

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith  
Audio Script – July 4, 2009

In two recent overseas press conferences, President Barack Obama declared that America does not consider itself a Christian nation. Does the president's statement reflect the attitude and history of our country? We'll see in today's Templates of Truth.

The president wants to build better relationships with Islamic nations. To do that, he diminishes our association with any one religion and emphasizes our openness to all religions. To the Egyptians, he went so far as to note the growing proportions of the Islamic population in America in comparison to that of Christians. His inference was that America was becoming as much an Islamic nation as it was a Christian nation! It would seem that Mr. Obama either ignores or is ignorant of the history of the nation he serves as Commander in Chief.

He seems to forget depictions of George Washington kneeling in prayer on the snow-blanketed ground of Valley Forge, and of our nation's founding fathers prayerfully engaged at the first Continental Congress. To gain an understanding of the Biblical faith of Abraham Lincoln, all Mr. Obama has to do is stroll down the street to the Lincoln monument, climb the steps and read the inaugural speech etched in the granite of its interior wall. There he will read Lincoln's Christian conviction concerning God's opposing view of slavery. He may then move to the other end of the mall and have his limo slow down as he passes the front of the Supreme Court building located just behind the Capitol Building. There he will see, built into the stone features of the front of the building, Moses holding the tablets of the Ten Commandments. He might have his helicopter pilot hover near the top of the Washington monument so he can read the inscription on the aluminum capstone of its eastern side: "Praise be to God." President Washington had no problem understanding our nation's basis of faith. He said, "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible Hand (of God) which conducts the affairs of man more than those of the United States."

The President need not leave the Whitehouse to educate himself on our nation's founding faith. All he has to do is Google from the oval office for Christian quotes by our nation's forefathers. When he does, he can browse over 30,000 hits and read such ones as:

"We recognize no Sovereign but God, and no King but Jesus." – John Hancock.

"The general principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principals of Christianity... I will avow that I believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God." – John Adams.

"God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel" – Benjamin Franklin.

These were indicative of the convictions of those who formed our nation and shaped her heritage of faith. In his speech commemorating the Fourth of July celebration at Newburyport, Massachusetts in 1837, John Quincy Adams said: "Why is it that, next to the birthday of the Savior of the world, your most joyous and most venerated festival returns on this day [the Fourth of July]?" "Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity"? The Apostle Paul would agree, for he said: *It was for freedom that Christ set us free* (Galatians 5:1).

To borrow a quote from the first "National Treasure" movie, "people don't talk that way any more." You sure don't talk that way when you are trying to be a diplomat instead of a disciple. Someone needs to warn our President that he had better be careful not to diminish our nation's acknowledgment and dependence on God in an effort to court our enemy. Yes, according the teachings of the Koran and its interpretation particularly by militant Islam, America is the "infidel" and must be destroyed. But of course, our President maintains that "America is not presently, nor shall we ever be at war with Islam." While Mr. Obama is educating himself to our nation's founding faith, he might also read the prophecies of Ezekiel, Daniel and the Revelation vision of John. His perspective is not that which Scripture clearly represents.

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.