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"He delights in mercy" (Micah 7:18)

One Nation Under God

by Steve Higginbotham

This past week, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in a 2-1 decision ruled that saying the "Pledge of Allegiance" in school is unconstitutional because it contains the phrase, "one nation under God."

The reaction to this ruling was swift and vocal. Our nation's leaders used such terms as "ridiculous," "stupid," and "crazy" to describe the court's action. Both the Senate (99-0) and the House (416-3) passed resolutions denouncing the ruling.

And as for the average American citizen, we're outraged. But let me ask you a question. Could it be that many who are outraged at the thought of removing the phrase "one nation under God" from the pledge have not placed themselves as individuals under God?

Consider:

- It may be that some of the same people who object to removing the pledge use their tongues in hurtful ways, thus refusing to place themselves under God.
- It may be that some of the same people who object to removing the pledge are quick to escalate trouble rather than make peace, thus refusing to place themselves under God.
- It may be that some of the same people who object to removing the pledge refuse to forgive someone who has treated them badly, thus refusing to place themselves under God.

Do you see my point? Do you see the inconsistency? How can we condemn the court when we, ourselves may be guilty of something worse? In fact, think about it. Which do you think is worse...That a court makes an edict forbidding us to say the Pledge of Allegiance in school because it contains the phrase "one nation under God," or me, as an individual refusing, not by edict of law, but by my own free will, to place myself "under God?"

As to the outcome of this ruling, I'm confident that it will be overturned. But even if it is not overturned, and we return to the pledge that was spoken prior to 1954 when the phrase "one nation under God" was added, we will still be a nation "under God." Whether we verbally acknowledge our subjection to God doesn't change the fact that, not just our nation, but all nations are "under God."

"...The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses" (Daniel 4:25).

