
All Saints' 2007

The Messenger

of St James' Church, Texarkana, Texas

Angels, Devils, and the Law

*An Address given by Justice Robert Brown
at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Legal Profession
October 1, 2007, St. James' - Texarkana*

I am privileged to speak to you tonight as part of this inaugural ecumenical service of thanksgiving for the legal profession. The service, I understand, is modeled on the opening of the courts at Westminster Abbey. In October each year, a service is held at the Abbey to observe the beginning of the new legal year. All judges of England and Wales, together with leading barristers, are invited to be present. After the service, a procession takes place from the Abbey to the House of Lords, for the customary Lord Chancellor's Breakfast. In that procession, dignified ladies and gentlemen in their legal robes and wigs make their way towards the Houses of Parliament. Your former member of the Bar and this church, Richard Arnold, loved that sort of thing. And so do I. I compliment you on remembering this tradition.

And speaking of Richard Arnold, I noted in the history of St. James that he as well as his mother and father taught Sunday School here. Well, I have to confess I taught Sunday School with Richard at our church, St. Margaret's, in Little Rock, and it was an experience. Those Sundays when I took the lead I would ask Richard if he had anything to say. Not only would he correct me on my theological errors, but he would go back to the original Greek to bolster his position. It was all very sobering. But of course I am being facetious. He was wonderful to teach with.

I have pondered long and hard about what to talk about tonight. Certainly, the plight of the Episcopal Church comes immediately to mind. But there's no question in my mind that the church will survive as we know it and as William Faulkner said in a different context, even prevail.

But I ultimately hit upon a subject that has always fascinated me, and is certainly topical today, and that is

Angels, Devils, and religious instruction in our public schools.

I think most of us in this church would be surprised - I certainly was - to learn about the large percentage of Americans who believe in angels and devils. We all know about the highly successful television programs - "Highway to Heaven," "Touched by an Angel," "Amazing Grace" - which dealt with angels and spiritual intervention in our daily lives. That success, though, doesn't begin to define the scope of belief in spiritual forces by our fellow Americans.

Fourteen years ago, there was an article in *Time Magazine* on angels which said:

Harvard Divinity School has a course on angels; Boston College has two. Bookstores have had to establish angel sections. In the most celebrated play on Broadway, Tony Kushner's Pulitzer-prize-winning Angels in America, a divine messenger ministers to a man with AIDS. In Publishers Weekly's religious best-seller list, five of the 10 paperback books are about angels.

And listen to these statistics from a variety of polling resources: A 2005 Harris poll has 68 percent of Americans believing in angels and 61 percent believing in the devil.

The Fox poll is even higher with 85 percent believing in angels and 72 percent in the devil.

A Gallup poll is a little lower with 78 percent believing in angels and 70 percent believing in the devil. These numbers are extremely high. We clearly live in a society where most people believe spiritual forces are at work and even contending for our very souls.

Now, some of you might think that these beliefs are held only by the Great Unwashed, as Dale Bumpers used to call the unenlightened masses. Well let me quickly disabuse you of that notion. Our friend and colleague, Judge Richard Arnold, was a fervent believer in angels – guardian angels and otherwise.

Richard once told me the story of a late night walk in St. Louis when a particularly difficult case (probably a death case) was weighing heavily on him. As he walked, he saw a homeless person who was male and walking towards him. Richard took little notice, but as the man drew closer, Richard looked up. The man said, “Don’t worry, Richard. It will be all right.”

Richard had never seen the man before and never saw him again after that encounter. Immediately, the weight of the decision was lifted from his shoulders. Richard was convinced it was a visit from an angel.

And Richard never turned down a beggar on the street. His reasoning was simple, “The beggar might be an angel.”

Judge Arnold was not alone in the intellectual elite in his belief in angels. C.S. Lewis, the Oxford don, eminent writer, and converted Christian, was a strong believer in angels and devils. He wrote:

The proper question is whether I believe in devils. I do. That is to say, I believe in angels, and I believe that some of these by the abuse of their free will, have been enemies to God and to us. These we may call devils.

The stories of angels and miraculous visions cascade through recorded history in multiple religions, particularly in Roman Catholicism. And in the event you think that angels and devils are solely a Christian phenomenon with the Annunciation to Mary, let me quickly correct that supposition.

Angels abound in Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. In the Old Testament, they are the military figures who guard the gates of Eden, wrestle with Jacob and wound him on his way to visit Esau, and protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace.

Angels were also messengers, as was the case with Abraham and Sarah. It was an angel who stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac. The ultimate angel, of course, was the angel of death in the first Passover.

What about devils? In every religion, they are vying for our souls. My favorite writer about devils and

diabolical temptation is C. S. Lewis in his book, *Screwtape Letters*. I am going to digress and talk about Lewis.

Lewis wrote *Screwtape* during the war years between 1940 and 1942. It is at once a masterful psychological work – at times funny and at times very unsettling and revealing. If you have not read it, do so.

In *Screwtape Letters*, Lewis has an old, retired devil named Screwtape advising a junior devil on how to tempt and ultimately damn the people who are their targets. People like us.

Lewis warns the reader in his Preface to this book that devils make the most strides when people are convinced they do not exist. Screwtape tells the young devil how to do this:

... I do not think you will have much difficulty in keeping your targets in the dark about our existence. The fact that “devils” are predominantly comic figures in the modern imagination will help you. If any faint suspicion of your existence begins to arise in the target’s mind, suggest to him a picture of something in red tights, (and a pitchfork) and persuade him that since he cannot believe in that he certainly can’t believe in you.

C. S. Lewis’s best friend at the time was J. R. Tolkien, who wrote *Lord of the Rings* – which was recently made into the trilogy of films. Tolkien also believed in angels and devils – which should not surprise you if you have read his books, seen the films, and witnessed the hoards of evil ones called ORCS. He and Lewis, as Oxford dons, would meet routinely in the Oxford pubs to drink their pints, discuss their work, and tell bawdy stories. Their favorite pub was the Eagle and the Child, which they nicknamed the Bird and the Babe.

Lewis’ genius in the *Screwtape Letters* lay in how he described the way devils manipulate us.

My favorite trick by the devils is how they tempt a husband and a wife into fighting under the guise of both trying to be “unselfish.” I am paraphrasing Lewis a bit, but here is how Screwtape manipulates the situation into a marital fight:

... Something quite trivial, like having a dinner party, is proposed by the wife. The husband takes care to make it quite clear that he would rather not have the party but is, of course, prepared to do so out of “Unselfishness.” The wife instantly withdraws her proposal, ostensibly because of her

"Unselfishness," but really because she doesn't want to be outdone by her husband's "Unselfishness."

The husband, though, is not going to be outdone either by his wife's debauch of Unselfishness. He insists on doing what she wants. "I will do the party," he shouts. Passions are roused. Soon she is saying, "Very well, then, I won't have any party at all!" and a real fight ensues with bitter resentment on both sides. That's how it is done.

This sounds all too familiar to me.

Enough of Screwtape. I want to segue into the meat of my talk (and you may have had some question about this) and that is why don't we teach angels and devils, or the Bible, in our public schools. Most Americans believe in such things and that the Bible is an all-important guide on how to lead our lives. Why shouldn't the Bible be taught to high school students the same as it is in state universities? I am confident that Angels and Devils would be an exceedingly popular high school class.

When I was a public school student in the mid fifties, it was routine to start the day with a prayer, scripture, and the Pledge of Allegiance. In 1963, prayer and Bible reading went by the boards in the public schools. That year, the Supreme Court held in two cases, *Engle v. Vitale* and *Abington School District v. Schempp*, that both constituted an Establishment of Religion and violated the First Amendment. The Pledge of Allegiance was called into question by a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision in 2003, which caused almost universal criticism. It was later overruled on procedural grounds.

Teaching creationism, or Genesis, and intelligent design is also forbidden in our schools, again due to federal court decisions, though one poll shows that the majority of Americans believe in intelligent design, which, loosely defined, is a belief in some divine intervention in the evolutionary process.

So where did this restraint against teaching religion in our schools come from? Everyone in this room knows that the short answer is the First Amendment to the Constitution, which provides for no establishment of religion (like the Church of England) and supports the free exercise of religion (to protect worship by dissident groups like the Puritans).

But beyond those two principles, the courts through interpretation have erected a strict wall of separation between church and state, and particularly when it

comes to teaching religion in our public schools. How did this strict wall of separation evolve? I found in my research that the answer can be summarized in one name: Thomas Jefferson.

No founding father was more zealous in his defense of individual liberty when confronted by big government than Jefferson. He fervently believed that government should not be messing with personal beliefs and our religious conscience in any way. And he profoundly influenced his fellow Virginian, James Madison, who wrote the Bill of Rights.

We all know Jefferson's grave marker did not include the fact he was president of the United States, but it did include his authorship of the act for religious freedom for the State of Virginia. This may have been false modesty. But religious freedom was of the utmost importance to him, as indicated by his tombstone. And it is in his writings where the first reference was made to the wall of separation between church versus state.

Was Jefferson a Christian? Not really. He was a deist and believed in a God that was a clockmaker who set the universe in motion.

But still he questioned the presence of God in our daily lives. He told his nephew to question God's continued existence and to embrace God and Jesus, if he could do so, only through reason and conscience. He had no use for the church as an institution and viewed it as corrupt.

Jefferson clearly did not believe in the divinity of Jesus and only bowed to the great moral principles you could find in the parables and Gospels. Proof positive of this is that in 1819, he wrote a book entitled *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*, known as the Jefferson Bible. In this book, he eliminated all the "rubbish," as he put it, of Jesus' divinity, the resurrection and redemption. He simply wrote the story of Jesus as a great teacher and moralist, a man of reason, and a rebel against the Roman government. You almost think Jefferson was writing about himself. He probably was.

C.S. Lewis undoubtedly would have agreed with Jefferson that government had to be watched - particularly when it came to interference with religion and fundamental rights.

But Lewis would have taken Jefferson to task on the idea that Jesus was merely a Great Man in history. Lewis, of course, believed that Jesus was God incarnate.

I want to conclude with a brief look at the future. There is a movement afoot to teach the Bible, the Koran, and such in our public schools as historical treatises. Justice Scalia has written forcefully on this point in his dissents and argues that academic freedom requires that all points of view, religious and scientific, be taught to our students in public schools. The composition of the Supreme Court has recently changed, and it may well be that with that change will come a renewed effort to bring religious teaching back into the public schools.

Time Magazine's cover story just before Easter this year advocated *teaching* the Bible in our public schools but not *preaching* it. The author pointed out that, according to one poll, two-thirds of Americans believe the Bible holds the answers to all of life's basic questions. Clearly, the Bible is the most influential book ever written. And it's just as clear that our children know precious little about it.

That is the best argument for teaching religion in our schools - the frame of reference it gives for art, music, philosophy, literature. I have no doubt that most Americans would champion it. Yet, it could be very hard, as one opponent in the *Time* article pointed out, to draw the line between teaching the Bible and preaching it. It could be a very slippery slope.

So, was Jefferson right about the separation of Church and State? As a Christian, I certainly do not share his views of theology or his skepticism about the divinity of Christ. But I do believe in the First Amendment and the principle of religious freedom it embraces. Proponents of religious instruction say our children are ignorant about the Bible. And that is a selling point. But others emphasize there is an excellent place where that ignorance can be cured, and where they can learn about the Bible and even angels and devils, and we are in such a place tonight.

So will religious instruction on the Bible soon be a reality? Far be it from me as a sitting judge to give you my conclusion on a matter that may come before me. All I can say is "stay tuned."

Again, I applaud you for reviving and honoring this tradition tonight. I will leave you with two thoughts. You need to read C. S. Lewis. And always give a beggar a dollar. Amen.

Robert L. Brown is a Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court

Fall / Winter 2007

Baptisms at St James'

Parents, sponsors and Godparents of infant / child candidates should schedule a pre-baptismal orientation with the clergy. Adult candidates are required to complete appropriate instruction. Active participation in the life of the Church is expected of parents, sponsors and candidates.

Except in cases of emergency, Baptisms will be reserved for the following dates:

Jan. 13th, 2008 Baptism OLJC
Mar. 22nd, 2008 Great Vigil of Easter

Special Services & Events

Pentecost XXV

Sunday, November 18th, 2007

Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Paul Lambert

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 23rd, 2006

10:00am Sung Mass in the Church

Advent Lessons & Carols

4:00pm Sunday, December 10th, 2006

Followed by a Reception in the Great Hall

On Wednesday Evenings

6:00pm Low Mass with hymns
6:30pm Parish Supper in Great Hall
7 - 8 pm Classes
Nursery care will be provided beginning at 6:45pm

Masses of Christmas Eve

4:30pm Children's Service
10:00pm Christmas Carols
10:30pm Procession & Sung Mass

For Children ...

Christian Education Outreach Project for October was very successful. You donated almost 100 pounds of Kitty and Puppy Chow, plus money for the medicine needed for the rescued dogs. Thank you and the Animal Shelter thanks you.

On Sunday Mornings

Keys to the Kingdom, Grades K/4 - 5, The Promised Land(November)

- ❖ God's Garden of Tales - Sharon Seifert & Bobbie Trimble
- ❖ Drawing Room - Cyndee Cline & Lee Terral
- ❖ Jousting Room - Leighsa Bean & Stephanie Crane

Keys to the Kingdom, Grades K/4 - 5, Good News!(December)

- ❖ God's Garden of Tales - Lorelei Lofton & Bobbie Trimble
- ❖ Drawing Room - Penny Williams
- ❖ Jousting Room - Michelle Miller

Children's Liturgy of the Word - K/4 and up
 Leader for November - Don & Melissa McCoy(Nov. 4, 18), Jenny Baxter-Bartlett(Nov. 11)
 Leader for December - Alan & Bobbie Trimble

For Adults ...

On Sunday Mornings

Meeting from 9:00am to 9:50am

The Sunday morning class will consider various short topics, and is ideal for those who are unable to commit to regular or extended classrooms or groups. There is no need to register, simply show up and take part. If you attend the early Mass stay a little longer, if you attend the late Mass, show up a little earlier! Coffee is served.

Option I: SEX, MONEY & POWER

Currently in session and running until Christmas. Meeting in the Great Hall.

Taught by Scott Bruner and Lauren Heymeyer, this course will explore ways of living as a Christian in a society driven by money, power, consumerism, sex and continual change.

Option II: A HISTORY OF ANGLO-CATHOLICISM

Where have we come from; where are we going? Beginning November 18th. Meeting in the Library.

This course, led by Fr Anderson, explores the history of the catholic movement within Anglicanism from 1800 to the present. Particular attention will be paid to how past events can help us understand the present and predict future trends.

On Wednesday Evenings

PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY


Beginning Wednesday, November 7th.

This course will inquire into the form and thought of the earliest Christians, even before the New Testament was written. Topics to be covered include: The earliest proclamation of the Gospel, Ministry in the Primitive Church, The role of Holy Tradition in forming the New Testament, and the Sacraments.

Epiphany

Pageant for All Ages

January 6, 2008, During the 10:00 Mass



For more information, contact Ruth Hale (Director), 903.838.3968 or Mary Nell Short or Jennifer Gould at the church.

November is a time for giving thanks for our blessings and I am blessed to be involved with so many wonderful young people and their supportive parents, not to mention the outpouring of support from the congregation! Both the Senior High and Junior High programs have been going wonderfully because of your belief in them!

Junior EYC (Sundays 6 PM to 7:30 PM)

We have had some wonderful meetings and we are continuing to build the group! Many times, friends from outside the church have joined us which a wonderful testament to our program! Earlier in October, we had 4 Junior High students attend New Beginnings at Camp Crucis, one as a staff member and three as participants. They had so much fun they all want to be staff members in the spring! Thanks to Chuck Firmin who was the adult sponsor on the New Beginnings trip.

Thanks to those who have provided a light meal to our Jr. High group! We are still looking for volunteers to provide a snack/light meal on Sunday nights. Contact Jennifer Gould if you would like to help out or sign up.

Senior EYC (Wednesdays 7 PM to 8 PM)

Our Wednesday Night Senior High group has been going very well! We have had some insightful discussions touching on some very interesting topics! We will finish up our lesson series on "Taking Out the Trash" and begin a new Series on "Awesome Powers as we move into Advent.

Special Events

Our Trip to the Field of Screams took place on October 20th and we had 6 Junior High students and 4 adult sponsors! We had a blast! Each month we try to go out to lunch after the 10 AM service together. October's lunch at the Olive Garden was a record! Eighteen people attended the lunch! We will not have an EYC Lunch Out event this month due to the Holiday; however, we will schedule another time in December!

Our big event in November will be on the Wednesday the 14th in the EYC room. Senior High, Junior High and Faith Weavers will be participating in Operation Christmas Child by packing shoeboxes for children around the world. Please see bulletin inserts or contact Jennifer Gould and Mary Nell Short for more information!

In December we would like to hold some kind of Progressive Worship Service on 16th— meaning that our worship begins in one place, and travels to other locales. If you would be interested in hosting part of the service and providing a snack at your home, please contact Jennifer Gould.

Activities such as Operation Christmas Child and a Progressive worship service allows us to recognized how blessed we are and allows us to give thanks to God by sharing our faith with others. I hope each one of us has something special to be thankful for this month! ☐

November Birthdays

Scott Robertson	1
Harrison Torrans	1
Lou Wilson	2
John Power	4
Shirley Finn	5
Kirby Jolley	5
Kathryn Henderson	6
Wade Johnston	6
Jim Wilson	7
Terry Moore	7
Blake Purtle	7
Morgan Smith	7
Kim Fowler	8
Jeri Keller	8
Diana Lowe	9
Benjamin Adams	11
Seth Williams	12
Muriel Drummond	15
Bill Caller	15
Hayden Dowd	15
Pamela McCoy	16
Sandy Whitson	17
Casey Rampy	17
Camden Robertson	18
William Hagar	20
Richard Humber	20
Carol Hoffman	20
Melanie Orrell	20
Kendall Miller	20
Mike Jones	21
Tom Collins, II	21
Sharon Maynard	22
Carol Matheny	23
Tyler Markham	23
Tweet Furlow	24
Mary Gene Williamson	25
Pam Williamson	26
Maggie Pappas	26
Bill Bean	27
Chris Orrell	27
Erica Stanley	27
Jeff Tanner	28
Nina White	29
Cindy Reed	29
Mike Hill	29
Rachel Freeman	30
Zachary Hubrel	30

November Anniversaries

Phillip & Diane Akin	3
George & Pat Poulos	6
David & Punkin Waddle	12
Jeff & Michelle H. Tanner	26

	November 18	November 25	December 2	December 2 Lessons & Carols at 4pm	December 9	December 16	December 23
C.B. 7:45am	Kaye Baxter Al Williams Sharon Siefert	David James Don McCoy Leighsa Bean	J.D. Phillips Patsy Cornelius Bob Brown	<i>t.b.a.</i>	Tom Collins Jenny Bartlett Lauren Hehmeyer	Kaye Baxter David James Pam McCoy	Al Williams Don McCoy Audrey Russell
Ushers 7:45am	John Rogers Glen Wile Jim Wilson Bill Bean	John Fountoulakis Charles Terry Joe Kososki Ken Liles	Alan Jolley Bill Caller Mike Lowe Jenny Bartlett	Larry Oxford Matt Gould Chuck Firmin Mike Jones	John Rogers Glen Wile Jim Wilson Bill Bean	John Fountoulakis Charles Terry Joe Kososki Ken Liles	Alan Jolley Bill Caller Mike Lowe Jenny Bartlett
C.B. 10:00am	Keith Maynard Judie Firmin	Wade Fowler Chuck Firmin	Nick Williamson Shari Keller		Judie Firmin Keith Maynard	Chuck Firmin Wade Fowler	Nick Williamson Shari Keller
Acolytes 10:00am	Taylor Douglas Wynne Tidwell Patricia Hale Hutch Tidwell Reann Mitchell	Zach Hubrel Hillary Fowler George Hale Jonathan Asher Haley Lofton Laurel Wakefield	Matt Hendrickson Will Harrell Jessica Jones Alysia Fomby Jeremy Fomby Celeste Anderson	Lewis Patterson Eleanor Schroeder Frances Schroeder	Hadley Smith Claire Wade Marissa Johnston Wade Johnston Charlie Trammell	Zach Hubrel Thomas Storey M-S Shores Clayton Shores Madison Maynard Meredith Maynard	Blake Purtle Steven Firmin Caroline Purtle Bailey Cline Blaine Cline
Acolyte Mom	Anne Douglas	Kim Fowler	Tracy Jones		Virginia Trammell	Sharon Maynard	Cyndee Cline
Reader 10am	Pam Williamson	Michelle Purtle	Michelle Shores		John Stanley	Susan Williams	Diane Aiken
Prayers of the People 10am	George Poulos	Trey Schroeder	John Stanley		Jeff Tanner	Bobbie Trimble	Lila Walker
Ushers 10am	Steve Douglas Shannon Sullivan Jeff Tanner Alan Trimble	J. C. Markham Ches Walker Shearman Robert Tim Reed	Matt Gould David Waddle Paul Patterson Jim Williams		Nick Williamson Dave Williamson Bo Malone J. C. Markham	Tom Coleman Mike Jones James Thomas Shannon Sullivan	Ches Walker Jeff Tanner Paul Patterson Tim Reed
Altar Guild	Team III	Team IV	Team I	Team I	Team II	Team III	Team III
Gift Shop	Diana Lowe	Peggy Kososki Chris Terry	Martha Bean		Kaye Baxter	Diana Lowe	Peggy Kososki Chris Terry
Household Week	J. C. & Serena Markham	Martha Marshall	Maynard Family		Don & Melissa McCoy	Pam McCoy	Sue McCrossen
Vestry Lock Up	Mark Storey Glenn Crowder	Ann Coleman Todd Shores	Larry Oxford Lisa Hendrickson		Pat Works Glenn Crowder	Ann Coleman Todd Shores	Larry Oxford Lisa Hendrickson

Please, if you cannot serve as scheduled, switch with someone, and notify the Parish Office of the change!
Acolytes & Chalice Bearers, please ready 15 minutes before Mass. Please wear dark shoes (black or brown).

WEDNESDAY EVENING MASSES at 6pm

	November 7	November 14	November 28	December 5	December 12
C.B.	Shari Keller	Nick Williamson	Wade Fowler	Chuck Firmin	Keith Maynard
Reader	Lova Wile	Pat Works	Susan Williams	Trey Schroeder	Diane Aiken