

# FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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## FROM NON-ESSENTIAL TO THE STATE OF BEING ESSENTIAL

When Governor Gavin Newsom’s Administration of California declared the local church in every city, county and state as “**non-essential**” to the well-being of his constituency I must admit something arose up in me that I would term “*righteous indignation*” to say the least. These past few weeks have been most painful to see the church being placed on what one may call the back burner of the stove.

I was not surprised by his attitude for when he expressed his contempt for us Christians when as mayor of San Francisco, he objected to the voters of California who voted to keep marriage defined as that between one man and one woman. If you remember in 2000, the State of California adopted Proposition 22 which, as an ordinary statute, forbade recognition or licensing of same-sex marriages in the state. During February and March 2004, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom directed the licensing of same-sex marriages on the basis of the state's equal protection clause.

Also at the time Republican California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger stated that although he opposed and twice vetoed legislative bills that would recognize same-sex marriage in California, he respected and would uphold the court's ruling and oppose the initiative and other attempts to amend the state's constitution.

If you remember, Proposition 8 was created by opponents of same-sex marriage prior to the final ruling on in regards to marriage cases as a voter ballot initiative, and voted on at the time of the November 2008 elections. Some of you may remember that we as a church took an active role in support of measure and it was passed by the voters of California. Its wording was precisely the same as Proposition 22, which is an ordinary statute.

Then the Politicians really got involved...such people as California's U.S. senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, voiced their opposition to Proposition 8. Also voicing their opposition were the Lieutenant Governor, State Controller John Chiang, former governor and Attorney General Jerry Brown, 42 of 80 members of the state assembly, half of the state senators, and the **mayors of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego: Gavin Newsom, Antonio Villaraigosa, and Jerry Sanders, respectively** The pro- and anti-Prop 8 campaigns spent a combined \$106 million on the campaign. The only thing that surpasses that was a Proposition for Native Americans, dealing with the expansion of Native American gambling. This State of California has been going downhill in morality ever since.

You see these people don’t care about us as a church in regards to what we describe as morality or godliness. Just as they have redefined marriage they have redefined morality. They have one quest in mind. Power!!! They will use anything they can in order to maintain their public role to quash most anything that the church stands for....even to the point of taking control of the media outlets and public means by which we may get the message out as to how we feel about such measures of ungodliness. The writer of Proverbs declares: *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.* (Pro 14:34)

Our Governor and State Representatives in Sacramento are not the only ones. We see it happening in Michigan, my home state, Illinois, even in New York. I could not believe my ears when Governor Andrew Cuomo who, in mid-April was celebrating things happening in New York going better than expected. He was insistent that God didn’t make things better, man’s hard work did. He said: “*The number is down because we brought the number down.*” And then he emphasized: “*God did not do that. Faith did not do that. Destiny did not do that. A lot of pain and suffering did that...That’s how it works.*” Oh really Governor of New York....is this what you think? Have you got a lesson coming very soon. The scripture says, “*A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.*” Prov. 29:23 How many politicians have we seen in the past which even the people of the land brought down low?

## I HAVE FAITH IN THE CHURCH

**Folks our elected officials closed the doors of our church.** How can we be silent? How can we not protest? How can we sit in silence and call ourselves Christian witnesses. Did you know that in some areas there are more people committing suicide than those who are dying of this Coronavirus? Most everything that the Scientist have put out there in regards to the reason of the shut-down has proven to be wrong. This is true concerning the closing of schools as well as churches. It does not make sense to forbid the same people who can shop at Ralphs with the approval of the Governor cannot attend church. There is something wrong with this. I have far more faith in the Church than I do any governmental official.

**I have faith in the Church of Jesus Christ.** It is bigger than a politician. It is greater than man-made government. Its influence extends beyond that of the media. The church has time on its side, mortal man doesn't. His days are numbered on this earth. Life is fleeting. History shows us the failures of mankind, including governments. Man can burn a church down. Governmental leaders can forbid its existence unless the church and its leaders cooperate with certain governmental rules like in China.

The Angel said to the Church at Philadelphia, write these words; *“These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”* Rev. 3:7,8

Jesus told Peter, *“I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”* Matt. 16:18 A lot of people get caught up as to whether the Lord made Peter the head of the church and upon him he would build it. There is nothing more wrong than this belief. Peter was a disciple of Christ, he died a martyr. He had a lot of talent but not enough to build the church. Christ is the builder. He is the Cornerstone. He is the power to withstand the gates of hell. My faith is in Christ the Head of the Church.

**Christ established the Church.** He designed the Church. He gave us the doctrine for the Church. He sent the Holy Spirit to empower the Church. He rules the Church. He is alive in the Church. He stands to conquer every foe of the Church. This is why I believe in the Church. Now some of us who help in overseeing the members of the flock of God may in the meantime be persecuted, instituted in some prison, executed in some way, but in the end we will arise when he returns for the Church for whom he has prepared a better place for its existence.

**I am glad we have a destination and we are going someplace afterward.** Because what I read is that a day will come when everything here will be burned up. The Apostle Peter wrote in his second Epistle these words:

*“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”*

**Then he asked the question:** *“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”* 2 Peter 3:10,11

**This is the question that not only as a minister of the Gospel I must answer, but every member of the Lord's church must answer that question.** One thing we are not to be is a part of the crowd that scoffs at truth. But rather we are called to put away evil and be as men who have their loins girted about with truth. Who have their lights burning, awaiting for their Lord's coming. This is no time to set on our hands and do nothing. We need to use those hands in writing and protesting the evil of our day.

We as your pastors are taking a personal stand on Sunday. I don't know what the consequences will be. I can't say that it will be bad or good. If you are afraid to come, stay home until God gives you the courage to come. We only need people who feel led of the Holy Spirit to come. I don't expect a lot of people due to the age group of our people. (Yes, I am too old to be here too according to some.) But my place is here for this day. If you care to join me and you don't have an illness or high temperature you are welcome. But we are coming to worship (only) not to fight the Governor. Pastor Sheri will be speaking. I will be free to deal with any problem of opposition. May the Lord bless our efforts to be faithful to the Cross. Amen