

Family Research Council

14th Annual Values Voter Summit

Remarks by Representative Louie Gohmert

Speaker:

Representative Louie Gohmert (R-TX)

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(Cheers, applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE LOUIE GOHMERT (R-TX): Thank you. Thank you all so much. (Cheers, applause.) Wow, what a treat! (Cheers, applause.) Thank you. You know, I love – (laughs) – an ovation, thank you like – I’m always concerned nobody’s going to clap when I’m finished. (Laughter.) So if they do it before I start, awesome. It’s just great.

It is so good to be here with you. And if you wonder about whether or not I have courage, I’m following Brigitte. That takes real courage, you know? (Laughter.)

But I am in Congress, and I didn’t expect to be in Congress this long. We’re in a fight for our country. And a reporter asked me, well, how long do you plan on running? And I said, I don’t know. I didn’t expect to be here this long. But I have the feeling like I did once at a horror movie: I was sorry I came, but I can’t leave till I see how it comes out, you know? (Laughter.) So we got to hang in there and fight.

And you know, we’ve got a lot of younger members now. That’s wonderful, especially if they’ve got courage. But we still have some of the old geezers. I was told one of our older member said to another one, “I know it’s none of my business, but you’ve got a suppository sticking out of your right ear,” and he said, “Oh, my goodness, that tells me what I did with my hearing aid!” (Laughter.) So anyway – you know, it is what it is.

But let me tell you, I go back to 1797 – and by the way, there is no one, despite what the mean-spirited media may say – there is no one that meant more to our freedom and our country’s history than George Washington – (applause) – a man of absolute integrity. You know, I see a constituent, General Lewis – and by the way, if you are ever tempted to say, well, if you are on the no-fly list you shouldn’t be able to buy a gun, we in Congress have asked the Obama administration repeatedly, how do you get on the no-fly list? They say, we can’t tell you. Well, how do you get off the no-fly list when you shouldn’t be on there? We can’t tell you that, either. Really? So one of the greatest patriots in the country, Major General Vernon Lewis, has been on the no-fly list, and then we have to fight, and they get him off, and then he appears again. Yeah, we don’t need that kind of rule. We don’t need – we’ve already got one Star Chamber trying to do impeachment in absentia, but we don’t need a Star Chamber deciding who can have a gun because the Second Amendment makes that pretty clear, right? (Cheers, applause.)

So our first vice president became our second president – John Adams – in 1797. He made clear when he said, this “Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the governing of any other.”

Now we’ve gotten away from teaching morality, right and wrong – well, maybe if it feels good, do it; maybe it’s OK for you and not somebody else. No! There were 10 good commandments that used to hang in schools around the country, in courthouses, and then we had an oligarchy we sometimes call the Supreme Court that got involved and said, we don’t care what our history is; we don’t care about not establishing a religion in the first part of the First Amendment. We’re going to establish secularism as our religion. And they got involved, and

we have seen morality failing to be taught because the Supreme Court stepped in and said, you can't teach that; that's from the Bible.

Well, we had a great awakening – 1730, 1740s – and it led to this year for freedom that resulted in our revolution. Some historians – and I knew I was going to the Army when I – after I finished A&M, I had an Army scholarship – and so I majored in what I loved, and that was history. And historically – well, historians have debated what made the big difference between the American Revolution and the French Revolution. They were wanting freedom, and I think it's best characterized by the historians that say, in the United States, the revolution was about liberty. It was about freedom. In France, unfortunately, the revolution became about revenge. That's why so many heads were chopped off.

And we have got people who'd think that that are the most moral brokers in America. They are the greatest moral arbiters in America, and all they can do is lash around like the SPLC and throw hatred all around. And nobody knows that better than the Family Research Council – and the shooter that was inspired by the SPLC. And the hate continues.

And I know Jesus said, you know, look, they're going to hate you; remember they hated me first. But we have lived in a bubble in the United States where you weren't discriminated against for being a Christian, and that led to us being, I believe, the greatest country in the history of the world – more opportunities, more freedoms, more assets than even Solomon's Israel. So why was that? I don't know. God has his reasons. But we have been richly blessed, and it was fine that everybody didn't believe that. They were able to be blessed because a majority of this country did believe in God and did believe in the Ten Commandments and did believe those things that were biblical. And things have changed. And we are in danger of losing it all because enough people have not stood up and fight – fought for what we believe in.

Now, understand as a Christian I'm supposed to turn the other cheek. I am supposed to love my enemies and love my neighbors. In fact, the two most important laws: love God, love your neighbor. The two most – and on those hang all of the law and the prophets. But when you're acting in a government role, Romans 13 applies. If you do evil, be afraid, because God doesn't give the government the sword in vain. (Applause.)

And guess what? Every American citizen has a role in their government to vote, to run for office, to support others, to fire 'em when they're not doing their jobs, to sit on jury duty. These are – you are part of the government. When you're acting in that government role, you don't turn the other cheek. If you're sitting on a jury – I was a felony judge – you don't turn the other cheek. You're there for a purpose, to save freedom for everybody else, and you have an extra burden. Everybody in America, every American citizen, has that burden, has that responsibility. And we need to have more people – and I know I'm not preaching to the choir, I'm preaching to the preachers here, but – (laughter) – but we have got to take that mantle on.

If you go back to 1892, 15 pages, the U.S. Supreme Court was taking up this issue of, you know, well, are we a Christian nation or not. And after pages of references that they said – they came to this quote: “These and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.” That

didn't mean everybody was Christian, but it meant a majority was. And we had that kind of biblical morality that we had Founders fight for and throughout our history fought for.

And Lincoln, his speech at Gettysburg is so profound, his Second Inaugural is so profound: both read from the same Bible, both pray to the same God. Now if you say that you will be condemned as being a hater, like Brigitte Gabriel's group. For heaven's sake. You know, we have got to help identify the real haters in America, and it isn't Christian groups. (Applause.)

And the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights gets that confused. They don't understand that. They think of Evangelical Christians – some of them on the Commission think that that's the biggest hate group threat. No. How you could be so perverse as to take the one religion that is based more on love than any other religion is absurd, and it's more of the false media matters that have been coming out. It's not true.

Christianity boils down to this: God so loved the – well, God so loved the world he gave his son, his Son so loved the world he gave his life. That's a lot of love, and we have been the beneficiaries.

And if you don't believe, that's fine. This is America. But where a majority had those same feelings of morality and understanding – you know, like C.S. Lewis said, you know, some have a better sense of fairness than others, but just because some come closer to hitting a musical note than others who don't doesn't mean the music doesn't exist. It means some come closer to hitting the true mark than others. And that's what we need to understand.

So it took principle, it took courage to get us this country with more freedom than any other in history, but those have been taken away. And I tell you what, Act for America, we need to help make clear to everybody if you're going to be intimidated and come after a group that loves this country like Act for America and Brigitte – I mean, she came from Lebanon. I'm amazed how many people come from other countries, they knew real oppression, and they're some of the best Americans we've got, you know – (applause) – because they understand the threat. (Applause.)

OK. And just this week we had a case before the Supreme Court involving the Harris Funeral Home(s). You all are familiar with that. Transgender person ends up being let go because he was violating their policies, and this is before the Supreme Court. And understand what's at stake here. Judge Gorsuch understood. Judge Gorsuch said – asked this question. He says, at the end of the day should he or she take into consideration the massive social upheaval that would be entailed in such a decision, in forcing people to recognize someone for being the sex that they say they are at that moment? Anyway, he says, that is, in fact, more appropriate for a legislative than judicial function. Employers, the government – (inaudible) – argue that the plaintiff's reading of Title VII would so expand the concept of sex that employers would not know how to comply and courts would not know how to enforce it.

And that's what the left wants. They want such obscurity for right and wrong that it will create chaos, and they think of out of chaos will come these great dictators.

And I'll tell you how bad education has gotten. We have billionaires in this country that are so miseducated and so stupid about history they think by giving hundreds of millions of dollars to help make us a socialist progressive communist country, they'll be part of that thin veneer in the ruling class. And of course, as you know, whether it's socialism, communism, there's no middle class there. You have that little group of leaders and then you have everybody else. They think they're going to be in there. They have not learned enough history to know if they get us all the way to pure socialism, communism, progressivism, whatever you want to call it, their money will be taken and they will either go to a Gulag or they'll be killed. They don't – they haven't figured that out. They're just that badly miseducated. (Applause.)

But let me tell you, if the plaintiffs win this case before the Supreme Court, that first part of the First Amendment will be gone. You will not have the freedom to believe what Moses and Jesus said about sexuality. That will be gone. You will be deemed a hater. You will be deemed to be mean-spirited when you have nothing but love for your fellow man but you know right and wrong, you've learned that.

So if you're going to understand what's happening in the U.S., you need to understand what more brilliant people have said about socialism, progressivism, communism, whatever the term they want to give to it. Dostoyevsky said the problem of communism is not an economic problem. The problem of communism, Dostoyevsky said – and he should know – the problem of communism is the problem of atheism.

And I was an exchange student in the Soviet Union between my – the summer before my junior year in college. And you know, they were overtly hostile to Christianity. In fact, they took that gorgeous cathedral in Leningrad – really St. Petersburg – and turned it into a museum of atheism and evolution. I nearly threw up when I went into that.

But there was one allowed seminary at a place called Zagorsk, a good bit out from Moscow. And going out there, right as you turn into this walled community, the seminary, there was a multistoried building and it had Lenin's face on it, and above his face it said "Lenin" and then below it said "s nami" – "Lenin is with us." So you may be going into this little Christian enclave, but remember, it's Lenin, rubber ear and all. "Lenin is with us." Now, that's where it goes if the left get what they want, and this little experiment in self-government will be gone.

Whittaker Chambers converted from communism and helping the Soviet Union to Christianity and to being a lover of liberty, and he testified against Alger Hiss. Chambers said the communist vision – and I'm quoting – "is the vision of man's mind displacing God as the creative intelligence of the world. It's popular to call it a crisis of the Western world. It is, in fact, a crisis of the whole world. Communism is itself a symptom, an irritant of that crisis."

So we are near the end of the road of no return. There's still time to get back on track, but not a lot of time. If the election had gone the other way in 2016, we were done. If the election in 2020 goes the wrong way, we're done. We'll keep fighting, you know. People have said, yeah, you'd have been one of the last ones at The Alamo, probably. But it's a cause worth fighting for.

You know, if hate crime legislation is not changed – I said it back when it – when it was being brought up – if this passes, someday it'll be used to prosecute Christian ministers for reading from the Bible. And they thought I was talking about homosexuality. I didn't want to give them any ideas, but what I had in my mind back then was someday they're going to come after Christians for saying Jesus said I'm the way the truth and the life. No one goes to the Father but by me. That's hateful, that's mean-spirited! And now we've heard Bernie Sanders get after Russ Vought in his confirmation hearing for being a Christian and believing what Jesus said. We've had Dianne Feinstein go after what I'm hoping will be the next Supreme Court justice nominee. (Applause.) She has the nerve to go to Bible studies and stuff like that, and you know, the demagoguery was deep with her apparently.

But this is a battle for our nation's freedom. And if we want to continue to be blessed, we're going to have to live blessed lives. But we've got to do as those who went before us did, and that's fight for what they gave us. Yeah, we're endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights, but like any inheritance if you're not willing to fight for what your father, your parents are leaving you, you're not going to keep it. Somebody will always take it away if you're not willing to protect what you've been given.

So let me just close with this. As a – as a judge, it always broke my heart to see children suffer for the sins of their parents. Every day in America, children are separated from their parents. This is not a new concept. When a warrant is issued, an adult is arrested, not a child. The children are left separated from their parents when they go to jail. Happens every day. But we know from history, we know from the Bible if we rise up and defend our freedom, future generations will look back at us and call us blessed. But I'm telling you, we're at a place if we don't fight and fight hard for those freedoms, and we continue into this morass of immorality, they are not going to rise up and call us blessed. And I don't want to think about the words they'll be using to refer to our generation.

This is a place – this is a gift, the greatest gift God has ever allowed a people to have for a country, and we cannot let this gift go without a fight for truth, for justice, and the American way, which is love your neighbor but fight to keep them from taking away your rights. God bless you. God keep blessing America. Thank you very, very, much. (Cheers, applause.)

(END)