



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

No More Politics for Me

JONATHAN MILLER

MARK 12:30 / SELECTED PASSAGES

NOVEMBER 27, 2012

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“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.”

Mark 12:30

When I first rededicated my life to Jesus Christ in September of 2009, this verse really challenged me and my whole way of life. To love God with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength meant radically changing the way I lived and what I believed. This verse, the first and most important commandment for a believer in Christ, sent me on quite a journey, one in which I'm still traveling today. It has been a challenging journey, but a very blessed and rewarding one. It has transformed me and filled me with more peace, joy, and pleasure than I've ever known. I never want to go back, only forward.

Please let me share with you some highlights of the journey and what's on the horizon.

CONFESSIONS OF AN ADDICT AND IDOLATER

You may be shocked at reading the above words: addict and idolater. These may not be words you think of when you think of me. But these words describe who I was for a good part of my life. You may be wondering what type of addict and idolater I was. I was addicted to politics and idolized the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

MY IDOLATRY STARTED FIRST.

It first began in high school in my senior year. I took a civics class focused on the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. I fell in love with the principles enshrined in these documents. Protecting my “God-given rights” of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” became my moral code. Even more, it became my god. To keep this god as close to me as possible I carried a wallet sized version of the Bill of Rights in my wallet, much like carrying a pocket Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

I loved this god so much that I decided to major in political science in college. Majoring in political science is how I became even closer to this god and then became addicted to politics. In college I learned that in order to ensure my god would be worshipped, I had to engage in politics.

Politics would be the way in which I would evangelize for my god and teach, or disciple, others to follow my god. Thus I became addicted to politics because of my idolatry. My god of protecting my “God-given rights” of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” wouldn't be worshipped unless I was engaging in the evangelization and disciple making of the world of politics. My addiction and idolatry led to me pursuing a seat in the House of Delegates, which would be one of the greatest blessings in my life.

DELIVERANCE FROM MY ADDICTION AND IDOLATRY

While in the House of Delegates, my addiction and idolatry won me friends on the political and religious right and gave me enemies on the political and religious left. As my addiction and idolatry deepened, I grew more bitter, angry, and unforgiving toward my enemies on the political and religious left. As these feelings grew, I knew something was wrong with me, and I didn't like it.

About this time, the one true God, the God of the Bible, Jesus Christ, began working on me tremendously through the Capitol Commission Bible studies and in other ways. By September 2009, about one year after I began noticing something really wrong with me, I rededicated my life to Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!

I first repented of my sins and put my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was 8 years old. Shortly after I was saved, my family left the church we were attending. We never went back to any church, so I grew up like a lost person. I didn't know what it meant to be a Christian other than trusting in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Living for Christ because He died for me wasn't something I was taught.

INTERIM BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 12:00 NOON

TREASURER'S CONFERENCE ROOM (EB 54)

West Virginia

No More Politics for Me

I was starved for the spiritual food and water I could only receive from God's Word. This starvation for the only food and drink that satisfies led me to try other things that wouldn't ever quench my thirst or fill my stomach. However I have learned that the only true food and drink that truly satisfies is Jesus Christ.

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever..."

John 6:51

"...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

John 7:37

I found some truth in the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution, but I didn't find the Truth. The only truth that exists is Jesus Christ.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

I've found the true food and drink – ***Jesus Christ***. I've found the Truth – ***Jesus Christ***.

WHERE I GO FROM HERE

This is my last week as a delegate. It is also my last political activity – just as this message is titled, "***No More Politics for Me***". I'm dedicating the rest of my life to serving my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God has blessed me with a great job. When I'm not working I'm serving God in my family, my church, and my community. The ministry of God's Word is a duty for every believer. The commandment to share the Gospel with every creature and to make disciples is for every believer in Jesus Christ. This is what I'm dedicating the rest of my life to doing: to building the Kingdom of God and strengthening the Lord's church.

YOUR RESPONSE TO MY TESTIMONY

You may be totally confused by what I've just said. You may understand some of what I said. You may understand all of it. Or you may just think I'm crazy. Nonetheless, I encourage you to respond to my testimony. If you have never trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I encourage you to do so today. God's Word makes it clear that each one of us, regardless of party affiliation or political ideology, are sinners who need a Savior:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

I hope you will turn from your sin (repent) to faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior today.

If you have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then I encourage you to ask yourself these questions.

- **AM I LOVING GOD WITH ALL MY HEART, MIND, SOUL, AND STRENGTH?**
- **ARE THERE THINGS GETTING IN THE WAY OF MY WORSHIP OF CHRIST?**
- **AM I FOLLOWING CHRIST AS I SHOULD?**

If you answer no to any of these questions, I encourage you to seek out the reasons why and begin taking steps to remove them from your life, even if it is politics or your deeply held political beliefs.

West Virginia

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FORGIVENESS AND FAREWELL

I close my testimony by asking for your forgiveness.

During my 6 years here in the West Virginia State Legislature, I have offended, angered, and attacked many people unfairly. I've wronged so many people in so many ways. I've wronged people I know and people I don't know. All of this was due to my idolatry of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution and my addiction to politics. So, if I've ever offended, angered, wronged, or attacked you unfairly, please

forgive me. If I've offended you by sharing my testimony with you, I want you to know that offending you wasn't my intention. I know this is a necessary risk I must take in the true worship of and obedience to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I look forward to one day our paths crossing again, Lord willing. Until then, I pray God works in your life as He has in mine and that you might join me in seeking to love the Lord with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength.