

## February Edition: Be Encouraged and Be Courageous!



### BE COURAGEOUS AND ENCOURAGED!



**Justice Antonin Scalia** said it well, *"Have the courage to have your wisdom regarded as stupidity. Be fools for Christ. And have the courage to suffer the contempt the sophisticated world."*

The unexpected passing of Justice Antonin Scalia sent a surge of both mourning and concerning thoughts throughout our country. Who would

### Election 2016

Visit [www.stevedeace.com](http://www.stevedeace.com) to read accurate, behind-the-scenes news on the presidential election that you will never hear from the major media. Steve Deace is a popular national radio host, columnist, author, and detailed, fact-based political analyst. His analytical record is impressive.

### This Month's Bible Verse

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow-not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below-indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." **-Romans 8:38-39, NLT**

### Featured Quote

replace him? How would this influence the already rampant judicial activism of the Supreme Court?

Swiftly, we prayed and witnessed God's assistance as our friend, U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, rose to the occasion to stop anything from occurring in the election year. We thank God for Senator Grassley.

This entire scenario reminds us how important it remains for us to stay courageously Christian and conservative. We need less government and more Christian outreach.

Think about this: When the government attempts to replace the church through red-tape mazes and socialistic policies, the society suffers a steep moral decline in which policies police families. As today's broken families will attest, no substitute exists for moral absolutes. We are to love God and neighbor...without government red tape. Government red tape cannot even be compared to the saving red blood of Jesus Christ. **When people live out His love, boundless opportunities abound for the poorest of the poor and the most challenged of the challenged.**

In what feels like a complicated maze of political lies and cultural deception, we must focus on Truth. It's simple: Everyone sins. And everyone needs Jesus. Turn to Jesus Christ. He died in our place and rose again for us. Will you accept or reject His love and offer of salvation? We all need Jesus. Please accept Him and be saved from sin, death, and hell. Repent from sin. Receive God's Son. Take God's Word for it: "Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other..." (Isaiah 45:22)

**God's Answer to our sin problem remains the Answer for America.** Yes, our country is in deep trouble. But no candidate alone has the power to fix our country's moral decay. That is up to "we the people" and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

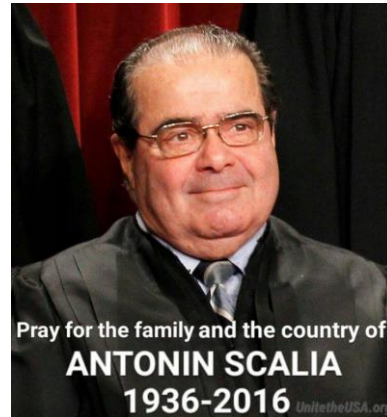
**Be wise and never compromise on God's Truth.** Pray that people will choose to repent and come to Him. Think about it: Changed hearts would equal a changed and better country.

Biblical illiteracy among too many churchgoers and Americans in general explains why our country continues to sink into a spiritual downward spiral. We encourage you to read about it in this month's featured article by Dr. Albert Mohler. We all need to

"The chief danger of the church today is that it is trying to get on the same side as the world, instead of trying to turn the world upside down."

*-A. B. Simpson, preacher, theologian, author, and founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance*

## In Memory of Justice Antonin Scalia



We sincerely miss Justice Scalia on the United States Supreme Court. He was a stalwart voice for liberty and a brilliant defender of the Constitution. Justice Scalia had integrity, intelligence, kindness, and wit. He used his many gifts to serve the American people and His Lord, Jesus Christ. Justice Scalia earned the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle because he was true to his beliefs. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the Scalia family. Please join us in praying for them during this sad time. And may we emulate his faith in Christ and defense of what is right.

## Enter to Win

learn more about the Bible and the wonders and majesty of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

The bottom line is to earnestly pray and seek the Lord and get involved in ways to help turn our country around. (Check out our [Action Page](#) for ideas or read our book [Unite the USA: Discover the ABCs of Patriotism.](#))

Don't lose heart, for "with God all things are possible"!

Sincerely,  
Carrie and Stacie Stoelting  
Founders of [Unite the USA](#)  
Join us on [FaceBook](#) and [Twitter](#)

## Do You Have "Redonkulous" Faith?

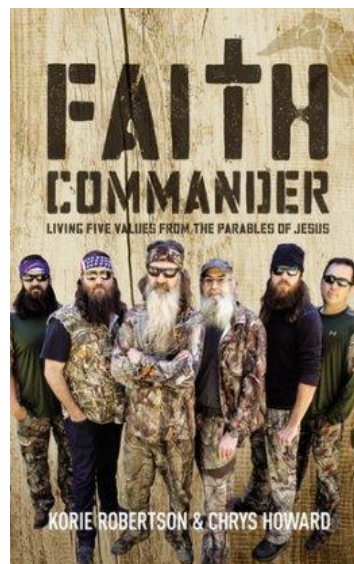


*We're breaking pattern and sharing this fun yet powerful devotional video by Jase Robertson from the Faith Commander Bible Study. We appreciate his genuine testimony and sincere desire to share about his faith in Jesus Christ. May the rest of America come to know Jesus, too! Watch and enjoy...*

*-Carrie and Stacie*

## The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy: It's Our Problem

Dr. Albert Mohler  
[www.albertmohler.com](http://www.albertmohler.com)



*Enter now to win the DVD and study guide of the Faith Commander Bible Study. Last day to enter is February 29, 2016. A winner will be selected at random on March 1 and notified via e-mail. Entry form must be completed in its entirety. One entry per person. [Click here](#) to enter.*

## Featured Founding Father

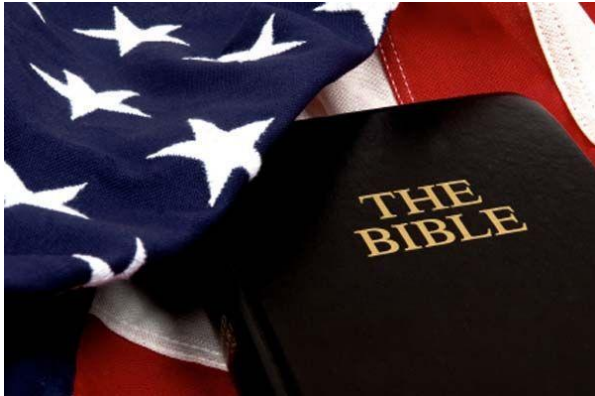


**Button Gwinnett** (1735 - May 19, 1777) was a British-born American Founding Father. He was a representative of Georgia to the Continental Congress and he was a signer of the United States Declaration of Independence.

Gwinnett voted in favor of the Declaration of Independence which was adopted by Congress on July 2, 1776. Then on July 4, 1776, it was presented



*We will not believe more than we know, and we will not live higher than our beliefs.*



While America's evangelical Christians are rightly concerned about the secular worldview's rejection of biblical Christianity, we ought to give some urgent attention to a problem much closer to home—biblical illiteracy in the church. This scandalous problem is our own, and it's up to us to fix it.

Researchers George Gallup and Jim Castelli put the problem squarely: Americans revere the Bible "but, by and large, they don't read it. And because they don't read it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates. How bad is it? Researchers tell us that it's worse than most could imagine.

Fewer than half of all adults can name the four gospels. Many Christians cannot identify more than two or three of the disciples. According to data from the Barna Research Group, 60 percent of Americans can't name even five of the Ten Commandments. No wonder people break the Ten Commandments all the time. They don't know what they are, said George Barna, president of the firm. The bottom line? Increasingly, America is biblically illiterate.

Multiple surveys reveal the problem in stark terms. According to 82 percent of Americans, God helps those who help themselves, is a Bible verse. Those identified as born-again Christians did better by one percent. A majority of adults think the Bible teaches that the most important purpose in life is taking care of one's family.

Some of the statistics are enough to perplex even those aware of the problem. A Barna poll indicated that at least 12 percent of adults believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. Another survey of graduating high school seniors revealed that over

to the Congress. Gwinnett signed the famous parchment copy on August 2, 1776.

A year later he wrote the original draft of Georgia's first State Constitution. Gwinnett served in the Georgia state legislature where he became Speaker of the Georgia Assembly and later the Assembly's Executive Council.

## Featured Author



R. Albert Mohler, Jr. is president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. For more articles and resources by Dr. Mohler, and for information on The Albert Mohler Program, a daily national radio program broadcast on the Salem Radio Network, go to <http://www.albertmohler.com/>. For information on The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, go to [www.sbts.edu](http://www.sbts.edu).

## In God We Still Trust Video

Our country needs to turn to Jesus. Listen to "In God We Still Trust" for inspiration to keep "fighting the good fight". For hope and encouragement, listen to Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth sing "In God We Still Trust".

50 percent thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife. A considerable number of respondents to one poll indicated that the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham. We are in big trouble.

Secularized Americans should not be expected to be knowledgeable about the Bible. As the nation's civic conversation is stripped of all biblical references and content, Americans increasingly live in a Scripture-free public space. Confusion and ignorance of the Bible's content should be assumed in post-Christian America.

The larger scandal is biblical ignorance among Christians. Choose whichever statistic or survey you like, the general pattern is the same. America's Christians know less and less about the Bible. It shows.

How can a generation be biblically shaped in its understanding of human sexuality when it believes Sodom and Gomorrah to be a married couple? No wonder Christians show a growing tendency to compromise on the issue of homosexuality. Many who identify themselves as Christians are similarly confused about the Gospel itself. An individual who believes that God helps those who help themselves will find salvation by grace and justification by faith to be alien concepts.

Christians who lack biblical knowledge are the products of churches that marginalize biblical knowledge. Bible teaching now often accounts for only a diminishing fraction of the local congregation's time and attention. The move to small group ministry has certainly increased opportunities for fellowship, but many of these groups never get beyond superficial Bible study.

Youth ministries are asked to fix problems, provide entertainment, and keep kids busy. How many local-church youth programs actually produce substantial Bible knowledge in young people?

Even the pulpit has been sidelined in many congregations. Preaching has taken a back seat to other concerns in corporate worship. The centrality of biblical preaching to the formation of disciples is lost, and Christian ignorance leads to Christian indolence and worse.

This really is our problem, and it is up to this generation of Christians to reverse course. Recovery starts at home. Parents are to be the first



## Order Now



*Unite the USA: Discover the ABCs of Patriotism* is a new book by **Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth Stoelting**. It's a book that empowers patriots to make a big difference in the land we love. With 100+ ways to make a positive difference in America, *Unite the USA* is a must-have tool for patriots. *Unite the USA* will inspire and educate

Americans to defend faith and freedom. (Important Note: All proceeds go to fund the mission of [UnitetheUSA.org](http://UnitetheUSA.org).) Order it here today!

## *In God We Still Trust* A CD by Stacie and Carrie Stoelting

and most important educators of their own children, diligently teaching them the Word of God. [See Deuteronomy 6:4-9.] Parents cannot franchise their responsibility to the congregation, no matter how faithful and biblical it may be. God assigned parents this non-negotiable responsibility, and children must see their Christian parents as teachers and fellow students of God's Word.

Churches must recover the centrality and urgency of biblical teaching and preaching, and refuse to sideline the teaching ministry of the preacher. Pastors and churches too busy or too distracted to make biblical knowledge a central aim of ministry will produce believers who simply do not know enough to be faithful disciples.

We will not believe more than we know, and we will not live higher than our beliefs. The many fronts of Christian compromise in this generation can be directly traced to biblical illiteracy in the pews and the absence of biblical preaching and teaching in our homes and churches.

This generation must get deadly serious about the problem of biblical illiteracy, or a frighteningly large number of Americans -Christians included will go on thinking that Sodom and Gomorrah lived happily ever after.



Per request from veterans who love patriotic and inspiring music sung by Stacie and Carrie, [In God We Still Trust](#) was recorded. From the National Anthem to "God Bless America" you will be inspired and uplifted about our God-given freedoms. All proceeds go to Unite the USA. Help promote faith and freedom in America. Your support is important and appreciated. [Buy or download a copy today.](#) God bless you as you celebrate the red, white, and blue!

## Booking Info



Celebrate the true spirit of America with Carrie Beth and Stacie Ruth. Book Stacie and Carrie for concert or conference! E-mail [info@unitetheusa.org](mailto:info@unitetheusa.org) for more information.

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