

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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Seated in the Chair of Moses #3

August 24, 2009

(1) Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, (2) saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; (3) therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. (4) They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. (5) But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. (6) They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, (7) and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men. (8) But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. (9) Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. (10) Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. (11) But the greatest among you shall be your servant. (12) Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted. (Matthew 23:1-12 NASB)

At the outset, let me be clear that what follows is not meant to impugn the character of any one political leader or political party in the US today. In some measure, I believe that many of our political leaders are simply blind to the extent of the damage they have brought upon the American people.

The Lord Jesus referred to the hypocrites as blind guides of the blind (Matthew 15:14; 23:16, 24). The leaders were blind to their true condition before God, and the people blindly followed them. I can imagine the leaders declaring “Touch not my anointed” as they were demanding the death of the One who came to set them free. In the end, most of the Judahites of that day fell into a pit, which is a figurative way of stating that they were excluded from the kingdom.

Unfortunately, in some measure, we have seen the same thing happen within the church-at-large as the self-proclaimed anointed men of God have usurped the Headship of Christ, resulting in blind guides leading the blind.

Now, turning to the national political scene, I have a few points to underline.

First, I believe it is safe to state that the political leaders have been blind guides leading the blind. During September 2008, we saw the blind falling into a pit as the financial meltdown hit, not only in the US but throughout the entire world. Recently, I reviewed my journal for 2008 and was amazed at how much warning the Lord gave me in the year leading up to that notorious month. As I have reviewed my journal for this year, I believe that we are in for a very interesting **September 2009**, as well. We need spiritual sight to discern the times and, in particular, the days to come. **We need to be prepared, both spiritually and physically.**

Second, if anything, all the political leaders should be implicated in this blindness. After all, if some have not been directly part of the unrighteousness, immorality, corruption, and hypocrisy that has become the hallmark of our political system, all of them, collectively, are complicit in it, for they have allowed it, as they have turned a blind eye to it.

Third, just as the Judahite nation in Jesus’ day was made up of good figs and bad figs, so is the US political system made up of good politicians and bad politicians. Unfortunately, just as it was 2,000 years ago, it seems that there might be more bad politicians than there are good ones. We need to be reminded that only a remnant proclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King and joined Him as part of the Judah nation (the true ecclesia) that will bear the fruit of the kingdom. The majority in that day was

made up of rotten figs that were cast out of the kingdom, both then and in the future; they lost their inheritance in the kingdom.

Fourth, the political leaders can be compared to ones that have seated themselves in the chair of Moses. Moses represented the law as given by God, and the Pharisees were the interpreters of the law. However, they went beyond God's divine law with the Talmud, which, according to Jesus, is the tradition of men, not the law or word of God. They invalidated the word (law) of God for the sake of their tradition, and because of this, they were hypocrites that honored God with their lips, not their hearts (Matthew 15:6-9).

The US Constitution (USC) is comparable to the law given to Moses. I have little doubt that the USC was a God-inspired, if not a God-given, document. Many have stated that the writing of this unique document was a miracle. When political leaders are sworn into office, they are sworn to uphold the Constitution. By comparison, we could say that they seat themselves in the chair of Moses. In other words, they seat themselves in the chair that upholds the law of the nation that is established in the Constitution.

Fifth, just like the Pharisees, the political leaders have written their own Talmud that goes well beyond the intent and framework of the USC. In other words, many of the laws and regulations that they have passed are for the sake of their tradition. As I see it, their tradition pertains to the laws and regulations that they pass for the benefit of a few. Their tradition is the special interests that keep them in power and prop up their elitist profession. Unfortunately, their tradition is unconstitutional.

Sixth, the Declaration of Independence, which was ratified in 1776 to declare independence from the British crown, is an equally amazing document. Those who vehemently argue that our Founding Fathers did not invoke God in the foundation of the US are simply blind to the truth.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate, and equal station to which **the laws of nature and of nature's God** entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.**

Truly amazing and brilliant thoughts came forth from our Founding Fathers. This is the hallmark of what many have called "the American experiment," which, by the way, has progressed for over 400 years (1607) and is founded on a document that has lasted 222 years (1787). The number 22 signifies light; may the true light dawn on us this year.

Seventh, I believe that the above sentences from the Declaration of Independence speak to the very heart of the kingdom of God that is about to overtake the nations of the world. God's King, the Son of God, along with the sons of the kingdom, will ensure the unalienable rights endowed upon all mankind by God the Father, the God of All Creation.

Finally, my original intent was to point out specific examples of the hypocrisy of our political leaders, but I believe it is best to leave it to you, the reader, to discern. Read Matthew 23 in light of what you see going on in the political arena of our day and it will become obvious how corrupt the political system has become. There are plenty of examples of unrighteousness and hypocrisy from politicians who exempt themselves from the very laws they expect Americans to follow, who chide corporate executives for flying on private jets while they appropriate private jets for their own use, who want to be greeted by title rather than by a simple salutation of respect, and who frequently change positions from one end of the spectrum to the other, as long it keeps them or their party in power, to name a few.

Lord, have mercy! May their eyes be opened to Your righteousness and Your King of Righteousness! Whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.