

Lesson 10 Outline - The American Experiment: Stepping Stones

- I. Introduction – God's design for the state – How close was the American Experiment?**
 - A. Three rules: Won't deify America; won't deify Founders; won't cast stones
 - B. Basis for the three branches - Isaiah 33 – Lawgiver, Judge, and King
 - C. Early educational system – Instilling principles of Biblical Christianity
 - 1. Primer and NEA – Biblical doctrine and prayer were essential to education
 - 2. Founding and original mottos of Harvard, Princeton, and Columbia
- II. Foundations of Religion and Morality – Basis for Freedom and Liberty**
 - A. Dr. Tackett's personal journey – America 101
 - 1. Murals in Capital rotunda
 - 2. Revelation 2:5 - Remember, Repent and Return
 - 3. Washington's Farwell address
 - B. Foundations of this country - Religion and Morality
 - 1. Consistent theme in virtually all of the Founder's writings
 - 2. They saw a strong connection between virtue and liberty
 - C. Purpose of Civil Magistrate - Punish evil and condone good – Romans 13
- III. Foundations of Law**
 - A. Blackstone – Valid human laws must be based upon God's laws
 - B. Influence of Darwin radically changed law in America – Case study methodology
 - 1. Legal Positivism – The state is the authority for determining right and wrong
- IV. The Larger Story**
 - A. Original charters and constitutions – Acknowledgment of God's authority and recognition that the state was subject to and accountable to God
 - B. Pilgrims intent – "preserving and propagating the truth and liberties of the gospel"
 - C. Historical revisionism – Founders depicted as Deists and secularists; stripping God and Christianity from all historical accounts; pursuing a secular basis for law
- V. Conclusion – How has this happened?**
 - A. Men have forgotten God
 - B. Cycle of Nations – Hosea 13:6 – Judgment and destruction upon proud nations
 - C. Jesus removing the lamp stand – Our hope: Light always overtakes darkness