

CRITICAL ISSUES *in Public Theology*



The Christian Association of Public Theologians: A Redemptive Educational, Social, Spiritual, Training and Salvation Services Organization for All People

The United States of America will celebrate a Quarter Millennium, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Festivities will mark various events leading up to the Declaration's anniversary on the 250th on July 4, 2026. But this day is a cause for reflection and prayer as well. On Sunday, May 17th, a large prayer rally was held on the National Mall, gathering thousands to pray and celebrate the nation's 250th birthday with speeches, worship, and calls to rededicate the country to God. From morning fellowship in front of the U.S. Capitol to an evening filled with music anchored at the main stage on 12th Street, Rededicate 250 will be rooted in giving thanks for God's presence in our national life throughout 250 years of American history and asking for his guidance for the next 250.



CAPT is launching into YouTube!

Rev. Donnie Bell has so graciously agreed to host interviews as we create content for our CAPT YouTube site launching soon. Hear from CAPT members at large on a wide range of topics that impact public theology. These videos will become a repository for years to come.



CIPT NOW

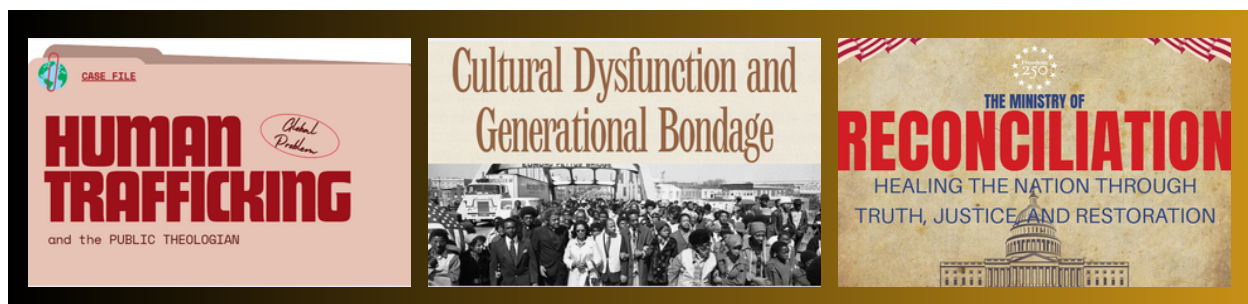
Christian Institute of Public Theology



Continuing Education Credited Courses Spring - Summer -Fall Offerings

The Christian Institute of Public Theology, Inc. (CIPT) offered a Spring series of courses this past April-May which was attended by several CAPT members and other community members at large. Each of the three courses were featured as part of a certification in Government Protection of Human Rights and Social Justice for the Public Theologian which were presented on the Zoom platform.

Human Trafficking and the Public Theologian challenged attendees to share the information they learned with their church community and to consider registering for additional certifications on human trafficking. Participants learned that the city of Atlanta is ranked second, only behind Washington, DC., for human trafficking. Cultural Dysfunction and Generational Bondage focused on the current condition of the black family and included the call to action for mentorship. Finally, a class recognizing the 250 anniversary of the founding of the United States was offered focusing on reconciliation, rather than reparations, as the path for people of faith. Audio recordings and guided notes are available upon request for redelivery and reflection from CIPT President, Rev. Thomas Luke.



LESSONS

From the Past



I greet the Christians and stalwart followers of Christ who live in Colossae. May everything good from God our Father be yours! These were the words of the Apostle Paul as given to the church in AD 62, yet they still ring true today. At the time, Colossae was a Roman Province in Asia Minor, now known as Turkey. In Paul's day, the city was a "melting pot" of Phrygians, Greeks, Roman citizens, and a large Jewish diaspora who lived in a state of mixture: mixture of languages, religious traditions, and culture. In short, Colossae and the current state of America were quite similar. The city had a complete urban setup with an acropolis, theater, defense walls, and houses. Yet an earthquake settled it all, in ruins.

As we contemplate America at 250 years old, it is prudent to reflect back on Paul's words to the Colossians. Verses 9-12 prayerfully encourages us, " [Paul & Timothy] ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."

As public theologians, are we continuing this tradition of encouraging others in faith and celebrating the finished work of the cross in their lives as 'saints in the light'? As we prayerfully reflect on the history and future of our nation, be reminded of the example left in these scriptures which echo our public declarations and private meditations to intercede on behalf of our brothers and sisters in faith. This we must continue to do regardless of race, color, creed, citizenship status, political affiliation, or Christian denomination. As unto Christ was given us, so we to must freely give.