

# *Redeeming the Time*



## THE **LEGAL ALERT**

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
**CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION**

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# IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

## FAITHFULNESS IN A CRITICAL HOUR

Every generation of believers faces moments that test conviction, courage, and perseverance. History shows us that faith is rarely lived out in calm waters. It is most often proven in seasons of uncertainty—when standing firm requires resolve rather than comfort.

We are living in such a moment.

Many Christians sense that something has shifted in our nation. Cultural pressures are increasing. Biblical truth is no longer assumed. The freedom to live out one's faith openly is being questioned in ways that were unthinkable just a few decades ago. It is understandable that some feel weary, discouraged, or tempted to withdraw.

But Scripture reminds us that God never places His people in a generation by accident.

**“And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)**

God's call has never been for His people to retreat when times grow difficult. He calls us to faithfulness—not because the hour is easy, but because it is necessary. Obedience does not depend on favorable conditions. It depends on trust.

The Bible is clear that the days before Christ's return will not be marked by widespread spiritual ease. **“Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12–13)**

Endurance is not passive. It is active faith—choosing to stand, to speak truth with grace, to obey God even when obedience carries a cost.

This is why the work of strengthening and protecting the Church matters so deeply right now. Churches, schools, ministries, and families are not asking for special treatment. They are asking for the freedom to continue doing what God has called them to do—to preach the Gospel, disciple believers, serve communities, and live according to Biblical conviction.

Scripture calls believers to steadfastness in every season: **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)**

Faithfulness is rarely flashy. It is often unseen. It is choosing obedience one decision at a time—one prayer, one conversation, one stand for truth—trusting that God is at work even when results are not immediately visible.

We may not know how this chapter of history will fully unfold. But we do know this: God honors obedience. He strengthens those who trust Him. And He has never failed His people.

**“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Galatians 6:9)**

So the question before us is not whether the task is difficult. It is. The question is whether we will remain faithful in the hour God has given us.

***If not now, when?***



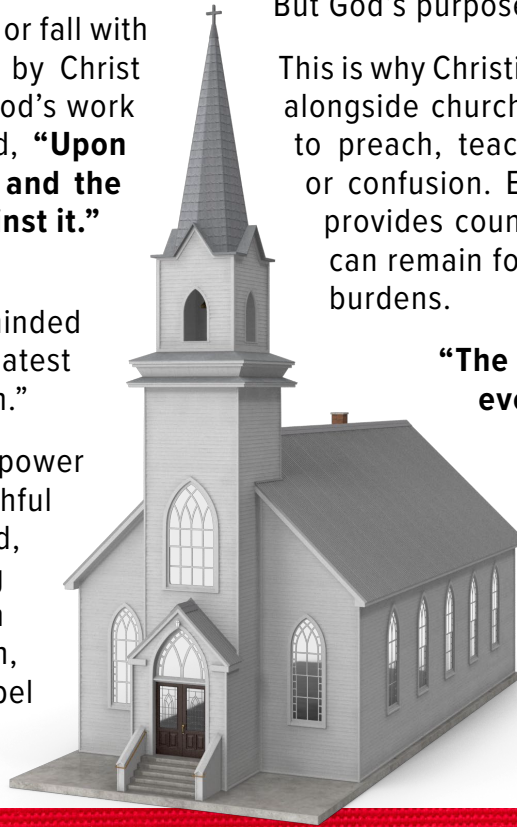
# THE CHURCH IS STILL GOD'S PLAN

In times of cultural uncertainty, it can be tempting to believe that the Church has lost its influence or relevance. Scripture tells a very different story.

The Church was never meant to rise or fall with public opinion. It was established by Christ Himself, and it remains central to God's work in the world today. Jesus declared, **"Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** (Matthew 16:18)

As Dr. David Gibbs, Jr. has often reminded pastors and believers alike, "The greatest hope for America is the local church."

That hope is not found in political power or cultural approval, but in faithful churches preaching the Word of God, discipling believers, and serving their communities. The early Church grew amid opposition, persecution, and misunderstanding—yet the Gospel spread, and truth endured.



The Church remains God's chosen instrument for proclaiming truth, making disciples, and shining light in a dark world. Laws may change. Cultures may shift. But God's purpose for His Church does not.

This is why Christian Law Association exists—to stand alongside churches and help protect their freedom to preach, teach, gather, and serve without fear or confusion. Every day, CLA answers questions, provides counsel, and defends churches so they can remain focused on ministry rather than legal burdens.

**"The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." (Psalm 33:11)**

The Church is not outdated. It is ordained. And God is still at work through it today.

***"...upon this rock I will build my church..."***

## GOD HAS NOT ABANDONED THIS GENERATION

It is easy to look at the challenges of our time and wonder whether this generation has strayed too far for God to work. Scripture offers reassurance: God has never abandoned His people—and He has not abandoned this generation.

Throughout history, God has worked powerfully in seasons that appeared spiritually bleak. When His people felt overwhelmed, discouraged, or surrounded by opposition, God remained faithful. **"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies."** (Lamentations 3:31–32)

Every generation faces its own test of faithfulness. God calls His people not to despair, but to trust Him, obey His Word, and walk humbly before Him. He is still drawing hearts, still answering prayer, and still strengthening those who seek Him.

**"The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him."** (Lamentations 3:25)

God's work is not finished. His mercy has not expired. And His truth has not lost its power. This generation is not forgotten—it is called.

Faithfulness today matters more than ever. And God remains with those who choose to trust Him.

## PROTECTING FREE SPEECH

Remember that government agencies must treat speech equally, no matter what the speaker is expressing. Consider these examples below.

- **Advertising** – A city bus cannot refuse ad space to Christian organizations—even for the cause of “keeping the peace” due to “varying opinions.”
- **Student Presentations** – If a public school teacher assigns a speech about a topic important to students, a student may talk about Biblical principles or controversial political issues.

- **Meeting Space** – Many public libraries offer room reservation space to patrons, and a group cannot be refused simply because they are religious.

In many cases, people truly don't know the law and, in our increasingly secular culture, wrongly assume that all religious speech is forbidden. In other cases, people with an anti-Christian bias try to bully Christian groups. CLA continues to be on the forefront of organizations that protect religious speech. For questions or concerns about this vital area, please contact us.



### LEGAL TIP #1

## PUT IT IN WRITING

Churches and ministries often rely on trust and long-standing relationships—and rightly so. However, when it comes to policies, agreements, and expectations, clear written documentation can prevent confusion and conflict in the future.

Board-approved bylaws, facility-use agreements, employment policies, and volunteer guidelines help protect both the ministry and the individuals serving within it. Taking time now to ensure documents are current and clearly written can prevent significant difficulty down the road.

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)



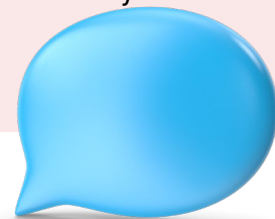
### LEGAL TIP #2

## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Many ministries rely heavily on volunteers, but misclassifying workers—even unintentionally—can create legal complications. Compensation, scheduling expectations, and job duties matter when determining classification.

Regularly reviewing roles and responsibilities can help ensure compliance while preserving flexibility for ministry. Making certain that employee and volunteer classifications are correctly used is much simpler than resolution once the legality of a classification is under scrutiny.

“Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” (Romans 12:17)



### LEGAL TIP #3

## ADDRESS ISSUES EARLY, NOT AFTER THEY ESCALATE

Small legal questions often grow into larger problems when left unaddressed. Zoning concerns, neighbor complaints, internal disputes, or regulatory inquiries should be handled promptly and carefully.

Early communication and informed response can often resolve matters quietly and peacefully. Churches and ministries are strongest when leaders seek counsel before situations become urgent.

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

## THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:



- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Publication of **The Legal Alert**, a monthly newsletter
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials
- and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Prayer initiative for our national leadership and government
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Weekday radio program broadcast, **The Legal Alert**, on 1,600 outlets around the world



## PRAYER & PRAISE CHECKLIST

### ○ ALABAMA

**Prayer:** Pray for a church seeking guidance after receiving conflicting instructions from multiple local agencies.

**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that successfully resolved a banking compliance issue and regained access to its accounts.

### ○ ALASKA

**Prayer:** Pray for a pastor navigating legal questions related to bivocational ministry employment.

**Praise:** Praise God for a church that was granted permission to continue meeting in a shared community facility.

### ○ ARIZONA

**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian school responding to new record-keeping requirements.

**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that received favorable clarification from state officials after months of uncertainty.

### ○ ARKANSAS

**Prayer:** Pray for a church dealing with unexpected delays in a renovation project.

**Praise:** Praise God that a zoning concern raised by a neighbor was resolved amicably.

### ○ CALIFORNIA

**Prayer:** Pray for a church addressing increased insurance costs and coverage restrictions.

**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that successfully appealed a local code enforcement citation.

### ○ COLORADO

**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian nonprofit seeking guidance on donor acknowledgment requirements.

**Praise:** Praise God for a Christian school receiving approval to add additional grade levels.

### ○ CONNECTICUT

**Prayer:** Pray for a church navigating facility-use agreements with a local municipality.

**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry's nonprofit status was reaffirmed after review.

### ○ DELAWARE

**Prayer:** Pray for a pastor seeking wisdom in responding to a public records request.

**Praise:** Praise God for a church that resolved a utility dispute affecting its building.

### ○ FLORIDA

**Prayer:** Pray for a ministry working through volunteer screening and documentation policies.

**Praise:** Praise God for a church that received approval to expand its food outreach program.

### ○ GEORGIA

**Prayer:** Pray for a church reviewing its constitution and bylaws to ensure legal clarity.

**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry received confirmation of compliance after an audit.

### ○ HAWAII

**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian school seeking guidance on emergency preparedness requirements.

**Praise:** Praise God for a church being able to successfully renew its facility lease.

### ○ IDAHO

**Prayer:** Pray for a ministry navigating questions regarding independent contractor use.

**Praise:** Praise God for a church being able to resolve a signage dispute with local authorities.

### ○ ILLINOIS

**Prayer:** Pray for a church clarifying property use rules for ministries.

**Praise:** Praise God for a pastor who was cleared after a false complaint, restoring his good name.

### ○ ILLINOIS

**Prayer:** Pray for a church responding to a complaint regarding noise ordinances.

**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that received approval to continue operating a daycare program.

### ○ INDIANA

**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian organization seeking clarity on fundraising regulations.

**Praise:** Praise God that a church successfully updated its insurance coverage without interruption.

### ○ IOWA

**Prayer:** Pray for a pastor facing questions related to church discipline procedures.

**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry was able to resolve a long-standing payroll processing issue.

### ○ KANSAS

**Prayer:** Pray for a church addressing accessibility requirements in an older building.

**Praise:** Praise God for a school that received a positive inspection report.

### ○ KENTUCKY

**Prayer:** Pray for a ministry navigating transportation regulations for youth events.

**Praise:** Praise God that a camp received approval to resume full seasonal operations.

### ○ LOUISIANA

**Prayer:** Pray for a church addressing flood mitigation requirements.

**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that successfully negotiated an insurance premium reduction.

### ○ MAINE

**Prayer:** Pray for a small church seeking guidance on record retention policies.

**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry received assistance resolving a vendor dispute.

### ○ MARYLAND

**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian school reviewing attendance reporting standards.

**Praise:** Praise God for a church that received approval for a facility repair project.

### ○ MASSACHUSETTS

**Prayer:** Pray for a ministry navigating charitable solicitation registration requirements.

**Praise:** Praise God that a church was granted additional time to meet renovation deadlines.

### ○ MICHIGAN

**Prayer:** Pray for a church responding to questions regarding employee housing arrangements.

**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that successfully clarified its tax reporting obligations.

- **MINNESOTA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian counseling ministry updating its consent documentation.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a church resolved a fire-code compliance question.
- **MISSISSIPPI**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a rural church seeking clarity on land-use classification.  
**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that received approval to host community events.
- **MISSOURI**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church addressing questions related to livestreaming and recording services.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry resolved a copyright concern without penalty.
- **MONTANA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a ministry navigating employment documentation requirements.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a church was able to successfully appeal a utility billing error.
- **NEBRASKA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church seeking guidance on end-of-year financial reporting.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry resolved a banking authorization issue.
- **NEVADA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian organization reviewing facility safety protocols.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a church passed a surprise inspection without findings.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church responding to questions about its parking arrangements.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry resolved a service schedule conflict.
- **NEW JERSEY**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a ministry navigating state charity registration renewals.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a church successfully resolved a landlord dispute.
- **NEW MEXICO**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian school addressing transportation compliance issues.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry received approval to expand classroom space.
- **NEW YORK**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church working through compliance with updated safety codes.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry received a temporary waiver allowing continued operations.
- **NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a pastor seeking counsel on responding to a media inquiry.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry avoided further scrutiny by clarifying policies.
- **NORTH DAKOTA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church reviewing its compensation structure.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry was able to resolve a payroll tax discrepancy.
- **OHIO**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church navigating questions related to volunteer reimbursement policies.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry received timely approval for nonprofit filings.
- **OKLAHOMA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian organization seeking guidance on facility-sharing agreements.  
**Praise:** Praise God for a church that was able to successfully renew its occupancy permit.
- **OREGON**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a ministry navigating data-privacy and record-security questions.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a church resolved a licensing inquiry without further action.
- **PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church addressing questions about cemetery or memorial property use.  
**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that received approval for essential building repairs.
- **RHODE ISLAND**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a small ministry seeking guidance on board meeting documentation.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a church received clarity from regulators after a formal inquiry.
- **SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian school reviewing staff credential requirements.  
**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that successfully renewed its operating license.
- **SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church navigating snow-removal liability concerns.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry resolved an insurance coverage question.
- **TENNESSEE**  
**Prayer:** Pray for wisdom in lease negotiations.  
**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that completed staff training without incident.
- **TEXAS**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a large church coordinating compliance across multiple campuses.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry successfully resolved a multistate registration issue.
- **UTAH**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian outreach seeking guidance on donor privacy protections.  
**Praise:** Praise God for a church that received confirmation of proper charitable standing.
- **VERMONT**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a rural church addressing septic or utility compliance issues.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry received approval to continue operating without modification.
- **VIRGINIA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a ministry navigating questions related to background-check timing.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a church resolved a vendor contract dispute amicably.
- **WASHINGTON**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church reviewing emergency evacuation procedures.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry passed a safety drill review with commendation.
- **WEST VIRGINIA**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a church addressing questions related to trustee responsibilities.  
**Praise:** Praise God for a ministry that successfully clarified its governance structure.
- **WISCONSIN**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a Christian school navigating meal-program compliance requirements.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a ministry received approval to continue its feeding program.
- **WYOMING**  
**Prayer:** Pray for a pastor seeking wisdom in handling community complaints.  
**Praise:** Praise God that a church saw improved relationships and renewed local support.

***We covet your prayers  
for these requests and  
hundreds of others we  
receive weekly.***