

# Prayer Targets: Deficit National Debt Ceiling; ENDA in Washington, Tennessee; Life & Marriage in the States, Call2Fall, Pastors

May 18, 2011 | [Share with Friends](#)

*For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10*

Dear Praying Friends,

In his timeless devotional, *New Every Morning*, the late Dr. D. James Kennedy stirred our spirits and challenged our souls with Biblical truth. He warned that we trifle with God's Word at our own peril. His April 13<sup>th</sup> entry, *The Bible and Economics*, is a message America and our leaders seem to have forgotten.

*... Before sin ever touched this earth, God commanded Adam to tend the garden. God created us to have meaningful employment and to earn our keep. And He created a context in which we could live and prosper...*

*While the Bible isn't an economics textbook, it does say a great deal about how we can thrive. The Bible says that if a person does not work, that person shall not eat (of course, this principle doesn't refer to a person unable to work). The Eighth Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," makes it clear that we can own property, ruling out certain economic systems such as communism. In fact, I believe free enterprise is a biblical principle. Most people didn't understand this until 1776, when Adam Smith wrote his famous book on economics, *The Wealth of Nations*. This book sparked the worldwide spread of capitalism. Before that time, most people lived a hand-to-mouth existence, spending about ninety percent of their income on food. But between 1800 and 1850, wages quadrupled as people pursued scriptural economic principles, and from 1850 to 1900, wages quadrupled again. This was especially true in America, where free enterprise had its freest reign.*

*But in this century, we've turned from some of those biblical principles. A misapplication of the concepts of justice and charity have created in our nation "social justice" (in other words, welfare). Public welfare is neither just nor charitable, because it forcibly takes money from one person and gives it to another. Public welfare also tempts people to take advantage of public money and to fight for as much of it as they*

*can get. It destroys private charity and creates vice and laziness.*

Dr. Kennedy promised readers they will experience God's blessing if they honor His economic principles, develop a responsible work ethic, and work for God's honor and glory in whatever they do. He closed by quoting Alexis De Tocqueville: "America will last until the populace discovers it can vote for itself largess [gifts or handouts] out of the public treasury" [attributed also to Alexander Tytler and others].

**U.S. Running Out of Time & Money** -- On Monday, the U.S. Government reached its statutory debt ceiling of \$14.3 trillion. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says the government can avoid defaulting on payment of our interest owed to creditors until August but insists more borrowing is the only way we can avoid default. House Republicans are willing to raise the debt ceiling in exchange for specific spending cuts. However, Democrats want to continue the spending spree by raising taxes on the rich. Yet experts say higher taxes for families with incomes of \$100,000 dollars will be required if significant spending cuts are not instituted.

FRC is urging members to end this irrational, immoral cycle of overspending and borrowing and to defund ObamaCare (which will otherwise add \$2,500,000,000,000 to the deficit). The alternative is exploding deficits, tax increases on all productive American workers, a greater threat to short and long term economic stability, a mortgage on our grandchildren's futures and undermined national security. A new [FRC website](#) which recommends specific spending cuts, will help you pray over this profound moral emergency. Families, churches, charities and the worldwide gospel outreach are all harmed by overspending, overtaxing big government ([\\$250,000 Question](#)).

- ***May God give Congress and the President courage to cut spending to solve our debt and deficit crises (Ps 119:126; 144:1-8; Pr 18:9; Josh 1:7; Lk 16:1 ff; 1 Cor 4:2).***

**ENDA in Washington & Tennessee** -- On Monday, Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, announced he would support President Obama issuing an executive order requiring the U.S. government to contract only with companies that ban job discrimination against homosexual, bisexual and transgendered workers. Harkin advocates the *Employment Non-Discrimination Act* (ENDA), but it lacks sufficient Senate support for passage.

Last Thursday, the Tennessee Senate passed the *Equal Access to Intrastate Commerce Bill* (SB 632/HB 600), 21-8, in response to the Nashville Metro Council's passage of an ordinance requiring businesses that contract with the city be LGBT friendly. The bill, prompted by the [Family Action Council of Tennessee](#), is the first of its kind in the nation. It protects all Tennessee businesses and repeals Nashville's ordinance as it pertains to businesses outside the city. A Senate Amendment instructing the courts that should any part of the law be ruled invalid, the remainder will

remain in effect, must be approved by the House, expected this week (see [TN Text, Harkin/Obama, Fight ENDA](#)).

- ***May Tennessee enact this bill to prevent ENDA-like ordinances! May Congress do so likewise, if the President dares to circumvent Congress by issuing an ENDA-like Executive Order! (Dt 8:11-20; Is 5:20-21, 23; Rom 1:24-32; Jude 7)***

**States Advancing Pro-Family Agenda** -- Last November Republicans picked up 680 seats in state legislatures, the largest pickup for any political party in at least the 20th and 21st centuries. Many are strong pro-family leaders. Tom McClusky, FRCAction Senior VP, has expanded his overview of recently-passed legislation. While the liberal White House and Senate are resisting the advance of pro-life, pro-family legislation, the states are moving forward speedily. Please visit the link and pray over the states (see [States Show It Is NOT Just the Economy, Stupid](#), [The Cloakroom Blog](#)).

- ***May God continue to embolden legislators, governors, pastors and people to do right and to be a counterweight to Washington, D.C. (Ex 18:21; Dt 1:15-17; 2 Chr 26:14-21; Pr 28:1; Acts 4:29-30; 2 Cor 10:2-6).***

**Correction:** Last week I requested prayer for Chick-fil-A, which is experiencing undeserved persecution on some college campuses. Not all of the mentioned schools are guilty. My unfortunate partial quote read "more than 20 schools are agitating against Chick-fil-A." It should have read "*organizations* at more than 20 schools." This is a significant difference. My apologies! Fortunately, I did provide a link to the [full story](#).

**Finally,** Please keep FRC's annual [Watchmen on the Wall Pastors Briefing](#) in your prayers (May 25-27). **Please also help us get the word out to others about [Call2Fall](#), Sunday, July 3, 2011. Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!** Thank you for praying!

Sincerely,

Rev. Pierre Bynum  
National Prayer Director  
Email: [pbynum@frc.org](mailto:pbynum@frc.org)