

Macedonia pastor indicted

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A message seeking comment that was left at the offices of Macedonia Baptist on Friday afternoon was not returned.

According to the church's

Web site, Walker came to the church in 1992 and in the late 1990s led a campaign to build a new church sanctuary. That structure was opened in 2004. The loan fraud charges alleged by the government

are related to statements Walker made to banks in relation to applications for a credit card, a residential loan and a home equity line of credit.

The false statements to federal

agents charge stems from things Walker said during an interview with the IRS on Dec. 15, 2004, according to the indictment.

Maximum penalties associated with the charges Walker

Flood of new Christian books hit market

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claim that with Bush-era Republicans, "for the first time, the United States has a political party that represents—some say over-represents—true-believing frequent churchgoers."

Phillips did find some actual theocrats, known as "reconstructionists." But despite his insinuations, they have negligible impact on America's church or state.

He loathes conservatives who address gay marriage, school prayer, sex education, "intelligent design" or the war on terror. But he never explains "why they are un-American theocrats but not religious and secular types

who preach the opposite values.

Carter has the same sort of problem. He thinks "separation of church and state" forbids corporate church activism, limiting agitation to individuals. Is it illegitimate for churches to lobby about black and immigrant rights, federal spending for the poor, environmental protection or other liberal causes? If not, Carter never explains the difference.

Kazin, a self-described "secular liberal," calls Bryan "a great Christian liberal." Today's Democrats and liberals, Kazin observes, suppose they can safely "ignore moral issues grounded in religious conviction," yet "most Ameri-

cans don't share their mistrust of public piety."

The case of Bryan is a reminder that their forebears embraced religious activism, and a warning to conservatives and Republicans that some crusades will be seen as mistakes in the long term.

Today, Bryan is remembered mostly for one mistake: opposing the teaching of evolution at the 1925 Scopes Trial. Kazin says that religiously, Bryan was "not a fundamentalist as we now understand that term." Bryan opposed Darwinism not only as an attack upon the Bible but upon the downtrodden, because "survival of the fittest" was being applied to society.

Other Bryan errors, in retrospect, were alcohol prohibition and the support for Jim

Crow policies on race that he shared with all major Democrats of that era. Except for race, the Democrats ceased being America's more conservative party due to Bryan's impact.

Consider his then-radical proposals:

Income taxes on corporations and wealthy individuals, government regulation of banks and the stock market, antitrust laws, federally insured bank deposits, protection for labor union members and strikers, federal aid to education and highway construction, workmen's compensation, a minimum wage, government farm subsidies and food inspection, publicly funded campaigns, women's right to vote and direct election of U.S. senators.

And—2006 doves take

Stellar Awards CD

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Shirley Caesar is, well Shirley Caesar, on "The Debt I Owe." For those who have wondered what happens behind the scenes at the Stellar's, a DVD is included of such. It's watchable, but that's about all.

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