

## A Brief Worldview Response to our President's State of the Union Address

By Shane Haffey, with Comments by Jay Wegter

When Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi shredded our President's speech manuscript on camera, it was clear to anyone with children that these actions were born of three years of seething frustration. But, the Speaker's vexation likely stemmed from something deeper than being curbed in her efforts to tar President Donald Trump's character. For, in his address, our nation's President dispatched an explicit challenge to the secular left's narrative that politics ought to operate in a zone free of religious values. But, it is patently absurd to suggest it is possible to govern by laws that contain no moral significance (if there is an 'ought' in obeying the law, then there must be an authoritative lawgiver who is the source of that 'ought'). It is revealing that secular humanism's advances have depended upon this deceitful strategy of posing, as if possessing, complete objectivity (freedom from religious philosophy). The secular left has been resolute, and sadly successful in its mandate to control every educational, political center in the Western world. But, in its bogus claim to occupy the intellectual high ground, something underhanded has taken place. The secularists have concealed their religious commitment to naturalism beneath the lab coat of theoretical science. The deceit is anchored in a philosophy of *dualism* (a fact, value split) which says in effect to Bible believing Christians, "We secularists have the *facts*, all you have are *values* which are nothing more than your opinions and preferences. So, we will tell you what is real, what is right, and what is true."

Secular humanism pretends to be non-religious, but it functions in a most religious and doctrinaire way—demanding (through education and law) that its worldview be believed, taught, enforced, and legislated as public policy. As a consequence of this ploy, we frequently hear, "Don't mix religion and politics." And, "Don't you believe that a key linchpin in our nation's charter is that church and state must remain separate?" What actually is being said is: "Don't bring your faith into the public square where it can be seen, and where it can exert moral logic." The progressive left understands that biblical ideas have far-reaching societal consequences, thus, they clearly do not want those ideas to gain traction. That is why the secular left is urging Christians to keep their beliefs private, and out of the public arena so that they will not be a threat to humanism's *group-think* monopoly. Thus, in the tearing up of our President's speech there was great umbrage expressed that he dared to weave Christian convictions ('endowed by the creator', 'bearing the image of God', etc.) into civil discourse.

The secular humanists have purposely misconstrued the concept of separation of church and state. The actual idea behind the separation of church and state was originally derived from the first amendment. This amendment was adopted in 1791 along with nine other amendments that make up the Bill of Rights. Thomas Jefferson had the first amendment in mind when, in 1801 he wrote to the concerned Danbury Baptists, stating, we the state, "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . ." Two foundational principles were established in the first amendment pertaining to freedom of religion: 1) The state may not dictate what people believe. 2) The people have the freedom, even encouragement to discuss their religious beliefs in the public square. In other words, the state cannot tell you which gospel to live by, and cannot legally stop you from speaking that gospel to the rest of society.

Perhaps it is time to ask, has the state faithfully upheld the first amendment? This author is convinced that a severe breach of justice has occurred in the violation of that amendment, for secular humanism has become the state-sponsored religion of our nation. The first amendment has been conveniently redefined in such a way as to divorce it from its original purpose. This deviation from

Jefferson's intent has been well-chronicled. With eyes wide open we see how an unapologetic political left has perverted the original purpose of this first amendment right. Consider that Jefferson's wall of divide (between church and state) has now been redefined in such a way that the state is being given full authority to not only dictate what the people believe (through public education and public policy), but also to assume the role of being the object of that faith. Secular humanism has become the state's civil religion. Lured by the left's deceitful offering of endless democratization (the promise of *ever new freedoms*), people sprint toward the precipice of spiritual suicide as humanism's anti-God metanarrative goes unquestioned. The progressive left is hellbent on establishing humanism's own U.S. President so that its stranglehold on what passes for moral knowledge will have no rivals. But, in God's sight the days of this moral revolution are numbered. "He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, 'But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain' " (Ps 2:4-6). And, as theologian Doug Wilson has quipped: God isn't running for office and his laws are not on the voting ballot.

With weeping hearts we see that the state that once defined its freedoms by Christianity's moral norms has now become empowered by people that have abandoned God. The West has swapped gods—the *divine for the human*. We've collectively said, we don't want God, with all of His strict and oppressive rules; give us a human king! But, God's judgment is clear, abandon Me and I will abandon you (1 Chron 28:9; 2 Chron 15:2). You want a human king, you've got one. You want to accumulate for yourselves rulers in accordance with your own desires, have at it. But, God is not mocked; His moral government is inviolate: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life" (Gal 6:7, 8). God may not block what your sinful appetites demand; but this 'giving over' to your desires will be in judgment (Rom 1:26ff.).

In the state of the union address, our nation's President stood at that podium delivering a defiant and powerful message, rich with biblical principles and calling to remembrance our country's deep Christian heritage. Those who make up the political left recognize that the President's speech stands as a rally cry, and potential roadblock to humanism's efforts to remove all traces of Christian 'residue' from the West. The progressive left, in totalitarian uniformity, has of late, sat salivating over the possibility of unifying the majority of government around the unopposed religious faith of secular humanism. Their goal is no longer concealed, but is now conspicuous; it is to eliminate from public discourse truths revealed in His Word by our triune loving God. It is a goal that in the recent past produced great carnage and oppression in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The culture of deceit relies on our forgetfulness of history. For, the lie that human flourishing can be achieved by human wisdom and social engineering, without the loving care, truth, provision, and boundaries of our Creator, has always resulted in a culture of death, accompanied by dystopic conditions. The agenda of the progressive left is to gain complete control so as to advance the cause of humanism's end game, *autonomous utopianism* (one nation under self, and under the state, and not under God). But, our President would not have it. In his speech he drew a line in the sand, and he drove a stake into the ground, "this far and no further," effectually thwarting, for the time being, the left's religious mandate of gender and sexual anarchy, and state sponsored infanticide. Regardless of one's political affiliation, Bible-believing Christians understand that God has appointed government to punish those who practice evil (Rom 13:4). Therefore, how we define evil (as God defines it) is absolutely crucial if our nation's elected officials are to rightly serve as those who govern *under God*.