



TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

WHERE THE WAR WAS WON

David Anguish

Thanks to someone who recently gave me a copy of the April 2013 *Imprimis*, a monthly newsletter published by Hillsdale (MI) College, I read *First Things* editor R. R. Reno's article, "Religion and Public Life in America." He noted how many who are wielding influence in our society advocate the removal of religion from the public square and the impact of their efforts on the increase of the "Nones" reported in various religion surveys. Reno soberly warns that, given current trends, people of faith should expect ongoing resistance if not worse.

I recommend the entire article,¹ but especially call attention to Reno's last three paragraphs.

In conclusion, I want to focus . . . on the remarkable capacity for communities of faith to endure. My wife's ancestors lived for generations in the contested borderlands of Poland and Russia. As Jews they were tremendously vulnerable, and yet through their children and their children's children they endured in spite of discrimination, violence, and attempted genocide. Where now, I ask, are the Russian and Polish aristocrats who dominated them for centuries? Where now is the Thousand Year Reich? Where now is the Soviet worker's paradise? They have gone to dust. The Torah is still read in the synagogue.

The same holds for Christianity. The Church did not need constitutional protections in order to take root in a hostile pagan culture two thousand years ago.

Right now the Nones seem to have the upper hand in America. But what seems powerful is not always so. If I had to bet on Harvard or the Catholic Church, Yale or the Mennonites in Goshen, Indiana, the *New York Times* or yeshivas in Brooklyn, I wouldn't hesitate. Over the long haul, religious faith has proven itself the most powerful and enduring force in human history. (Reprinted by permission of *Imprimis*, a publication of Hillsdale College.)

If called to bet on Rome or (when John probably wrote Revelation) the 60-year-old Christian movement, who in that day would have taken John of Patmos and his little flock over mighty Imperial Rome? But, the smart money was wrong.

¹ Read it at <http://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/religion-and-public-life-in-america>; accessed May 18, 2016.

Christ's followers won the history by transformation, not conformity. They didn't try to beat the Romans at their political game, but devoted themselves to teaching about the living and true God, letting him transform them into Jesus' image, and imitating the values, virtues, and compassion for all that he had modeled.

Press on, believer, "for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

May 27, 2013

Updated May 18, 2016