

Grace Notes

And Unstoppable Force

6.30.10



***This is the rock on which I will put together My church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.
Matthew 16:18 (The Message)***



It's big news in Charlotte, NC. And it's getting bigger as it burns its way through cyber-space. Charlotte's *City Atheist Association* paid for billboard advertising for the July 4th holiday weekend that purposefully leaves "under God" out of our nation's pledge. The irony? The billboard is located on *Billy Graham Parkway*.

I say, let the atheists advertise what they want. It's a free country. And, although I admire the passion, I don't agree with the morons who broke the law by vandalizing

the billboard. Do you want to show the world our nation is "under God?" Put your spray-paint down and begin loving one another as Jesus loved. James wrote, *"The prayer (not the spray-paint) of a righteous man is powerful and effective."* (5:16b)

Just as with the removal of prayer in public schools in 1963, I believe God allows this sort of thing so as to stir within His Body that which has either gone soft, or altogether dormant. Let me explain.

Erwin McManus is a pastor in Southern California. In his book, *"An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church God Had in Mind,"* he writes some strong stuff:

"The force of Christianity first changed the Roman world [we cannot trivialize or underestimate the power of that fact], but then, under the rule of Constantine, the church relinquished its power in the name of accommodation. [In other words, the church "got soft".] In short, before Constantine, Christianity was a revolution. After Constantine, it became a religion. And we all know what followed.....the Dark Ages."

According to Jesus, the Church is not steel, brick, or concrete, but the living, breathing Body of Christ—present wherever believers gather. The Church is not measured by square feet—or a phrase in a pledge—but by the presence of the Holy Spirit.



Let the atheists pretend they can remove Christ by leaving out "under God" from our nation's pledge. Scripture is replete with the enemy's attempts to eradicate the Kingdom of Christ from various societies. But Jesus, in essence, says, *"Bring it on—not even the gates of Hell will be able to keep Me out."*

Soli Deo Gloria, Nick