

# Mini Edition

(A Conservative Christian News Commentary)

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By Joseph Harris

Comments on Current Events in Government,  
Religion, Culture, and the Family from a  
Conservative Biblical Perspective

From the Year 2002

"For People Who Want a Dose of Reality"

**Volume II**

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## Mini Edition

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**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 29, 2002 2:21 PM  
**Subject:** Mini Edition 69

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June 29, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 69

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Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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Mini Edition: for people who want a dose of reality Sent free weekly to all who request it at [miniedition@c-gate.net](mailto:miniedition@c-gate.net)  
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### True Wisdom Versus Man's Wisdom

There are only two kinds of wisdom in the world, according to scripture: man's wisdom and God's wisdom. Unfortunately, the wisdom of man is today's prevailing guide for most philosophy and practice. The wisdom of man is usually diametrically opposed to the wisdom of God. For instance, consider the human fabrication known as evolution, with its explanation for the origin of man. This theory is built upon man-made science which denies, even attacks the existence of God. The REAL reason men deny the existence of God is not based on intellect or evidence or lack of evidence, but rebellion. If there is a God, then all men must one day face Him and be accountable. Solution to the God problem: get rid of God by denying His existence and offer an alternative for the origin of man and existence of the universe.

After getting rid of the existence of God, the obvious result is moral relativism, followed by lawlessness. If God, the divine lawmaker who establishes the standard for right and wrong, does not exist, then neither do any absolutes exist. Nothing is ever right or wrong. Lying is not wrong, just irritating and troublesome. Taking that which belongs to another is not stealing, but sharing the wealth. We've come a long way, baby.

Man's wisdom produces illogical solutions to man's problems, which are ultimately caused by man's sin of rebellion against the higher power. Consider laws that require children to be buckled in a car seat or buckled into a rear seat to avoid injury or death by an inflated airbag. The ONE purpose for these laws is for PROTECTION of the life of children. Yet abortion allows children to be mercilessly slaughtered before they ever leave the womb to be buckled into a car for safety. That's real wisdom.

Years ago, the war on drugs used the slogan "**Just say no**" promoting drug abstinence. Now to be honest, yet in no way condoning drug use, some drugs can be taken only once or twice with no more adverse affects on the body than overeating. But notice man's wisdom when it comes to sexual abstinence. Instead of zero tolerance as with the drugs(Just say no) the attitude was "Just use a condom" yet just ONE sex act with the wrong person could lead to death. Man's wisdom is illogical and destructive.

Consider man's wisdom concerning salvation. In I Corinthians 1, Paul wrote, "*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.*" God's wisdom says men can have life from God based upon the death of God on the cross. The central message of the preaching of the cross is SUBSTITUTION. The innocent died for the guilty, paying the debt for the guilty.....completely...100%. Man's wisdom accepts the cross, but then adds baptism, good works, morality, church membership, confession, etc. Men are not saved by what they have done, are currently doing, or promise to do in the future. **"We are saved by believing, not behaving"** to quote Dr. Curtis Hutson. Men are saved by believing that when Jesus died on the cross, His death COMPLETELY satisfied Holy God's wrath against the sinner. This belief is active, not passive and results in a changed life, II Cor. 5:17.

If you have been depending on man's wisdom for salvation, come to God now, based upon His wisdom and His provision. If you would like to know how to be saved according to God's wisdom, email me at [miniedition@c-gate.net](mailto:miniedition@c-gate.net).

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**Joseph Harris invites all to come to Christ, as God's Spirit reveals Himself to them.**



## Mini Edition

From: Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
 Sent: Saturday, July 06, 2002 3:57 PM  
 Subject: Mini Edition 70

July 6, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 70

Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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**Get the Good Credit You Deserve...**

I recently heard an ad on radio that went something like this: "Tired of being turned down because of late payments, bankruptcy, or no credit record? Then call 1-000-000-0000 and we'll help you repair your credit record so you can GET THE GOOD CREDIT YOU DESERVE." The good credit you **deserve**? If you haven't been paying your bills on time or at all, then you don't **deserve** good credit. Good credit is not something **deserved** by all, or a **right** guaranteed by the constitution or any other document. Good credit is a privilege you **EARN** by performance. It's like respect: you earn it.

Credit reporting agencies sometimes make mistakes, but they usually report the truth about an individual's record of payment. And that record is what determines whether or not a merchant will decide to let them have merchandise without paying for it on the spot. Plus, when an individual makes poor choices and ends up with more debt than can be paid for, that person certainly does not need some organization "repairing" their credit so they can add more debt onto the pile. They need help, not more credit. But somehow, people think they have "**rights**" to everything.

This mentality is found from the top to the bottom, from the government which represents the individuals to the individuals themselves. The government thinks it deserves all it takes in taxes and more. Frederic Bastiat, the French economist from the 1800's, said that taxation was legalized plunder(theft) by a government.

People who will not hold a job and be productive, think they deserve to be taken care of by the state, since they have had "bad breaks" in life, whether it be because of poverty, race, ethnic background, class, handicap, or whatever other excuse can be dreamed up. They just weren't given a "fair shake" so they claim.

Then there are those tax paying citizens who think, since they pay so much in taxes(which they usually do) they **deserve** to get a little back any way they can. They cheat and lie to do so. They don't report all earnings, which is lying and stealing. Or they "become disabled", to draw back some of what they have paid in. They know all the little secrets and tricks for milking the system. I was having high cholesterol problems recently and a certain individual encouraged me to apply for disability. My reply was, "But then I wouldn't be able to work". I **want** to work and provide for myself and my family, thank you. The state has enough dependents as it is. I know. I'm helping the state support them. I think it's ironic that the government steals from the people and the people from the government, which is the people. In essence, everyone is robbing themselves, but the guy in the middle feels it the most.

Concerning our "**rights**" they were all nailed to a tree almost 2000 years ago when the God man Jesus gave up His "**rights**" for us. He had a **right** to live and not be crucified, but gave it up so others might not go to an everlasting lake of fire, which is by the way, what they **deserve**. Do you still want what you **deserve**?

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**Joseph Harris, the writer of Mini Edition, reminds believers of the great debt of Rom 1:14.**



## Mini Edition

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**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2002 6:59 AM  
**Subject:** Mini Edition 71

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July 17, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 71

Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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**Don't Preach on Hell**

I just heard about a survey taken by the Los Angeles Times. They polled "members of the clergy" asking if they ever preached on the subject of hell. Most said they did not even mention hell. The reason they gave was because most of their members did not want to hear it, since they were more concerned with the here and now. Too bad they didn't interview some REAL men of God. Their results would have been different. Men who are really called by God aren't concerned about preaching a popular message of the people, but are extremely concerned about preaching **Thus Saith the Lord**. Modern Robert Shullerism preaching makes everyone feel good, mushy, warm and cozy, while denying the reality of the wrath to come.

But here is another perspective. I don't preach on hell either, yet for a different reason. My philosophy is, if you are going to preach on the wrath of God, go all the way. Don't waste your time preaching on a temporary place called hell, but preach on everlasting punishment in an everlasting lake of fire.

You see, hell is temporary. I realize I am being absolutely technical and picky and am splitting a theological hair, but there is a difference. Hell is a temporary holding place for those who die outside of Christ. Every individual in this category (see Luke 16, the rich man) will eventually be resurrected and judged according to their works as an unbeliever. Then they will begin to experience eternal punishment characterized by everlasting separation from a Holy God, after they are cast into the lake of fire (see Revelation 20) along with the beast and the false prophet.

Even so, as the wrath of God is preached, it should never overshadow the love of God manifested at Calvary. It's a matter of priority. Calvary should be the **emphasis** in preaching and soulwinning, not hell or the lake of fire. Everlasting torment should be preached as the wages of sin, but more emphasis should be spent on God commending his love toward sinners, as the remedy for the wages of sin.

So preacher, preach the wrath of God, but remember that it is the means and not the end. The end is Calvary. ***"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up"*** ***"Behold, the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world"***

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**Joseph Harris, believes men of God should preach the word of God as it is, to men as they are today.**



**Mini Edition**

**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 21, 2002 4:43 PM  
**Subject:** Mini Edition 72

July 21, 2002

**Mini Edition By Joseph Harris****Number 72**

Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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**Are You A Stay At Home Mom? (For ladies only)**

Here's a Mini Edition that's sure to get some response(though it certainly won't be the first time, or the last). Are you a stay at home Mom? A new "official" university report was just released this past week with results that come as no surprise to common sense thinkers. Babies who are kept at home by Mom for their first year perform better academically after beginning school. Like I said, no surprise for those who are already tuned in to reality and scriptural principles. You just can't improve on God's way.

Recently, I was in a store in our town and was talking to a young mother with a child about the age of my son, then 5 months old. She asked if he went to daycare and I said no, Mom kept him at home. With a genuine sadness in her eyes and voice, she remarked how she wished she could do that. I do not know her situation. She may have been a single Mom or the other working half in her house. I felt deeply for her.

When Scripture says that the young women should be keepers at home, it's for a reason. If there is not a keeper at home, then the home will not be kept. And I'm not talking about house work. It's all about the heart, not physical chores. The Mom is the heart of the home and she provides stability and security for children in the home. Before any of our children were born, my wife and I committed to her being at home with the children full time, at least until they began to go to school. It was difficult financially, but the right choice and we would not change a thing if we had to do it all over. God blesses decisions made according to his Word.

Too often, Christians swallow the lie of the career Mom who "has" to work outside the home, while leaving the children in day care or with individuals. Mom, if you have children, THEY are your CAREER, and motherhood is not just a "good" thing: it's the highest calling in the world for every woman God blesses with children. My wife went back to teaching in a Christian school after our daughter started school(she was a "career woman with a M.Ed.). Then, we founded a Christian school where she was administrator. It existed for one year. When news came that my wife was expecting, we closed the school after one year(now she homeschools) so she could pursue her higher calling back at home. That cut us back to my income only. Well, shades of Hezekiah, our financial picture has improved to an even better status now, with my income only, than when we had her income also, last year. Let me say it one more time: GOD BLESSES WHEN YOU FOLLOW HIS PLAN.

I challenge you, working Mom, turn it over to God and take back the control and influence of your children. Some day cares may boast of "quality care", but NO ONE else will love your children and care for them with the quality which YOU provide. YOU are God's designated "quality care provider". Do it for God and your children.

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## Mini Edition

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**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2002 12:11 PM  
**Subject:** Mini Edition 73

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July 30, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 72

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Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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### Wisdom from Wal-Mart on Work

Other than going to church, there's nothing like a trip to Wal-Mart for enlightenment. On my latest trip down the paper towel and wrap aisle, I noticed something that is a commentary on the laziness in today's society. You can now buy pre-cut, specific sized plastic wrap tops for bowls, 16 to a box, for about \$3.00. The selling point on the box stated it was the "fastest and easiest way to cover" leftovers for the refrigerator. Just pull a little "topper" out and cover the bowl. Right next to these boxes were other boxes containing 200 sq feet of plastic wrap, also for about \$3.00. Now really, how much more time does it take and how much more difficult is it to tear off a small piece of wrap from the roll? Maybe another two seconds of life. The pre-cut wraps appeal to frivolous people.

The phone company also has a work saving deal for lazy people....for a small fee of course. Notice when you call directory service, after the computer gives your requested number, you are then offered the service of having the number dialed for you for a fee of anywhere from .30 to .50 cents. Does anyone really take advantage of this bargain? Anyone too lazy to hang up and dial the number ought to be charged \$5.00 for their laziness.

Now I believe in working smarter instead of harder if the same results can be accomplished, but too often the philosophy of today is "don't work smart or hard." Don't work at all if possible. Human nature always desires the easy way, and the easy way is not always necessarily wrong, but this mindset can be reflective of a wrong philosophy. We usually pay more for the easy way out, financially and in quality.

There's nothing wrong with work saving devices, but there's nothing wrong with good old fashioned work either. We usually end up paying a higher price to save time, but then don't wisely use the time we have saved. I know it sounds old fashioned, but that "scripture" from the book of Second Opinions is true: an idle mind is the devils workshop. A lot of people don't want to work at all, and if they are forced to work, they don't always take pride in their work.

God designed man to work in Eden **before** the fall of man in sin, and then God made work for man more difficult **after** his fall. A strong work ethic should be taught at an early age. The prophet Jeremiah said that it was good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. Work produces rest, fulfillment, satisfaction and contentment, not to mention a paycheck. Children who are not taught responsibility and how to work become irresponsible adults who expect society and government to provide for their needs.

Imagine, all this from a trip to Wal-Mart.

***Joseph Harris is the chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.***

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## Mini Edition

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**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
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August 4, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 74

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Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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### A Burger Please, and Supersize the Class Action Suit

Have you read the latest debacle of denying personal responsibility? Some guy is suing four major fast food companies because he claims the food he ate from them 5 days a week, over the past several years, has given him high cholesterol, high blood pressure and caused two heart attacks. I think the one he should sue is the one who held the gun to his head and forced him to eat the junk food in the first place, since I'm sure that is what really happened.

Can you imagine someone falling on a city sidewalk and breaking a leg. That person then turns around and sues the city. I say they should take this thing to the logical conclusion. Let's say the city hired an independent contractor to build the sidewalk. Well, the contractor should be sued, because if he had not built the sidewalk, the pedestrian never would have broken a leg. But then, if the contractor had not bought any concrete from the ready mix company, he could not have poured the sidewalk. So it's the fault of the concrete company. But hold on there, since we are accurately tracing down the guilty culprit. How about the business that dug the sand and raw materials out of the earth and sold them to the concrete company. If they had not dug up the raw materials, then the company could not have made concrete to sell to the contractor, who would then not have been hired by the city to build the sidewalk that broke pedestrian's leg.

Are we finished yet? No, because if the raw dirt materials did not exist, the excavating company could never have dug them out of the ground and we all know where the ground came from, don't we? So here is the simple solution: sue God, since He made the earth from which everything else is made. This is the "logical" conclusion arrived at if a first party refuses to take responsibility for actions that are clearly their own choices.

When personal responsibility is shirked, then the sky is the limit. Someone **else** can always be found to be responsible for **all** our problems and mishaps. I once had a wreck on I-49 headed to Jackson, MS. But it wasn't **my** fault that my car was totaled. I think I'll sue (1)the state for providing the highway, without which the wreck would have been possible, (2)every worker who helped build the highway, (3)the forestry commission for not having the foresight to cut the trees that smashed my car upon contact, and (4)all meteorologists, for not warning me in accurately predicting the rain that facilitated the wreck.

You may also have been in an accident recently. If you would like to join me in a class action suit, go to [www.suethesocksoff'em.com](http://www.suethesocksoff'em.com) or contact the law firm of **Dewey, Cheatum, and Howe**. Litigation: it fits right in there with baseball, hotdogs, and apple pie, as a great American tradition.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.**

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## Mini Edition

**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 18, 2002 1:54 PM  
**Subject:** Mini Edition 75 Revised

I recently sent out the last three Mini Editions which were all part of the series, **Islam and Jihad**. I wrote these late at night and they contained some errors, such as punctuation, etc. I am resending corrected editions of them to all editors of papers and periodicals who reprint Mini Edition on a regular basis, or might choose to reprint those editions. Thanks. jhh 1 Cor. 15:58

August 12, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 75

Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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### Part 1

### Islam and Jihad: Thoughts on Saudi Arabia

Since Saudi Arabia is in the news a lot and there are questions about their "friendship" with the USA concerning the war on terror, here are some thoughts about this Muslim country. Several Saudi newspapers have printed stories about their "concern" of some real problems in the USA. It seems Christian fundamentalism poses a real threat and is not getting the negative press it should, according to the Saudi press. Consider the following from the Saudi papers, *al-Watan*, *The Saudi Gazette* and *Watani*. In a nutshell, these papers have said (and I paraphrase):

- (1) Christian fundamentalism is as dangerous to international peace and security as other extremist religious groups.
- (2) One paper said that Christian fundamentalism is just as dangerous as Muslim fundamentalism and can influence American foreign policy in furthering its own interests in the Middle East, which are identical to Israel's interests.
- (3) One paper also stated that President Bush should put the "rein" on these Christian religious extremists.

Now let's look at these ludicrous ideas.

(1) **Christian fundamentalism is as dangerous as other religious groups??** Excuse me, but my ailing memory must be fading. I am having trouble remembering the last broadcast recounting a Christian jihad against Muslim infidels. I'm trying to remember the last Baptist who strapped on a bomb and walked into a crowded store and blew himself up. Maybe I just missed it or haven't been watching enough news, or MAYBE IT JUST HASN'T HAPPENED! Come to think of it, I must have missed the latest Hindu jihad also, along with the Jewish jihads designed to eliminate all Arabs and Palestinians from the Holy land(which they could do in the blink of an eye if they so desired). Or is it possible that among the world's religions, Islam is the only one that officially sanctions and has perfected the jihad holy war?

(2) **America's interests in the Middle East are identical with Israel's.** But no definition of these "interests" is given. The bottom line is this: Saudi Arabia and every Muslim Arab country in the world is chafed that the USA is the only country in the entire world which stands with Israel and supports Israel's right to exist and defend herself.

(3) **President Bush should use his reins on these "dangerous" Christian extremists.** He could, if he were president of Saudi Arabia where there is no religious tolerance of anything other than Islam and where the press is controlled by a Muslim theocracy. But this is America, where citizens have the liberty to think, act and express themselves freely.

Do you really believe the Saudis are our friends? The Koran tells them how to think and live and dictates who they should befriend. America, the great Satan, which is full of infidels, can be no friend to any Muslim nation, according to their own belief.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**



## Mini Edition

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**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 18, 2002 1:54 PM  
**Subject:** Mini Edition 76 Revised

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August 13, 2002

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Number 76

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Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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### Part 2

### Islam and Jihad: Thoughts on Franklin Graham's Comments

Franklin Graham has been in the frying pan for some statements he has made about that darling religion of the liberal media, Islam. Not only has he placed himself in the frying pan, he continues to turn up the heat.

Remember back at the inauguration of George W. Bush, when Mr. Graham had the audacity as a Christian minister to actually pray in the name of JESUS? I'm hard to impress, but he immediately went to the top of my list of courage by taking a stand and not caving in to political correctness. It was the boldest act I have ever seen from any member of the Graham family. He's just not as "diplomatic" as his Dad. I don't agree with Franklin Graham's ecumenical philosophy, but I do give credit where it's due.

Well, he continues to speak the truth about Islam. He said that Islam promotes violence. That set off a fury. But if Islam does not at least promote violence, it certainly does not rebuke it. However, if a jihad is not promoting violence, I don't know what is. Islam has a long, consistent history of evangelizing by the sword. From its birth, Islam has been red with the blood of Jews, Christians and anyone who opposed it. While Islam was in infancy and barely 100 years old, Muslim invaders would have spread throughout Europe in their westward advance with the gospel of Mohammed, if Charles Martel, "the hammer" had not defeated them at the battle of Tours in 732. Historians still declare this event to be one of the most decisive battles of history. If Charles Martel had lost, Mosques would have dotted the landscape throughout Europe today and that was the intention of the Muslims.

When Mr. Graham says that the God of Islam is not the God of the Jews or Christians, once again, he's on target. Even the Islamic writings attest to this fact, when they say that Allah had no son. Not only are Allah and Jehovah not the same, they are not even distantly related. Mohammed converted the moon god, an ancient Mesopotamian pagan deity, into Allah. Have you ever wondered why a crescent moon is the symbol of Islam?

Muslims need salvation through Jehovah's Son, Jesus. Besides, Mohammed is too late for any divine claim, according to Hebrews 1:1,2. Read the following verse carefully, and it will clear up any confusion as to the authority of Mohammed. *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things..."*

No mention of Mohammed, Joseph Smith or any other Johnny-come-lately. 'Nuff said.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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## Mini Edition

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**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
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**Subject:** Mini Edition 77 Revised

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**August 14, 2002**

**Mini Edition By Joseph Harris**

**Number 77**

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### Part 3

### **Islam and Jihad: Comments on Palestinian Terrorism**

Too often, the real issue of the problem between the Palestinians and Israelis is overlooked or forgotten. The issue of the land and who really owns it is at the forefront, but there is more to the story than land lines. This is more than just a boundary dispute. The problem lies with Muslims who are dedicated to the obliteration of Jews, who are, to them, infidels and must be converted or destroyed. So the jihad is used and justified. Of the main groups that seek to "push the Israelis into the sea" (to use an old Arab quote), one such group even uses the word "jihad": the group, Islamic Jihad.. The terrorist bombers are not dying for earthly land but for a heavenly Muslim paradise. It's true, the Palestinian Authority wants the land and total control of it, but do not be fooled into thinking this is all they want. They will settle for nothing short of the absence of Jews from the land. Why do you think they have NEVER accepted any land proposal on the table? So coexistence is out of the question. Recently, the Pope said that Palestinians should not be the targets of wholesale retaliation and the Jews should not have to live in fear of bombings every day. He said these two things are obstacles to coexistence.

Ask Arafat if he wants coexistence. If an American reporter asks this question, he might get a vague but somewhat affirmative answer, but an Arab reporter would get the truth. And Arafat is not even a "Palestinian" but was born in Egypt. So why does he think he has a dog in this fight? Because the issue is not land, as much as it is religion.

The problem is a religion which fosters hate and expands itself by tyranny, force and murder. Murder is promoted by the Palestinian Authority by glorifying the "heroes" who die in jihad. They name schools and summer camps after them. Notice the following:

- (1) The Dalal Al-Mughrabi school is a girls school named after a homicide bomber.
- (2) The Ayyat al-Ahras Camp is named after a Shahid-Seeker or a suicide bomber, this one female.
- (3) The Jihad al-Amarin children's summer camp, sponsored by the Fatah movement, also named after a terrorist
- (4) The Baha Sa'id soccer team, is named after a terrorist.

Glorifying murder before children is inexcusable, but understanding the religion that makes provision for and promotes destructive behavior helps explain why people become fanatical to the point of killing themselves and others. For Islam to be credible and really become the peaceful religion it claims to be, its leaders should renounce jihad totally and completely and Muslim controlled governments should grant liberty and religious tolerance to their citizens. For this to happen, the Koran would have to be revised and you don't mess with the Koran. Ask Salman Rushdie.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2002 9:54 AM  
**Subject:** Mini Edition 78

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August 23, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 78

Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Society, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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### Reprobate Terrorists

Our good buddy, the Afghan government is planning on doing us a favor in the near future. They are about to release some prisoners who are members of the Taliban and Al Qaeda, and they have been labeled as "dangerous terrorists" by their government. These prisoners have stated they will continue the jihad or "holy" war against America. There's nothing holy about a bunch of God denying (Allah is not God), fanatical, murdering mad men. Some said they are extremely happy about the September 11 attack and others said it was good it happened. They also made ridiculous statements about Muslims being oppressed by the United States. I guess when you are not allowed to promote Islam, suppress other religions, murder and terrorize, it is considered oppression.

Though the Afghan government would not allow the US Military to interview the prisoners, Fox News was allowed an interview. When asked why the government would release dangerous prisoners who will continue to terrorize, here is the answer that was given: it was the policy decided by the president's cabinet. In other words, they just simply wanted to release them. Period. Could it be the new government does not really believe the prisoners have done any wrong? It's a reasonable question, since they give no real reason for releasing them.

If I understand our president's policy on terror, the new Afghan government has just become our enemy. Anyone who aids, abets or sponsors terrorists becomes our enemy, right? Or has the policy changed. The first step would be to immediately cut all aid to our friends, the "new" government, then demand the prisoners be retained. The government was even bold enough to say they could not monitor these released prisoners and assure they would not be involved in future attacks against the United States. If that is not aiding the enemy, I don't know what is.

Or is it possible they simply do not care? When are we going to learn that we are hated around the world because of our prosperity and blessings from God. This hate and jealousy has been obvious among Islamic controlled countries and several European nations for years. Notice, the nations we give the most money to, and we dole out billions annually, hate us the most. It goes to prove, the more you give, the less it is appreciated, and the benefactor is usually despised.

Fanatics driven by religious zeal are unreasonable. President Hamid Karzai may have to be reminded of this fact the hard way, when these terrorists regain strength and the Taliban once again rule in Afghanistan.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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**The Definite Spin Zone**

Bill O'Reilly has recently soared to fame with his top rated cable TV show, **The O'Reilly Factor**. His no-nonsense approach, coupled with a more objective presentation of both sides to each story, is probably responsible for his success. Conservative Americans, unlike liberals, think for themselves and find it insulting when they are told what to think by a liberal press. Notice the recent Nielsen ratings for Phil Donahue on MSNBC. His show has the lowest rating possible on the Nielsen scale. One news source said his ratings were in the basement, but let's just speak the truth. His ratings are in the toilet because people are tired of his liberal philosophy which he crams down the viewers throat in each program. The people have spoken and said enough is enough.

Now back to Mr. O'Reilly. He has filled a real gap in news programs, but let's also speak the truth about him. The phrases "No Spin Zone" or "No Spin Here" are constantly used by Mr. O'Reilly, but who is he kidding? If any human being reports anything, then their spin will be present. It is disingenuous to think otherwise. I demand the same from him as he demands from his guests: that he be truthful. It should be called The Less Spin Zone, because there is certainly less spin, but definitely an O'Reilly spin is present.

When interviewing lesbian Rosie O'Donnell, he handled her with kid gloves. He has shown softness to homosexuals on more than one occasion, championing their civil rights. To my knowledge, the civil rights of homosexuals are not in danger. They can be employed at jobs, rent houses, own homes, go anywhere in public, etc. They can't have a legally recognized marriage, but they never have been afforded this in history, because God and natural order prohibits males from marrying males and females from marrying females. Mr. O'Reilly did not think it was too horrible that homosexuals have the right to adopt children. And this coming from a man who constantly talks about protecting children.

Then, he decried Pepsi Cola for using the entertainer Ludicrus as an advertiser for their product. He was apparently effective, because today Pepsi announced a change concerning Ludicrus. On his radio program, Mr. O'Reilly said that Ludicrus, Eminem and Anna Nicole Smith should not be used by any company to sell their products, because they give America a bad rap. He referred to these individuals as being crude, vulgar and outrageous, having a negative affect on youth and being a threat to America. When a caller asked him about Howard Stern, Mr. O'Reilly said Howard Stern was not a threat like these others. OH REALLY, O'REILLY. Now that's ludicrous. Talk about inconsistent, unsound reasoning. He couldn't possibly be blind to the lewdness and vulgarity of Howard Stern. This is an example of a man who uses common sense most of the time, but without Scripture as his guide. Common sense through the lens of scripture would clear up this inconsistency for Mr. O'Reilly.

Though Mr. O'Reilly is to be commended for being straight forward and objective most of the time, he is still a human with potential for bias and spin. Just admit it, Mr. O'Reilly, that's all I ask. And though you may usually tell your guests that you respect their opinion, even when you strongly disagree, I don't always respect everyone's opinion. I do however, respect their right to have their opinion.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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September 10, 2002

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Number 80

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### Tolerance

Tolerance is the buzz word of the decade. As I look up "toleration" in the dictionary, here is what I find: (1) *allowance given to that which is not wholly approved* and (2) *recognition of the right of private judgment in religion*. Look at the first definition.

By being tolerant of something, there is also an admittance that the "something" is not approved, according to the dictionary definition. Tolerance means to allow that which is by definition, not approved. The hot spot of toleration today is concerning homosexuality. The plea for tolerance of homosexuality is a plea to ask for allowances in an area where most do not give approval. But the real plea is not for tolerance. The real issue is acceptance, disguised in the milder clothes of tolerance.

Homosexuality is already tolerated. Homosexuals who are open about their deviance, enjoy an extremely high degree of tolerance. They can hold public office, vote, go to college, own property, rent property, own businesses, flaunt their abomination in public parades, teach in public schools, just to name a few freedoms they enjoy. They already enjoy extreme tolerance. What they want is endorsement and validation of their perverseness, which can then be used as a foothold to declare heterosexuality to be abnormal. Notice, when the homo friendly media and entertainment industry portray homosexuals, they are painted as being brighter, warmer, more compassionate, and more lovable than normal people. Let me repeat myself: homosexuals could not have a higher level of endorsement and tolerance than they now experience. And lest we forget, homosexuality is open rebellion against God and His design of distinction of the sexes.

Now notice the second part of the definition: *recognition of the right of private judgment in religion*. If anything, this right is never tolerated by homosexuals, the mainstream media, liberals, and God haters. Tolerance becomes an empty word, if you, the recipient, are conservative and Christian. Sweden is trying to pass a law making it illegal to preach the truth about sin and homosexuality. Some areas in Canada already have a form of this discrimination. I have tolerated until I'm ready to choke on it.

The most effective way of forcing tolerance on the unsuspecting is to rename things. (1) We have tolerated abomination and called it gay. (2) We have tolerated murder through abortion and called it choice. (3) We tolerate the lies and scare tactics of the liberal Democratic party and call it politics. (4) We tolerate a religion whose holy book produces and promotes terrorism and then call Islam peaceful. (5) We tolerated the pathological lying of a former US president because we couldn't define what constituted having sex.

In practicing wholesale tolerance, we deny the absolute standard of right or wrong, and give approval to that which has not been approved. The Bible has a word on this issue: ***"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"*** Isaiah 5: 20, 21.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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**Joseph Harris practices tolerance for the feeble-minded, in hope they will reciprocate.**



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Number 81

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### The Magnet of Freedom (My 9-11 Tribute)

Have you noticed how America is either hated or loved. There is no middle ground. There are a few reasons why this is so. A couple of those reasons are freedom and prosperity, and prosperity would not be possible without individual freedom. Freedom is not a privilege granted, but is a prize won, and not often without blood. With individual freedom comes the individual rights we all enjoy, and which some exploit. The desire for freedom and liberty has done more to motivate men throughout history than any other earthly treasure sought.

Centuries ago, men desiring freedom from religious shackles found it at Plymouth Rock. In modern times, the masses of the beaten, bruised, and bound have thronged to the statue of liberty, but never to the statue of Lenin.....nor of Trotsky, Stalin, or Marx. People have never flocked to chains of slavery, but have always fled from bondage and ruthless dictators and despotic governments. How many boats have left from America in the past 200 years, bound for Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, etc, in search of a better life of freedom? ZERO! People aren't drawn to bondage, but to freedom.

The desire for freedom to worship, work and prosper, own property, bear arms, and choose leadership in government, has driven men and women to unspeakable hardships. The government of the USA is unprecedented in its rise to world power in such a brief amount of time, when compared with other world kingdoms. The God-given desire for liberty is one of the strongest driving forces known to man. Communist and socialistic totalitarian governments have never been successful, because they are built on benefiting the few who control, while claiming to be a "People's Government", yet always trampling on the common people.

I'm sure not one person who died on 9-11, other than the insane terrorists, planned on dying that day. Not a one of them thought of giving their life, that day, for this country that espouses and practices of freedom as no other country has. The enemies of freedom hate liberty and the prosperity it brings. Everyone who gave their life that day, died unknowingly in a battle for freedom. They did not die in vain. Let us **always** remember 9-11, the terror, fire, sorrow, horror, and death, but especially the hate that caused it. Religious fanatics killed that day because they hated freedom of conscience, freedom of choice, and probably most of all, freedom of religion.

Don't believe the lie that we must now forget, pick up the pieces, and go on with our lives. If we do not burn this event and its cause into our memory for future prevention and protection, there will be no life to go on with.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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Number 82

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### How To Hire A Preacher

When it comes to "hiring" a preacher, certain qualifications usually come to mind. Education, experience, and family status are just a few of the criteria used to measure the candidate. Some people are concerned with age: he may be too young or he may be too old. Still, others don't want a boring, teaching preacher, but a dynamic, flamboyant pulpiteer.

I have decided, with all seriousness, that a lot of churches miss the boat when calling a pastor. The premise of **Mini Edition** is that good common sense, guided by Scripture is always the best rule of thumb in every situation. Churches could learn a thing or two about calling a pastor if they would just put aside the resume and references of the candidate and consider another avenue. Instead of sending a pulpit committee to hear the preacher in his own church, where he will always be on good behavior, let the committee, instead, follow him around town for a day and observe his shopping habits and people skills in every day life situations. This is where the real man and his character (or lack of it) will be revealed. Consider the following scenes in the average store that can reveal good or bad character traits:

(1) When taking a buggy through the check out, does he stick to the maximum item limit in the express lane, or try to bulldoze his way through an express lane with a buggy of 50 items, ignoring the 20 item limit? **Character Trait-Obeys rules.** *If he ignores the sign, it means he doesn't obey rules and submit to authority. Will he follow God's rules and submit to His authority?*

(2) When taking groceries or other items to his car in the parking lot, does he go out of the way to place his cart in the shopping cart return rack, or "do what everyone else does" and leave it by his car? **Character Trait-Goes the second mile.** *If so, then he will probably work hard and not be slack in his ministry work as your pastor.*

(3) When walking down an aisle in the store, does he stop and pick up stray items on the floor and put them back on the shelf or out of the way of traffic? **Character Trait-Consideration and a good stewardship.** *He is considering the safety of other shoppers and helping the store keep items from being destroyed and shop worn.*

(4) Is he courteous with other shoppers and workers in the store, including the checkout person? **Character Trait-Grace and compassion.** *If he is rude, pushy, arrogant and impatient, then he lacks graciousness and compassion and will probably give his church members the same treatment.*

(5) Does he park in the handicap spot, because "after all, it's empty"? **Character trait-Sensitivity.** *This one speaks for itself. Is he insensitive to the needs of others, placing his needs first. Need I say more?*

Actually, these standards would apply in calling a pastor, hiring an employee in business, or looking for a husband or wife. Be careful. You never know who may be watching you in public.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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**Joseph Harris, the writer of Mini Edition, spends entirely too much time in Wal-Mart watching other people.**



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October 3, 2002

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Number 83

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### Common Sense.....RIP

From time to time, I talk about common sense, and bemoan its absence in the world today. The application of common sense would rid society of many ills. For instance, in many cases, criminals would actually be sentenced and really serve the time allotted them (what a novel idea). This would keep them off the streets and serve as a deterrent to would be criminals. Homosexuality would not only still be in the closet, but the closet door would have a lock on it. Children would be safer on the streets because common sense would not allow the predator his "rights" of protection. Plus, common sense would not waste time holding a summit to try and discover why the molester is a molester. We are hurting severely from lack of common sense.

The Culture and Family Institute at [www.cultureandfamily.org](http://www.cultureandfamily.org) reports on two recent cases of insanity. First, in Washington State, some perverts have been arrested for acts of voyeurism, which is a fancy way of calling them peeping toms. The men were taking photographs and video shots up ladies skirts in public places. They were convicted, but the wonderful Supreme Court in all its wisdom, saw fit to overturn the convictions. Now the men were caught red handed and confessed. By the way, these pictures were to have been sold to internet porno sites. The court "interpreted" the state law on voyeurism to mean that no one in a public setting has a "reasonable expectation of privacy." HUH? A public setting offsets protection of privacy? What if the men had physically violated the women (in public or private)? The perpetrators may not have TOUCHED the women (and some were little girls) but they certainly violated the privacy of the women. Any fool with a common sense level of 10% can see that.....with the exception of a Supreme Court Justice. Apparently, good common sense was no where around the day this verdict was reached.

And then there is the case of the men who marched nude in a "gay" pride parade in Toronto. Oh, excuse me. They weren't nude; they were wearing shoes. That was the reason given for dropping the charges. They weren't **totally** nude, and therefore, were not indecent. Most men have ugly feet, but ugly feet would have been the least offense on parade that day. One lawyer said indecency couldn't be proved because everyone had footwear. Apparently, nudity has become so common, it seems normal to some. Lack of common sense is part of the problem, but there is probably more to this story. "Gay" friendly Toronto would not dare offend the gay pride people. Nude men have been marching in the parade since 1997. If a similar incident took place apart for the "gay" event, such as a fully clothed man exposing himself in public, he would (hopefully) be arrested and convicted, no questions asked. The again, who know, when common sense is abandoned.

Nothing sharpens the mind like the Word of God. All teaching in Scripture, especially pertaining to human behavior, is good common sense. When the Bible is abandoned, common sense also goes out the door. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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**Joseph Harris, the writer of Mini Edition, believes everyone could use a dose of good, ole fashioned horse sense every now and then.**

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**Sent:** Sunday, October 13, 2002 1:55 PM  
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October 13, 2002

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Number 84

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### Immodest Clothing

You have heard of a wolf in sheep's clothing? How about a sheep in wolf's clothing. In Scripture, God's children are often likened to sheep and it's not too much of a stretch to think of Satan as a wolf. Too often today, the norm for many professing Christians is to let modern clothing fashions dictate how they dress, never giving a thought to modesty or propriety.

Mary Mohler, the wife of Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, has spoken out against the way many Christian ladies dress, in and out of church. Bravo for Sister Mohler. Apparel she lists as a no-no are such things as miniskirts, hip hugger jeans, skin-tight shorts, halter tops, tube tops, skin-tight skirts, low cut shirts, midriff exposing shirts, short shorts, then she added, "and anything from Abercrombie and Fitch." She even had the audacity to go so far as to say her daughter is not permitted to wear any of the above. Yep, she's a fuddy duddy, but what a refreshing breath of air it is to hear such standards in today's permissive society. I whole heartedly agree and even have a longer list of no-no's, myself.

Immodest dress at church has been a real problem for several years now. Women (and men) need to lift up a standard of modesty and decency in appearance. It's true, the inside is ultimately more important than the outward appearance, but does this mean the outside holds no importance at all? Of course not. Modest dress is an important issue, especially in this "sin scorched, sex soaked society" in which we live, to quote Leonard Ravenhill.

And then there is the old double standard battle issue that rears it's head. But what about the way men dress? That is an issue, but the Bible has more to say about women in modest dress than men. That's because the Bible and common sense tells us that men have a higher visual stimulation level than women. Let's face it: no woman who wants to please God will flaunt her sexuality in front of men who face the very real battle of maintaining sexual purity of the mind.

The time to begin is in early childhood, not at age thirteen. I grieve every time I see any young girl in harlots attire. God bless those parents who realize the importance of modest appearance and its place in pleasing a holy God.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS**

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October 24, 2002

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Number 85

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### Speak No Evil?

I never cease to be amazed at what I read in print and see and hear from the electronic media. In reading my local newspaper last week, I came across a ludicrous tidbit. Just when you think you have heard the last absurd "truth", along comes more insanity. Here it is. Jerry Falwell has been accused of international riots, undermining public sympathy for the U.S. in Islamic countries, and helping elect Muslim politicians to Parliament in Pakistan.

Consider the riot charge. A riot broke out in the city of Solapur, India because Jerry Falwell called Mohammed a terrorist on the news program, **60 Minutes**. But wait, the riot was between Muslim youths (who supposedly gathered to protest Falwell's statement) and Hindus. Muslims and Hindus have been fighting hundreds of years before Jerry Falwell arrived on the scene and they do not need statements from American preachers as an excuse to fight. Take notice, this riot was between Muslims and Hindus with no Christians involved. Note also, in Egypt, Iran and Lebanon, Muslim leaders called for Mr. Falwell's death. But, hey, that's okay. Jerry Falwell is the bad guy simply because he spoke the truth, yet he didn't call for the death of anyone, but he's the villain. 95 % of the American media will side with anyone or any cause that will give them a chance to lash out at anyone connected with Christianity.

Consider also the statement that Mr. Falwell helped Muslim politicians secure seats in the Pakistani Parliament in recent elections. I'm sure he was surprised and chagrined to hear this report. It was all because of his "anti-Islamic" remarks. In other words, the people of Pakistan were so outraged at his remarks, they decided to sympathize with Muslim politicians in order to protest against Jerry Falwell and the U.S. I'm sure you can see that truth as clearly as you can see through a glass of Mississippi mud in a dark room.

But Jerry Falwell is not alone. He may have called Mohammed a terrorist, but Franklin Graham said Islam is evil and preaches violence. Pat Robertson said Mohammed was a wild eyed fanatic and a killer. Jerry Vines claims Mohammed was demon possessed and was a pedophile. *(The mention of these names is not necessarily a wholesale endorsement of the men on my part)*

The article I read quoted Muslim "authorities" as saying all these men damage public sympathy for the U.S. in Islamic countries, in her war on terrorism. I seriously doubt there is much sympathy to be damaged, since America is repeatedly called the "Great Satan" by Muslim clerics in Islamic controlled countries. If you personally called me Satan, I would rate your sympathy for me at "0". These men all vocalized their opinions based upon Islamic documents written about Mohammed and Islam, and I happen to be in agreement with them. All the "damage" and "undermining" resulting from their expressed **opinions** is nothing more than the **opinion** of those who disagree. But remember, we live in a country where freedom of expression is still allowed (unlike countries dominated by Islam), at least for the present.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.**

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October 30, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 86

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Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Culture, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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### Religion and Politics, Part 1- A Clear Conscience

The November elections are almost here and Christians have a responsibility to voice their opinion through the privilege and freedom of the vote. Voting is more than just placing an individual in office. A vote is an expression of thought, opinion, conviction and morals(or lack thereof). Liberals will continue to exercise their right to use scare tactics, trying to frighten preachers and other Christians away from voicing their opinion based on the mythological, misunderstood-and-applied, so-called "separation of church and state"(whatever that is). Political opinions are not supposed to stop at the church door. They never do when liberals decide to talk politics in the pulpit. Apparently, what's good for the goose is not always good for the gander.

I am continually amazed at otherwise conservative Christians who will cast a vote based upon party instead of principle. I have never been a strong party man. I usually end up voting for a Republican because the politician as a Republican is usually more in line with my beliefs, convictions and moral philosophy. If the liberal Democratic party somehow by a miracle of God, moved from their pro abortion, pro homosexual, etc., etc., agenda, I could in good conscience vote for someone aligned with this party. How can any Christian, in good conscience, support a group or philosophy, committed to destroying that which is Godly? The answer is beyond me, but here are some possible reasons:

- (1) **"My family has always been Democrat"**- Loyalty is great, but what if everyone in your family has always been a drunkard? The old Baptist philosophy "We've always done it this way" just won't fly.
- (2) **"Party doesn't matter. Vote for the person"**- Technically, the party label should mean nothing, but labels tell you what's inside the can. That's the purpose of a label. I never buy unlabeled canned goods because I want to know what I'm getting. Party labels identify what's inside. People join a Baptist church, or Methodist church or Presbyterian church because they agree with what is being taught on the inside. Alignment with any party, church, group or club is a statement of endorsement. Period.
- (3) **"It doesn't matter who you vote for. You can't change politics, and anyway, God is in control"**- This is existential fatalism to the core. We could then conclude the following: "Then why do anything, anywhere, anytime? Why are you living? What is the purpose of life? Why have a police force? Why prosecute and incarcerate criminals? You can't change anything anyway. When your house is on fire, don't call the fire department, just let it burn."

Sadly enough, I fully expect some reader or readers will allow emotion to rule over sanity and common sense, and as always with touching on a controversial subject, I will receive requests to unsubscribe from **Mini Edition**.

Do not misunderstand. God has not called us to moral and Christian activism as a **first priority**, but to preach and live the Gospel. However, taking a stand for righteousness and providing the preservative of salt in a sin corrupted society, is the responsibility of all Christians as we occupy until He comes. Plus, a clear conscience produces sound sleep at night.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.**  
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October 30, 2002

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### Religion and Politics, Part 2- Why I am Not A Donkey

(Reprinted and revised from Mini Edition 9, May 26, 2001)

Let's just go ahead and get it out in the open. I am not a donkey....I am an elephant. I know neither one sounds very flattering, but I am speaking in terms of political symbolism(no fat jokes emailed, please). Now before you turn me off, just because you may be a Democrat, just hear me out. I'm not bashing you personally.

I am conservative! I am conservative in my suits, ties, manners, religion, music, politics.....etc.,etc. I am not conservative because I am a Republican. I choose to be a Republican BECAUSE I am conservative FIRST. I could be Independent, Libertarian, or Populist(though they have their problems), but let's face it; they can't usually get a major player in any running, so out of the two major "big boys", I go with Republican because I am conservative FIRST.

I am not pro-homo, neither am I for murdering innocent babies. I am not for legalizing drugs or for Big Brother government. I am for the little guy, who happens to be the average, hard working American of any color or ethnic background, who breaks his back supporting this country. I believe I know better how to spend the money I earn better than dis-attached, out of touch politicians who are more concerned with pleasing wacko fringe groups and influencing their constituents, rather than representing their constituents.

May I continue in honesty? Thank you. The Democrats started giving away the store under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then mainstreamed it with Lyndon Baines Johnson's "Great Society" and finally perfected it through the conniving of William Jefferson Clinton. Though the Republican party has vigorously opposed this type of liberalism and socialism repeatedly, I am not always deliriously happy with the GOP. They have not stood where they should have concerning such things as illegal immigration with tight borders, and NAFTA and its responsibility in loss of jobs, to name a few.

Now here is the shocker. I am not really a party man. I swear allegiance to principle, not party, and those principles are merely reflected in which party I support. For instance, if by some divine miracle of God, the Democratic party became more conservative than the GOP, I would have no problem becoming a donkey. I'll be holding my breath.

I do not personally campaign for anyone nor spend a lot of time listening to all the pundits express their political views. I do however, firmly believe every Christian should vote for and support those who come closer in line to Godly principles and philosophy. Otherwise, a house divided against itself cannot stand.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.**

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### Home School Demons

Much has been said in the debate on education about public schooling versus home schooling. The issues range from who is really responsible for the education of children, who can best educate them, and the problem of "socialization" for home schooled children, to name a few. From my experience, the socialization that takes place in school settings is usually a major problem itself.

Concerning the public government school system, much has been said about revamping, restructuring and renewing the system. All such talk is nonsense and misses the mark. To speak of fixing the system is tantamount to arguing over how to repair a watch that has been smashed under the tire of an eighteen wheeler. Replacement is the issue, not repair. And that is exactly what home schooling parents have chosen to do. Replace the broken government school system with an effective system known as home education. Thank God for the freedom parents have to exercise the God given responsibility to educate their children.

However, home education in itself does not guarantee quality education. The quality of education provided in the home will be determined by the education of the parents(to a degree) and their commitment (key word) to providing a God centered, holistic education with a true biblical world view, characterized by consistency. I believe home education is superior to the God-excluding government program offered in the current system. I am a home school parent, so naturally you would not expect me to say anything different. With that said, however, let's be realistic about some "demons" that can appear and hinder or destroy the effectiveness of home education.

(1) **Lack of commitment.** No one should begin home education unless they are absolutely committed to following through. It may seem like an easy alternative to some who pull their children from school because they are failing. But if they are failing in a public school, and the cause of failure is rooted in lack of commitment from the parents to initially support and assist their children, it will only get worse in home education, because it requires serious dedication.

(2) **Not enough structure.** I notice a tendency among some home schooling parents to be too laid back. Since home education is not "formal" education (and why shouldn't it be) requirements are sometimes not tough enough (and this can depend of the parents), schedules are not followed, deadlines are not always met and curriculum not completed.

(3) **Lack of accountability.** If some deadlines are not met and some requirements not enforced, who is going to know? If a parent tends to be too laid back with not enough structure, always waiting for that "teachable moment", lack of accountability adds to the problem. Teachable moments are a reality and are great, but structure and accountability are "evils" that are necessary. Besides, we don't wait for "eatable" moments and depend on "sleepable" moments, but schedule them.

(4) **Denial of reality.** Though I believe some real learning disabilities exist, they are not near as common as the purveyors of Ritalin would have us believe. But there can be a tendency among home school parents to go in denial about a legitimate problem that may exist, thinking, hoping, and praying that home schooling in and of itself will effect the remedy. Home schooling is superior, but is not a cure-all, fix-all remedy for **real** processing problems, genuine cases of dyslexia, etc.

(5) **Arrogance.** Here is a demon that Satan can use in a subtle way. "Our home school kids are better than the heathen in public government schools" Actually, home school kids have the same level of depravity as all kids. They are inherently no better than other kids, but certainly have a better opportunity for a superior God centered education and less exposure to ungodliness than kids in government and private so-called Christian schools. Perspective will help keep this demon at bay.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.**

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### Kissing Rattlesnakes

Who in their right mind would try to kiss a rattlesnake? A man in Oregon just tried it and the snake bit him on the lip. Surprise, Surprise, Sergeant Carter! The snake was just doing what it knew best. The man almost died. Why did he do such a stupid thing? He was showing off for a friend. A local authority was later quoted as to who was responsible. Answer? The one with the bigger brain. The snake would never have bitten the man if he had not picked up the snake and placed it close to his lips. The best protection is prevention: don't pick up rattlesnakes! Notice some of the following rattlesnakes.

The Bush administration, for instance is hugging the rattlesnake of Islam and believe me, there is a potential bite pending. Just check out all terrorist attacks since 1990 and see what the common denominator is. Voila! It is Islam. Let's stop pretending and face reality. To state the truth is not to say that all Muslims are terrorists, but the truth will reveal that just about all terrorists are Muslim. I'm tired of President Bush and especially Colin Powell acting as apologists for Islam. Colin Powell the dove becomes a hawk on this issue. President Bush is out of touch with a majority of the conservative Christians when he tries to separate Islam from 9-11. **Solution: stay away from snakes and you won't get bitten.**

Israel is trying to kiss a rattlesnake when talking with the Egyptian Arafat about peaceful coexistence. The PLO or PA does not want a division of the land. They want all of the land, with no Jews in it. Palestinians hate Jews more than Jews hate Palestinians. To hug Arafat is to invite a bite. **Solution: stay away from snakes and you won't get bitten.**

Christians are kissing a rattlesnake named "tolerance" when swallowing the lie that everyone's preference must be accepted or they are being discriminated against. After all, pornography is legal. It's for sale in the stores, on the internet and on pay TV. Pornography, as "free speech" should never have been allowed. The snake has bitten and the venom is paralyzing. Free expression of deviancy and the abnormal through homosexuality has escalated from mere acceptance to mandated approval and endorsement. Again, the problem is not really that we kissed the snake. We just never should have held it. **Solution: stay away from snakes and you won't get bitten.**

Christian parents are going to get bitten by not distancing themselves and their children from everything ungodly and anti-god. The rattlesnake of the media and entertainment industry is coiled and ready to strike, yet parents are holding the snake close for themselves and their kids to kiss. As surely as the man in Oregon was bitten, this snake will bite. Kids from Christian homes are bitten by the filth, rebellion and other garbage spewed out through ungodly programming on television and in the movies. As kids are taught to dress, act and sing like heathen, parents are passive because the venom of the snake has already paralyzed them. After all, they go to church every Sunday. But the anti-venom of church is not enough, because, most preachers are not preaching the Bible plainly enough to effect a reversal of the venom. Kids need to hear their parents pray and see them daily put the Bible into practice. Parents need to not only stop kissing the rattlesnake, but cut its head off, by taking control (radical concept) of the kids and being the final authority for what is and is not allowed in the house and well as determining the social circle of their children. **Solution: stay away from snakes and you won't get bitten.**

Even the crocodile hunter, Steve Irwin, is not crazy enough to place a poisonous snake near his face. "Can a man take fire in his bosom and not be burned?" Proverbs 6:27.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.**  
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Joseph Harris believes that anyone who picks up a snake at any time is just plumb fool crazy.



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### Bill Clinton, True to Form

Ex-President Bill Clinton was a precedent President. He set precedents and blazed trails as no other President before him. Unfortunately, I can't name one positive thing he did for this country, except maybe turn some liberals into conservatives by his shenanigans. He was the biggest disaster to ever enter the White House, the paragon of deceit, immorality and lack of character. The only thing I can give him credit for is his consistency. He never changes. He is consistent in his philosophy and treachery. He remains true to form as revealed in his recent speech to the Democratic Leadership Council on December 3. It was pure Clintonese, 200 proof.

He pleaded with the Democratic party to take on the "destruction machine" of the right wing Republican party. This was in response to the so called "vicious" attacks on little Tommy Daschle the OUTGOING SENATE MAJORITY LEADER (I can't say it loud enough). Tom Daschle tried to get media coverage by claiming his safety was threatened by radical conservatives, spurred on by talk radio. Mr. Clinton said the Republicans have a destruction machine, but "we don't" and those were his exact words. Now if the liberal Democratic Party does not have one, who does? They invented the destruction machine. He has always been consistent as a liar. This is also an example of his turnspeak, which is the art of accusing someone else of doing that for which the accuser is guilty.

Notice also as he, a former President, criticizes the current sitting President, on security issues. He said, indirectly that President Bush was weak, because scared people seek comfort from powerful leaders. He even went so far as to say that people would rather have a leader who is "strong and wrong" rather than "weak and right". All this coming from a man whose presidency was built on the foundation of being wrong and weak. Mr. Clinton was wrong ethically, he was wrong morally, and he was wrong politically which was an indication he was wrong spiritually, and thereby weak overall. Mr. Bush has more strength in his little finger than Mr. Clinton has in his entire body.

So ex-President Clinton remains true to form. He lies, criticizes, blames and whines, while offering the failed plan of liberalism as the salvation for the country and the economy. The leopard cannot change his spots and apparently neither can Mr. Clinton.

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### The Lynching of Lott

Senator Trent Lott is the object of a vicious, but precedented attack from the liberal Democratic Party and the Black Caucus. Just as Judge Charles Pickering was vilified as a racist and blocked from his potential position, because of the extreme prejudice of the enemies of truth and conservatism, so Trent Lott has become the victim of a mad, hateful, disgruntled, spiteful bunch of liberals who will stop at absolutely nothing to reach their goals. This destruction of Senator Lott is being carried out by the "non-existent destruction machine of the Democratic Party. Remember last week, Bill Clinton said that "they(the Republicans) have a destruction machine and we(Democrats) don't". Riiiiight!! Apparently, the destruction machine that doesn't exist, has been brought out, oiled, tuned up, revved up to full speed, and aimed at Trent Lott. In all probability, Senator Lott will lose his national political clout. The plan of the liberals is to beat him senseless and render him useless and weak as Senate Majority Leader, susceptible to compromise. Senator Lott is a dead man politically.

Racism has become the unpardonable sin and REAL racism is despicable, but according to biased, racist, prejudiced, bigoted liberals, everyone who is from Mississippi(or the south) and is white and a conservative, is racist. Or if anyone happens to agree on any **one** point in **any** area ,with someone who is a segregationist, then that person also becomes a segregationist and racist. To begin with, when Trent Lott said the country would be better off if Strom Thurmond had been elected years ago, why does everyone automatically assume he was talking about segregation? Why couldn't he have meant conservatism in general? But oh, I forgot. Conservatism is racism. I keep forgetting that fine point. There is a lot of assuming going on, but that's always okay for the liberal left. They can assume and convict based upon their prejudiced opinion, regardless of the facts. Remember, if you are a conservative from the south, you are racist. Period. And there is no court of appeal for you. There wasn't for Judge Pickering. Conservatives may be in the majority politically right now, but don't be deceived. Liberals still wield the most power because of an all too willing media that is always ready to trounce the nearest conservative.

I find it hard to believe that Senator Lott was referring to segregation in his remarks, since he knows how caustic and politically dangerous such a remark could be. It is inconceivable he would be this naive. But let's say he willfully, purposefully, knowingly made the remark in reference to segregation. His apology will **never** be accepted, regardless of the length or depth of the apology. He could crawl on his knees on cut glass for two miles doing penance, but all to no avail.

I for one am tired of what has been called "hi-tech lynching" whether the victim is Clarence Thomas, Newt Gingrich, Dan Quail, Charles Pickering, or Trent Lott. Some of the major players on the liberal team have made inexcusable, bigoted, hateful remarks over the years and have been given a pass. Senator Byrd with his famous "N" word statement was given a pass, because of his age. Tom Dashchle, Jesse Jackson, Alec Baldwin, Harry Belafonte, to name a few have made some of the most prejudiced, hateful remarks ever. The double standard of hypocrisy from liberals is nauseating. The hypocrisy of helping the downtrodden and minorities is also glaring, since the power of liberals is contingent on enslaving rather than liberating and empowering minorities and the little guy.



I wish Trent Lott would stop apologizing and defend himself. And he better defend himself, because, apparently, his Senate buddies are reluctant to defend him because they are afraid of political suicide. Notice, I didn't say defend racism, because that charge has not been proven. He made a statement of his belief that was not a statement of hate and he should stand by it and challenge the executioners. A watchdog group called FAIR, which stands for Fairness, and Accuracy In Reporting is anything but fair, and constantly lean to the left. They claim that the media has not been fair on this issue because the abundance of evidence of Mr. Lott's racism has not been presented. In other words, his opponents have been too soft on him. They make references to Senator Lott's ties with Confederate groups and Jefferson Davis and how he once referred to the Civil War as the War of Northern Aggression. I think the title "War of Northern Aggression" is more accurate when you consider who **invaded** whom. FAIR makes glib references to "The Party of Lincoln" and how the Senator is out of step with the great white emancipator Lincoln, therefore suggesting the GOP has seriously strayed. The reason President Lincoln is known as a saint today is because of the masterpiece of revisionist history that has ever taken place. President Lincoln, by his own statement would not have lifted a finger to free one slave, if it had not been necessary to his goal of conquering and subjecting the south to his government of tyranny, by infringing on the rights of individual states, which was the real issue. Yet, if one chooses to believe this view of history, which is supported by evidence, "racist" is the label applied.

Senator Lott needs to buckle his seat belt, because this rough ride will not soon be over. Some are calling for his resignation and others for the Senate to censure him. Where were all these champions of right when Bill Clinton blatantly displayed his brand of ungodliness, deceit and immorality? As I said, the liberals are mad and will use whatever means available to discredit, or demonize or vilify anyone who is connected with conservatism and its principles. It's not about Trent Lott and it's not about segregation and racism. It's about grasping for power and woe be to anyone who gets in the way.

Let's use some common sense shall we, something which no one, even Rush Limbaugh seems to be doing at the present. Senator Lott's record speaks for itself. He is not **known** to be a segregationist or racist. Up until now, he has not been in the controversial spotlight concerning this issue, and he has a clean track record of many years. Therefore, it is unreasonable to think that when he spoke favorably of Senator Thurmond, he was spotlighting and commending an issue that has not been an issue for him in his political career. He was simply making a broad statement that has been **interpreted** and twisted to mean he was fully and pointedly promoting segregation and racism, which yet remains to be proved. Clear thinking people can readily see this, whereas the majority is letting others tell them what Mr. Lott "really" said.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.** ( This article may be reprinted in part or whole, as long as the name Joseph Harris and [www.miniedition.com](http://www.miniedition.com) also appear )

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### Go Home Hollywood

Finally, the American people have a voice overseas. A voice that speaks the will and mind of the American people in Iraq and Cuba. Hollywood has rushed to be the voice of America, since an elected president and his administration can't do the job. Oh, what would we do without Sean Penn, Harry Belafonte and Danny Glover, to name a few? I'll tell you one thing we can do. Stop watching their second rate entertainment. And if you are watching their films, put out in the name of entertainment, you should be ashamed because of the profanities, vulgarities and obscenities that you pay to hear, not to mention the visual garbage. Most films today are filled with trash, so you wouldn't be giving up very much, if you did without their brand of entertainment. I don't want anyone in the Hollywood industry speaking on my behalf. But I digress. Back to the business at hand, which is treason. I don't know how much the Hollywood crowd is aiding and abetting the enemy, but they certainly are bringing comfort to them by bad mouthing the USA, and that, PLAIN AND SIMPLE is treasonous. Apparently, treason is no longer a crime.

The all too familiar party line is this: Hollywood is opposed to war because of the innocent women and children who will be killed. Well, that's the very reason I support war. Because of all the innocent women and children who will be killed in this country, if fanatical, murdering terrorists and tyrants are not dealt a fatal blow to the head. Does anyone remember 9-11?

Too bad these fly-by-night saints can't muster enough compassion to speak out against the war on babies, called abortion, that has been going on in America. It began before some of these entertainers were even born. They will fly around the world to criticize the USA, calling us imperialistic and domineering, all on the pretense of helping the innocent and downtrodden. But compassion begins at home, and there are millions of murdered babies who possibly could have been saved, had these knights of compassion used their fame and influence and spoken up for their rights. Surely I am not the only one who sees this glaring inconsistency of Hollywood Hypocrisy.

Now let me be so bold as to pull a trick from their hat and speak on behalf of those who have not asked me to be their representative. I speak now for the average hard working American, of any color, and especially for the conservative Bible believer. *"To all you misguided bleeding heart promoters of everything un-American: no one asked you to go and speak for us. We don't want you as ambassadors or weapons inspectors. We are about as excited over your misrepresentation as we were over Jesse Jackson's attempt to represent the USA with the Taliban last year. We don't need or want people who are out of touch with reality and the common Joe, for our voice. In other words, kindly shut up and come home. On second thought, just stay there, since America is so horrible and repressive. A month in Iraq or Cuba, without your celebrity status would make you kiss American dirt if you were ever allowed to return."*

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS.** (This article may be reprinted in part or whole, as long as the name Joseph Harris and [www.miniedition.com](http://www.miniedition.com) also appear)

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**Joseph Harris is sick and tired of those who bite the hand that feeds them.**

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## Mini Edition

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December 19, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 93

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Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Culture, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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### The Claims of Santa Contrasted with the Reality of Jesus By Joseph Harris

Santa is supposed to come December 25, but Jesus really is coming again one day.

Santa would have to be omnipresent in order to deliver gifts worldwide in one night. Jesus really is omnipresent.

Santa wears red. Jesus shed red blood for us.

Santa claims to know who's been bad and good. Jesus really knows the heart of man.

Santa supposedly lives at the North Pole. Jesus does live in the heart of every believer.

Santa gives happiness which can fade with circumstances. Jesus gives joy that can not be affected the external events.

Santa has many elves building toys for children. Jesus, as the Lord of Hosts, has countless angels who minister to his children.

Santa has children sit on his knee and ask him for gifts. Jesus' children approach Him on their knees asking for daily provisions.

Santa is supposed to be hundreds of years old. Jesus is from old to everlasting.

And Finally....

Santa brings gifts. Jesus is **THE GIFT**.

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*Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS. (This article may be reprinted as long as the name Joseph Harris and [www.miniedition.com](http://www.miniedition.com) also appear.)*

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**Joseph Harris just wants to say, "Don't forget, the baby in the manger has grown up to become the sinless, crucified, buried, resurrected, ascended, returning, judging King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and Saviour"**



## Mini Edition

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**From:** Joseph Harris <miniedition@c-gate.net>  
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December 30, 2002

Mini Edition By Joseph Harris

Number 94

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Comments on Current Events in Government, Religion, Culture, and the Family, from a Conservative Biblical Perspective

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### Profiling and Common Sense

*The following is a "warmed up" Mini Edition. I wrote it in October 2001, after 9-11, when protests to profiling potential suspects (young, Arab, Muslim males to be exact) began to appear from liberals and friends of terrorists. It is still an issue, but one that could be cleared up, as usual, with a strong dose of common sense. There are two reasons why I am running it again. (1) After reading it again today, it made even more sense to me, plus there are now twice as many new subscribers now than when it was first printed, so it will be new to them. (2) I am taking a break, resting and spending time with my wife (as we celebrate our 18th anniversary) and the kids. This second one is probably the real reason.*

Once upon a time, far away, in the mystical land of Political Correctness, a bank was bombed. Many people were hurt, and many were killed. There was indisputable proof as to what kind of person did the bombing. The bomber was a red haired, freckled face male with an overbite, who drove a blue pickup truck. Now in this Kingdom of Political Correctdom, there lived a gang of red haired, freckled face men, with overbites and blue pickup trucks. They were known to be bombers. And remember, it was a red haired, freckled face man with an overbite, who drove his blue pickup full of explosives into the bank and blew it up.

The rulers and the police of Political Correctdom believed that the red haired, freckled face gang might bomb again, and began stopping and questioning and searching red haired, freckled face men with overbites in blue pickups. Now, not all red haired, freckled face men with overbites in blue pickups were a part of this bombing gang. Some were tax paying, law abiding, legitimate citizens of the Kingdom of PC. But how were the police to know who was who? Lawsuits were enacted and PCTV (Politically Correct Television) began to yell, scream, kick and cry about how unfair it was to target red haired, freckled face men with overbites and blue pickups.

Soon, the police began to detain and question only blonde haired, blue eyed females who drove red pickups. Well, everybody felt better then, except blonde haired, blue eyed females in red pickups, but who cared, as long as the red haired, freckled face men in blue pickups with overbites, and their lawyers, and PCTV were happy. After all, happiness and "peace" and the seeming preservation of a few people's rights is all that's important, right?

Oh, yeah, the conclusion to this tale. More banks were bombed, more lives lost and the few who had insisted on profiling were identified as the bad guys. Morale was devastated, the economy sunk, and the kingdom collapsed. But hey, at least they got rid of that nasty "profiling" thing. No one seemed to notice the kingdom had already lost one of its most precious commodities: common sense.

**Moral of this tale:** ALWAYS use common sense in any situation. With the current threat on our national security, profiling is a must. Profiling guided by common sense protects all and discriminates against none. "America has become an insane asylum, run by the inmates" Lester Roloff.

**Joseph Harris is the Chairman of Biblical Studies at Southeastern Baptist College in Laurel, MS. (This article may be reprinted in part or whole, as long as the name Joseph Harris and [www.miniedition.com](http://www.miniedition.com) also appear)**

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Joseph Harris wishes upon all readers of Mini Edition blessings from God (even red haired freckle face men) as everyone begins a new year. Thanks for reading Mini Edition.



