

MY CITIZENSHIP

“For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For *our citizenship* is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” (Phil. 3:18-21; NASB)

I was born in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1946. I have been an American citizen all of my life and served two and one half years in the Viet Nam War under a commission from the United States Air Force. Truly, I have witnessed the bright days of America as they dimmed into the darkness of night. I recall the days when high school students were censured for smoking tobacco, drinking alcohol, or partaking in premarital sex. Today, the “moral landscape” looks much different. The false “religion” of “humanism” has deceived the “intellectual giants.” “Pseudo-science” has taken preeminence in the minds of the citizenry and supplanted the principles of the Word of God. Seductive themes abound openly in society at large, with accolades awarded to the most vulgar and/or violent in the land. Technology rules the earth with greed as her catalyst. On the “dark continent” of Africa, common people wince at the report that many Americans (including their Afro-American President) support abortion and gay civil unions. Surely, it can now be said of the citizens general, “whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.” “God Bless America” has been traded for “Shame on America.”

The Holy Bible, the sacred written Word, has always been God’s standard and guidebook for living. It tells of the past, refers to the present, and prophecies the future. The following selection may be applied accurately to our day:

For our transgressions are multiplied before Thee, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And we know our iniquities: Transgressing and denying the LORD, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving in and uttering from the heart lying words. And justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter. Yes, truth is lacking; And he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. Now the LORD saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice. (Isa. 59:12-15; NASB)

Growing up in the “land of the free and the home of the brave,” I was taught the Pledge of Allegiance. “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands; one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” I recall my deceased father teaching me to reverence “the red, white, and blue” at every viewing. I was instructed to always place my hand (or hat) over the heart any time “the stars and stripes” were presented. Never was that symbol of freedom to become soiled, wetted by rain, or to touch the ground. In such an event, the desecrated flag must be destroyed by fire. That “Star-Spangled Banner” represented to all of us the pride and liberty of every American citizen and was revered accordingly.

As I type these words, tears flow from my eyes and down my cheeks, knowing where my beloved country has fallen. One of my favorite authors penned this, “When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, [...] bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our

land, and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.” (*Last Day Events*, pages 133,134) This prophecy is fulfilled in our present day.

“And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and show mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:” (Zec. 7:8-13) The wrath of an offended God is soon to be poured upon a land that would not respect His divine counsel and obey His commandments.

An individual, a church, or a nation cannot rely on their high calling or exalted privileges to assess their position with the Almighty. If they fail to hear and heed the Voice of the Bridegroom, it is because they have departed from the Spirit of life. John, the Baptist, enlightens us, “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. And so this joy of mine has been made full. He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no man receives His witness. He who has received His witness has set his seal to this, that God is true.” (John 3:29-33; NASB) My witness, and my actions agree that YAH is true, for I have remained faithful to the Voice of the Bridegroom.

I have written before on this subject of America’s demise. You may recall my May 14, 2009 essay entitled “With Liberty and Justice for ALL?” I wrote out my thoughts just two weeks before a Court order was filed by the Honorable Judge Breen: “For the reasons articulated herein and upon de novo review, the Court ADOPTS the magistrate judge’s report and recommendation. As a sanction for the Defendant’s willful failure to comply with the scheduling order, default judgment will be awarded to the Plaintiffs on their remaining claims. This Court hereby enjoins the Defendant in accordance with the language approved by the magistrate judge.” (Ordered May 27, 2009) As an Epilogue to the trilogy entitled *Earth’s Final Apostasy*, I wrote about *The Last Day of Grace* on June 17, 2009. It was the last day granted for my compliance with the above-mentioned injunction without being held in contempt. Interestingly, and to the dismay of the Plaintiffs, the Honorable Judge extended my days. He is now faced with a certain decision as if he were standing in the very shoes of Pontius Pilate. For this man, it is his reputation and position versus my freedom to obey YAH in good conscience—that is the cost now being weighed in the earthly balance.

As I now await the Honorable Judge Breen’s decision on the Plaintiffs’ RENEWED MOTION AND MEMORANDUM FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE, I expect additional sanctions to be forthcoming. The Plaintiffs’ requests are as follows:

“...it is respectfully requested that the Court: (1) issue an order directing the Defendant to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court for violating the terms of the permanent injunction issued by this Court; (2) upon hearing to be held as soon as practicable, hold the Defendant in contempt; and (3) sanction the Defendant by, *inter alia*, awarding Plaintiffs their attorneys’ fees and costs associated with the prosecution of this motion, along with any other sanctions and/or punishments the Court deems proper.” (Filed Aug. 28, 2009)

In the Appellant Brief, prepared and filed by Attorney Charles Holliday on August 17, 2009, we read the following:

For whatever reason, Plaintiffs have worked for the last twenty years to monopolize the right to use the words “Seventh Day Adventist.” They have used the organs of government to pursue what is, for all practical purposes, a religious dispute. As one critic has noted, religious organizations often “disguise” arguments that they are the “true” religion in the language of trademark law in an effort to protect their religious identity—a use for which trademark law was never intended. Courts then superficially analyze the dispute under secular law when in actuality, the religious organization, and sometimes the court, is trying to settle an underlying identity dispute. (David A. Simon, *Register Trademarks and Keep the Faith: Trademarks, Religion and Identity*, 49 IDEA 233, 312 (2009)).

The General Conference of SDA has truly disguised “arguments that they are the ‘true’ religion in the language of trademark law in an effort to protect their religious identity.” In this, they erred from the principles of righteousness and truth. The courts have been repeatedly caught in the General Conference web as judges “superficially analyze the dispute under secular law when in actuality, the religious organization, and sometimes the court, is trying to settle an underlying identity dispute.” In our instant case, the dispute is far-reaching as noted by Attorney Charles Holliday, “Pastor McGill has a sincere religious belief that he must describe his church with these words. Should a court exercise jurisdiction over a religious dispute disguised as a trademark claim that could, in effect, force it to decide that Plaintiffs are the “true” Seventh Day Adventists and exclude Pastor McGill from practicing his faith?”

I now face, *inter alia*, any “sanctions and/or punishments the Court deems necessary,” and specifically requirements to pay Plaintiffs’ attorneys’ fees and costs associated with the prosecution of the original and renewed motions for order to show cause. In layman’s language, this means that the Plaintiffs are requesting the Court to find me in contempt of court for non-compliance with the permanent injunction and to require me to pay all attorney fees and other costs associated with the Plaintiffs’ actions necessary to obtain the contempt order.

In the course of this litigation, I must surely be found guilty of contempt, for the Voice of the Bridegroom cannot be heard in the courts of earthly justice. “And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.” (Isa. 59:14) It is highly likely that monetary sanctions will be assessed against me. Then, what will be my response?

From the outset of this controversy, I have taken the position that Creation Seventh Day Adventists have been brought before the civil magistrate for our free exercise of the Adventist faith, and that, without any just cause. Therefore, I have repeatedly stated that the civil court has no jurisdiction in the matter. As one venerable old man has recently written, “Is this then still merely a question of *civil* disobedience, or is it disobedience to maintain the spiritual integrity of principle? We are to do the will of the State in all things for which it is legitimate for us to do so. But when the state will force our conscience[s] we are not obligated to obey.” I can answer this gentleman and brother with an unequivocal answer: My disobedience from this day forward is “disobedience to maintain the spiritual integrity of principle.” “I can do no other; God help me, Amen!”

And so, while the Plaintiffs insist that I violate my conscience, in conflict with God’s divine mandates to me, and the Court, through “neutral elements of secular trademark law,” seeks to force me in such a course, I must refuse— for *my citizenship* is in Heaven. “For by [YAHshua,

the Messiah] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.” (Col. 1:16, 17) My life fruits will indicate in truth the tree from which I have been born—either the heavenly or the earthly.

YAHWEH claims, “I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Isa. 45:12, 13) I am the man of God’s recreating—the man-child of YAHWEH, created in righteousness. He has directed all my ways in the building of His city, and the setting of His captives free. In accordance with Scripture, I have “not for price nor reward” accomplished any of His divine mandates. With my Elder Brother, I can confidently say, “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”

Though the Plaintiffs’ perjure themselves through various false accusations against me, I pray for them and seek their salvation. Though the Court may misunderstand me and condemn my actions via neutral application of secular trademark law, I find no hostility in my heart for any judges participating in this litigation. However, I respectfully refuse to pay a bill that is not mine—a liability that has been incurred by my oppressors.

The Word of God counsels us, “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” (Rom. 13:8) I have loved my enemies, fulfilling the Royal Law, and this is the true test of Christian discipleship. Blessed is the person who sees what I see and hears what I hear, “for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them.” (Luke 10:24; NASB)

YAHWEH, Himself, spoke these words to me, “You have not charged anyone a coin while offering them My services; you shall not pay the first penny.” But, the sweet voice of mercy changed in my hearing, as He finished with a scathing utterance for my enemies, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.”

Dear reader, where is *your* citizenship? “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:31)

A position paper
September 5, 2009
Writing from Africa
Pastor McGill