered classes gain political power, they establish a system of reprisals against other classes. They do not abolish legal plunder. (This objective would demand more enlightenment than they possess.) Instead they emulate their evil predecessors by participating in this legal plunder, even though it is against their own interests.”

Page 8. The Results of Legal Plunder: “It is impossible to introduce into society a greater change and a greater evil than this: the conversion of the law into an instrument of plunder. What are the consequences of such a perversion? It would require volumes to describe them all. Thus we must content ourselves with pointing out the most striking. In the first place, it erases from everyone’s conscience the distinction between justice and injustice. No society can exist unless the laws are respected to a certain degree. The safest way to make laws respected is to make them respectable. When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law: These two evils are of equal consequence, and it would be difficult for a person to choose between them. The nature of law is to maintain justice. This is so much the case that, in the minds of the people, law and justice are one and the same thing. There is in all of us a strong disposition to believe that anything lawful is also legitimate. This belief is so widespread that many persons have erroneously held that things are “just” because law makes them so. Thus, in order to make plunder appear just and sacred to many consciences, it is only necessary for the law to decree and sanction it. Slavery, restrictions, and monopoly find defenders not only among those who profit from them, but also among those who suffer from them.”

Page 14 Perverted Law Causes Conflict: “As long as it is admitted that the law may be diverted from its true purpose---that it may violate property instead of protecting it---then everyone will want to participate in making the law, either to protect himself from plunder or to use it for plunder. Political questions will always be prejudicial, dominant, and all-absorbing. There will be fighting at the door of the Legislative Palace, and the struggle within will be no less furious. To know this, it is hardly necessary to examine what transpires in the French and English legislatures; merely to understand the issue is to know the answer. Is there any need to offer proof that this odious perversion of the law is a perpetual source of hatred, and discord; that it tends to destroy society itself? If such proof is needed look at the United States [in 1850]. There is no country in the world where the law is kept more within its proper domain: the protection of every person’s liberty and property. As a consequence of this, there appears to be no country in the world where the social order rests on a firmer foundation.”

Page 17 How to Identify Legal Plunder: “But how is this legal plunder to be identified? Quite simply. See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one

citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime. Then abolish this law without delay, for it is not only an evil itself, but also it is a fertile source for further evils because it invites reprisals. If such a law--- which may be an isolated case---is not abolished immediately, it will spread, multiply, and develop into a system. The person who profits from this law will complain bitterly, defending his *acquired rights*. He will claim that the state is obligated to protect and encourage his particular industry; that this procedure enriches the state because the protected industry is thus able to spend more and to pay higher wages to the poor workingmen. Do not listen to this sophistry by vested interests. The acceptance of these arguments will build legal plunder into a whole system. In fact, this has already occurred. The present day delusion is an attempt to enrich everyone at the expense of everyone else; to make plunder universal under the pretense of organizing it.”

Page 19 The Choice Before Us: “This question of legal plunder must be settled once and for all, and there are only three ways to settle it: 1. The few plunder the many. 2. Everybody plunders everybody. 3. Nobody plunders anybody.”

Page 76. Let us Now Try Liberty: “God has given to men all that is necessary for them to accomplish their destinies. He has provided a social form as well as a human form. And these social organs of persons are so constituted that they will develop themselves harmoniously in the clean air of liberty. Away, then, with quacks and organizers! Away with their rings, chains, hooks, and pincers! Away with their artificial systems! Away with the whims of governmental administrators, their socialized projects, their centralization, their tariffs, their government schools, their state religions, their free credit, their bank monopolies, their regulations, their restrictions, their equalization by taxation, and their pious moralizations! And now that the legislators and do-gooders have so futilely inflicted so many systems upon society, may they finally end where they should have begun: May they reject all systems, and try liberty; for liberty is an acknowledgment of faith in God and His works!”

To give an illustration of how this perversion of law has come about, if you can imagine the right side of a room is where we were at in the 1600’s living under the perfect Law of Liberty (James 1:25). Someone challenged that perfect Law and made a case that sounded reasonable and a compromise was allowed. (Just as we are expected to do today.) (We are not to add to or subtract from that perfect Law [Deut. 12:32]) Now that perfect just Law has become unjust. To correct for this injustice, someone is bound to challenge it---another compromise is reached and each time this is allowed to happen, injustice (and plunder as Bastiat refers to) increases. The point we are at today is very near the left side of a room. There the perfect Law of Liberty has been relegated to the four walls of the church. The ministers declare that the Law has been done away with---and they are right! It truly has been done away with, but not by being nailed to the cross by Christ, but by the gradual compromising away of it by man.

Therefore we, as a nation, have gone from America (the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth) where truth and justice and equal rights under the Law were for all men, to the point where even the most basic right of clean air (the inalienable right to life granted by our Creator) can be granted or taken away by government. The right to full enjoyment of property and the value of that property can be granted to some and taken away from

others by government decree and force. Perhaps we should rejoice that we still can enjoy free speech to point out the obvious truth that this dissertation presents, but beware that the truth in free speech could disadvantage those who profit from legal plunder. It too must at some point be made illegal for the sake of plunder if plunder is to continue to prosper! We are on the fast track to that end.

Therefore, I tell you as ministers of God to us for good---do what is right and true. The Laws, Statutes, and Judgments of God are the standard by which man and man's decrees must ultimately be judged. May Thy will be done **on earth**, as it is in heaven. This is my prayer.