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Silence That Insults The Living God

By Duane V. Maxey

"Ye that make mention of the Lord, **KEEP NOT SILENCE.**" -- Isaiah 62:6

At noon today, the mayor of Spokane is calling for a gathering at Riverside Park to observe "a moment of silence" following the September 11, 2001 Attack on America. Also, this morning the New York Stock Exchange opened for the first time since the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center fell, and participants in the opening ceremony were asked to observe two minutes of silence, which was followed by the singing of "God Bless America." The words of the song are a prayer, invoking the Deity to bless our nation, but can God bless our nation as He really wishes to bless it when He is insulted by silence!?

Why do I say, "insulted by silence"? Because **"MOMENTS OF SILENCE" HAVE NOW DISPLACED AUDIBLE, PUBLIC PRAYER**, supposedly as the "proper thing do" when some national tragedy has befallen us -- "moments of silence" now, instead of even inaudible prayer which a few generations ago was considered the appropriate thing -- "moments of silence" now, instead of even formal, but audible prayer observed at an earlier time -- and "moments of silence" now, instead of the audible, loud, earnest, and heart-felt cries for God to help our nation which were often uttered by many of our nation's first citizens.

I remember, as a lad, hearing what was then a popular morning radio program called "The Breakfast Club." At a certain point in the program, listeners were invited, "Each in his own words, each in his own way, for a world united in peace, let us bow our heads and pray." Such pseudo piety was "the in thing" back in the late 1940s and the 1950s. Yes, it was hollow ecumenicism, it was empty froth, but at least in those days folks were not ashamed to be thought of as those who pray to God.

Who would doubt that loud and anguished invocations came from the lips of many of those who were about to perish as those towers fell last Tuesday? How many of those who leaped from those towers to avoid being roasted to death observed "moments of silence" as they plummeted to their death because it was the politically-correct thing to do? Some no doubt were numbed and dumbed with horror, but I doubt that any were ashamed to pray, and pray aloud! Sound recordings of the tragedy caught the screaming utterances of God's Name by others who fled the scene, and probably none of those who thus loudly invoked God's Name on "Black Tuesday" were ashamed of those anguished cries! -- and probably none sought to hush them into an "appropriate silence"!

One has written that while sometimes "Silence is Golden," there are other times when "Silence is Just Plain Yellow"! I agree, and would add that "Sometimes Silence Is An Insult To Christ"! It is THE REASONS WHY "moments of silence" are being observed today that constitute them to be insults to Christ:

(1) "Moments of Silence" are observed today because many feel that we must not insult Atheists and Agnostics who deny the existence of God and who derogate all prayer. So, instead of insulting them, moral cowards and deluded-do-gooders are insulting God! with their politically-correct dumbness toward the Deity!

(2) "Moments of Silence" are observed today to avoid insulting those who feel that "The Church" and "The State" must be kept entirely separate. So, they insult God, and drive Him farther from our nation at a time when He is most desperately needed, and when He might do wonders for our land if He was shown even the slightest modicum of respect! Those who perished last Tuesday and those who were imperiled were not praying to the ACLU, but that godless group is now being shown more respect in these "moments of silence" than is the God who controls our destiny!

(3) "Moments of Silence" are observed today in deference to many who deny that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ. Such silence-advocates feel that we must not insult the Jews and others who think that the lowly Nazarene was nothing more than a good man, if even that! So, they dare to insult the Sovereign Deity of the Son of God while honoring all who deny Him! Even tacit approval of such politically-correct silence is itself a denial of Christ who warned: "Whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:33).

(4) "Moments of Silence" are observed today, lest we offend Muslim Americans who would feel insulted to hear God addressed as "Jehovah" instead of "Allah"! Public officials are going to great lengths now to differentiate between devout Muslims and Terrorists, but I think that a little investigation would reveal that in the minds of many Terrorists they are only putting Muslim Fundamentals into practice! NO -- A THOUSAND TIMES, NO! -- to the mistreatment of Muslims in America! Such hateful deeds are as foreign to true Christianity as are the deeds of those who committed the Kamikaze attacks upon the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last Tuesday. Still, it is an insult to the true God to refrain from calling audibly upon His Name, in deference to worshippers of the false "Allah".

(5) "Moments of Silence" are also observed today in deference to a number of deceived and deluded religious groups in America, including also Buddhists, Hindus -- all of whom, it is feared, would be insulted if we were to call audibly upon the name of Christ in public gatherings in memory of the thousands who died last Tuesday.

How tragic that the Living God is being insulted today by such mum and dumb silences! How foreign is such devil-inspired-dumbness from God's command: "CALL UPON ME in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psalms 50:15). How ineffectual to save our nation are such satanic silences when God has said: "Whosoever shall CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). He did not say, "Observe moments of silence in the day of trouble: and I will deliver thee;" He did not say: "Whosoever shall observe moments of silence shall be saved;" but apparently many of our politically-correct leaders think that such non-prayers will successfully invoke The Deity -- If He DOES exist, and by whatever Name He may answer!

In the Prayer Service conducted in our "National Cathedral" last week, it must be admitted that audible prayers were uttered -- somewhat better, perhaps, than mute silence, but even in that service the audible prayers of a Muslim to Allah were equated with those offered in Jesus' Name.

Sadly, 3 of the 4 Kamikaze Terrorists flights did not miss their mark last Tuesday, while probably much more than 3 out of 4 prayers uttered during this crisis have failed to hit the target and to avail with the One True God -- to say nothing of how utterly ineffectual with Him are the pseudo-pious "moments of silence" now being observed across our nation!

Once, during a prayer being offered in a public gathering attended by President Lyndon Banes Johnson, LBJ was having difficulty hearing the one who was supposed to be praying audibly, and he interrupted the man who was praying, admonishing him "speak up" so that he could hear him! The pray-er replied something as follows: "I was not praying to you, Mr. President."

Whether or not this response put the President in his place I know not. It is true that not everyone whose public prayers are whispered, or inaudible, is guilty of insulting Christ, and the profane LBJ certainly was NOT an example of true piety. Perhaps he even needed to hear that retort of his underling that day, but apparently LBJ was not afraid or ashamed of audible and easily heard public prayer in Jesus Name -- something that many, even in this hour of national crisis, are studiously avoiding! SHAME ON THEM!

The Psalmist declared: "**I WILL CALL UPON THE LORD**, who is worthy to be praised: **SO SHALL I BE SAVED FROM MINE ENEMIES**" (Psa. 18:3) Even "SO" must Americans "CALL" audibly, unashamedly, and without apology, upon Christ Jesus if our nation is ever to be saved from its enemies. Proud "Moments of Silence," when God demands loud cries for His help, will **exacerbate the problem** and will **NOT extirpate the threat** to our safety.

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