

AN OPEN LETTER TO READERS OF THIS WEBSITE.....

Following in my Father's footsteps of not using the pulpit to push a political party's agenda, I never used a sermon to promote politics. However, my Dad did preach against sin in the nation and community, specifically, in the community, the sin of alcohol abuse and drinking. It was during a time when the local city council had before them a motion to allow an ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control) business to open up one block from the local Elementary School. Previous to that, South Norfolk Baptist Pastors, (as early as the pastorate of Rev. E.S. Pierce), previously campaigned against the Liquor and Dance Hall "interests" in South Norfolk. Other news articles that indicated that the liquor crowd was not successful in extending the curfew for selling beer after 11 pm in the city; this was due to Rev. Frank Hughes, Jr. and other ministers in South Norfolk, taking a strong stand against it.

Dad also gave spiritually Biblical emphasis to major events that affected our nation, i.e., the Cuban Missile Crisis, the gas shortage of the 1970s, the death of General MacArthur, the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, to name a few. The sermons based on these and other events, had great spiritual depth and were Biblically based.

Dad did support the obligation of U.S. citizens to vote in elections, and given the state of our country at the

present, I also think it behooves every registered, legal citizen to vote in the upcoming Presidential election.

The increase over the past four years of the sinfulness prevalent in our country, certainly demands our attention and response. Especially concerning is the hate speech of one candidate for national office who is trying to liken another to Hitler and Fascism. This is over the top and wrong. The Bible says, "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies." (Psalm 34:13). This verse serves as a straightforward reminder to guard our speech against evil and falsehood. It challenges us to be people of integrity, letting our words reflect the truth and righteousness of God.

When a candidate consciously chooses to use their tongue in a public venue, heard by millions of Americans, for good and refrain from spreading lies or engage in deceit, they can demonstrate their commitment to honoring God in their speech. May those who are engaged in dishonest rhetoric come to see that their words should always be rooted in honesty and reflect the character of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The website page, "Woke: The Decline of Christian America," details this situation and is well worth your time to peruse. Further, it highlights factual information from overseas media and journalist sources who have been able to view, in a non-partisan way, the state of our nation.

-J. Hughes, October 2024