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OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT

SEPARATING BABIES FROM PARENTS: NOT BIBLICAL BUT DIABOLICAL!

DETROIT (June 15, 2018) – One has to ask the question, “America, how low can you go?” In a recent speech, made before law enforcement officers in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Attorney General of the United States, Jeff Beauregard Sessions, said, *“I would cite you to the Apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13 to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained them for the purpose of order. Orderly and lawful processes are good in themselves and protect the weak and lawful.”*

In this cherry-picked, pitiful, exegetical reflection of scripture, it takes us back to a time during the enslavement of Africans in America. For it is this passage as well as a few others that were often used to keep the enslaved in check, docile, and controlled. It was also used in Nazi, Germany in order to maintain the order of the state during the time of Hitler. It is an abomination of the message of God to allow morally bankrupt political leaders to co-opt the very essence of the Christian faith. It is a mask to hide their human treachery, which is a stench in the nostril of God.

There is a saying in the community, *“if you don’t want none then don’t bring none.”* Jeff Sessions and his cohorts have brought this spiritual poison to the table expecting Americans to drink of this bitter brew. The bible says, *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,”* Ephesians 6:12. It is the bitter brew that Mr. Sessions and his boss, Donald J. Trump, have brought to the table of America. The brew is filled with division, racism, lies, deceit, and hurt. The brews purpose is for us to swallow cuts in the WIC program, elimination of the pre-condition mandate in Obamacare, forcing the negative taxes called tariffs down the throats of Americans least able to afford them. If the Attorney General would have gone a little further in Romans 13, he would also have found, *“Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is a fulfilment of the law,”* Romans 13:9-10. This action should be insulting and outrageous to everyone, no matter your faith tradition. Evangelical Christians, who support this administration by 70%, should also say no, this will not stand.

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Approaching Father's Day 2018, no father worth his salt, or mother who has experienced the birth of a child, can abide having their babies torn from their sides. 1500 boys are now in a former Walmart warehouse in Brownsville, Texas, separated from their families. It is reported that on average 48 children a day are being separated. Nearly 2,000 kids have been separated from their parents in just six weeks. In many cases, separations occur as soon as the parents arrive at the border with the child. The Border Patrol apprehends them, separating the parent from the child. Parents arriving between ports of entry are separated and sent for criminal prosecution. They must live in these criminal facilities until their sentences have been carried out. Even when families lawfully present themselves at a port, under Donald J. Trump, separation still occurs. Many of these children are babies and toddlers.

Has America lost its soul? Is there no balm in America? Have we forgotten that Jesus Christ himself was a refugee? Have we forgotten that the journey of the bible speaks to God's redemption *for* a people, not God's exemption *of* a people. Obeying the law is important. What is happening in our nation at the border is not law. It is the policy of Donald Trump and Jeff Sessions. It is not biblical. It is diabolical. It is dividing families, as was done during slavery. It separates families and can lead to lifelong trauma.

Scripture stands clear on these issues. "*When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them,*" Leviticus 19:33. Jesus Christ, who Attorney General Sessions accepts, has made it very clear from his own words, "*Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come unto me; for such is the kingdom of heaven,*" Matthew 19:14. Certainly, Mr. Trump and his Attorney General need to read Matthew 25:35, "*For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in.*"

Now is not the time for silence. Now is not the time for a study commission designed to take a look at the merits of this issue. Now is the time for all who believe that America is in fact the land of the free and home of the brave; one of great opportunity; for those fleeing from hurt, harm, and danger to stand up. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us, "*The hottest place in hell is reserved for those who remain neutral in times of great moral conflict.*" This is not the time for us to remain neutral. We are called to act. The bible is very clear again, when the question is asked "*What does the Lord require of us: but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our Lord,*" Micah 6:8.

Mr. Attorney General, we didn't start this biblical outrage. You did. The Trump Administration has attempted to use the faith against the faithful. Referring to the book you like to quote, Romans 6:14, "*You are not under the law but under grace.*" In case you did not know we are saved by grace. America, at this hour, if it is to be great, must demonstrate compassion to the least of these. We must realize that our nation is uniquely positioned to provide real sanctuary for the least of these. Less we forget, as a God-fearing nation, the two greatest commandments (or laws, if you will), "*Jesus said to him, 'Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul, and with all thy mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is thy shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets,*" Matthew 22:37-40.

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For those who use the word of God to manipulate the people of God, please remember, *“He that says I know him and keepeth not his commandment is a liar and the truth is not in him,”* 1 John 2:4. Somebody better start telling the truth. After all, *“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free,”* John 8:32.

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