Bradford County Ten Commandments monument dedicated

*Replicating six-ton, granite monuments erected in recent years in other Florida communities with the sponsorship of businessman Joe Anderson, the Bradford County monument is a privately funded display granted by the County Commission in the government facility’s courtyard in Starke.*

*Harry Hatcher, the owner of a local restaurant and member of First Baptist Church in Starke since 1953, said members of the interdenominational Community Men’s Fellowship, which he leads every week, have raised $18,000 towards the total cost of $22,000 for the monument.*

*“It’s not only important for this community,” Hatcher said of the Ten Commandments. “It’s important for any community. It’s important for individuals.”*

Harry, why is it important for Muslim communities? Why is it important for Hindu communities? Why is it important for Agnostic and Atheist communities?

Maybe if you removed the first 4 commandments demanding obedience to the Christian God, the rest of them might be relevant; but they are certainly not necessary since we already have laws covering those topics.

*The Decalogue enshrined in a monument on display in the community “is very symbolic of God’s love for mankind,” he said.*

Harry, it is symbolic of God's demand that we worship Him or face horrible consequences. I don't see any commandments which display God's love for mankind. Perhaps you could provide one?

*God “knew what was best by giving us these commandments.*

Harry, then why did He wait thousands of years before making commandments against killing and stealing? How was that, best for us?

*And then when man couldn’t keep these commandments, Jesus shed His blood at Calvary’s cross” for humanity’s sins, he said. “That’s what I hope people see from this Ten Commandments monument,” Hatcher said, adding that the monument is a reminder “we’re totally dependent upon Him and I hope that will remind us day-by-day about that.”*

Harry, what a great message to send to all the children, "Without an invisible man to depend on, they are totally worthless."

*Hatcher told the Witness his group – which has been in existence for 20 years – has watched “with great interest” the legal challenge to the Ten Commandments monument in Dixie County.*

Well Harry won't have to watch much longer because his actions have now brought an expensive lawsuit down on your tiny metropolis. Now others will be watching you; and if past court decisions are any indication, you guys have just made your financial situation a whole lot worse.

*The county is currently appealing a ruling last July by a federal judge finding the monument unconstitutional.*

Harry, after Bradford County assumes the cost of attorneys, and trash removal, I'm guessing that they might finally get that whole concept about the first amendment.

*The monument dedication was held as part of the annual observance of the National Day of Prayer led by Bradford County coordinator Laura Finley, a member of Northside Baptist Church in Starke, where her husband is pastor. About 250 people gathered in the County Courthouse courtyard for the hour-long event.*

*Like NDP events around the country, prayers were offered for local, state and federal government leaders, the military, business and community leaders, churches and families.*

*Don Davis, pastor to senior adults at Mandarin Baptist Church in Jacksonville, spoke on the significance of prayer.*

*“Prayer is of paramount importance,” said Davis, who retired as colonel after serving more than 30 years in the U.S. Army.*

Don, if you ever saw "action" while in the army, didn't it ever occur to you that talking to yourself during battle doesn't accomplish anything except make you more vulnerable to enemies who are concentrating on what they are doing?

Didn't it ever occur to you that if your God were real ... there wouldn't be any wars?

Didn't it ever occur to you that prayers only worked for those who survived, uninjured?

Guess not.

*“Prayer is omnipotent – it can do anything that God can do,” he said.*

Don, millions of dead soldiers who never got to go home to their families ... would disagree.

*Davis said prayer is also omniscient in that “all true and pleasing prayer originates in the heart of God.”*

Don, so God initiates prayer in his heart, and then somehow sends it to a person, who then sends it back to God?

Don, you're kind of a nut, aren't you?

*Noting the moral and spiritual problems of the nation, Davis urged the audience, “Pray, dear friends. Pray.”*

Don, if Christians have been praying for centuries, and they still have moral and spiritual problems, as you say, why are you urging them to continue doing what obviously hasn't worked?

Maybe our moral and spiritual problems would be better solved by getting together and working on the problems in a rational manner instead of having large numbers of people sitting around talking to themselves?

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