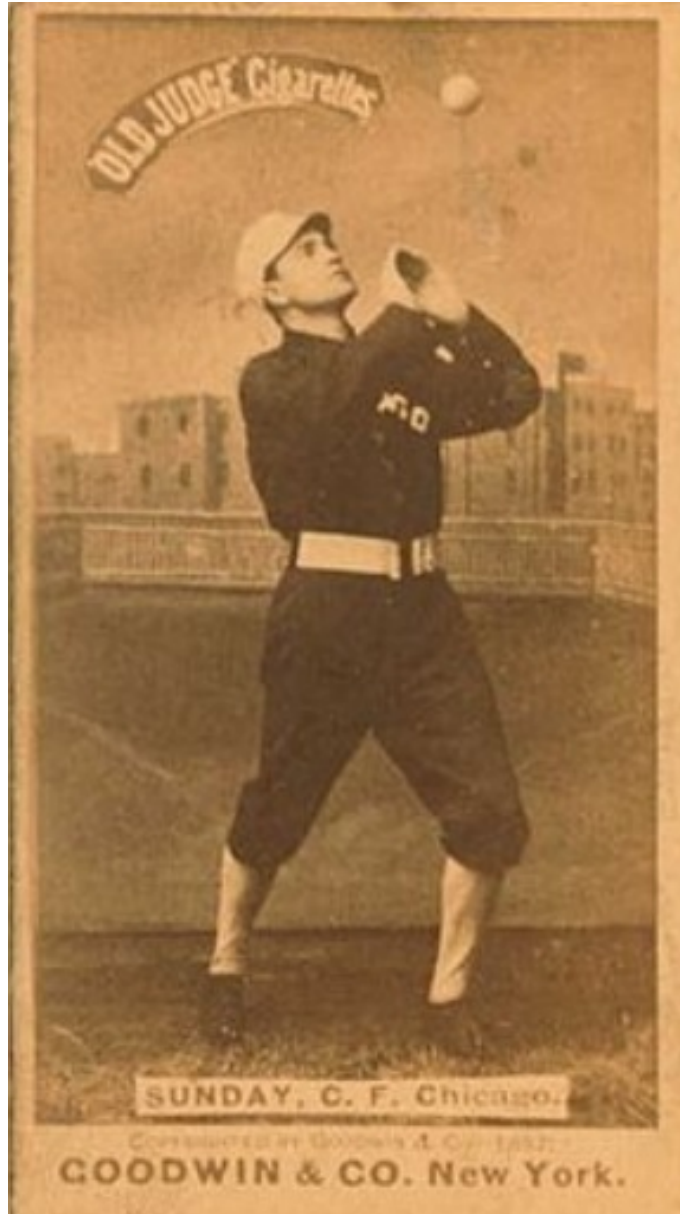


American Minute with Bill Federer

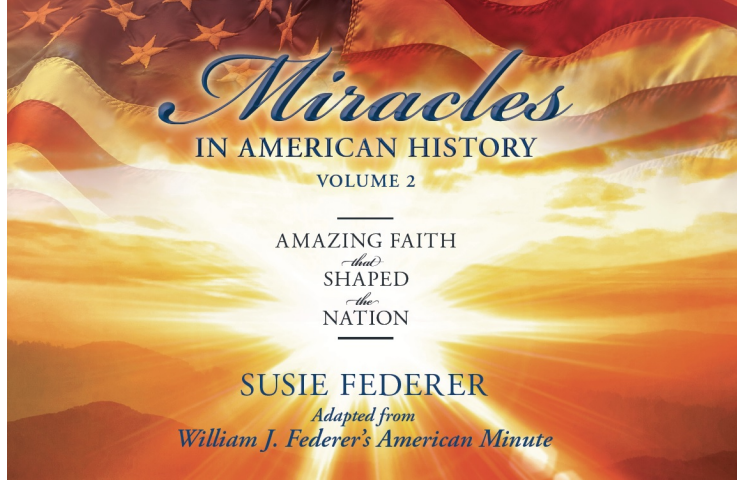
Billy Sunday Pro-Baseball Player comes out ... as a Christian evangelist! - preached to 100 million & pioneered radio evangelism

A baseball star, **Billy Sunday** played for the Chicago White Stockings in the 1880's and later the Philadelphia Phillies.

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Born during the Civil War in a log cabin in Iowa, his father, who was a Union Army soldier, died of pneumonia when Billy was a month old.



He wrote in his autobiography, "I never saw my father."

During his childhood, there were ten deaths among his relatives. Poverty led his mother to send him and his siblings to the Soldier's Orphans Home.

At age 15, **Billy Sunday** struck out on his own, working several jobs before playing baseball.



His career took off when he was recruited by **A.G. Spalding**, owner of the **White Stockings** and founder of **Spalding Sporting Goods Company**.



Billy Sunday became one of the most popular athletes in the nation.

While leaving a **Chicago saloon** with some other players in 1886, he heard a group of gospel singers on the street from the **Pacific Garden**

Mission.

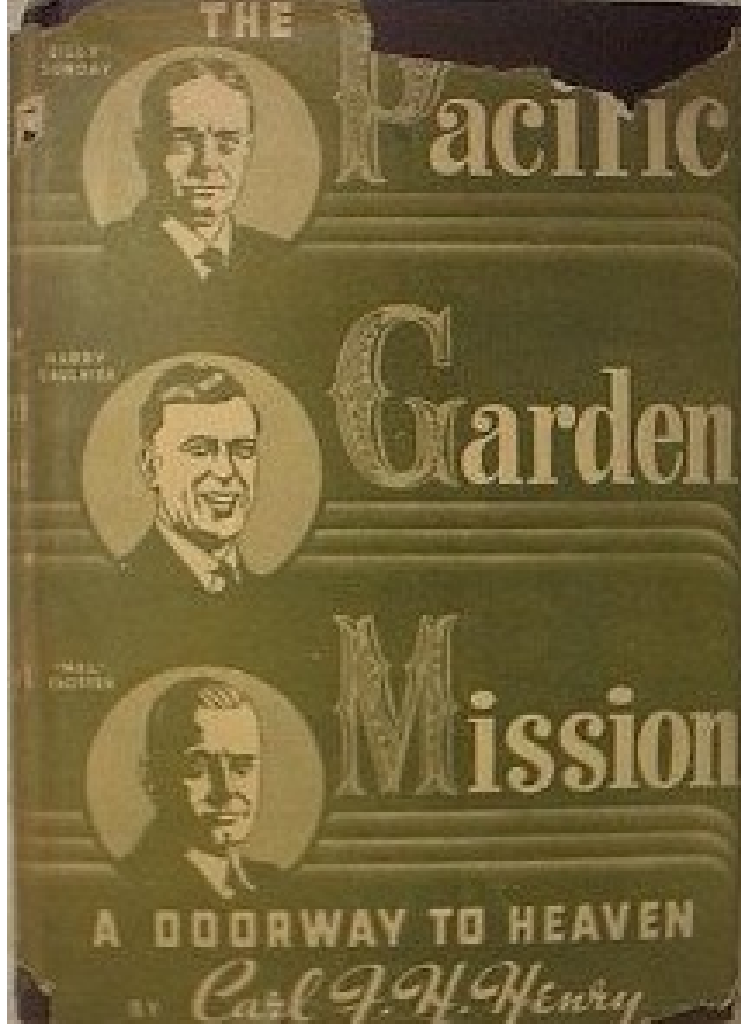


Attracted by the hymns, as they were the same ones his mother used to sing, **Billy Sunday** went closer to listen.

He attended services at the mission and experienced a conversion, becoming an evangelical

Christian.

Billy began attending **YMCA meetings** and quit drinking.



That same year, he went to **Jefferson Park Presbyterian Church** where he was introduced to **Helen Amelia "Nell" Thompson**.

Her father disapproved, considering baseball players "transient ne'er-do-wells who were unstable and destined to be misfits once they were too old to

play."

Her father eventually relented, gave his blessing, and **Billy and Nell** were married September 5, 1888.



Nell encouraged **Billy**, who was naturally shy, to begin speaking.

She went on to organize all of his evangelistic meetings, with him admitting to **"never yet gone contrary to Mrs. Sunday's advice."**



Billy Sunday gave up making \$5,000 a year as a professional baseball player to working at the **YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association)** for \$75 a month.

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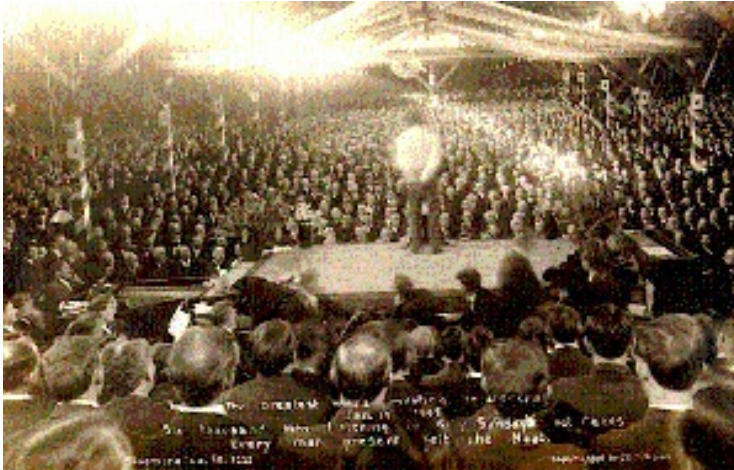
Young
Men's
Christian
Association



On FEBRUARY 17, 1889, a national sensation occurred when **Billy Sunday** came out as a **Christian evangelist**, preaching his first sermon in

Chicago. The local press reported in sports' terms:

"Center fielder Billy Sunday made a three-base hit at Farwell Hall last night. There is no other way to express the success of **his first appearance as an evangelist** in Chicago. His audience was made up of about 500 men who didn't know much about his talents as a preacher but could remember his galloping to second base with his cap in hand."



During the next 46 years, till his death November 6, 1935, **over 100 million people** heard **Billy Sunday** preach.

His preaching carried on the revival tradition of:

- **Scotland revivals** beginning in the 1730s;
- **First Great Awakening** preaching of George Whitefield;
- **Second Great Awakening** camp meetings;
- **pre-Civil War preaching** of Charles Finney;
- **1857 New York City's Noontime Businessmen Prayer Meeting Revival** led by Jeremiah Lanphier;
- **post-Civil War evangelist D.L. Moody**; and



- **Welsh revivals** at the turn of the last century.



Sunday

proclaimed in Des Moines, Iowa, November 3, 1914:

"When may a revival be expected? When the wickedness of the wicked grieves and distresses the Christian ...

What a spell the devil seems to cast over the church today! ...

If the church was down on her face in prayer they would be more concerned with the fellow outside. The church has degenerated into a third-rate amusement joint ...

... It is as much the duty of the church to awaken ... men and women of this city as it is the duty of the fire department to arouse when the call sounds.



What would you think of the fire department of Des Moines if it slept while the town burned? You would condemn them and I will condemn you if you sleep and let men and women go to hell ..."

Sunday added:

"Christians have lost the spirit of prayer ... Religion needs a baptism of horse sense ...

If you go to a farmer and say ... God will give you crops only when it pleases him and it is no use for you plow your ground ... That is all wrong ...

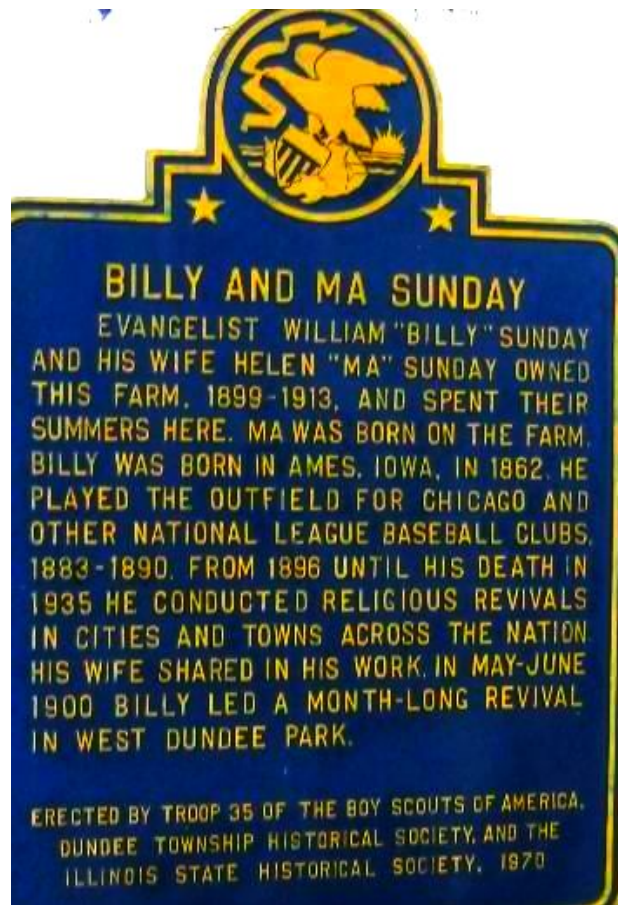
Revival may be expected when Christian people confess and ask forgiveness for their sins ... Break up your fallow ground ... Stand up and let people know you stand for Jesus Christ ...

When may a revival be expected? ...

When ... ministers ... thought they would die unless a revival would come to awaken their people, their students, their deacons, and their Sunday school workers, unless they would fall down on their faces and renounce the world and the works and deceits of the devil ...

A revival ... returns the church from her backsliding and ... causes the conversion of man and women; and it always includes the conviction of sin ... A revival helps to bring the unsaved to Jesus Christ."

Billy Sunday
preached on
prayer:



"The man who truly prays 'Thy kingdom come' cannot pass a saloon and not ask himself the question, 'What can I do to get rid



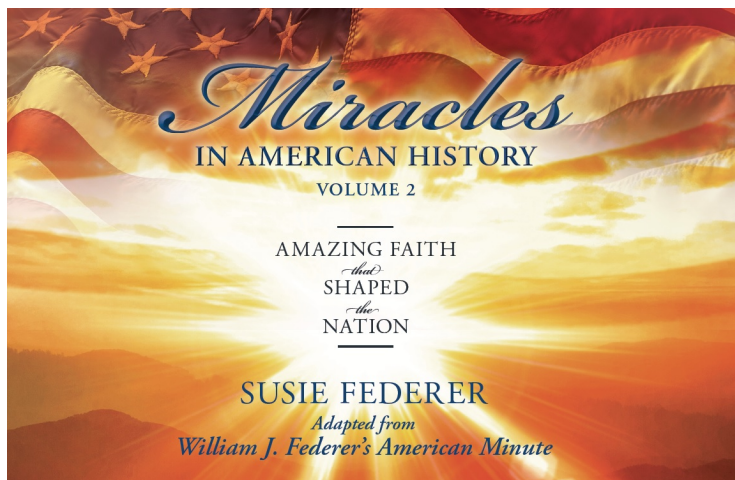
of that thing that is blighting the lives of thousands of young men, that is wrecking homes, and that is dragging men and women down to hell?'

You cannot pray 'Thy kingdom come,' and then rush to the polls and vote for the thing that is preventing that kingdom from coming.

You cannot pray 'Thy kingdom come' and then go and do the things that make the devil laugh.

For the man who truly prays 'Thy kingdom come' it would be impossible to have one kind of religion on his knees and another when he behind the counter; it would be impossible to have one kind of religion in the pew and another in politics.

When a man truly prays 'Thy kingdom come' he means it in everything or in nothing."



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Billy Sunday's

preaching against alcohol led to the passage of the 18th Amendment. He stated:

"I am the sworn, eternal, uncompromising enemy of the Liquor Traffic. I ask no quarter and I give none.



The "big-time" flavor of mass evangelism under Moody and Sankey is expressed in these Harper's Weekly sketches of the spacious auditoriums which they used in Brooklyn in 1873.

I have drawn the sword in defense of God, home, wife, children and native land, and I will never sheathe it until the undertaker pumps me full of embalming fluid, and if my wife is alive, I think I shall call her to my beside and say:

'Nell, when I am dead, send for the butcher and skin me, and have my hide tanned and made into drum heads, and hire men to go up and down the land and beat the drums and say, 'My husband, "Bill" Sunday still lives and gives the whiskey gang a run for its money.'

In 1910, **Billy Sunday** preached a historic revival in Joplin, Missouri, a mining town known for hotels, women of the night, gambling and saloons.

Rev. Frank Neff of the Independence Avenue Methodist

"The Ten Commandments" Subject Of Sermon Last Night That Had Some Hot Shots For Men And Women In Every Walk Of Life.

TABERNACLE JAMMED TO THE EXITS AND HUNDREDS UNABLE TO GET INSIDE

Eight Thousand at Evening Meeting While a Like Number Attended the Two Other Meetings of the Day—Sunday Says Hell Is Hell and He Rips Isms and Schisms of Modern Times Up One Side and Down the Other—Says Crisis Has Come to Erie in Thrilling Sermon on Theme, "The Hour Is Come"—Closes Sunday Night Meeting With Remarkable Prayer for Erie and Wilts Upon Pulpit Exhausted and Dripping With Perspiration.

Episcopal Church in Kansas City, and president of the Ministers Alliance of Joplin, told reporters:

"We expect a great clean up in the city, but it will be in the nature of a religious awakening which will result in a permanent clean

up and will come from a sincere desire of the people."

During Joplin's "Fifty Days of Sunday," **Billy Sunday** explained:

"A revival is the conviction of sin.

Inside the church there must be a spiritual revival before it gets outside."



In his animated style, **Billy Sunday** said:

"Temptation is the devil looking through the keyhole. Yielding is opening the door and inviting him in."



Billy Sunday warned not to remove the Bible from public schools:

"Rivers of America will run with blood filled to their banks before we will submit to them taking the Bible out of our schools."



One cannot but wonder what **Billy Sunday** would think of news reports of modern-day LGBTQ agenda, abortion



and school shootings?

Perhaps more important than a national conversation on guns, he would call for a **national inquiry** into what **killer kids** are

being taught in public schools.

Could it be that **thoughts precede actions?**

That the confusion being programmed into students minds might have some bearing on their behavior?

With computers there is **hardware** and **software.**



Instead of focusing on banning guns, maybe it would be more important to focus on **banning the corrupted software** children are being programmed with -- secular-atheistic-transgenderism which teaches **there is no right or no wrong?**

Abraham Lincoln, when presented with a **Bible** by a Colored Delegation from Baltimore, stated

September 7,
1864:

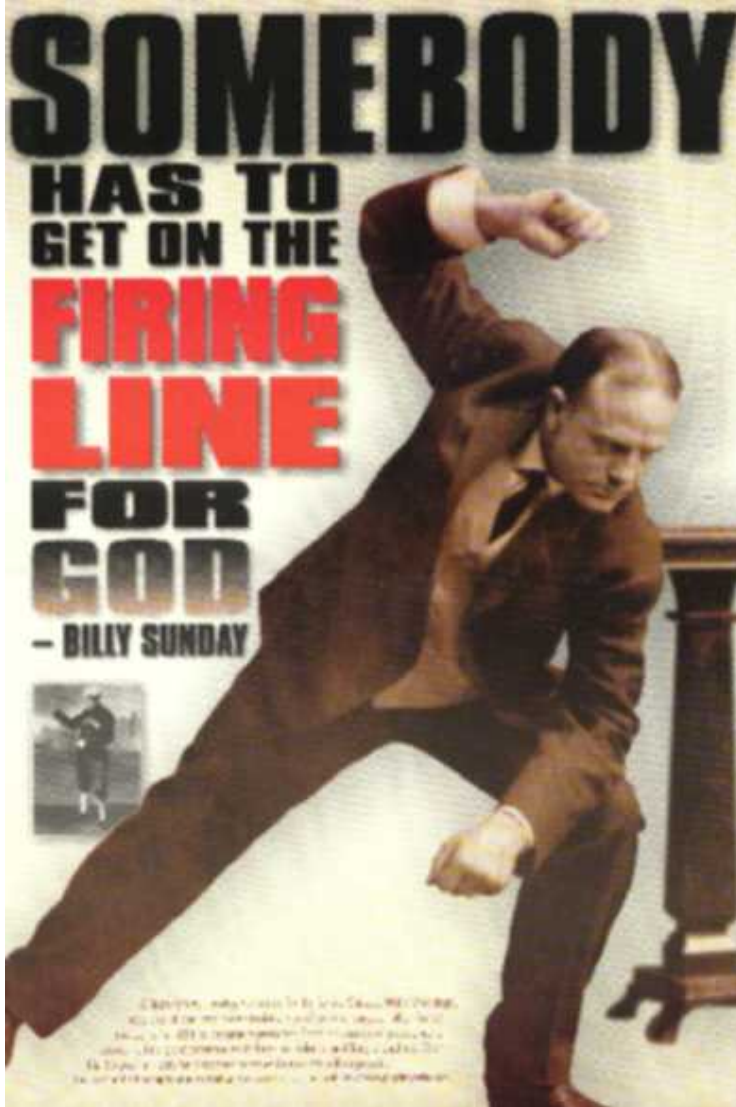
"In regard to **this Great Book**, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to men ... **But for it we could not know right from wrong.**"



Billy Sunday inspired famous tent evangelists and revival preachers, such as **Billy Graham**, **T.L. Osborne**,

Aimee Semple McPherson, **Oral Roberts**, **Jimmy Swaggart**, **James Robison**, **Pat Robertson**, **Robert Schuller**, **Luis Palau**, **Reinhard Bonnke**, **Franklin Graham**, and many more.

Billy Sunday spoke in city after city across America where tens of thousands heard him in month long meetings.



Huge wooden auditoriums, called **Billy Sunday Tabernacles**, were built to accommodate the crowds.



The Billy Sunday Tabernacle in Winona was the largest auditorium in northern Indiana for many years, seating 7,500.

A Billy Sunday



Courtesy Reneker Museum of Winona History

The massive Billy Sunday Tabernacle, seating more than 7,500, was the largest venue in northern Indiana for many years. Built in 1920, it was razed in 1992. The charismatic Billy Sunday is the man standing up on the right in the white coat. This photo is from circa the late 1920s.

museum is on the campus of Grace College and Seminary in Winona Lake, Indiana.

Billy Sunday was a pioneer in gospel radio broadcasting, which later birthed conservative talk radio.

Other early gospel broadcasting preachers included:

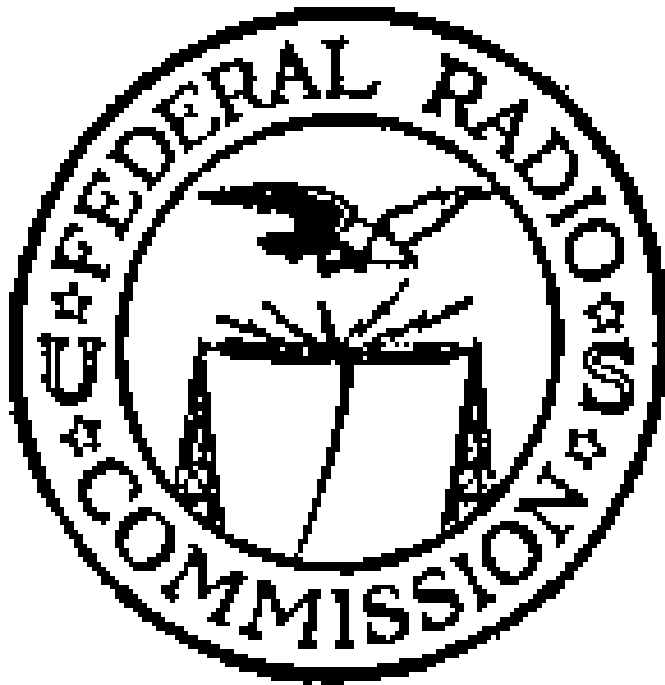
- **Paul Rader - pastor of Moody Church in Chicago;**
- **Charles Fuller - founder of Fuller Theological Seminary;**
- **Aimee Semple McPherson - founder of the Foursquare Church;**
- **William Ward Ayer - pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Manhattan;**
- **Walter A. Maier - The Lutheran Hour;**
- **Donald Grey Barnhouse - The Bible Study Hour;**



- "Fighting Bob" Shuler;
- Father Charles Coughlin.

Religious radio stations were initially unregulated.

Sometimes their powerful signals overlapped sports and other broadcasts, and occasionally they aired programming critical of politicians.

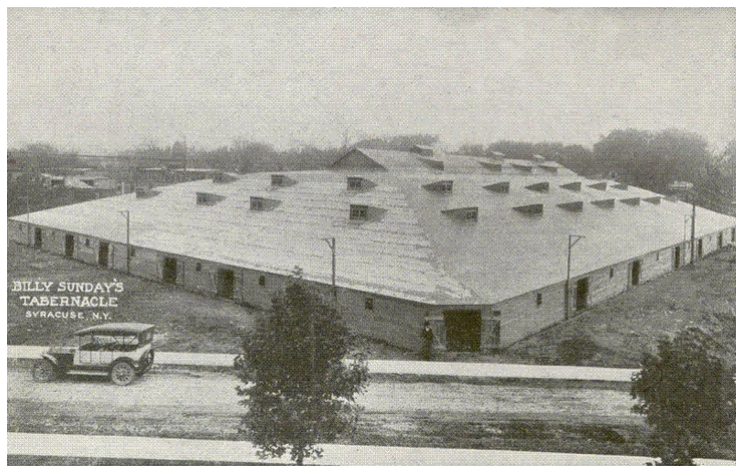


This resulted in government regulating radio in 1926 by the **FRC (Federal Radio Commission)**, which became the **FCC** in 1934.

In typical fashion, after the **government** began **licensing**, it began **regulating**,

then **revoking** licenses, as it did to the popular radio broadcaster "**Fighting Bob**" Shuler in 1934, who was a national folk hero for exposing government corruption.

Teaching that salvation was through faith in Jesus Christ, not in organized religion, **Billy Sunday** explained that churches were fine so far as they were "in the world, but all wrong when the world is in them," adding:



"You can go to hell just as fast from the church door as from the grog shop or bawdy house,"

and

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile."



He assured believers of God's forgiveness:

"The devil says I'm out, but the Lord says I'm safe."

He challenged:

"Live so that when the final summons comes you will leave something more behind you than an epitaph on a tombstone."



Billy Sunday



stated:

"I never see a man or a woman or boy or girl but I do not think that God has a plan for them ...

He will use each of us to His glory if

we will only let Him."

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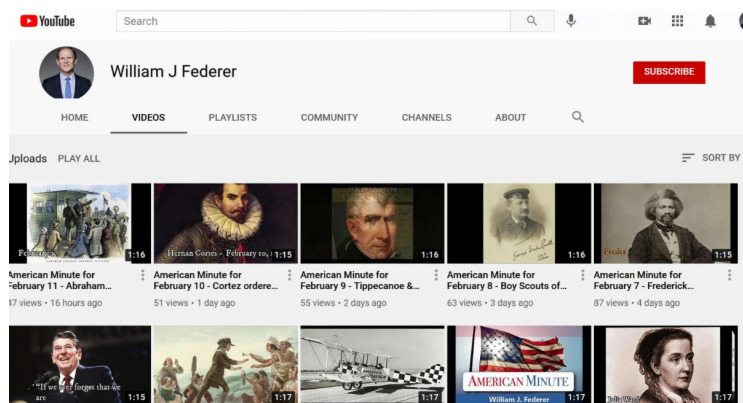
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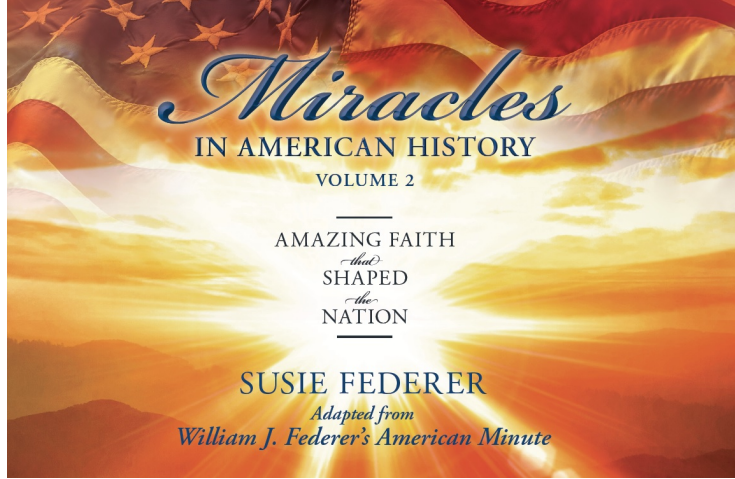
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