

further states that “their proposals” (what Christians publicly declare the Bible says) should be open to argument and *yield* to reason because of pluralism. This means that Christians should believe and profess *nothing* that is *unacceptable* to even those who have no faith at all. He then goes on to say that those who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible have *no choice* but to give up such a belief because Christianity is “the art of the impossible” if Christians intend to follow God’s edicts.

Let’s go back now to the question — where will we go from here? Senator Obama says we (Christians) have to *give up* believing that God made no mistakes when He inspired the writing of the Bible. He says we have to *give up* our religion-specific values (teachings of the Bible) because they’re just too intolerant for a pluralistic society. He also says that *our* “proposals” (beliefs) have to *yield* to those who have no beliefs at all — because we live in a pluralistic society. And he wants us to do all of those things — so that no one will feel uncomfortable with their smorgasbord beliefs — even though they may choose to worship Satan or Buddha or the planet Earth or themselves or whomever or whatever they like.

Well, Senator, perhaps we should tell you about a man in the Bible who *also* lived in a pluralistic society. His name was Paul. There was an occasion when he found himself in Athens and saw that the people there worshiped numerous gods — just like our pluralistic nation today. But Paul didn’t give up his “religion-specific values,” nor did his “proposals” yield to their pluralism because — you’re right Senator Obama — his religion *didn’t* allow for compromise — it was not his to change because it was the absolute will of God — and Paul proclaimed it as such.

“Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: ‘Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you’” (Acts 17:22-23 NIV)

And he did — without *any* compromise to the plumb line of God.

So — the question still remains. Where *will* we go from here? Only God knows. But when Senator Obama says that “it’s the art of the impossible [when] followers are expected to live up to God’s edicts regardless of the consequences,” Christians who faithfully live by God’s plumb line *must strongly* disagree with him. The consequences Senator Obama, will be far *more* serious if you get your way and this nation *doesn’t* live up to God’s edicts. We *do* have a choice Mr. Obama and it’s *not* compromise. Christians *will not* serve two masters. We intend to follow God’s edicts.

* This Obama quote can be heard *in its entirety, in his own words* by going to — <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXcvbnzNIjg>

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DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

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Where Will We Go From Here — Election ‘08

“This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord asked me, ‘What do you see, Amos?’ ‘A plumb line,’ I replied. Then the Lord said, ‘Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam.’” (Amos 7:7-9 NIV)

A plumb line is a simple but always accurate tool used to determine whether or not something is perfectly vertical or upright. It consists merely of a rope or string with a weight of some sort attached to the bottom of the line. It’s never wrong.

In the days of old, it was either God’s spoken Word or His Law that served as the plumb line for His people to determine whether they were upright (righteous) or crooked. In this modern day it is the Bible that serves as our plumb line for determining how upright (or righteous) we are in His sight. All that we do and believe can be measured by God’s plumb line. How upright we think we are, or how upright we proclaim ourselves to be, means nothing to God. The plumb line is *the only* accurate standard of measurement for God’s people. It’s never wrong.

In those verses above, God told His prophet Amos, that He would place a plumb line among His people. That plumb line would be the standard by which they would be measured. They obviously failed that test. His patience had been depleted and the time had come for them to be destroyed. Their moral standards had degenerated and the plumb line revealed just how unrighteous they had become. In the same way, the Lord has set the Bible in our midst as a plumb line or standard of measure to reveal the upright and righteous way for us. That plumb line (the Bible) is a *timeless* plumb line because it came from God and God never changes (Hebrews 13:8) — so the plumb line is *never* wrong. We’re forever able to go to the Bible and use it as the always completely accurate tool for determining whether or not we are upright and righteous. It will without fail show how straight or how crooked we have become not only as Christians but also as a nation.

In this age of Post Modernism, when all religions and beliefs are considered by many to be valid, it’s important that we realize there *is* a plumb line available for our use. Unfortunately, just like the plumb line the Lord showed to Amos, the plumb line we have (the Bible) reveals that all is not well and good in our culture — all beliefs

and religions are *not* valid. There is therefore a great battle in our culture to do away with the plumb line so everyone can be comfortable with whatever he or she chooses to believe. After all, recognizing that there *is* a totally accurate tool for determining whether or not we are upright and righteous in God's sight, makes it *impossible* to continue in the delusion that all religions are valid and that all paths lead to God. They don't — the plumb line *clearly* says that is not true. Jeremiah faced a somewhat similar dilemma in his day. The leaders as well as the people to whom he prophesied claimed there was peace when there was no peace.

“From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen;... (Jeremiah 6:13-15 NIV)

Jeremiah repeatedly told them that God was going to destroy them but the false prophets were repeatedly telling them that all was well. Those false prophets spoke of prosperity, diversity and pluralism — so *their* message was far more pleasing to hear than was Jeremiah's message of destruction. They had no desire to deal with the real issues of their times — which was their need for repentance. They had the “itching ears” that Paul would later tell Timothy about.

“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” (II Timothy 4:3-4 NIV)

The itching ears of today's culture are far more comfortable hearing that there are many paths to God and that all religions are valid — but the plumb line of the Bible doesn't support that pluralistic concept at all.

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” (I Timothy 2:5 KJV)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? (Matt. 7:13-16 NIV)

There aren't numerous choices — there's only one choice that is aligned with God's plumb line — the rest lead to destruction. The way of salvation *is* narrow. The plumb line says so! But many in our nation today deny that there even *is* a plumb line. And the result of that denial is a fundamental moral collapse. Over 40% of babies are now born to unwed mothers, gay-pride events abound and violence is on the rise. Film star Chuck Norris summed it up pretty well when he said:

“America seems to have lost its way. As a people, we seem more divided than ever before. Switch on the television and it's clear we've lost our moral compass. Our economy, once celebrated as a guarantor of freedom and prosperity, now seems corrupted by greed, materialism, and uncertainty. Other countries that used to envy us, now despise us. We seem to have lost not only our sense of ourselves but of our place in the world”

To openly speak of the moral depravity exhibited in our Nation today causes many to simply roll their eyes in disgust that *anyone* would actually condemn sin rather than exercise tolerance for *all* behaviors. And to say that Jesus Christ is the *only* way to salvation is considered despicable and intolerant. But the plumb line God placed among His people *is* specific. There is clearly one way to salvation and many ways to destruction. There is clearly a way to behave morally and many ways to sin. This country lost it's moral compass when it gave up believing that the plumb line God placed among us is forever a completely accurate measurement of His absolute will for mankind. We can not continue to dress the wound as though it were not serious. We must not — we can not — compromise the plumb line God has given us.

Our nation is experiencing a moral meltdown that must be addressed. The real issue of our time is that too many Americans no longer talk about the will of God as being absolute and being revealed in the Bible. There is no recognition of the plumb line that has always been and always will be totally and completely accurate. Morality, uprightness and integrity are all open to universal viewpoints. No one sees any need to follow the edicts of God. Those edicts have now become nothing more than an individual's opinion — that *should* be compromised for the sake of tolerance and political correctness. So — where will we go from here?

The following are the words of Senator Barack Obama on June 28, 2006.

“Democracy demands that the religiously motivated translate their concerns into universal, rather than religion-specific values.... It requires that their proposals be subject to argument, and amenable [submissive] to reason. ... Now this is going to be difficult for some who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, as many Evangelicals do, but in a pluralistic society, we have no choice. ... [I]t involves compromise, ... and at some fundamental level, religion doesn't allow for compromise. It's the art of the impossible if God spoke and then followers are expected to live up to God's edicts regardless of the consequences.”*

Wow! Read that again — very slowly. We don't know how *you* feel about this statement but quite honestly, anyone who is committed to God and believes in the Bible should find it extremely offensive. Why? For one thing, let's consider Senator Obama's choice of words. He states that “the religiously motivated” (God fearing people) can not hold onto “religion-specific values” (what the Bible teaches) and at the same time be citizens in a pluralistic Democracy. They must instead translate *those* values into universal values (in other words — values that would be acceptable to *all* religions and *all* beliefs, including tolerance of even sinful behaviors). He