

# Conservative Christian Contradictions

By Harry Braun

Karl Rove, the president's senior political adviser, created a firestorm of controversy when he made the following quote at a fundraiser for the Conservative Party of New York State: *"Conservatives saw the savagery of 9/11 and the attacks and prepared for war; liberals saw the savagery of the 9/11 attacks and wanted to prepare indictments and offer therapy and understanding to our attackers,"*

## The Teachings of Jesus

What is interesting about this statement, is that Mr. Rove and the Bush administration have proclaimed that they are devote Christians, yet if one bothers to actually read the New Testament of the Bible, they would find that Jesus stated in Chapter 5 of St. Matthew, verses 43 and 44:

***"You have heard that it was said that, Thou shall love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.***

There are also the following quotes from verses 38 and 39 of the same Chapter of St. Matthew:

***"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.***

One would conclude from such statements that those who call themselves Christian's should be on the side of the supposedly godless liberals who according to the Bible, actually practice what Jesus taught. Billy Graham and most others who "preach" the gospel, seem to overlook verses 2 and 4 of the sixth Chapter of St. Matthew, which states that:

***"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. . . when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them."***

These obvious contradictions, which happen in virtually all religions, are troubling because each person's interpretation of their belief system is impossible to verify, which is why even members of the same religion have wildly different interpretations and assumptions as to what they believe God's purpose to be. Hundreds of thousands of innocent women were skinned alive and burned at the stake as witches because the local Christian church members believed that they were doing "God's work." Virtually all religious groups seem to believe that they need to impose their religious views on others, which is why more people have been killed in human history in the name of religious beliefs than for any other cause. This is one of the main reasons why our founding fathers insisted on having a clear a separation between Church and State.

Religions should never be allowed to influence secular policy decisions because they are obviously not based on science or any other provable documentation. They are typically based on faith -- and fear. In the case of Christianity, it indoctrinates its followers to believe that if they do not accept the teachings of their church, they will lose out on immortality and burn in hell forever. That is a compelling argument to most people, especially young children. Moreover, it is not good enough to be a Christian. One must believe in the right Christian Church. As any Catholic will tell you, all the members of the other Christian churches, such as the Lutherans, Mormon's, or the hundreds of other different types of Christian churches, are all going to hell. My mother, who was a Catholic, was told by her priest that she was going to hell because she married my father, who was a Lutheran. Likewise, the Mormons believe that only they are going to be saved, and so do virtually all of the other Christian subgroups.

Just as most Catholics believe the Pope is in direct contact with God, the same is true of the preacher who gives sermons on the street corner or a revival tent. Many of the ministers with large television audiences actually proclaim that they not only speak for God, but that God has empowered them to perform miracles and faith healing live before television cameras. It's all a sham of course, but their ministers take in hundreds of millions of dollars from people who are easily seduced by such con men and women. Jesus warned of such false prophets in Matthew, Chapter 24, verse 11, when he states:

**“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many” . . .**

The latest generation of evangelical fanatics who ignore the scriptures in the New Testament now have every intent of destroying the wall between the Church and State. Webster's dictionary defines the term “evangelical” as “zealous preaching” by a “fanatically” committed person (i.e., one who has an irrational attachment to a cause or position). A case in point is James Watt, the former Interior Secretary appointed by Ronald Reagan. Watt pioneered the assault on the Clean Air and Water legislation, the EPA and the environmental protection laws in general, and when he was asked during an interview if he was concerned that his policies were not going to leave any wilderness areas for future generations, he laughed and said it was irrelevant because God was coming soon to destroy and remake the world. This fanatical religious belief has had a profoundly negative impact on the Earth's remaining ecosystems, which are the foundation of the Earth's biological life-support systems, and now the Bush administration and his so-called Christian supporters are finishing what James Watt and others who think like him started over 25 years ago.

According to the Bible, Jesus never mentioned destroying the Earth's habitats. What he did make clear in the writings of Matthew, Luke and Mark was that money was the root of all evil. Every Christian knows about the story where a young wealthy person comes to join Jesus and proclaims that he has followed all of the Ten Commandments, but Jesus says to him that is not enough. Specifically:

**There is still one thing you lack: sell all that you have and distribute it unto the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. But when the man heard this he became quite sorrowful, for he was very rich. Jesus then looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (St. Luke, Chapter 18, verses 21-25).**

It is why for over 1,600 years, the Christian church taught that making a profit was sinful. Indeed, the reason Jesus got arrested and crucified was because he threw the merchants out of the temple for buying and selling goods. It's pretty hard to get any other meaning from reading these scriptures in the Bible, yet none of the wealthy Christian conservatives, including James Watt, Gail Norton, Senator Rick Santorum or President Bush, obey this basic tenant of Christianity. Indeed, the birthday of Christ has been transformed into the largest commercial holiday of the year.

Such contradictions are apparently insignificant to most Christian conservatives, and even the most fundamentalist “born again” Christians, which only underscores that they obviously do not believe what is written in the New Testament of the Bible. It's the same Orwellian doublespeak that was used by Janice Rogers Brown, a self-proclaimed evangelical Christian, who equates liberalism with slavery. She was Bush's appointee to a federal appeals court, and not one Republican voted against her nomination, but “liberalism” comes from the word “liberty,” which means freedom, but no one seems to care what the words really mean anymore. In his book *1984*, George Orwell wrote of a futuristic police state that brainwashed people into believing that “*Freedom was Slavery*” and that “*War was Peace*.” Sadly, George Orwell's frightening fictionalized future has now come to pass with a vengeance in America. May God help us!

About the Author:

Harry Braun is Chairman of the **PhoenixProjectFoundation.US** and the **PhoenixProjectPac.US**, which is seeking to organize a constitutional Convention in Washington DC in 2006 to discuss his proposed 10 Amendments. Harry can be reached at 6128 North 28th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85016; telephone: 602-977-0888; Email: [hb@PhoenixProjectPac.US](mailto:hb@PhoenixProjectPac.US).