

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.**
(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)*

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Today's News: They Don't Get It!

February 2, 2009

“Therefore, do not be frightened [by] them, for nothing has been concealed which will not be revealed, and secret which will not be known.” (Matthew 10:26 ALT)

So then, stop judging anything before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden [things] of the darkness and will reveal the counsels [or, intentions] of the hearts [fig., inner selves], and then the praise will come to each from God. (1 Corinthians 4:5 ALT)

At the outset, I must state that it appears that much of what is being reported in our day is the Lord's doing as He brings to light things hidden in darkness. As our present wicked eon comes to a close, we can expect to see more darkness come into light or, we could say, be exposed by His light. As I have stated many times, I believe that the corrupt political system of the US is coming under judgment, along with the entire Babylonian world. Consequently, we should not be surprised as we see the true nature of more and more things (events) exposed. The events of our day will not be a surprise to those with spiritual eyes and ears.

Now, as I report on some people in the news, I want to stress that I am not trying to judge their hearts, even as I make comments about their actions. Admittedly, it is a fine line to walk. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and none of us are immune from mistakes, even unrighteous behavior. We need to be reminded of Paul's testimony: **But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me** (1 Corinthians 15:10 NASB).

However, we must also recognize that we are living under Babylonian captivity and have been trained in many respects to think like a Babylonian, especially the leaders of our nations. Further, Babylon is led by the powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12), which not only drive the governments of the world but also lead the ecclesia of God into the systematizing of the deception (see issue #02-08118, *Systematizing the Deception*, October 1, 2008). Babylon has taught most of us to think a certain way, and much of what is reported in the news reflects this; however, very few see it this way because most have been blinded to it. For example, most people think there is nothing wrong with the current economic engine (system) that runs the world. Without doubt, it could be said that many see it as sputtering today, but given time, it will come to life again and all will be well. However, the more that I study the system that rules over us, the more I see how diabolical it truly is and how powerful it has become in placing us all under its seductive influence and control. If you do not believe me, then read Revelation 18 and you will see our present day and the downfall of the great city, mystery Babylon.

So, in reading the following, please keep these points in mind.

President Obama has declared and reiterated many times that he wants transparency in government and from all who deal with his administration. Transparency sounds good, and I don't question his motive. He might truly desire transparency for the good. However, I wonder: What does he mean by transparency? Will transparency lead to less political corruption? Will it improve the way that government operates? Will it raise the bar on the ethical standard by which government operates, or is it simply a smoke screen to make the American people “feel” that things are better? Or worse, will it simply bring political corruption into the light to legitimize it?

Let us consider a few examples of transparency and their outcome.

First, it was reported that Timothy Geithner, the new Secretary of Treasury and the expert that all are hoping will help solve the financial crisis, had failed to pay \$64,000 in taxes because, according to him,

he had relied on a well-known tax-preparation software. We could say that this is transparency. Of course, this did not stop him from being approved by the Senate. After all, he paid his back taxes **after** he was nominated for the high office, and he is too smart to fail. So, we have transparency in government to reveal that the man who will head the IRS and the Treasury did not follow the law that he is sworn to uphold and enforce.

Now, it has been reported that Tom Daschle, the nominee for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, owed \$129,000 in back taxes and paid it, along with about \$12,000 in interest penalties. Of course, he too paid it **after** he was nominated for this high office. Again, we could say that this is transparency. However, what will be the outcome of this transparency? Will he be approved because he too is too smart to fail? Or, perhaps he is not as smart as the other guy, so he might be expendable. If so, then what ethical standard supports transparency? Soon we might know; but then again, perhaps not.

Of course, these cases are nothing new to the Washington political scene, which brings up something that was reported last year. It has been reported that Congressman Charlie Rangel, D-New York, the chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee that writes the US tax code, failed to report and pay taxes on \$75,000 of rental income. This revelation came after Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, had proclaimed that she would “create the most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress in history.” To date, she has failed to take any action, and Mr. Rangel continues to smile (smirk?) for the cameras. Is this how smart people define transparency? It seems to me that their transparency is more about admitting corruption and less about doing anything about it. After all, as long as you admit to your mistake (i.e., corruption), you are being honest and open about your mistake (i.e., corruption), and this qualifies you to have a seat in the council of Babylonian leaders; many of whom will face the cameras with a smile of innocence as they justify themselves. Don’t forget Congressman Barney Frank, D-Massachusetts, who derides others while acting as if he were totally innocent of having any part in GSE failures (i.e., Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac).

Well, this leads to the most recent report. On January 30, 2009, it was reported that Senator Claire McCaskill, D-Missouri, stated: “We have a bunch of idiots on Wall Street that are kicking sand in the face of the American taxpayer. **They don’t get it; these people are idiots.** You can’t use taxpayer money to pay out \$18 billion in bonuses.” The senator made this comment to express her outrage over the bank executives that took government bailout money and then gave out large bonuses to its management team. McCaskill’s solution is to pass legislation to cap salaries at \$400,000, the salary of the US president, for all the executives of the banks that received money. As a side comment; calling smart people idiots is an insult to their cleverness, and it is not a very loving thing to say. By definition, an *idiot* is one who is “mentally deficient, the lowest classification of mental deficiency.” The leaders of Babylon are not idiots; they are smart. So, to resort to such derogatory name calling is not very smart. I can only imagine that some banks, as well as some auto and insurance companies, may regret ever touching the bailout money, especially the solvent banks that were told that they had to take it.

To add to this, it also has been reported that John Thain, the chief executive for Merrill Lynch, before he was ousted, had his office redecorated to the tune of \$1.22 million. In explaining his action, he said that his office was very different from the general décor of other offices, and it would have been difficult for him to use it in its existing form. So, a \$1400 waste basket is part of the solution. Smart!

I am in no more agreement with these business leaders than I am with government leaders. To me, the behavior of business leaders is not idiotic; it is arrogant based on a highly inflated view of one’s worth, combined with the love of power and money. Just like politics, this is nothing new, for it has been around as long as big business has been around. The difference is that today many of these people are under magnifying glasses and their arrogance and opulent lifestyles are coming to light. Years ago, no one would have blinked an eye at Citigroup spending \$50 million for a new corporate jet. After all, this is capitalism at its finest. Today, it is treated as a public sin.

Now, let me get to the meat of the matter as discovered in the senator’s words: **They don’t get it!** The senator is so right; but the problem is that she fails to see that she, along with all her cohorts in Congress, don’t get it either. What they don’t get is that the whole system is corrupt and getting ready to fall as the Lord brings to light the hidden things of darkness. Now, this is transparency!