

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)

#02-0830

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WITNESS UNTO THE TRUTH

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. (John 18.36 ASV) **Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"** (John 18.38 NASB)

As many undoubtedly know, whether you are living in the United States or not, we are in the midst of our national obsession with nominating candidates to run for President. At least it is safe to say that the news media, political pundits, and journalists are obsessed with the whole process. Some of their obsessive reporting has been downright comical and, at times, has seemed more appropriate coming from children, not adults. As to whether the average American is so obsessed, I have my doubts.

Many things are said during these times, but the one thing that seems to be lacking is truth, as if no one could get elected if they simply told the truth about their positions, their beliefs, their faith, and the actual state of the union and the world. So, words are spun in all sorts of directions to make them sound as if they have meaning and value to the ones whose votes the candidates are wooing, but in actual fact much of what is said lacks substance and often is distorted or twisted truth, at best. This is not to impugn the character of anyone running for office; it simply is the nature of politics, which is about winning to achieve power over the lives of people.

Last year, I reported on one candidate who confidently stated that we can create the kingdom right here on earth (#01-0727 December 4, 2007). Interestingly, this same candidate recently has been stating that "we can unite the world" and "we can change the world." Of course, his "we" refers to himself and those who support him if he becomes President. Uniting and changing the world has a nice ring to it; after all, it is a noble goal if the uniting and the changing are for the good. Not knowing his heart, I cannot judge whether what he would do if elected would turn out for the betterment of the US and the world. I just find it rather strange that he is using words and phrases that would be more appropriate if he were speaking about the coming of the Lord Jesus, the only one who can and will establish a worldwide kingdom, uniting all peoples and bringing not only unity but truth, justice, and righteousness to the governments of this world.

All I know is that I am not so easily persuaded to follow after any man (or woman) in these dark days in which truth and righteousness are in scant supply. No man except the Man in glory, our Lord Jesus Christ, can bring true unity, peace, and light to this world of division, war, and darkness.

We need to be reminded that throughout the history of mankind, there have been many men who sought to unite and change the world as well, but their vision was not always a good one; it was evil. Today, there are many warning that a new world leader is waiting in the wings to unite the world with his evil scheme to rule the world as our present eon comes to a close. However, there are others that say this is not how our present wicked eon will end. At this point, I offer no comment one way or the other on this matter, except to state that we are very near the end of this eon that leads to the kingdom of Christ overtaking the kingdoms of this world. The words that keep reverberating in my mind are "the end has come," not the end of the world but the end of this eon (age), or, more specifically, the end of Man's day.

Many are trying to prove how knowledgeable of Scripture and end-time prophecy they are by declaring how things will unfold as this eon ends and the kingdom of Christ comes, but I feel a caution

within me that it might not look the way many are so emphatically saying it will. Undoubtedly, there will be shaking of all that can be shaken so that we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12.27-28), but what this will look like as we pass through it might surprise us. All I know is that the end is coming, and when it does come, it will lead to glory for the conquerors in Christ. They conquer not with the sword, but with love; not with man's laws, but with the law of God written on their hearts; not with political persuasion based on distorted truths, but with the truth of God.

In this overheated election season, the Lord's people, especially those living in the US, need to be cautious and be reminded of a conversation between Pilate and Jesus as He faced the cross.

Pilate therefore entered again into the Praetorium, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered, Sayest thou this of thyself, or did others tell it thee concerning me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. (John 18.33-37 ASV)

Pilate knew there was something unique about the one standing before his judgment seat. Was Jesus a king or not? Jesus did not deny that He is King; His kingdom is not of this world or realm. In other words, He was not going to take the scepter of the kingdom of this world in that day 2,000 years ago. Pilate and his Emperor did not have to fear that He was going to usurp their authority in that day. His kingdom was not going to come in that day through violence. He had to die for the sin of the world and return to His Father's realm for a long season.

Many in our day represent themselves as speaking truth. It is not uncommon to hear a politician state, "Let's be honest"; implying that honesty speaks truthfully. However, in our day, truth is what man says it is. Man himself is the measure of truth. When political leaders seek to destroy their opponents or to solidify their political power, they often declare with much bravado that they must seek the truth of the matter. So, they hold inquiries, which seem more like grandstanding inquisitions, as they seek for the truth, knowing full well that truth is not the issue, and that they will define truth as they desire to benefit their cause. Man can pontificate on the matter of truth, but Jesus came to this earth to bear witness unto *the* truth and to dispense it to all who would hear.

Truth is in God, for Jesus declared that He is the Truth. If mankind wants to know the truth of God, then they must know the One who is the truth of God. The Jews denied that Jesus is the Messiah and thus is the King. Pilate questioned Jesus on this level, for he cared not about the spiritual or religious side of what was transpiring. If Jesus were a king, then He could pose a threat to the Emperor of Rome. But Jesus offered no such threat and declared that His kingdom was not of this world and that His followers had no orders to violently deliver Him from the hand of the Jews. Pilate saw no threat and would have released Him. He obviously did not understand the full implication of what was transpiring. Politicians in our day are not nearly as honest as Pilate was when Jesus said that He is a king and that He came to bear witness unto the truth. To this, Pilate asked Jesus: "**What is truth?**" He was not honest enough to inquire of *the* truth; rather, he questioned the whole matter of truth. He did not wait for Jesus to respond, which is typical of fallen man who does not want to hear what God has to say. Don't be persuaded in this day by those who come bearing what they call truth. There is only One who testifies unto the truth, and He is Jesus who is the Truth; and He is coming to this earth to establish His kingdom of peace, righteousness, justice, and love.

Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Have you heard His voice? It is time to listen for the voice of Truth. The Truth is coming! You can be assured that this is the truth.