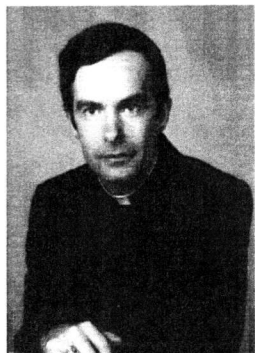


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



In just a few weeks, we will observe July 4th and celebrate freedom. Most people value freedom, some even more than life. Patrick Henry made that choice clear during the American Revolution. Life is a sequence of choices. We have freedom regarding what we choose, not whether we

choose. There is no freedom to not choose. To neglect to choose is a choice. Yet, as valued as freedom is and as unavoidable as choices are, freedom has limits. We have no freedom of choice regarding some of the most basic things in life. We do not have the freedom to choose if or when we are born, our race, gender, native nationality and language, name, family, or economic status.

History is a record of civilizations that have advanced for a time, then grown soft or corrupt and digressed from the noble aspirations they once pursued. Old Testament history provides numerous examples. God saved Noah and his family and entrusted his descendants with repopulating the earth. (Gen. 8:17, 9:1) But men under the leadership of Nimrod, whose name means "we shall rebel," chose to disobey God and digressed. (Gen. 11:4) Consequently, God intervened to scatter man throughout the earth by developing numerous languages and three different races. The history of the nation of Israel is a continuous repetition of aspiration and digression. After the first generation entered the Promised Land with Joshua, the Israelites began to degenerate under the influence of the pagan Canaanites into the atrocities associated with Baal worship. (Jdg. 3) Israel's civilization reached a high point under David and Solomon, then succumbed to secular pagan influence. Irresponsible compromises, careless tolerance, and man's own political and economic goals replaced trust in God. (I Kg. 11) After being freed from slavery in Babylon, the books of Ezra and Nehemiah repeat the same story. Ezra read God's law to the people and they confessed their errors and repented. Nehemiah built a physical wall of defense around Jerusalem and a spiritual wall of protection around the people.

The New Testament and 2000 years of church history also tell a similar story. Christians, having to contend with the subversive overt attacks and subtle influence of secular paganism, have struggled to retain the purity of faith of the apostolic era. Our own personal lives are microcosms of the continuation of this struggle. As Christians, we resolve to live more faithfully, yet repeatedly fall short and digress into slavery to sin. That is why confession and repentance are staples of the Christian life. (I Jn. 1:9, 2:1)

By the actions of many, freedom is won. By the actions of a few, freedom is lost. A generation of Americans now lives without the experience or memory of what it was once like to be able to walk or drive down a street without being watched by cameras, to enter government buildings and military installations without having to navigate through security guards, metal detectors, and show proper identification. They do not remember when boarding a plane was as simple as purchasing a ticket and checking in your luggage, when students did not attend schools behind locked doors, and vital personal information was not collected and stored in data banks. Why? "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He Who now restrains it will do so until He is out of the way." (II Thess. 2:7) The Restrainer is the Holy Spirit Who speaks to each man as his conscience. When He is either not present or dominant in the lives of men, their "...consciences are seared..." (I Tim. 4:2) "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith..." (I Tim. 4:1) there will be "...a falling away..." (II Thess. 2:3) Consequently, "...every man (will do) what (is) right in his own eyes." (Jdg. 17:6) Indiscriminate tolerance, irrational relativism, and raging chaos will result in the loss of freedom.

The Illuminati derives its name from those who, as today's successors to its founders, choose to reject God, claim to be illuminated with superior knowledge and truth, and seek to impose their will on others. Christ said, "And because wickedness is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold." (Matt. 24:12) "God is love." (I Jn. 4:8) Christ said, "I am...the truth..." (Jn. 14:6) "and the truth will make you free." (Jn. 8:32) God created man in His image. (Gen. 1:26) Man reflects God's image when he possesses the disposition of love and defends

truth. (I Cor. 13:4-6) When man chooses to damage his relationship with God, he damages his relationship with his fellow man. After the Fall in Eden, Adam and Eve's relationship suffered accusations. (Gen. 3:12) Cain killed Abel. (Gen. 4:8) And so, the reverberations of broken relationships pass down through history to the present.

American society, well into the first half of the 20th century, was predominantly Christian in its moral standards and was based on them for its way of life and very existence. As recent as 1956, Congress designated "In God We Trust" as the national motto. Imagine Congress doing that today! Freedom is spiritual, not tangible. The Founding Fathers understood the spiritual connection between Christianity and freedom. John Adams said, "It is religion and morality alone that can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand." He concluded, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of another." Noah Webster agreed, "(T)he Christian religion...is the basis, or rather the source of all genuine freedom in government...and I am persuaded that no civil government of a republican form can exist and be durable in which the principles of that religion have not a controlling influence." Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration of Independence, as if addressing today's Americans, said, "(W)ithout morals a republic cannot subsist...; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments."

Father Richard Rudd

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