

The Christian Theocracy Movement to End The Separation of Church and State

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In 1787 the American independence movement adopted a constitution rejecting confederacy and grounded in democracy. In so doing it broke its final roots with the English monarchical empire governed by a God-anointed king who ruled with authoritarian power over its church and political state. Thomas Jefferson proposed a separate church and state as an absolute prerequisite for each institution to be free of the other.

Two hundred years later a third confederacy movement was formed based on a coalition of evangelical Christians, White-Supremacist militias, plutocratic corporations, and states-rights former parts of the Civil War confederacy. In my book, *William Penn, James Madison and The Historical Crisis in American Federalism*, 2000, I wrote about the first and second confederacies of 1777 and 1861.

In 2016 with the election of Donald Trump, we have witnessed the emergence of an authoritarian presidency committed to eradicating all of the benefits of our democratically inspired nation, including ending the separation of church and state. Trump and his Republican autocratic insurrectionists stormed the capitol attempting to overthrow the government. These criminals should have all been indicted by now, including the former President. The democratically elected Biden government now calls on Americans to vote down those Republican candidates bent on condemning our democracy and creating, in its place, a Christian theocracy pledged to anoint an English-like king ruling over both our state and church.

Consider, as support for this outrageous proposition, the rhetoric, ideology and actions of leading Republican candidates for election this November who want your votes. Take, for example, U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert of my state of Colorado. According to a recent *Denver Post* news article (September 15, 2022) she bases her re-election candidacy on “a religious take-over of America spreading falsehoods about the 2020 presidential election, and warning of an impending judgment day.” Her words attack non-Christian and non-White Americans, as well as those of us who are White and are followers of Jesus. Jesus came to free the oppressed (Luke 4:16-20) not to create a repressive theocracy.

Boebert, of Silt, spoke at a “Truth and Liberty Coalition” conference in Woodland Park Colorado close to where my wife Genie and I live. She said “it’s time for us to position ourselves and rise up and take our place in Christ and influence this nation as we are told to do so.” She did not say who was telling her God, Christ or Trump, but we know she met with Trump cohorts before the riot on January 6. She was not the first conservative Christian to tell us we are in “the last days ... ushering in the second coming of Christ.” She has posed with firearms and claims that she is “tired of the separation of church and state junk.” Further, she has said that Donald Trump has been “anointed by God” to the Presidency (even though he has said he seeks “pussies” and apparently his chief Biblical obsession is “mammon” (money)

and not freedom for the oppressed). Boebert's obsession with gun worship this summer the *Post* wrote led her to say that "Jesus had been killed by Romans because he didn't have enough assault rifles to keep his government from killing him." Jesus had no government and no assault rifles existed at the time. She blames the school shooting of 19 children in Uvalde, Texas by an assault rifle shooter not on him but on "Godlessness that is here overtaking America. Drug use and violent crime are caused because Latin Americans illegally immigrate." Jesus, however, welcomed the "good Samaritan" and other strangers and lepers not welcome where he lived (Matt. 25:35; Luke 12:13, 30:37). Power should shift to "real Americans" meaning apparently White conservative Christians. She has ties to well-known militia groups such as Qanon. Trump, at his last rally, played their song and used their salute.

The Colorado Springs *Independent* newspaper (Sept. 21-22) ran an article entitled "Take the Wheel," on Christian theocracy, which reported on the Truth and Liberty Coalition conference where U.S. Representatives Doug Lamborn and Mark Baisley were also present. Town and Liberty founder, Andrew Wommack said that "America was founded as a Christian nation." Apparently Wommack has never read James Madison's U.S. Constitution and its Bill of Rights. Wommack thanks God for aiding him recently when the Woodland Park City Council raised millions of potential revenues for new housing proceeds for him. In thanks he made a \$250,000 donation to the city. Three thousand five hundred Coloradans were present.

One of the keynote speakers told the audience "I wouldn't vote for a homosexual, I wouldn't vote for a transgender, I wouldn't vote for a witch." Other speakers said that the Devil flipped Colorado from a red to a blue state. They talked about Jews being only 2.5 percent of the American population but having much more influence. One speaker paraphrased Billy Graham's 1972 prayer breakfast anti-Semitic remarks to President Richard Nixon. They added that Islam is the "spirit of the Anti-Christ." Afterward they prayed in "tongues," and claimed that "we are going to expose the Devil and we are going to take back our country in Jesus' name," but apparently not in Jesus' way. Putin also has called the United States "Satanistic."

Other Republicans that claim similar views are Representative Margerie Taylor Green of Georgia, Senator Rick Scott and Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida, Representative Noah Gohmert of Texas and Governor-candidates Terry Lake of Arizona and Doug Mastriano of Pennsylvania. Many more Republicans that are November candidates espouse these thoughts and actions which they deem compatible with Donald Trump and his Maga movement. If these candidates win, America will be characterized by these beliefs. If we allow the present inflation to determine our votes, we will have inflated truth and liberty to be mischaracterized in this way.

Americans have lived comparatively comfortably and complaisantly about their public community and need to heed the words of Thomas Jefferson to be vigilant and rise to avert these threats to American democracy. These attempts to take away the meaning of truth and the way of liberty by ending our Republic as we know it will re-establish a colonial one where an allegedly God-appointed Trump will reign over us as a king if elected in 2024. This is our choice.