



## RETIREMENT of PRAYER'S JERSEY

by Gregory V. Jones, Jr.

**I**n modern times we are faced with another man-made decision,--a judicial decree that has taken prayer out of school classrooms, athletic fields, locker rooms, graduation exercises, and invocations. God has been evicted from all school classrooms, athletic events, and graduation programs. The doors are slammed shut, locks changed, lunchroom privileges revoked, and pupil/teacher contact terminated by earthly by-laws. God has been permanently expelled from all school curriculums.

When God is taken out of the equation it leaves man with a certain emptiness of spirit. The resultant individualistic ethos furnishes man with an inner compass of knowledge and intelligence worthy of respect from his peers. Scholarly papers are admired for their contributions to the cognitive domain. Colleges and universities compete for the most prolific learners according to SAT and ACT measurements. Libraries store the keen intellectual productions of scholarly writers for others to study and learn from. Pundits and academicians promote their own rhetoric, resulting from their skills of comprehension and perception. Tenured professors sagely pace the corridors of institutions of higher learning, supremely confident of future emeritus status. These titans of philosophy and understanding grant us a glimpse of the endowed information centers managing our world affairs today. Intellectual posing is derigueur in such an environment, and presupposes a statesmanlike approach to our capacity for learning.

The self-reliance growing from a recognition of man's capacity for learning is in opposition to the considerate magnitude of God's absolute wisdom. God's wisdom and understanding was tested through His Son Jesus Christ when the Pharisees questioned and challenged His ability to know. The Pharisees were stunned to hear a youthful Jesus speak so eloquently about worldly affairs.

The most knowledgeable man of his time was Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews. He was given the supreme opportunity to sit and question Jesus privately. Keep in mind, this was the most educated and learned man of his era. He had digested an enormous amount of erudite materials from the libraries of his day. Jesus spoke of the necessity of regeneration (being born again) in order to see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus's response was, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (St. John 3:4). Jesus advised him that a man had to be born of water and of the Spirit in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. Nicodemus remained confused regarding Jesus' statement. Nicodemus was a cultivated man who painstakingly attempted to cope with the heavenly mind of God, utilizing earthly cognitions. Jesus responded, "Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? (St. John 3:10). At this point man's earthly knowledge was exposed for what it is worth in the presence of the Living God. Jesus is clearly stating to Nicodemus that, if he is a master of Israel and has no knowledge of these things, then he has elevated himself to a position of authority that is unworthy in the presence of God. We must comprehend that Jesus is the **magna cum laude** of this world. Jesus' **curriculum vitae** are so impressive that the listings would fill every library on earth, far beyond the learning capacity of humans. Is there an honorary degree from our most noted universities that would provide an indication of the prodigious mind of God? The granting of excellence, the full power of knowledge and comprehension, can only come from God. We cannot enter the spiritual mind of God by applying the studious concepts gained in earthly classrooms. It would be similar to attempting to raise the Titanic from the ocean floor by connecting it to a child's tricycle. The vastness of God's knowledge, understanding and wisdom is beyond such procurement.

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