

# China-Level Christian Persecution Coming

Pastors say court's ruling in Houston Bible case 'breath-taking'

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*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.*

A few more court decisions like this week's over a display of a Bible in Houston and the United States will be approaching the "China-level" for Christian persecution, according to a leader in the midst of that battle.



Houston's Bible monument

The ruling from the Fifth Court of Appeals said the display of a Bible on public ground in Houston to honor the founder of a mission has to go, not because it was unconstitutional itself, but because it became unconstitutional when a Christian group rallied around it.

The pastor's group said that means any monument, building, or even feature of nature is an illegal "establishment of religion" if a church ceremony is held there.

"Connecting the dots between the eminent domain case, which says all of your churches are up for grabs if a town wants a mall, secondly you now have been told you do not have constitutional rights in the public square," Dave Welch, executive director of the Houston Area Pastors Conference, told WorldNetDaily.

"Any kind of an event is okay, as long as you didn't express any religious faith. What is that telling you?"

"We're not persecuted yet, we know that. But we're on our way there. Add that to the surprising acceptance of militant Islam, the fear of speaking against that from a Christian standpoint and then we're dangerously approaching the point where we have literally given away and yielded our freedoms that were earned," Welch said.

"We have history, law and the founding fathers who adopted the Constitution collectively affirming the truth expressed by revered Justice Joseph Story in 1840 that, 'We are not to attribute this prohibition of a national religious establishment to an indifference to religion in general, and especially to Christianity,'" said a statement issued by the pastor's group.

Welch told WND that the court's conclusion was "ludicrous" and if followed logically, could mean that a religious rally at any public building would therefore make the building unconstitutional so it would have to be removed.

The Bible was installed on county property about five decades ago in honor of William Mosher, the founder of Star of Hope Mission, and was replaced in 1996 with donated funds. However, an atheist challenged the monument, and on an appeal from the District Court decision that the Bible was unconstitutional, the appeals court carried the argument further.

Its ruling said that the monument became an unconstitutional "establishment" after a 2003 rally was held by Christians to defend the display. That rally involved prayers and clergy, the court noted.

"The ramifications of this tortured decision are breath-taking and without any historic or legitimate Constitutional rationale," said the pastors' organization. "For the court to state that if a private citizen exercises his or her First Amendment rights of religious expression and assembly on public property, that any monument, building or fixed item of any kind that contains religious references becomes 'establishment of religion' is simply irrational."

The conclusion, if applied nationwide, would result in the sandblasting of hundreds of monuments and buildings "including the capstone on the Washington Monument, which reads, 'Laus Deo,' or 'Praise be to God,'" the pastors group continued.

"For this panel majority of two justices to claim that words and actions by private citizens or elected officials with religious content, expressed about a building or monument, convert it from 'secular' and constitutional to 'sacred' and unconstitutional amounts to an act of blatant judicial activism against the freedoms and Constitution," the HAPC said.

The group Battle For The Bible also is working on the case, and Welch said there are experts on constitutional law who have been and plan to continue assisting the county in its fight over the representation of the Bible.

"They are of the opinion this needs to be appealed directly to the Supreme Court,

and we're working on that right now," Welch told WND.

He called the logic "twisted" that could conclude the monument once was constitutional, but since "some action by a private citizen" it now becomes unconstitutional.

Because the atheist's lawsuit was against the county over the monument on county land, the pastors and their advisors have been assisting County Attorney Michael Stafford in the fight.

*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea:*

*Decades ago, the God-haters in America succeeded in removing the Word of God from the classrooms of America. No longer would our children be taught in school the commandments to honor Father and Mother, to not steal, to be faithful in marriage. No, instead the God-haters wanted our children to be taught the lie that humans are just mutated amoebas, animals who have achieved superiority through various chance mutations over eons of time. The Commandments of God were now replaced by the new commandment, Survival of the Fittest.*

*Some "Survival of the Fittest" over-achievers have risen to the top echelons of companies like Enron and Country Wide. In their quest, they cast off the shackles of, "Thou shall not steal" and "Thou shall not covet" and didn't even care that in doing so they were bankrupting tens of thousands of their fellow species. (But who can blame them for destroying those who were not "fit" enough to do whatever it takes to survive?)*

*Decades later, the effects of this poisonous injection into our society are nearly fully realized, and the victim (America) is now in its death throes. Almost every American family has been impacted by the consequences of adultery and sexual immorality, and half of our children are growing up without both their parents in their home. Many of those who still have a Mom and Dad living under the same roof have very little time with them because both parents work full-time in order to cope with the added financial consequences associated a nation that is sinning against God.*

*The God haters may have succeeded in deceiving most Americans into departing from the laws of God. But one thing is certain. The God haters will never be able to avoid the consequences of departing from God's laws, because God has warned that He will not put up with our foolishness forever. Judgment will come:*

***I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright. 'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My***

**commandments, but break My covenant,** I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit. Lev 26:13-20.

*I pray those who have been deceived by the God-haters will repent of listening to their lies and instead turn to the true and living God. God created us to have fellowship with Him. We separated ourselves from Him when we sinned and went our own way. The Bible declares that we are lost in our trespasses and sins, but God has provided a way (and only one way) to get back to Him. That way is Jesus, and He's far better than anything the God-haters can ever provide.*

*If you haven't already done so, confess to Him that you are a sinner who has broken His holy laws. Bow the knee to the Savior, Jesus, who came to take your place in judgment if you would only believe in Him.*

*Then confess with your mouth that Jesus will be your Lord. Read your Bible as the love letter to mankind that it is and live the rest of your life serving the one who saved you. If you do, then you will sense the effects of the venom going away as it is replaced by the power of the Holy Spirit to give you everlasting life.*

*Eph 2:4-9 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (NKJ)*