

February 2018

A Monthly Publication of the Christian Law Association

THE LEGAL ALERT

A photograph of a city street, likely New York City, featuring several yellow taxis in the foreground and tall, modern buildings in the background. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the street. A semi-transparent dark blue banner is overlaid on the top portion of the image, containing the title and subtitle. Another semi-transparent dark blue banner is overlaid on the bottom portion of the image, containing the main headline.

**MAKING A COMMITMENT
BRINGING AMERICA
BACK TO GOD**



FOR HE THAT IN THESE THINGS SERVETH CHRIST IS
ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, AND APPROVED OF MEN.
ROMANS 14:18

Making a commitment to the Lord is an important step in spiritual growth. Our ministry is able to assist you and legally help with our attorneys as you step out by faith to accomplish these new goals. Believers are often challenged quickly both in keeping their goals and in setting them. Set high goals, and know that God is able to accomplish anything.

Pray more frequently. Daily prayers are expected, but praying without ceasing is the requirement. We have an all-powerful God who commands us to pray and promises to answer. We are often too caught in our own might, hindered by our own pride, and countered by our own limited knowledge, while we are also being directed to lean not on our own understanding. When we put aside our limitations and recognize Who He really is -- the Great I Am -- we can pray and have full confidence in His provision.

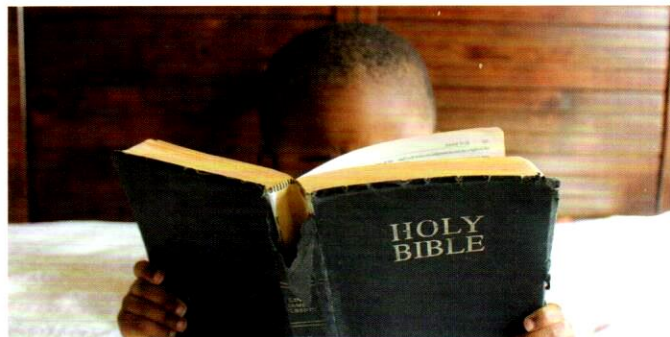
Meditate on Scripture daily. Reading the Bible accomplishes many things. God's Word helps us developmentally, allows insight into God's character, and reminds us constantly of Jesus Christ's love and care for us all. His redemption story is, by faith, how each of us come to the knowledge of God.

The Bible is a constant source of power, praise, and promise. Many of our attorneys have clients that are being asked if they believe the Bible and if they read it and follow its practices. If the Scriptures are what we know them to be, do we read and meditate therein both day and night?

Witness and share Christ's love with everyone.

Each of us have traveling habits. Whether locally, at a store or restaurant, or nationally on airplanes or cars driving across state lines, each of us is commanded to witness. Take tracts with you as you move around your town or around your state. The Lord will bring people across your path to show God's redeeming love through Jesus.

Mary's mother called our office last month because she had a legal dilemma. Mary was eight years old,



and her Sunday school was having a contest to see who would invite the most new visitors to the class. At her school, however, the teacher stopped her from inviting other students, and Mary was sent to the principal's office. Mary's mother called our office because the school was saying that Mary was not allowed to speak about church on school grounds. At first our attorneys were met with stern refusal, but as the law was presented, our legal staff was able to show the principal and the teacher that the law allowed Mary to invite her classmates to church during the recess and break times, which is exactly what Mary had done. Not only had Mary done what was right, Mary showed God's love by asking the other girls if they knew Jesus. This child was bold and made a church goal a personal one.



Volunteer at your church. In our ministry, we see many legal counsels who question Christians about their true commitment to their local church. In these examinations, the members are asked if they are involved in specific activities of the church, if they are in the choir, or if they contribute to that ministry that they claim to follow. As believers who each are gifted by the Lord with various talents, we should make the choice to volunteer and give of ourselves for the work of the Lord.

Give more. All of us only have a God-ordained amount of time, and the Bible is clear how quickly that vapor vanishes. We need to be mindful of our time and of our finances, knowing that we are simply stewards of them during this life. As we live in light of eternity, each of our time and financial decisions should be made with the view of how God can be glorified. The Lord is fully engaged with you personally, and as Romans reminds us, anything we can do for Him is our reasonable service.

5 Points for Soulwinners

There is little the Bible is clearer on than the requirement to witness. Indeed, some of the very last words Jesus spoke before ascending back into Heaven was the direct command to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

However, as America falls further and further from God, the culture has shifted and made it undoubtedly more difficult to effectively reach souls with the vital news of Christ's death and resurrection. While we would encourage you to call us for specific advice on your exact situation as you plan to publicly proclaim God's message, we have included below an important list of top issues every soulwinner should be aware of.

1. The Public Forum

While almost every American is aware of the First Amendment, it is crucial every soulwinner understand where their Freedom of Speech rights are protected. The United States Supreme Court have held that citizens have a "guaranteed access" to streets, parks, and other "traditional public forums". While speech, particularly large-scale events, can be legally regulated via permits, it cannot be abridged or denied. Permits cannot be denied based on the type of speech.

2. Solicitation vs. Distribution

We have received countless calls from soulwinners who are being told that there is "no solicitation allowed". It is very important you understand that neither visitation nor the distribution of free literature is legally considered to be solicitation. Solicitation involves the selling of items or seeking of donations. That said, courts have ruled that a "No Solicitation" sign on an individual home can be problematic for groups who are canvassing an area. Because each situation may require

specific legal expertise, we recommend you call our attorneys if you have questions about solicitation and this important issue.

3. Noise Regulations

In today's loud and crowded cities, it is easy to justify the need for voice amplification when soul-winning in an open area. However, it is important to know that the Supreme Court has ruled that limits on voice amplification are legal. As such, you must check your local city or county's Noise Ordinances before proceeding with any type of artificial voice amplification such as a megaphone or sound .

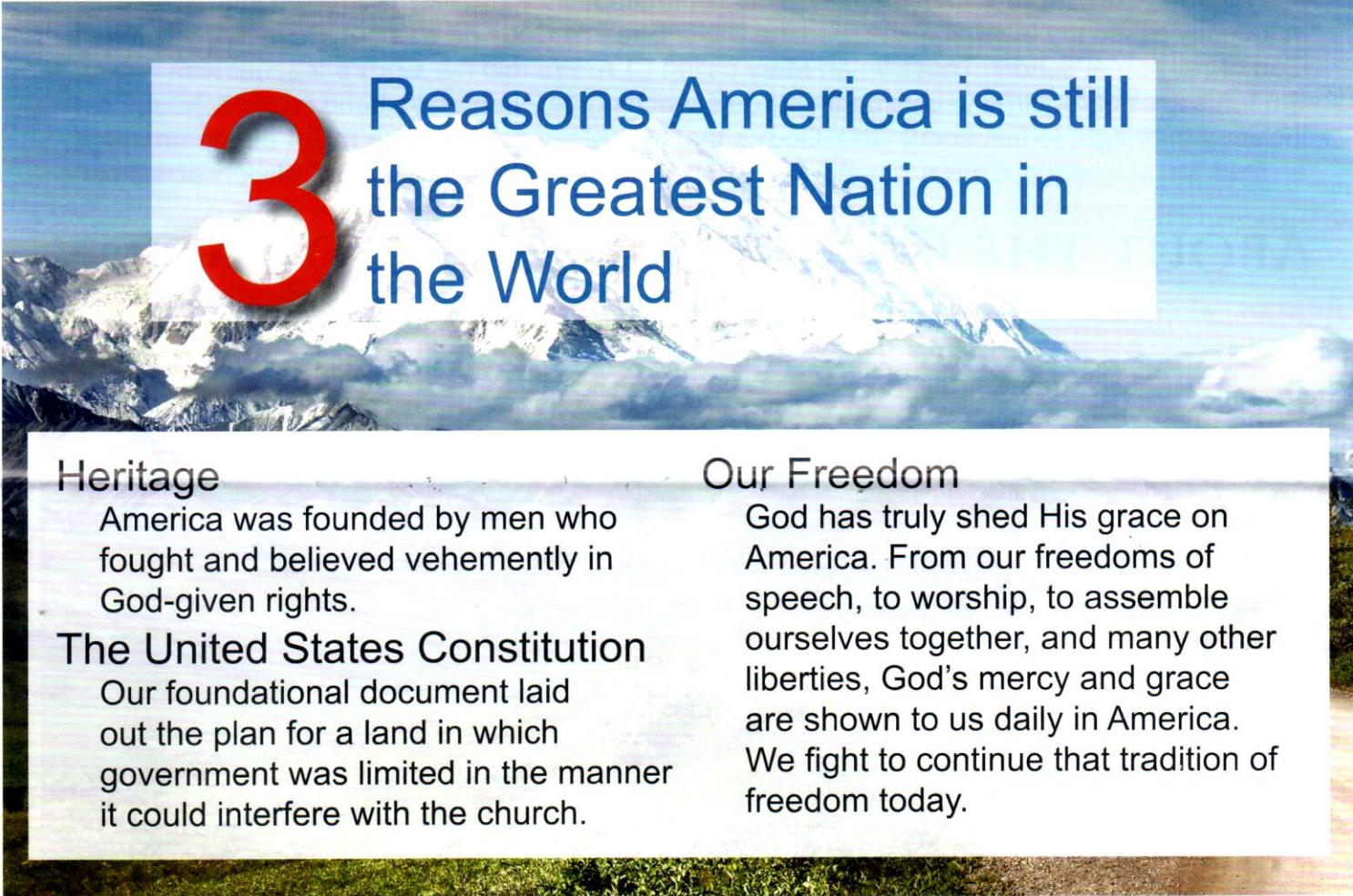
4. Public vs. Private

While your right to freedom of speech is absolutely protected in the public forum, it is vital you understand and respect that private property is

just that – private. You must request permission from a private business owner before engaging in any type of distribution or preaching on private property. This would include the parking lots of private businesses.

5. The Workplace

If your workplace has more than 15 employees, you absolutely have speech rights in regard to your conversations with fellow employees. If employees can chat about any non-work related topic during breaks, then you have the right to discuss religion with a co-employee who is willing to listen. However, your employer has every right to restrict your religious speech to clients and customers while you are on the clock. For individual questions about this or any of the soulwinning information provided, please contact our office to speak with an attorney.



3 Reasons America is still the Greatest Nation in the World

Heritage

America was founded by men who fought and believed vehemently in God-given rights.

The United States Constitution

Our foundational document laid out the plan for a land in which government was limited in the manner it could interfere with the church.

Our Freedom

God has truly shed His grace on America. From our freedoms of speech, to worship, to assemble ourselves together, and many other liberties, God's mercy and grace are shown to us daily in America. We fight to continue that tradition of freedom today.

SCHOOL RIGHTS



DOES JOY HAVE A RIGHT TO READ HER BIBLE IN SCHOOL?

Students have an absolute right to read their Bibles whenever they are given free time to read books of their choice. Joy's mother called our office when her teacher said the Bible was not an appropriate book for free reading time. In fact, Joy's teacher called her out in front of the entire class just for reading her Bible. We were able to set this teacher straight on the law. Public schools should already know about a student's free speech right to choose to read the Bible for free reading times.

MAY CHILDREN TALK ABOUT RELIGION WHEN THEY ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL?

Mary's son, Cody, was upset when he was reprimanded by his first grade teacher. Why? He innocently asked the teacher if she read the Bible. She told Cody he was not allowed to talk about God or religion at school. That's when Mary called CLA. We told her Cody's teacher was wrong. Students are not required to give up their free speech rights when they attend public school. That includes their right to talk about God. Cody's teacher was concerned she might be reprimanded or fired for answering Cody's question, but Cody has a right to talk about religion at school.

ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

The Christian Law Association is a ministry of legal helps.

CLA serves through the following ways:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- *The Legal Alert* radio program broadcast on over 1,300 outlets around the world
- Publication of a monthly newsletter, *The Legal Alert*
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Prayer for our national leadership and government





PRAYER CHECKLIST

- Pray for a Christian businessman in **OHIO** who is starting a ministry to help local area churches with their multimedia accounts.
- Please pray for churches in **ALASKA, NEW YORK, NEW MEXICO, WISCONSIN, ARIZONA,** and **WASHINGTON** that called CLA to help them make policies for church security and protections for their people.
- Pray for an **ILLINOIS** Christian public school teacher who called our office because she is desiring to be a witness to students during and after school hours.
- Pray for a public school student in **MISSOURI** attempting to research religious liberties and contacted CLA to find out what constitutes a sincerely held religious belief.
- Pray for a church in **MICHIGAN** that contacted our attorneys because it is dealing with a local zoning board and issues with new building modifications.
- Pray for a church in **CONNECTICUT** that contacted our attorneys for help with legally changing the name of the church.
- Pray for a Christian in **ILLINOIS** who contacted our ministry to find legal advice about witnessing to fellow workers and inviting them to church.
- Pray for a mission work in **FLORIDA** that contacted our office as it seeks the Lord's direction in filing the correct documents with the IRS.
- Pray for a **WISCONSIN** church that contacted our attorneys for legal advice about advertising and witnessing in its local community.
- Please pray for a **FLORIDA** Christian photographer who contacted CLA after being pressured to partake in business dealings that would go against his faith.
- Pray for an **INDIANA** Christian preschool as it reworks applications and applies background check procedures for possible employees.
- Please pray for a church in **ILLINOIS** that called CLA attorneys for help with updating its policies concerning children's ministry protections.
- Pray for a Christian in **WYOMING** who called our office to discuss their religious freedom rights to legally witness in public places.
- Pray for a church in **FLORIDA** that called our ministry for legal help as it works to trademark new ministry programs.
- Praise the Lord a church in **NORTH CAROLINA** was able to call CLA and receive legal advice from our attorneys about legal issues surrounding the posting of Christmas cantata music online.
- Pray for a Christian in **FLORIDA** being told he must work on Sundays or face a reprimand at his secular workplace.
- Pray for a Christian public school student in **NEBRASKA** who called us after he was told by school officials it was illegal for him to hand out church tracts to friends.
- Pray for a **TENNESSEE** church that called our ministry for legal help with updating release forms and technology.