



In God We Don't Trust

By David Bercot

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The product of nine years of research, *In God We Don't Trust* challenges much of what most of us learned in school about the founding of America and the American Revolution. Bercot's well-documented findings will surprise many people. Here are just a few of the surprising facts the book reveals:

Tobacco saved Jamestown and became the economic basis for many of the Southern states.

Rum distilleries were one of the main industries of Puritan New England.

Puritan New England dominated the slave trafficking industry.

Contrary to what most history books present, the American colonists were the least heavily taxed people in the world.

During the War of Independence, the revolutionists imprisoned and persecuted the Mennonites, Amish, Brethren, Quakers, and other nonresistant Christians.

The Founding Fathers deliberately left any mention of God out of the U. S. Constitution.

Here is the compelling narrative of the founding of America told from a perspective that few people have ever heard. That perspective is the teachings of Jesus.

Our currency declares, In God We Trust. But did the American colonists truly trust in God in the founding of the United States?

For example, in the Scriptures, God clearly commands us: Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God. . . . Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due (Rom. 13:1-2,7). Yet, the American colonists refused to pay their taxes, and they rebelled against their government.

The American colonists had many admirable traits, and they established a wonderful country. This is not an anti-American book. It is a pro-Jesus book.

Bercot firmly believes that Jesus and His kingdom always have to have our ultimate allegiance. And in the pages of this book, Bercot demonstrates that the colonists repeatedly failed to do things God's way. This was true in their treatment of the Indians, in trafficking slaves, in building economies on tobacco and rum, in smuggling, and in refusing to pay their taxes. In short, the colonists lacked the faith to believe that if they did things God's way, everything would work out for the best.

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Editorial Review

Review

It's a good thing author David Bercot was not born in 1730. He could very well be sporting some chicken feathers by now. I mean, you don't tell American patriots that they are really rebellious rabble rousers who should quit their whining about paying a three cents tax on their cup of tea and get back to work. Like, you shouldn't expect to tell them that without getting tarred and feathered and driven out of town. Or, perhaps, even lynched.

But Bercot raises his voice and makes a bold statement in his latest book, *In God We Don't Trust*. He has the audacity to say that, even though our US coins state otherwise, the United States of America was not founded on trust in God. So it is David Bercot against millions of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters ... not to mention the millions of paper bills that make up our United States currency. Can so much money be wrong?

But more important than disproving a slogan pressed into every penny of our financial system, Bercot has a greater foe to face: Professing Christians in the United States of America are determined to prove that our nation was built upon trust in God. In fact, they are trying to teach your children that, by means of school history books.

So, the battle is not merely the correct historical facts. The battle is about how you and your children view the mixture between faith and politics. And David Bercot is asking to get himself tarred and feathered. He is adamant: The United States of America was not built on trust in God.

What is trust in God ?

Bercot doesn't beat around the bush. "Trust means obedience." Notice those quote marks? That is because those words are pulled straight from the book. In fact, they are a chapter subheading. To trust God means to do what He says. Bercot says it this way: "Genuine faith leads people to obey God. When we deliberately refuse to obey God, it shows we don't have faith in the first place."

So now Bercot has the challenge before him. Anyone can spout off statements that are contrary to popular belief. In fact, some folks seem to thrive on conspiracy theories. So can he back his proposition with some facts? He has a monumental task. I mean, everyone knows that the American colonies were being cruelly taxed to death, and that is the reason they finally had to rebel and throw off the galling yoke of British sovereignty.

Can David Bercot prove otherwise?

Oops, Some Indians Are In Our Way

When Columbus finally discovered America many centuries after the Asian people had already been here, the Europeans ran into a huge problem. And the problem was, of course, they couldn't just move into this newly discovered land; others were already living here. Or could they just move in?

Bercot treats that situation in a chapter titled "The Wrong Way to Spread the Gospel." He points out that although the first charters for English settlements in America listed the evangelization of the savages as one of their motives, the writing between the lines of the charters essentially said, "We have a God-given right to

live in America, whether the Indians like it or not." Included in the chapter is a blood-curdling quote from U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. You will need to read it for the shock of it to fully hit you. But I will pull one sentence for a teaser: "The most ultimately righteous of all wars is a war with savages."

And "In God We Trust"? Hmmm. Bercot sums up the horrible situation with some thoughtful words: "It's hard to teach someone else to obey commandments of Jesus when you aren't practicing them yourself."

Ouch! --*The Heartbeat of the Remnant* magazine, November/December 2011

Author and attorney David Bercot is the thorough type. When he grew curious about theology, he set out to read all the works of Christians who lived in the first centuries after Christ's death. He wound up writing *Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up*. That emphasis on primary sources led him to write several other books and eventually to become an Anabaptist. Bercot applied his brand of rigor both to his speaking engagements and his children's homeschooling. It was only a matter of time before the two connected. When the U.S. history textbooks he used came to the colonial era and the American Revolution, Bercot was troubled. He felt they glorified war and promoted the idea that it was God's purpose for Europeans to kill America's native people and take their land, refuse to pay taxes and use violence to gain independence.

My main concern is countering the God-and-country textbooks that are definitely infiltrating Anabaptist circles, said Bercot, who lives in Amberson, Pa., and attends an independent Anabaptist house church. So he decided to write his own book, *In God We Don't Trust*, challenging common assumptions about America's founding, from Jamestown to the writing of the U.S. Constitution. The provocative title flips a phrase so enshrined in Americans' consciousness that it's minted on every coin. Bercot believes the colonists' war for independence and other actions reveal a lack of trust in God. Doing things from a human perspective and pulling a thin Christian veneer over it taking up arms and killing the enemy and giving all the credit to God that we were victorious that is what they did, he said. They didn't trust in God, but when they were successful, they gave God the victory.

Bercot doesn't limit his critique to religious textbooks. He believes secular textbooks bear just as much guilt for romanticizing American revolutionaries who put more faith in gunpowder than in God. We get the impression [that the laws the colonists objected to] applied only to the 13 colonies, but in most cases they applied to all British territories, he said. The Stamp Act that applied in Nova Scotia and Jamaica, but only in America did people resort to violence.

Researching the book coincided with a series of lectures Bercot has offered over the past 10 years. As both historian and attorney, he delved into original laws and charters, with surprising results. "I saw the English were originally in the right, and I didn't expect that," he said. That wasn't my original thesis, and I kept digging and finding more and more of that. They were taxing their own people [in Britain] at a far higher rate than the colonists. The colonists were paying a pittance compared to their English counterparts.

The result is a 300-page work that includes a detailed index and hundreds of footnotes. "Since [this book] really steps on toes, I wanted to be 100 percent sure my evidence would stand up to withering cross-examination, he said. I feel very confident it will stand up to detractors."

James Juhnke, professor emeritus of history at Bethel College in North Newton, KS, who co-authored with Carol Hunter *The Missing Peace: The Search for Nonviolent Alternatives in United States History*, said Bercot takes Jesus' teachings seriously. "He turns conventional nationalistic interpretations upside down," Juhnke said. Because the American Revolution is one of the most sacred events for the national civil religion, it is a controversial attack on a holy patriotic icon.

Juhnke said academic historians may be put off by the use of the conservative evangelical language Bercot

employs, but such an application is bound to produce beneficial dialogue. Bercot knows there are many who won't appreciate his critique of the U.S. founding fathers. The irony is that I'm a conservative Christian."

--*Mennonite Weekly Review*

About the Author

In 1985, David Bercot was a successful attorney, practicing title law for the largest public utility in the state of Texas. The thought of ever becoming an author was the farthest thing from his mind. Nevertheless, despite being a career lawyer, Bercot's passion in life was Christ not law. At the time, he was a member of a conservative evangelical church.

Although he enjoyed the fellowship at the church he was attending, it seemed to Bercot that some of the doctrines popularly taught by evangelicals such as unconditional eternal security and endorsement of war contradicted the plain words of Scripture. When he questioned various ministers about these matters, he was told that the evangelical teaching on these doctrines was the historical faith. Bercot certainly didn't want to put his own personal interpretations over the historical faith. Yet, he wasn't going to just take other people's word for it that these doctrines were truly the historical faith.

Bercot realized that the only way he could verify the historical faith was to read all of the existing writings of the early Christians who lived within a century or two of the apostles. So he purchased a set of the *Ante-Nicene Fathers* (which contain nearly all of the existing writings from Christians who wrote prior to the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325.) During 1985, he cut back his law practice as needed to devote the whole year to reading these ancient writings. These early Christian writings confirmed Bercot's views on eternal security and war. However, he was surprised to learn that most of the early Christian beliefs were different than his own beliefs not only on theology but on lifestyle as well. Yet, when he went back and read the New Testament again, he realized that everything they taught was right there in the New Testament. But his preconceptions had blinded him to the plain language of Scripture.

Bercot immediately began sharing what he had discovered about the historical faith with various Christian friends. Soon these friends encouraged him to write a book about what he had discovered and how Christianity looked when it was still young. Bercot eventually followed up on their suggestion, and he wrote the book *Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up*, which was published in 1989. That book contrasts early Christianity with modern Christianity.

Since then, Bercot has written a number of other books pertaining to early Christianity, committed Christian discipleship, and American history. He purposefully writes in a reader-friendly, conversational style, eschewing a more academic approach. As he said at one conference, Scholars have had all of this information for centuries, and they have essentially done nothing with it. My goal is to get this information across to the average man or woman in the pews.

Bercot married Deborah Hart Darragh in 1972. They have three children and make their home in the Amberson Valley in Pennsylvania.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Beaudoin:

The book *In God We Don't Trust* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So just why must we leave a good thing like a book *In God We Don't Trust*? A few of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim that will book can give many info for us. It is

absolutely right. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you may give for each other; you can share all of these. Book In God We Don't Trust has simple shape but you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can look the enormous world by wide open and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

Roberta Bourland:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also be a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The particular In God We Don't Trust is kind of guide which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Reta Zimmer:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always aim to and must have the spare time or they will get great deal of stress from both daily life and work. So , if we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read is definitely In God We Don't Trust.

Raymond Crandall:

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