

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