

SEEC Magazine

A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

VOLUME 20

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016

--- VOTE ---
IT IS BASIC STEWARDSHIP

**In Tough Times
Remember
Jim Hodges**

**Contradicting
Contradictions
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**Master Builders
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**Biblical Duty Toward
Our Nation
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**What Is
Going On?!
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STRENGTHEN
ENCOURAGE
EQUIP
CHURCH
MINISTRIES
1Co 14:3; Eph 4:12

**The U.S. Presidency:
Now What?
Dr. Hope Taylor**

"God is my King from of old, Who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth" Ps. 74:12



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ON THE COVER:

When I was fenced in, you freed
and rescued me because you
love me.

Psalms 18:19, CEV



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Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

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Contradicting Contradictions

[Considering the groanings in our nation and planet, it seems crucial that we be equipped and proactive sons of God that make a difference. This article continues concepts from two other articles, "Clear the Air," 2014, and "Contradictions," 2016, with the intent of connecting more dots for how we can actively cooperate with Father.]

A spirit of division in men or minions will target race, gender, religion, authority, business, government, nations, institutions, families and anything else that can be divided. Though the target list is complex,

the intent is simple: divide to cause a fall, divide to conquer. There are many obvious attempts and still more behind-the-scenes agendas working to carve up the heart and strength of our country in this election year. No matter what the motive, be it jealousy or hatred or greed or malice or treachery, the bottom line is that attempts to divide this "One nation, under God, indivisible," is a contradiction to God's plan and purpose in our nation.

In this year of "resurrection out of contradiction," I look at our nation's situation and cannot ignore the need to take action and participate with God in this resurrection. Pinpointing contradictions is probably the first challenge. In the course of a day, we can hear a statement in passing that threatens our whole nation or run into the panic of a fast-moving virus or get caught up in economic predictions that smother hope or we might



witness an incident that robs us of peace and security. The list is endless and unique to each of us, yet the bombardment is common to all of us. If we fail to disagree through word or deed when evil or malice is exposed, we tolerate a non-God influence in the atmosphere instead of taking it down. With terrorists and political schemers swarming like killer bees, unrest and injustice can overwhelm the senses and make us doubt we can do anything about it. However, we *can* do something. We can participate with God and take time to stop the flow and counter anything that opposes the will and Word and character of God. Contradiction will either be allowed to influence and flow to its expected outcome or be countered and derailed. It is not just a “we can,” it is a “we must.”

So, step one is perceiving the contradiction and step two is countering it, and countering it wisely. Confronting a contradiction wisely is not about reacting out of fear or anger or frustration or even desperation. A wise and effectual response springs from God’s thinking and character. Consider this also, the counter-action does not have to be as public as the contradiction. (The simple truth is that if the contradiction reached your hood, then it can be countered in your hood.) In most cases, the bearer of the contradiction is not the target (though it can be tempting to take them down too!). The real target is the contradiction’s intent that needs to be neutralized in the atmosphere. Neutralizing is a matter of declaring or taking action to change the atmosphere so that no residue remains to be the wrong influence. The essential here is understanding the power of agreement. Leaving evil or error unopposed is passive agreement which leaves the door open for evil men and minions to get their desired results.

Words or deeds that contradict God’s will infect an atmosphere and become part of the power of the air. The prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2) strives to do damage with the creative forces that men release and manifest in the earth. Countering clears the toxins from an atmosphere as surely as the contradictions toxify it. Let’s break this down. You can hear a statement on TV saying, “The polls show Candidate “C” is leading and headed for the White House.” We can feel disgust and gripe and allow that political agenda to be considered as a shoo-in, thereby leaving despair and despondency in the atmosphere that takes the fight out of others or confirms thoughts of not voting or starts a crop of fear that will bear fruit for generations! Or, we can take action and counter with a proclamation, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in this nation, Lord,” or “Lord, let discernment and wisdom paralyze media manipulation in America today.” Our agreement with His will on earth gives God legal access to take action.

Of course, you may reason that a statement on TV can influence millions, So how does my minor input have any effect? Consider these things: 1) The contradiction touched my sphere of responsibility so my part is to neutralize its effect in my sphere and my part is one part of a bigger force at work. 2) Just how much

agreement God needs to have legal access to a situation or to turn a tide or to do a miracle is really not our worry. Our focus is doing our part and trusting God that it will make a difference. (Our small part may end up food for 5000!)

Believers sometimes do not counterpunch error or deception or evil because they do not understand the creative force in their words. There is life and death in the power of the tongue (Prov.18:21) so we can speak a word and shatter darkness and kill its effect. Even when the facts are undeniable or blows are already struck and have already become a statistic, we can still speak life to turn the tide of consequences. Our God of the impossible is not limited or defeated by facts and history. Our Redeemer can and will override history if we dare to trust Him and cooperate with Him.

Whether it is in conversation or just a passing thought, God help us to realize in the moment when we are hearing contradictions to the will of our Father or perceiving evil threats or discerning assignments from hell so that those things are not left unchallenged! If we just talk about what we sense or what is going on, that is like laying a ticking bomb in the laps of others instead of diffusing it! Anything that is contradictory to God's will should be confronted with God's Truth. The Truth is Jesus. The truth is His Word and character and purpose in earth as in heaven, and we can speak it and release it as a counterforce to contradictions, and it will make a difference. As believers and sons of God we cannot be more focused on conditions than the Truth. If we intend to pray in faith, we must think according to His Word and principles and character, instead of falling into upset over circumstances.

Also, let us not be sabotaged by contradictions within our own thinking and beliefs. For example, a common misunderstanding among church people is that we must expect and allow world conditions to get worse. However, the concept of passively allowing evil to be successful contradicts God's Word and character. An unfailing principle of the Word is seedtime and harvest, whether it is good seed and good harvest or bad seed and bad harvest. So, world conditions get worse when evil sown comes to harvest. While that is a fact, the contradiction we need to be aware of here is that does not mean that getting worse is God's will or original intent. We can agree with God and interrupt the sowing and reaping of evil. Thinking God intends to allow evil to succeed is contradictory to His character and principles, and that kind of mis-belief is a contradiction that causes conflict in our soul. Soul-conflicts cause ulcers rather than faith. An ulcer of the soul is inflammation like agitation, offense, irritation, anger, fear, etc. A wound of the soul is from our history or experience. Neither of those is the starting place for effectual prayer because ulcers and wounds can keep us from seeing from God's perspective. A timely example is that it cripples our faith to pray for our nation if we think God will not interrupt hell's assignments against our nation. Since 2016 is part of our watch, we can anticipate God's intervention in our nation this year as we pray and neutralize contradictions that influence daily.



Since the fall of Adam, there is a tendency to remember our failures and negative experiences and forget the realities that define us as sons and daughters of Father God. Remembering the wrong things can pull us down, especially in the tough times. The New Testament writers encourage us to remind ourselves so that we do not forget the truths we need. In 2Peter 1, Peter was addressing believers who already knew certain truths when he said that as long as he lived, he would continue to remind believers to remember. Thank God we can be reminded to remember the right things.

In the history of the Christian Church, the New Covenant meal is a table of remembrance. There we are ongoingly reminded of the truth and thereby renewed in the truth. Chuck Colson said, "The world drinks to forget, but the Church drinks to remember." If the enemy cannot keep us from the truth, he tries to steal our memory function. We have the tendency to seek novel and exotic teachings to entertain our minds. However, the New Testament writers focused on believers remembering the truth they had already received and increasingly walking in it or remembering and doing the truth we know.

A few years ago, I had a tough year, dealing with some physical stresses. When I wanted to complain (in Jesus' name), I was reminded that the early Church lived primarily in tough times. They were undergoing persecution from apostate religious structures, from beast-like civil authorities and from false prophets and false teachers in their midst, (that



sat at the same table with them.) They faced Jezebel, false doctrine and demons. They were opposed by supernatural forces and followers of idols. Peter was crucified upside down. Paul was whipped five times with thirty-nine lashes and he was stoned to death. That makes me realize I don't have the right to complain about tough times. The context of the New Covenant was written in tough times. If we learn to get through tough times, we can make it through all the other times.

What should we remember in tough times?

1) Peter tells us that whatever we are going through, God's power has given us *everything* we need for life and godliness. Through our relationship with Christ, we have *everything* we need. Therefore, even though at times we feel we have nothing, that is not true, and we cannot align with a lie. We must **remember** the truth and align with it. Remembering is re-connecting with the truth. When we re-member, we re-connect the fragments of our fragmented thinking. We sometimes need to stop and have a defragmenting session with the Holy Ghost. His divine power, *dunamis*, is available to us as we grow in the knowledge of Christ, and that growth is not primarily doctrinal knowledge but relational and experiential knowledge. His Divine power is available to explosively move everything out of the way and bring us through tough times. The bottom line is that we have to remind ourselves that we do have everything we need for life and godliness, no matter how strong our sense of insufficiency.

2) When things are tough, we remember the promises of our God and Father to us. These precious and magnificent promises are awesome in that they have a built-in ability and dynamic power to enable us to participate in the Divine nature which transforms our human nature so that we "*escape the corruption that is in the world.*" (2Pe.1:4) When we are vulnerable and hurting, going through tough things, the enemy sees that as opportunity to back us off our faith and convictions and certainties in Christ. Therefore, it is essential that we remember His promises because they are pregnant with power to work with the nature of Christ in us and transform us to come out overcomers. Paul reminded Timothy of this same truth when he instructed him to war with his prophecies. Timothy was having a tough time fulfilling the assignment God gave him to pastor the church of Ephesus. I have never had an assignment that was without challenge. It is biblical to have tough times, but we are not to stay there and commiserate there. Rather we are to move on through them, remembering the Word of the Lord.

3) We remember that 2Peter 1:5-9, shows we are not doomed to suffer loss in hard times, rather we can increase in Christ-likeness. Tough times

can be times of addition instead of subtraction in our lives. In 2Pe 1:5, it tells us to “add” things. That word “add” in Greek is the word for choreography. It is interesting that Peter was saying when we are going through tough times we need to choreograph some things. In the ancient Greek dramas of that day, there was a poet who wrote a script that was to be choreographed. Peter was saying that in our Christian life, we are to recognize the Lord has a script for us and we walk it out. The negative side of this concept is that the word “hypocrite” comes from this time when one actor would put on different masks to play different roles. The upside is that there is a script with heavenly choreography written for our lives. We step into it knowing we can and will do it through faith. It is not mind-over-matter but remembering the truth that He has a script for my life. Walking out His script is a faith expression, and we *add* to our faith virtue and self-control and perseverance and godliness and brotherly kindness and love. We make every effort to be diligent to stay with the script He wrote. Tough times are for increasing and character-building that builds His character in us. If we come out less than we should be, we have missed the point and purpose of the script. By His Holy Ghost, I can master my moods or not succumb to discouragement. Peter says this addition process will enable us to be more effective and productive as followers of Christ. If we advertised a seminar about tough times being required to move into addition and strength and fulfillment in life, few would sign up, but there is still a biblical principle sharing His suffering as well as His glory. Remembering the truth and choreographing your life to align with it during tough times will make every sphere of life more productive. If we go off script or refuse to add the qualities Peter listed in hard times, we become short sighted and possibly blind in spirit. (2Pe 1:9, “For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted”). The word used for sighted here is “myopia” which is seeing what is at hand and not being far-sighted. The devil loves to limit our vision but the Holy Ghost wants to broaden it and deepen it. If the modern Church stays in myopia and only sees things close at hand, Peter tells us this can lead to forgetfulness, even forgetting our *purification from former sins* and that is dangerous.

4) We must also remember in tough times that the certainties of our faith in Christ can become stronger. Our faith is not a myth nor wishful thinking nor an opiate as Marx said. Our faith is certain and based on three essential pillars. **The first pillar** is eyewitnesses of Christ, 2Peter 1:16-18, *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majes-*

tic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. Peter was there on the Mount of Transfiguration as one of the eyewitnesses. Those on the mountain heard it first hand. Peter, James and John heard the Father's affirmation of His Son whose ministry had started on earth with baptism and Father speaking from heaven. Then in the crunch time of crucifixion, Jesus in His humanity still needed the affirming voice of His Father for His mission, and again the Father spoke from heaven. (At this tough time, Father affirmed Him and reminded Him of the truth of Who He was and His script.) Our faith is based on eyewitnesses to Christ's ministry and His resurrection, not on hearsay. **Secondly**, our faith is based upon the scripture's strong testimony and its durability through the centuries, (2Pe 1:19-21) *So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.* The historical, archeological and manuscript evidence underpin our faith. When they found the Dead Sea Scrolls, they had manuscripts that went back all the way to 2000 B.C. Before that, manuscripts only went back to about 1000 A.D. In particular, the text of Isaiah was in tact and essentially the same though the manuscripts were separated by hundreds of years. Lastly, our faith has certainty because what we have experienced is in the Book and we have had an encounter with the Author of those scriptures. The followers of Islam today have never met Mohammed, their founder. They merely follow his teachings. However, more than just following His teachings, we have met Jesus Christ. We were introduced to Him by Holy Spirit.

Though times are tough in our lives and in our nation, let us remember and reconnect *and call these things to mind*, 2Pe 1:15. Remembering is an enabling. When we remember what we should, it enables us to overcome and walk in the script that Father wrote for us.

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As you know, if we can change a person's mind, we will change their actions. One of the most powerful tools a Christian has is the power to pull down strongholds or change beliefs and thereby change actions of people. I have found that the interpretation of Romans 13 repeated in many Christian circles is not helpful to the cause in America currently. In fact, it doesn't differ much at all from the interpretations used in Germany under Hitler. Hitler considered the following his favorite verse. "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God" (Romans 13:1).

He was able to use this belief to influence and eventually control the church. I have also found this belief to be a hindrance when endeavoring to mobilize church leaders against ungodly immoral or unconstitutional acts or laws of the government. Some interpret the following verse as the limits to obedience. "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same" (Romans 13:3).

In other words, once a governing power has ceased to terrorize evil works and reward good works, it has become illegitimate and has ceased to require biblical obedience to such governments or laws. This may have been the dominant view of our founders. However, today you will hear this countered with I Peter 2:13, "Therefore submit yourselves to every

ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme." However, one will never hear the following verse, which also echoes the second verse of Romans 13, and tends to strengthen that view. "Or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good" (I Peter 2:14).

Likewise, almost never do we hear one of the most clearly exhibited verses in the New Testament, the apostolic declaration of Acts 5:29: "But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'" Once again we find the church in need of the apostolic direction that the early church had on this issue. Today it is predominantly absent. The section I referred to earlier in I Peter 2:13-14 ends with the exhortation in verse 17, "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." This puts the honor of the king on the same level of honoring all people, although it is specifically singled out. This does not say to obey the king that you are honoring any more than it says to obey the people that you are honoring.

This is significant because when this was written, the person was the law since they had no constitution. Much more than now, they had rulers, not governors. This is a significant difference and is the main stronghold that we must take aim upon to set people free from the bondage of incorrect interpretation and application.

Among the nations, and unlike any nation existing at the time the Bible was written, we have a nation with a unique constitution and a legally binding set of documents presenting what our founders said was the line of authority for legitimate governments. Primary to these, and all of our laws, is what the Supreme Court has called "the organic law of the United States", known as the Declaration of Independence. It states: "... to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...."

This clarifies the interpretation of Romans 13:1, which our Founders held and was different than that of the Europeans. They believed the higher powers receive their God-ordained authority from the Creator (earlier in the same sentence) through the consent of the people! This is an important distinction and echoes Acts 5:29. The Declaration continues, "That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government . . ." thus showing that their interpretation of Scripture is the less heard, but very legitimate interpretation that when a Government ceases to punish the evildoer, but instead punishes the good, it forfeits its right to the authority granted by God.

Of course, they did not agree with simply disregarding laws or governments just because they weren't perfect. This was also clarified in the document, "Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses...." However, their gift to us did not end with clearly placing before mankind the common sense of the subject in terms so plain and clear as to command our agreement, but they also passed onto us a form of government which is very different than any other on the face of the earth until the time of our Constitution. They presented to us a constitutional republic—a form of government not of men but of laws. In fact, the Constitution even outlaws nobility granted by the government, the root of all man-rule in Europe.

This constitution, with its flexibility to be amended, is still, when applied, the greatest terror to evil and encouragement to good the governments of the world has seen since the Law was given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Yet our strongholds keep us from interpreting Scripture in light of the government which we have been given. When Scripture says "submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme" (see I Peter 2:13), we most often think of a man. Yet in our case no man is supreme; the supreme law of the land is the Constitution. This is significant since no man, in our form of government, is ever above the law, and no law is above the Constitution.

I have heard it said that we have a paper king. Our king—or highest earthly governor—is not a person, but a document. Hence, in order to submit to our sovereign, we must judge all laws and all politicians according to our "higher authority," which is the Constitution, not a man, platform, or a party. All our oaths of office are to "...support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same...." This is because the Constitution is supreme.

At Lexington Green, Massachusetts, April 19, 1775 was set aside as a day of prayer and public fasting, Rev. Jonas Clarke, a local pastor and militia leader replied to the British officer's demand that the Minutemen lay down their arms, "We recognize no Sovereign but God and no King but Jesus." Then followed the shot that would change history and change the course of nations.

Ours is the first nation that effectively recognizes the Creator as

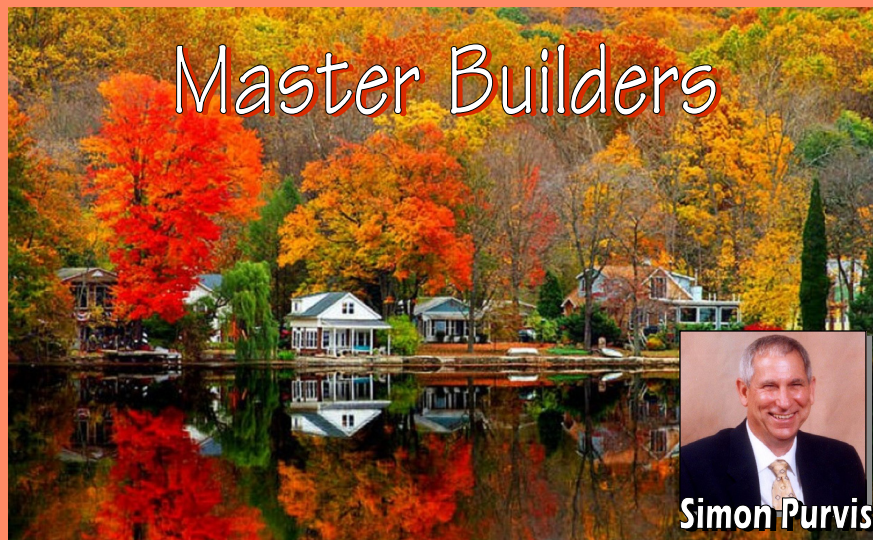
sovereign and the people as the wellspring of His authority on earth (see Genesis 1:26, 28). All those who govern in our nation must submit their governance to the supreme law of the land, the Constitution. In our case, clearly, when applying Romans 13:1, the governing authority is that of the Constitution and not a man or men. For Christians to obey the Romans 13 mandate, we must realize that to allow or follow unconstitutional laws is to disobey God by disobeying the supreme law of the land.

We cannot be obedient to submit ourselves to “every ordinance” if we do not submit to the supreme ordinance, which is the Constitution. As Christians, we have a duty to “use our liberty as a bondservant for God” (see I Peter 2:16). In the American Christian context, this means that Christians must get involved in the process of government and insist that our laws and lawmakers are submitted to the Constitution. If we will not do this, then we are obeying man rather than God, which will, and arguably has, brought us under the judgment of God.

The Scriptures tell us that we must honor our fathers and mothers or our land will come under a curse (see Deuteronomy 27:16). Perhaps this is what Charles Finney was thinking when he wrote, “The Church must take right ground in regard to politics . . . The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men, and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them . . . God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the Church will take the right ground. Politics are a part of religion, in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to their country as a part of their duty to God.”

Finney seemed to recognize that “such a country as this” demanded things of the church that were different than in the days of the early church when men were rulers. Today, we have a supreme law of the land that recognizes the Creator and the source of His authority in the government and through the people exercised through the Constitution and constitutional laws. Obeying the Constitution and requiring our leaders to do the same is the biblical duty of all American Christians

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Acts 2:41 *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized [were changing governments]. And the same day there were added about three thousand souls.* Acts 2:42 *And they were continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine . . .* **The Apostles' doctrine has two main themes, Christ and His government.** That includes Christ's birth, His earthly ministry, His death, burial and resurrection, His ascending and sitting on a throne and His sending the Holy Spirit. All that can be summed up in Christ and His government. As the apostolic grace is being restored back to the Body of Christ, the message we hear all over the land is "The Kingdom of God". Ten years ago people would not let us talk about the Kingdom of God. (I've got the scars to prove it.) People don't mind others going to church or singing songs or doing good works or talking of going to heaven, but changing government is radical. When men stand before judgment, they will not be judged for their sins. **They will be judged for what they did with Christ.**

When Christ walked among the generation in Israel and did miracles, Israel was not deceived about who Christ was. They knew who He was and they rejected Him openly. Before the Second Coming, the Kingdom is going to advance. The people that reject Christ will know who He is and they will reject Him openly. There will be no deception in the last



days. Among the tares and the wheat, the wheat has to come to a full ripeness. When the spirit of antichrist is released again to cause rebellion against Christ and His government, lost people that reject Christ will openly rebel against Christ. There is deception going on right now but the day is coming when man will not be deceived. The tares will come to a full consciousness of who Christ is as Israel did. Those that rebel just before the Second Coming will not be a deceived generation.

Acts 2:42 *And they were continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and in fellowship and in the breaking of the loaves, and in prayers. **Apostolic doctrine produces incredible fellowship because it is not self-centered.*** Acts 2:43 *And fear came on every soul. And many wonders and miracles took place through the apostles.* Acts 2:44 *And all who believed were together and had all things common.*

Acts 2:45 *And they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, according as anyone had need. **It was not about their lives but about Him whose government they had come under.*** Acts 2:46 *And continuing with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they shared food with gladness and simplicity of heart,* Acts 2:47 *praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

The apostles that God is raising up will, like Paul, be wise master-builders that will orchestrate co-laboring to build His Church under the government of God and hell will not prevail over it. Anything hell is prevailing over is not something the Lord is building. 1Co 3:9 *For of God we are fellow-workers . . .* Under the law, they worked FOR God but we co-labor. We are *a field of God and a building of God.* 1Co 3:10 *According to the grace of God which is given to me, as a wise master builder. . .* In this hour, God is calling us to build wisely. Paul was a wise builder in his own life and in the churches he related to. Notice how he built: *I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let every man be careful how he builds on it.* 1Co 3:11 *For any other foundation can no one lay than the one being laid, who is Jesus Christ.* The Apostles' doctrine lays a strong foundation of Christ. How we build on that determines how we respond when the storms of life come. If we build wrongly, when storms come, our house will come down.

1Co 3:12 *And if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble. . .* Gold is the very nature of God. Silver is redemption. Precious stones are the transforming works of the Holy Spirit. Wood, hay and stubble are temporal, world mindsets and humanistic thinking. People can receive Christ and want to go to heaven yet still

think humanistically.

1Co 3:13 *each one's work shall be revealed. For the Day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try each one's work as to what kind it is.* We often put this scripture at the Second Coming saying it will be tested then. No, there are seasons of building and then seasons of testing how we built. God's judgment for us is *now*. He comes to test our works now. He comes to let us know how we are building now. If we are building upon man's natural thinking, it will be obvious when He tests it.

Is Matthew Seven about the Second Coming or a season of testing? Matt. 7:21 *Not everyone who says to Me, Lord! Lord! shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven.* It doesn't say they are not redeemed but that they shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. **This scripture shows that the government of God is tied to doing the will of the Father.** Rom 8:29 says we are destined to be conformed to the image of Jesus. One of the things we are destined to conform to is doing what we see the Father doing. **As we conform to the image of Christ, we become totally obedient to the government of God, even to the point that we will stand with God against our own selves.**

In Hebrews 5:8, it says that Jesus learned obedience through the things He suffered. In our Christian walk, there are things that God graces us with and gives us that are very pleasant to our soul, so we love to do it. But there are seasons that He tests us in things that are not pleasant to the soul. In those things we find true obedience. Getting hit on one cheek and suffering humiliation and not retaliating is such a test. This stuff gets down where we live and after passing the test, great joy comes.

Matt 7:22 *Many will say to Me in that day, Lord! Lord! Did we not prophesy in Your name, and through Your name throw out demons, and through Your name do many wonderful works?* I believe they did all those things and they were evidently pleasant to their souls, but they never did the will of God. You can minister and not do the will of God. We can embrace the things that are pleasing to us and many times God tells us to lay it down. No matter what all they did, they were not devoted to the Kingdom of God. Ananias and Sapphira evidently never gave up their perverse thinking. As long as we hold on to that thinking, the spirit of antichrist can work in us. All Peter did was question why they allowed Satan to twist their thinking.

Matt 7:23 *And then I will say to them I never knew you! Depart from*

Me, those working lawlessness! They were not under the government of God.

Matt 7:24 *Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock.* Matt 7:25 *And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house. And it did not fall, for it was founded on a rock.* Again, this is not talking about the Second Coming but about testing the works. God has seasons that He tests the works.

Matt 7:26 *And everyone who hears these sayings of Mine and does not do them shall be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand.* Matt 7:27 *And the rain came down, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house. And it fell, and great was its fall.* Notice the rain came to both houses. The issue is not what comes to our house but how we built. Anything we build will be tested. Businesses will be tested. Families will be tested. Congregations will be tested. Teams will be tested. The problem with testing when I was in school was that the teacher stayed silent. God goes silent during test time. We start whining for Him to tell us what we should have asked before the test. **If we build right, we will worship in that silence, not understanding but worshipping Him anyway.** Instead of calling Him unjust or speaking in vain, we can declare Him righteous and good while we wait for the test to end and see how He works it around for our good. During the testing silence, we dare not wring our hands and talk of our failures instead of magnifying Him and giving Him glory and honor. For in the middle of all that worship, He can break the silence and answer our questions. No one knows how long some of us have stayed in silence when God was not speaking and then ended up taking the test again. **You don't fail God's test, you just take it again.** He says, "Son, let's do this again because you didn't learn yet." John Dill was \$13,000,000 in debt, and never once could he successfully whine to God to get him out of debt. Instead, in his worship of God, he focused on the goodness and wisdom of God and prayed, "Lord, fix in me what got me in debt," and God could break the silence and respond. When we get in these tests, our words reveal how we build. **If we keep Christ and His government priority**, we can build our lives, our families, our church and our businesses in such a way that when tests come to see how we built, we can have great joy.

(This article was taken from a teaching given by Simon Purvis. He is the lead teacher at the Word of Life Teaching Center in Lufkin, TX. Training is at 10:00am each Sunday. To contact him about speaking engagements or to purchase his 160 page study manual on the Kingdom of God, call Word of Life Teaching Center at 936-639-2000; Email: wol-luf@consolidated.net)



THE IMPORTANCE OF A RESURRECTION MINDSET



Lynn Burling

The Resurrection is more than a historical record. The Resurrection for the saint of God is a *mindset*. Webster's definition of "mindset": *is a fixed mental attitude that predetermines a person's responses, an interpretation of a situation.* (How can we go higher in heavenly things without heavenly information?) Because of the information God has fed into us, one of the greatest things God can give us is a *mindset* of the Resurrection. If we allow everything to filter through that Resurrection *mindset* attitude, we'll be prepared with an interpretation of every situation. And because of that, all these circumstances and situations will pale in comparison to the Resurrection. God wants His people to have imputed knowledge.

Can we look at obstacles and see opportunities? Can we look at shortages and see supply? Can we look at sickness and see healing? That's a Resurrection *mindset*! Where once these things made us afraid, worried and doubtful, through the filter of the *mindset* of the Resurrection, we can see a reversal of these things. If some see not enough, we can see more than enough. **When Christ came out of the grave, it changed everything—it brought validation to our salvation.** It brought and applied truth to His words on healing and life eternal "because I live—you shall live! Greater things shall you do because I go to the Father," because of the Resurrection. It sees beyond the seed that's got to



die and sees the fruit that it's going to bring. We look at conflict and we see conquest. Jesus did.

Paul indicates that everything was built into the power of the Resurrection. The Resurrection erased doubts and established a new and living way to think and act. The men who first realized the power of the Resurrection gloried in tribulation. That's a completely new understanding and application for life. The Resurrection proved the truth of Christianity as a whole. Faith in the Resurrection is the one and only force that adequately enables us to roll away our stones. You see, in God's economy of teaching and instruction for the people, establishing the Resurrection *mindset* is the very thing that helps us *now*. You can't separate Jesus from the Resurrection or vice versa. 1Cor. 15:21 (Paraphrase), "Death came through a man, the Resurrection of the dead also through a man."

Since we believe in the Resurrection, we must filter everything we do, say and think through the *mindset* of the Resurrection. **It is our responsibility to think differently.** That same Spirit is an enabler. Webster's says, "*Enabler is a person or thing that makes something possible*" We think Jesus came out of the grave to give the devil a black eye. Well, in a way that's true. He did, but there's so much more He did to teach us, show us that "if that spirit that raised Christ from the dead, dwells in you, it shall also quicken your mortal bodies". It also applies to the way Jesus handled temptation. He knew His future. He knew what the Godhead had planned for Him because of man's need and it included Resurrection: "*thou will not leave my soul in hell (or allow this flesh to rot) or allow thine Holy One to see corruption.*" Ps 16:10. Acts 2:21 "*This knowledge should affect our *mindset* of Resurrection in our temptations.*" Just as Jesus could not lose, we will not lose! In fact, He guaranteed it by His Resurrection that we cannot lose, to those who put their faith in even that **one fact** about Jesus!

Remember the scripture that says, "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins." Here is the exclamation point: The Resurrection! He had to declare what was written aforetime about His advent but when it said, "Thou will not allow thine Holy One to see corruption." This is the explanation—Resurrection: Death could not hold Him, if it could it would but it couldn't. Who else but God can tell the future and then bring it to pass in the one and only person of His Son to give us glorious hope? But dear saints of God, it did happen—He did rise from the dead. Not only that, on that particular day scripture says in Mt. 28:52, "And the graves were opened and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of the graves after His Resurrection and went into the Holy City, and appeared to many." How's that for adding insult to injury to the devil?

Ever heard the phrase asked, "What's the worst thing that can happen?" Well this phrase is done away in the Resurrection *mindset*. Let's say that there are those that say, poverty is the worst thing or sickness unto death or broken relationships or rejection. I could go on and on, but when viewed through the

filter of the “Resurrection,” it looks smaller. It even feels different. I’m not minimizing life’s tribulation, but the truth is we win! When Jesus came out of the grave, He certified, guaranteed, validated, He substantiated, He confirmed “I live so you too shall live.” See this was not just for the sweet by and by—we’re all going to be resurrected one day. He confirmed the truth that “I come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” Even while we live on earth? Yes, He couldn’t say that unless He could confirm His victory over death.

Do you know how important mindsets are? Doctors will tell you that a person going into surgery who has a peace about their outcome and has the mental attitude of a successful operation has a much greater chance of survival without complications. His Resurrection was His confirmation. What a plan! We can have such confidence now in any situation because of it. We need to walk out daily our Resurrection *mindset*. It is actually faith in what He accomplished. It is actually trust in the one who made it possible for the more abundant life. Christ knew we would struggle in life and suffer in life, so He did something about it. Everything Jesus did was accomplished for you and me. Everything Jesus did, He had us in mind. The same power that raised Christ from the dead, shall quicken your “mortal bodies.” Watch this. He didn’t say make alive your immortal bodies. No! When we die physically, we enter into immortality. But He said, “Mortal bodies.” My mortal body needs to be quickened while I’m still alive and in need of healing and help, encouragement and strength to fulfill callings, etc. That’s what His Resurrection also did for us. Here and now, before we pass on to glory.

What did Paul mean when he said, “Set your mind on things above”? It takes a new level of focus to do that. It takes a renewed mind. There were times in my life when naturally speaking, I went through some pretty insurmountable things, but somehow turning to the truth of God’s Word seemed to draw the conclusion of that situation closer to completion. There are many things that capture our thoughts that seem urgent at the time and we are held in bondage to them and it SEEMS we are inept at setting our minds on anything above. (God forbid we think that highly) But God comes along and says, “I’ve got a whole new level for you to think on”. Filter your thoughts and situations thru the Resurrection and let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. I believe in Jesus! I didn’t even know I could think on that level. I believe in healing. I believe in salvation. I believe in gifts of the spirit. But when Jesus came down to where we are, He got up so we could come up and be seated with Him in heavenly places. Someone asks, “When are we going to do that?” We already are! Consider this: scripture says we are *already* R-A-I-S-E-D with Him. Eph. 2:4 says. “But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith he loved us.” (v. 5) (This one still gets to me.) “Even when we were dead in sins.” When was that? We were born that way UNTIL we came to a saving knowledge of Christ. Watch the continuation: “hath quickened us together with Christ... (6) and hath raised us up together to sit with Him in heavenly places.” So we have Resurrection life, living in us now, not in the sweet by and by. Jesus paid for us to be unmovable and unshakable in our minds about exactly what the Resurrection has accomplished for us.

We literally have Resurrection life living in us now, invisible to spectators. (Eph. 6) says, “*Raised with Him already.*”

It takes a change of mindset to project yourself as something you already are when your nature says, “But I don’t ‘see it,’ how can that be?” It can be because it’s His Word and you are His child. He paid a huge price for you to know that on this side of eternity as an encouragement in your daily walk. The most meaningful gift, the Lord Jesus gave us is life eternal. It’s hard to fathom that we’ll live forever, but He did something on earth to corroborate this promise. He came back from the dead and He’s alive forevermore. The Resurrection has changed the minds of people throughout the ages. Christ knew that His Resurrection would be a **weapon** for His children as well as a **tool**, but it had to be believed. Jesus knew that the schemes and plans of His enemies would be temporary and it will change the way we look at problems in light of the Resurrection as temporary as well. Jesus even allowed it to be so with Him in His suffering and death to help us deal with the many issues of life.

Preachers could not preach, teachers could not teach without the Resurrection becoming a reality. They S-A-W Him! They were *eye witnesses* to the reality that immediately transferred and downloaded into them. Just add the knowledge of that Resurrection to your situation, sprinkle it in and bake it in and see how that mindset will change the way you see things. Someone said it’s not *what* you know, it’s *who* you know but Jesus comes out of the tomb and says *it’s now what you know* **BECAUSE OF WHO YOU KNOW!** We now have something that we didn’t know “how to know!” Most Christians just wait till once a year at Easter to talk about and think about the Resurrection. But to the saints of God, it’s the very proof that Jesus was who He was purported to be. Their not believing it didn’t change the fact.

There’s a new app in town: it’s the Resurrection **mindset!** It will apply this power to every situation you may be faced with. Far too many years, we’ve been looking at things without fully seeing their impact on us and through us to others. Now we can focus our minds and be unmovable and unshakable in our minds. This is not a one-time decision to have this **mindset**, but each time we face anything, any problem and scenario, we apply the knowledge of **it** to **it** and **it** cannot stand in the light of that truth. If there was one thing the enemies of the cross would have desired to stop, it would be to keep that Jew dead! But authorities couldn’t, politics couldn’t and neither can they keep us down. The Enemy knows if you get the full impact of the Resurrection **mindset**, it will never be the same and his holds will be broken and weakened in the Light of that knowledge.

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As most of us know, the Jewish festival of *Rosh Hashanah* or *Head of the Year* began on October 2nd of this year. This festival is annually observed for two days and marks the beginning of the Jewish year. The celebration is a time for us to exalt *Elohim* as King of the universe that He created and to celebrate the glorious relationship that we enjoy with Him as our Father.

Rosh Hashanah is a time to remember and to give thanks for the truth that we are chosen by Him to be sons and daughters through The Son, Jesus Christ. It is a time to rehearse our covenant with the Father which was given us through the atoning work of Christ on the cross of Calvary. It is also a time to remember that, as His created beings, we remain dependent upon Him to sustain us. By the same token, it is also the time that we are to remember that He depends upon us to make His presence known to the world.

Isaiah 60:1 declares, *ARISE, SHINE, for YOUR LIGHT is come, and the GLORY of the Lord is risen upon YOU*. This prophetic word from Isaiah was a declaration of the future glory of Zion. It was a revelation of the coming salvation of nations. It was decreed during a time period in Judah when there was a mixture in the culture. There were seasons of national peace and prosperity intermingled with seasons of national threat and spiritual dryness. Isaiah had personally witnessed the Lord, seated on His throne, as the exalted glorious King of the whole earth and all its inhabitants (*Isaiah 6:1-5*). He knew that the only hope for the nations was for the light of Father's glory to illuminate and change the hearts of humanity.

Verse 2 describes the condition of Judah. It was the picture of spiritual dark-

ness. It could be likened to the darkness that covered Egypt when Moses was dealing with evil Pharaoh. That darkness engulfed the entire nation as a sign of God's supremacy as ruling King over all creation. No earthly king could exalt himself above **Elohim** (Creator, Governor, and Supreme Ruler over all) and remain unchecked. The darkness was a sign to Egypt that their hearts had been darkened through their devotion to false gods and Pharaoh worship. While the nation prospered outwardly, it remained bankrupt inwardly. Darkness covered their nation outwardly, but gross darkness covered their hearts. Father was judging the evil of their hearts.

In **Verse 2**, Isaiah prophesies that light would shine once again on Judah. This is the picture of Israel in the land of Goshen. While darkness covered Egypt, light glowed brightly over Goshen where the Jews abided. The light of God reigned over His precious people, and He would not allow the darkness of Egypt to touch them. So while Egypt was covered in darkness, the Jewish nation was shrouded in light. Isaiah was prophesying that the glory of the Lord would shine again in its brilliance and majesty in the midst of deep darkness.

The Hebrew word for **light** is **Or**, and is translated **to become and to give light**. This light, of course, originates and is generated by the glory of the Father. He is the Father of lights (**James 1:17**), Jesus is Light to all darkness (**Matthew 4:16**), and we are the light of the world through Christ (**Philippians 2:15**). Light is the outward reflection of the glory that only manifests as the presence of God. He IS glory!

So, Israel is a glory nation, and we as born again followers of Christ are too a glory nation. We are **to become and give light** into the darkness that has engulfed nations and the gross darkness that has consumed the people. This is a tremendous responsibility for us, the Church, in this hour. We must not ignore or be passive in our assignment to arise and shine, especially in America. Our Father is calling us to wake up and exhibit HIM in our nation.

The promise of **Isaiah 60:3** is that nations will be drawn to Father's light and kings of the earth will respond when we arise and release the light of Father's glory into our nation. The prophet implies that when Israel becomes illuminated with the glory of God, nations will be drawn to His glory. The same is true for the sons and daughters of God through Christ. Nations and world leaders will desire the presence of God that is clearly seen in us. It is a message of hope as well as a directive to all sons and daughters of God. We have been tasked to release the glory, the presence of God, into our nation. It is an assignment to impact lost humanity, especially civil rulers, by releasing the glory of the Father that we carry within. That which is within us must be released through us!

I have discovered that this year America has existed for 240 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was a document that reflected the heart of a people who were determined to no longer serve an evil king and his religious system of control. It was a document that clearly severed ties to darkness and declared light into a nation and a people of God. This remains a founda-

tion stone of America, and one that has been challenged throughout the history of our nation.

The number 240 represents six 40 year cycles of testing. Six represents the number of man who labors in the garden of the earth and produces the fruit of the earth by the grace of God. It also represents man's imperfection and his tendency to add to or take away from God's perfect plan to produce by his own hands without God. It therefore is the picture of spiritual darkness and depravity when man attempts to build by his own power. It does not take a rocket scientist to understand that our One Nation Under God has been compromised by the imperfections and destructive acts of people who have taken God out of our national foundation. Even now, those public figures who are revered as role models to the generations mock God, desecrate our flag and national anthem, and refuse to honor our history.

The number 40 is associated in scripture with periods of testing, trial, and probation. It does NOT represent judgment. Forty is the product of 5 (grace) and 8 (new beginning). The number forty, then, is associated with the completion of a cycle of trial and testing with the end result being revival and renewal. It is from this new beginning of revival and renewal that the glory of the Father is released in great magnitude such that His dominion and rule is extended beyond its current constraints.

We are entering a seventh forty-year cycle in America. Seven represents spiritual perfection and is associated with Sabbath rest. It is also associated with ***oath***, which is closely bound to the concept of covenant. To rest in the Lord is to surrender to Him completely and to follow Him wholeheartedly as carriers of His life, His glory.

It is time for the glory of God to return to our nation. It is time for the glory of fatherhood to be restored in the White House. It is time for US, the carriers of His light and life, to enter our seventh forty-year cycle with the resolve to release the light of Father's glory within us into the realm of our influence. It is time for us to ***ARISE and SHINE*** and cease to believe that our voices do not matter to our nation! It is our unified voice, illuminated by the glory of the Father within, that will bring salvation to this nation! It is the greatest hour for us to enter into the ***oath*** of the Lord and step into our place to enlarge the borders of the kingdom by exercising our dominion authority. As we do, we will see nations and kings coming to the brightness of His light! We will see America wake up and return to the roots of her inception. We will see the glorious light of God swallow up darkness as WE, ***the city that is set on a hill (Matthew 5:14)*** illuminates America once again.

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The U.S. Presidency: Now What?



Dr. Hope Taylor

At the conclusion of a recent teaching session, a gentleman raised his hand and asked, “What should Christians do given the two likely candidates for president?” Our sincere, deeply concerned brother in the Lord had broken the silence and expressed the thoughts of millions of believers. The U.S. presidency: Now what?

To answer this question, we must look to the Word of God and not be headline activists. Those who lead at high levels do so by determining the way forward, defining terms of the conversation, and deciding who will be invited to the deliberation table. The civil ruler, Nimrod, was a pioneer who stepped onto history’s stage and portrayed the role of what is being acted out in our day. Genesis 11:1-9 describes how Nimrod’s administration worked to centralize power by centralizing people geographically and focusing their attention on the civil ruler’s outstretched arms of one size fits all provision. God had instructed the people to disburse and build, but the leaders were determined to centralize and built a city for themselves. This original planned community was advertised to offer its residents the ultimate in modern conveniences. One language, international recognition, unprecedented economic leverage and job security on the government tower building project were offered to all.

The plan had two major problems that we can relate to in the United States. First, it was dishonoring to God because it disobeyed His instructions to fill the earth, not just build a city. Second, it would result in the oppression of people at the expense of individual liberty. God saw the power of centralization and its potential to imprison people, and therefore, implemented a three-point plan called the Trinity to scatter the people and derail Nimrod’s evil scheme. Scripture is clear that there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9), and what the Kingdom Ekklesia must contend with in 2012 is the antichrist people-oppressing Pharaoh system, which desires to seize its opportunity and embed its talons deeper into the flesh of the American culture.

Let's revisit the question asked, "What should Christians do given the two likely candidates for president?" In 2012, the Church must not disengage! The Church must not sit this one out and be election spectators! The Church must not fall prey to the anti-scripture strategy of passivity! Passivity is never a strategy used by those whose citizenship is in the Kingdom of God.

Consider these words of wisdom from leaders of the past. Charles Finney (1792-1875), educator, author, evangelist, and president of Oberlin College, said: "The Church must take right ground in regards to politics... The time has come for Christians to vote for honest men . . . God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the Church will take right ground" ("Quotes"). Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), Baptist minister, Civil Rights leader, and Nobel Peace Prize winner, stated: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter" ("Quotes").

The Church must decide at what level of the game we want to play. Are we satisfied to play neighborhood ball, or will we play at the professional level with those who give their lives to the game that we watch on national television? We must elevate our game to fulfill the mandate Jesus gave His life for, which is to disciple nations and transform culture. To fulfill our assignment as followers of Jesus by being culture shapers and nation disciplers, it is required that we understand an important principle. A friend and well-respected leader explains this in the following story. It was in the late 1980s when a diverse group of evangelical leaders representing many streams of the Church met. The topic was how to address some of the cultural problems of the day, including abortion. Due to a lack of understanding of a key principle, millions of babies have been aborted since these gatherings. Had they agreed to unify as one voice on at least 98 percent of the detrimental issue of abortion and not be denominationally divided over the very small two percent of varying beliefs, it is possible our economy would be thriving today from an economic surge. What was the principle? The principle of incrementalism is the policy and practice of making political or social changes in degrees — a process of gradual reform as opposed to sudden change.

While we all believe in and love the times when God suddenly shows up and displays His miraculous power, He often works through His representatives incrementally. As we look at the candidates for office in local communities, states and national levels, let's not make the tactical error of expecting 100 percent, or else we won't play at all. Transformation at every level is incremental. At the presidential level, let's work and pray for an incremental step forward.

Finally, the Church is reaping what has been sown. Why do we have the two presidential candidates that our friend was distressed over? Much can and will be said in later articles on this, but for now, we will say the choices are a reflection of the Church's role in shaping culture and discipling nations. Let the Ekklesia awaken, engage, educate and stay the course until at every level we have presented every community in America with two outstanding choices of statesman candidates who love God and are called to serve our great nation.

Prayer and Action Points:

- 1) Decree that God will scatter His enemies with His mighty arm. (Psalm 68:2 & 89:10)
- 2) Pray the crafty (cunning, subtle, smooth, sly) plans of centralization will be ineffective. (Genesis 3:1)
- 3) Decide what level you want to play, get clarity in your thinking, and start a conversation with others using social media outlets. (Nehemiah 6:11)

Works Cited: "Quotes." *Restore America*. Web. 30 April 2012.

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A question I have heard asked repeatedly over the last few months is: **"What is going on?"** There is a sudden dawning upon people and nations that things are not the way they used to be while there is an underlying desire within the breast of the typical person for things to go back to the way they were in spite of the ever-present fear that they won't. Even if you could get back to "the good old days" you would find them woefully inadequate in their revelation and application for today. Current events are not just the result of bad politics or bad politicians. They were not left in

charge. An apostolic order for accommodating and advancing the Kingdom of God in the earth was the design when Jesus ascended to the right hand of Majesty on High (Acts 1:3). Things, therefore, must shake and adjust so that the nations might come into correct order.

Still Through the Church

What we need more than better politicians is an awakening (at least) move of God... in the Church, then the nation. God will never share, with mere political parties, the power He has designed to be exercised through the Church. "Politicians are not to be looked to for complete social reform... The Church has been losing influence in America because it has been relying on politics to stop the moral and spiritual decay in society. Politics will not catalyze the change; it is simply a reflection of the environment. If the environment is rooted in Christian values, the politics of America will be rooted in Christian values... The spiritual revival and renewal of Christian faith needed in America will never originate from Washington. Once the spiritual climate changes, Washington will be changed. If the American Church thinks her salvation [...] comes from Washington and a God-fearing president, then her hope is rooted in a counterfeit... God's Church is not dependent on elections; it is dependent upon His Word, which declares, '... I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'" (Matt 16:18)¹ If we are not careful, we can just get to looking around and saying, "'Such and such' is what's going on" and forget that God is at work.

Tipping Point

The people of God already have a King and Redeemer and no politician can replace Him. Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God is our redeemer and Messiah. To quote Dale Gentry, "We have had conservative presidents but not one has called the nation to a fast. Conservatism will not replace godliness." And while mentioning conservatism, consider a poignant measure on the future of the matter: "The weakened Republican Party will not be successful in opposing important policy shifts. It will be engaged in an internal ideological struggle. Its main question will be the extent to which it can continue to accommodate the ideas of its religious faction and yet expand its base to appeal to a broad coalition who sees the religious right as the albatross around the neck of the party."² We are standing at a tipping point in this nation that we have not quite approached to date and, for the most part, are not even aware of. The Church was never meant to place itself or its hope in the hands of political parties, candidates or governing or judicial entities created by men. The Church will only function the way it was created and ordained to function, standing on the foundation of the rule of God, that is, Kingdom principles. When the king of Sodom opened his arms wide to include Abraham in the economy of his own kingdom, Abraham quickly responded: *Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram*

rich.' (Gen.14:22-23) You become a lackey for the one who fills your pocket and they never let you forget they are the one that did it.

What, Where, Why, How, When

What we need more than better politicians is an awakening move of God. *Where* we need that move of God is in the Church. *Why* we need that move of God (perhaps it might better be labeled *a reforming move of God*) is because, having lost sight of our purpose in the earth, the Church is bemoaning and reacting rather than decreeing and acting. *How* the move will come is determined by the resistance from those He is attempting to move upon, i.e., the types of circumstances in which they will be willing to hear from God. There are numerous creative circumstances in the Bible that were allowed to develop to awaken purpose in those who eventually became Sunday School story heroes. But then, their goal was not to get to heaven. It was to stop the giants and the systems that dared defy the Lord of Hosts. *When* God moves, we must be ready to yield to a paradigm that allows His government to reform us before we inadequately try transforming a nation. (1Pe.4:17 "judgment begins in the house of God") After not preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom (the rule of God, not just a get-out-of-hell-free message; Matt.4:23; 9:35; 24:14) and Kingdom culture for 200 years, we are crying out in our nation for a political figure to legislate morality to produce a culture that doesn't destroy itself and shed innocent blood. (Matt.5-6 is Kingdom culture)

Short Term or Long Term

As long as there are a people who feel they have their "ticket stamped" to go to a "much better place," there will be no reform of what they deem to be merely an exit platform. If the departure platform is somewhat rickety, people will just try to stand still and hope the train out of there arrives soon. With such a view, no one reforms or rebuilds the platform; they simply grip what is available to grip and hope to be off of it as soon as possible. The emphasis today upon the sudden coming of the Lord isn't about Him, it is about us. The religious pundits pounding their pulpits exclaiming the quick return of our Lord are getting hearty (and well financed) "Amen!" in response to their promises of sudden escape from recent disappointments and prognostication. We have been taught by pop-theology to use faith for immediate relief, not long-term endurance, not long-term results (Heb.11:13 does not figure into Esau's demands for immediate relief). The Esau mindset of blowing off the coming generations and spending what you've got on relief for the present generation flies well in today's skies. Joseph did not get immediate results (or relief) after his prophetic dream and prophetic pronouncement. He (and Daniel and Esther) was sent ahead to "preserve a posterity," "continue a remnant" and "save lives." (Gen.45:7 Amplified) He stood and stood and took ground "until the Word of the Lord proved him" and he was not proven to guarantee him plenty of airtime and notoriety but for the survival of a nation (Ps.105:18). He was not dealt the luxurious right of faith for immediate relief or escape. But the result was the salvation of a nation and its being propelled into the future of its destiny for Jehovah's Name's sake.

Endure Sound Doctrine

Too many Christians decide to start praying only a few weeks before national

elections and way too many decide not to vote or to vote for candidates that openly speak promises contrary to biblical principles. One pastor friend of ours was told by his city's pastor group that there are issues in this election that are more important than abortion and the Supreme Court. More important? What is going on? Dear Christian pastor group, this election is deciding (1) what percentage of the future generation will have the opportunity to exit the womb alive (abortion has killed over 50 million babies—not fetuses—to date in this “Christian nation” of ours) and (2) appointments of those who will decide the legalities of future generations *for possibly the next 30-40 years*. As Dutch Sheets pointed out at the FMCI Conference recently, a sure fire way nations brought the judgment of God upon themselves was the shedding of innocent blood. He went so far as to say that abortion, the shedding of innocent blood, is blood sacrifice that empowers demons. (Here is a short list of scriptures speaking to the severity of the shedding of innocent blood Deut. 19:10, 13; 21:8-9; Ps. 106:38; Prov. 6:16-17; Jer. 7:6; 19:3-4) When the people of a nation are voting their personal values and consciences rather than the foundations and principles of God and His Word, it begins to look like 2Tim 4:3 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.* (NASB) If a person feels that they just simply cannot vote for a particular candidate, my suggestion would be to vote for the platform that comes closest to biblical worldview. To not vote IS to vote. Voting is just basic stewardship.

What's Going On, On God's Side?

When Joshua saw the man with the sword in his hand he asked, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” (Josh 5:13) The man said, “No.” Joshua met someone who was not evil that was not on his side. He had to stop and think. We are so concerned about *our* causes, *our* comfort and *our* interests that we seldom stop to find out what God's causes and interests are in a region or in a season. Many are asking, “What is going on?” I think God is asking, “Who is on *my* side?” “Who truly has *my* interests at heart?” What is going on? What is going on is that what can be shaken is being shaken until all that is left standing is an unshakeable Kingdom (Heb.12:27). Occupy till . . . sounds like: don't stop doing anything I have ordained you to do with any less faith, dedication, or enthusiasm. Heb 3:14 *If we can only keep our grip on the sure thing we started out with, we're in this with Christ for the long haul.* (The Message)

¹ Dennis Lindsey, “God and Politics” * www.cfni.org ² Sam Soleyn, “Shaking the Heavens and the Earth” www.soleyn.com * www.citychurchla.com ³ Lance Walnau, CD 7-16-06 * www.lancelearning.com ⁴ L. Walnau ⁵ Dutch Sheets, Dutch Sheets, “Response to the Election” * usapostolicalliance.org ⁶ Apostle Jim Hodges, FMCI Newsletter * www.fmci.org ⁷ D. Sheets ⁸ S. Soleyn ⁹ L. Walnau

NOTABLE QUOTE: “WE OFTEN TREAT JESUS THE WAY SAUL TREATED DAVID. WE WANT HIM TO SLAY GIANTS AND SING EVIL SPIRITS AWAY BUT WE DON'T WANT HIM TO BE KING!” —

Joel Urshan

Thank you for praying. After each issue is mailed, more dates get added to the calendar. Bless you for praying for us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Call before traveling.
Check Marty's FaceBook page for updates or our blog page: martygabler.com
PLEASE PRAY FOR US

We have been putting dates on the Calendar after the magazine goes out. Please check Marty's FaceBook page and martygabler.com for dates. We also serve on presbyteries, councils and prayer groups during the week that we don't post. Thank you for your prayers as we travel. — Marty & Kathy

Oct. 9 * Willis, TX
Grace International Church
Pastors: Joe & Virgie Bogue
Marty speaking * 10am
www.graceic.org * 936-856-2455

Oct. 16 * Houston, TX
Global Advance Church
Pastors: Luis y Korey Gomez
10:30 * 281-580-8574
luisgomezp@yahoo.com
Bilingual Service * Spanish/English
www.globaladvancechurch.org

Oct. 31 * Denton, TX
FMCI FALL CONFERENCE
Reform/Reclaim
Navigating The Current Spiritual And
Political Shift In America
Jim Hodges and Dutch Sheets
Registration Info: www.fmci.org

Nov. 1 * Denton, TX
FMCI FALL CONFERENCE

Nov. 2 * Denton, TX
FMCI FALL CONFERENCE

Nov. 13 * Carthage, TX
Abundant Life Church
Pastors Grady & Betty Wills
10:30a.m.
903-694-3190

Website: seecministries.org
Daily Devotions: martygabler.com
Email: mail@seecministries.org
SEEC Ministries International
PO Box 298 Coldspring, TX 77331-0298
Office: 936-653-4108

Kingdom Congress 2017
March 1-3, 2017
Grace International
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Thanks to Tom Minnick!

May the Lord grant you peace and the salvation of your home. May the Lord's Word prosper in you and may you bring forth fruit to His glory.

