THE SKEPTIC ARENA.COM

February 8, 2014

Persecution, Repression, and Religious Liberty

By Tony Perkins and Rob Schwarzwalder

*Kim Dae Jin recalls the day when, as a prisoner in a North Korean labor camp, an informant betrayed a small group of prisoners who were Christian, which to be was forbidden.*

*"I watched as they (prison officials) grabbed hold of my friend's arm so tightly that it died and had to be amputated. After that, he and the other Christians were sent to an even stricter camp. You do not get out of a camp like that alive."*

*Sadly, Kim's tale is all too common in North Korea's brutal regime. In its newly released annual report on Christian persecution, Open Doors notes that up to 70,000 Christians are being held in horrific conditions in the North Korean prison "gulag." In them, everyone, from small children to the elderly, is subject to sub-human treatment, often for simply believing in Jesus.*

Tony, why do you think Jesus refuses to help them?

Is this a test? Did they fail to provide Him enough foreskins? Or does watching His believers being tortured ... sexually stimulate the Invisible One?

During WW2, Jesus' Dad did the same thing to the Jews ... and they were supposed to be His favorite people.

Well, like Father - like Son ... I guess.

*One of the great tragedies of our time is that the situation in North Korea is by no means unique.*

Tony, you're right. I just gave you an example that shows that these two dysfunctional Gods are quite the evil little duet.

They don't remind me so much of loving Gods, as they do 2 teenage delinquents with an ant farm.

*Open Doors "works in the world's most oppressive countries, strengthening Christians to stand strong in the face of persecution and equipping them to shine Christ's light in these dark places."*

Tony, what do you want to bet that those 70,000 victims would gladly trade their Jesus flashlights for a shipment of Bushmaster automatic weapons?

*In its annual "World Watch List," Open Doors lists no less than 27 countries where persecution of Christians can be considered "extreme or severe."*

Tony, if you think that's bad, I can give you a list of 13 countries where being an Atheist ... carries the death penalty.

*These include such "mainstream" nations as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, as well as long-time religious liberty violators like Iran and Somalia.*

Tony, the countries you listed were all Muslim countries. "You people" have been at war for 1,400 years; which begs the question:

Why is their God able to hold His own, for centuries, against all 3 of your Gods?

That's kind of embarrassing, wouldn't you say, Tony?

*Ministries like Open Doors, Voice of the Martyrs, China Aid and Christian Solidarity Worldwide do brave and vital work in helping persecuted believers, reminding us in free countries of the pain they face, and motivating international action on their behalf.*

Tony, let's turn that around and see what we can learn. Throughout history, wherever Christianity was the dominant religion, Christians were as bad, or worse, to those of different faiths, or no faith, as those you are complaining about now. They are simply giving you a dose of your own medicine - as documented by Christianity's long, bloody history.

Even today, in so-called civilized nations like America, Christians still retain some of their persecution power. Fortunately our laws, Constitution, and a Civil War have diminished Christian religious freedom. So looking at Muslim nations today is a good reminder of what Christian life was like ... for nearly 2,000 years.

*Family Research Council has worked and will continue to work with these organizations to educate and equip Christians in America to stand with the persecuted church and advocate on their behalf.*

Tony, haven't you ever wondered why an all-powerful God would allow His subjects to be persecuted and even killed for worshiping Him?

I have. That's why I'm no longer a Christian, Tony. I figured it out. Obviously ... you haven't.

*Our persecuted brothers and sisters should continually be in our prayers.*

Why Tony, if God has been allowing their persecution all this time, what makes you think He would change His plan?

Either He is going to let them go free or He is not. As God, He already knows what He is going to do. So what is the point in praying?

*But praying is not enough. We need to be financially supporting these vital ministries that are helping persecuted and imprisoned Christians around the globe.*

Tony, since we just established that praying is a waste of time, what makes you think that money will change God's mind?

God could free them in an instant, right? But He doesn't. He continues to watch as they are mistreated, and tortured, and kept imprisoned. Prayers haven't worked. Money hasn't worked. Have you ever considered that you might be praying to the wrong God?

*We must also call upon our governmental leaders to advocate for those who are being persecuted for their faith.*

Tony, since everyone knows that government leaders must be Christian to be elected in the U.S., what makes you think they haven't been advocating? If a congress that is virtually 100% Christian, and in charge of the most powerful country on Earth can't help them; and an all-powerful God either can't help them, or refuses to help them ... what makes you think you can?

*Unfortunately, the Obama administration's record on defending Christians persecuted for their faith has been embarrassingly weak. Under Mr. Obama's watch, the State Department's international religious freedom department has "missed some of the biggest crises of our day," according to leading advocate for the persecuted Nina Shea.*

Tony, you conveniently forgot about the biggest crisis of our day, 9/11. You didn't forget because Bush was president, did you?

Yes, I think your selective memory probably started recording ... around January, 2009.

*Dr. Tom Farr was the first State Department international religious freedom director. Now at Georgetown University, Dr. Farr has spoken several times at the Family Research Council about the current administration's ineptitude and indifference regarding those persecuted for their faith.*

Well Tony, the current administration is chock full of Christians so you need to ask them what their problem is. You can't blame Muslims, Jews, or Atheists for that one.

*His tentative judgment after nearly five years of the Obama administration? In his words, "The administration does not see international religious freedom as a priority."*

Tony, America does not see religious freedom as a priority. As your organization (the Family Research Council) proves, you are only concerned with freedom for Christians. There is nothing on your propaganda web site that demonstrates the slightest interest in promoting religious freedom for anyone ... other than Christians.

Tony, that's not religious freedom ... that's religious domination.

You are no better than the people you are criticizing.

*This international indifference to religious freedom should not surprise us when here at home we see hostility toward religious freedom from the Obama administration.*

Tony, your organization, as well as countless other Christian organizations in America exhibit a strong anti-Muslim bias. Christian history is also littered with anti-Semitism. You don't want religious freedom. It's clear you despise other religions.

Also, your attacks on Obama are so typical of Confederate, Bible Belt propaganda. Obama is a Christian, but ... he isn't the right color Christian, is he?

*As the Family Research Council has documented extensively, erosions of religious liberty in American public life and in our military are increasing.*

Tony, that is correct. Your religious freedom to obey your ancient scriptures has been eliminated in cases of slavery, witch-burning, genocide, human and animal sacrifice, stoning, and the execution of people who commit misdemeanors such as working on the Sabbath.

*This hostility to religious freedom has been evident in the president's hallmark legislation, the Affordable Care Act (ACA).*

Tony, please explain how following the teachings of Jesus Christ equates to hostility to religious freedom, in your mind. You can't.

You're just another bigoted, Southern Confederate still fuming over the Civil War.

*Under a provision of the ACA, Christian colleges and hospitals and Christian-run businesses would be required to provide their employees with health insurance plans that cover potentially abortion-inducing drugs.*

Tony, that issue is before the Supreme Court right now. They will decide whether or not Christians, like you, will be able to continue to force their religious beliefs upon others.

*This is a massive violation of their right to live out their faith in the marketplace, in the health care system, and in the academic world.*

Tony, exactly where in the Constitution are you granted the right to force your religious beliefs on others in the marketplace, health care system, or in academia?

I must have skipped over that part.

*These policies flow from a truncated view of religious liberty.*

Tony, religious liberty is not absolute. Go back to that list I just gave you, and you'll see why modern society has decided that your invisible friend, may have gotten ... a few things wrong.

*In his own words, President Obama has repeated expressed his support for the freedom of worship, not the freedom of religion.*

Tony, that's because Obama is bound by the Constitution, which is something you Ghost Worshipers have been chipping away at ... since it was first written.

*The freedom of worship is the ability to choose the church, if any; you want to attend on Sunday morning. The freedom of religion is the ability to live your life according to the religious teachings of your choice.*

Tony, as I stated earlier, that freedom is not absolute; and as society continues to become ever more civilized, you lose more and more of your odious freedoms.

For example, modern humans are currently working to eliminate your freedom to mutilate your babies, just to please an invisible ghost.

*To be sure, American Christians experience nothing like the gruesome punishment Christians undergo daily around the globe.*

That's right Tony, here in America Christians are the ones who administer the gruesome punishments. But as history has proven, most of those have been eliminated, and civilized humans (including many Christians) are now working towards eliminating others.

*Yet the precursor to persecution is always repression,*

Thanks Tony, for spitting into the wind. Repression has been best represented by Christian blasphemy laws which have been enforced up until only recently (google: Galileo and Charles Lee Smith, who was the last person convicted of blasphemy in the United States in 1928). Muslim countries still enforce blasphemy laws and many even carry the death penalty.

So you basically just blew up your own argument. How could you be that stupid? Don't you have anyone in your organization who can proofread this crap before you post it on the internet for everyone to see?

Guess not.

*the forcing-down of Christian faith into quiet corners where its visibility is limited and its impact is weakened.*

Tony, thanks again. This time you exposed your secret agenda. But don't worry - it's not like everyone didn't already know. World domination is the stated goal of both Islam and Christianity. That is why both faiths do everything in their power to convert anyone, not under their control.

*We are witnessing that kind of growing repression in the U.S. today and it is fostering or at least giving rise to the spread of the persecution of Christians and religious minorities around the world.*

Good point Tony. In fact, the persecution in America is getting so bad that there are now rumors that someone other than a Jew or Christian might get appointed to the Supreme Court or elected to Congress or the Presidency. But don't worry. You know how rumors are. You have all 3 branches of government locked up by Christians so you'll be safe for a very, very long time.

But that does pretty much demolish your pathetic portrayal of Christians as victims, doesn't it?

What you are really whining about is your decreasing ability to victimize other Americans.

*Even as we stand with believers like Kim Dae Jin, we have to be vigilant in defending religious liberty where it's always been most sacred - our own country.*

Tony, you aren't defending religious liberty - you are trying to enforce Christian doctrine. Your own 1st Commandment states

"Thou shalt have no other Gods before Me."

That kills your entire spiel about respecting other religions and defending religious liberty. As a Bible believer, you *must* believe that all other religions are false. It is blasphemy for you to say otherwise.

And Tony, the penalty for blasphemy ... is death.

*On January 16, we will commemorate our annual "Religious Freedom Day." Let's hope, work, and pray that our "first freedom," religious liberty, will not only remain our first freedom, but also become a freedom that people around the world will experience.*

Tony, as I just proved with scripture, religious freedom is a Christian's worst enemy. In Canada, when a school attempted to introduce a class on comparative religions, Christians went nuts and protested, trying to get the class canceled. They don't want religious freedom - they want Christian domination.

And Tony ... so do you.

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

Flipper's Dark Side

With their built-in smiles and sociable ways, common bottlenose dolphins strike most of us as cheery, good-natured beings. But dolphins, particularly males, have a darker side. They battle each other to capture female dolphins, clobber unwilling female partners, and beat up (and sometimes kill) harbor porpoises.

They also practice infanticide, killing newborn calves of females they have not mated with—a reproductive strategy that causes the female to become fertile a few months after losing her calf. Direct observations of these lethal calf attacks are rare. But a scientist witnessed one such incident on a newborn calf and mother.

A single male dolphin, swam rapidly into a group of 42 dolphins of mixed sexes. Among them were several mothers with their young calves. He targeted one mother and emerged from the group clutching her newborn calf in his jaws. She and the others chased after him, as he butted, rammed, and pushed the calf deep underwater. The mother managed to retrieve her calf and surfaced with him lying motionless on her back. But the male seized the calf again, striking him with such force that he flew through the air. Other dolphins—males and females—came to the mother’s aid, and she was ultimately able to rescue her calf. But he was severely injured, and stranded himself 8 months later when he died.

A necropsy revealed that he suffered from acute scoliosis—deformation of the spine—which the scientists believe was a result of the attack. The research team reported that a high number of calves had these spinal deformities. They now believe they know at least one cause.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

ANONYMOUS

"Never look down on anybody, unless you're helping them up."