

Can Somebody Explain This To Me?

by Bill Crews

Both the U. S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have paid chaplains. The chaplain of the Senate receives a government salary of \$146,000 a year. The chaplain of the House of Representatives receives a government salary of \$167,000 a year. Each session of both chambers is begun with a prayer. All of the laws that govern us, along with our original constitution, come out of these two bodies. The U.S. Supreme Court, which has the final word in interpreting and applying all federal laws, also begins each of its sessions with, can you believe it, a prayer and an appeal to "God."

To my knowledge, all of the individuals and organizations who have succeeded in getting prayers, Bible readings, references to God and even the teaching of any absolute moral standards out of our public schools have made no effort to get rid of the chaplains and the prayers and the references to God (all supported by the tax-payers' money) in Congress or the Supreme Court. In the name of "separation of church and state," sometimes referred to as "the separation clause" (neither of which appears anywhere in the U.S. Constitution, but which some use as their interpretation of the first amendment or the first of the ten "Bill of Rights"), can someone explain this inconsistency to me?

A freshman congressman from Texas has a daily prayer session in one of his office rooms for his staff, and attendance is entirely voluntary. When word got out to "the press" and was given rather wide coverage, what an outcry it brought. The hypocrites who surmised that this just might be a violation of the "constitutional separation of church and state" won't even look at the tax-supported chaplains and their session-opening prayers for the highest government bodies in the land. Does this make any sense to you? What inconsistency! *"The wicked shall be turned into Sheol, and all the nations that forget God"* (Psalm 9:17). *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD"* (Psalm 33:12).

311201