

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)

#04-1025

Agnostic & Reconciliation

March 9, 2010

Please read issue #04-1024, March 8, 2010, *Hearts Like Channels of Water*.

As I have listened to and watched President Obama over the last year, I have come to the conclusion that God is speaking through him without the president knowing it. I suspect most people are oblivious to this conclusion as well. If they were aware of it, I believe repentance would come to America. Let me be clear that I am not calling the president a prophet or anything of the sort. I am simply stating that he is a servant of God in much the same way as the ancient kings Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus were. The Lord is using his words and actions to highlight His will and to put His finger on His judgment of America, especially of its political system. Obama's heart is like a channel of water in the hands of the Lord. Time will tell if he is more like a Nebuchadnezzar, a Cyrus, or some other historical king.

The president campaigned on a promise of open, honest, and transparent government. He promised a new era of bipartisanship and civility, and not politics as usual. One thing is for sure; it has not been politics as usual, it has been politics in the extreme.

Well, it seems to me that through the words of this president, the Lord is putting His finger on the heart of our nation that has become **politico-centric** and is no longer **God-centric**. Oh, the politicians will use the phrase "God bless America" when it is expedient, but how many truly are turning to the Lord for guidance and godly wisdom from above? Have you heard the president or any other political leader declare we must turn to God in these difficult times?

The Lord has given us open and transparent government to reveal how dishonest it has become. The more open and transparent the things of government have become, the more we have seen how corrupt, deceitful, and hypocritical it has become under the governance of a professional, elite political class and an administration that tries to obscure its true agenda.

The door has been cracked open, and the Lord is allowing us to see inside the heart of America; and it is not a very pretty picture. They speak falsehood and have bound the American people in cords of falsehood. I will have more to say on this in the next issue.

Now, there are two words that have been used of late that have caught my attention: **agnostic** and **reconciliation**.

President Obama described his view on raising taxes in a rather unusual but telling way. He said that he is **agnostic** about the prospects of raising taxes on households making less than \$250,000 in order to rein in budget deficits. I believe that God put this word in his mouth for a reason.

The word **agnostic** is defined as "a person who thinks it is impossible to know whether there is a God or a future life, or anything beyond material phenomena." Obviously, given the context, President Obama used the word in a narrower sense to mean that he had no view on the matter of taxes. However, I wonder if this is another example of God speaking through this leader. Stripping away all the context of what he said, perhaps the real message is an indictment of the American political system. He said, "I am an agnostic," as if speaking for the entire political system. After all, he is the titular head and representative of the American political realm, as well as the heart of this realm.

Putting the man aside, perhaps, God is using him to speak to the very heart of a corrupt political system that long ago turned from God and now acts and reacts as if it were made up of agnostics, leaders who have turned from trusting in God and thus act as if they doubt there is a God, even though their lips might occasionally say "God bless America." Further, they believe the future is in the policies and laws they enact and not in the very life of God's Son, our Lord Jesus.

Could it be God's indictment that the heart of the nation has turned from God and is agnostic, much like ancient Israel had turned from the Lord? Could it be that the nation has put its trust in men and not in God, and that the nation continues to look to men for solutions?

It matters not what political side of the fence one is on. Some have been looking to Barack Obama to bring **hope and change**, as if he were a messiah. Now, many are looking to a new movement, the **tea party movement**, or even the **conservative movement**, to restore the nation back to its roots, as if these movements are like messiahs. But who is calling upon the name of the Lord and seeking counsel from Almighty God in these tumultuous times? We hear of and see defiance on all levels. It is as if all the factions are shaking their fists at each other and declaring that they will prevail. "We will prevail; who is lord over us?" But in reality, they are shaking their fists at God and refusing to acknowledge that the heavens do rule and that God's Son is the King of the nations. The Father proclaims: **"But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain"** (Psalm 2:6 NASB).

True, godly hope and change begins with repentance, a turning of hearts back to the living God. The righteous way forward is through repentance, acknowledging before God that we have strayed and have been looking to men and guided by the spirit of the world and not by God's Son and the spirit of God. It is time to **HUMBLE** ourselves before God, **REPENT**, and call upon the name of the Lord.

The second word that has been in the news quite a bit is the word **reconciliation**, which means "to make friendly again or win over to a friendly attitude; to bring two parties into harmony or peace with each other." To add to its meaning, we need to understand the meaning of *conciliation* or *conciliate*, which means "to win over; soothe the anger of; make friendly; placate" and "to gain by friendly acts." We could say that this is the first part of a peace agreement. When two parties are at war with each other, they are enemies. If one party makes peace with the other, then that party *conciliates* with the other, and there is *conciliation*. Thus, **conciliation** refers to one side of a peace deal; that is, one party is at peace with another, but it does not follow that the other party has made peace with the one that has made peace. There is still enmity coming forth from one party. It is as if one waves the white flag of truce, but the other continues shooting.

For a peace deal to be of any value, both parties must be at peace with each other. When both parties have entered into peace with each other, it is called *reconciliation*; that is, both parties are in harmony and at peace with one another. It is a mutual peace agreement. Each party has to make peace (to be conciliated) with the other to come into a mutual peace (to be reconciled).

What is spoken of as political reconciliation is anything but reconciliation; at best it is conciliation. The politicians are not in harmony across party lines, and the party in power is not even in harmony within its own party as it attempts to force passage of sweeping changes in national healthcare. They are at war with one another, not at peace. No wonder they are dropping the use of the word *reconciliation* for the word *majority*. It is simply another one of their falsehoods and doublespeak, which refers to deliberately disguising, distorting, or reversing the meaning of words for personal gain. I call it a lie!

Men distort words and are satisfied with majorities to achieve their selfish goals, but God is not about majorities; He is about *ta panta*, **the all**. God is no longer at war with mankind, for through His Son He has made peace with all in heaven and on earth, **without exception. It was His good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him (His Son), and through Him, to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven** (Colossians 1:19-20 NASB). True reconciliation comes through God's Son, our Lord Jesus, **for God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them** (2 Corinthians 5:19 NASB).

The politicians can talk of a false reconciliation all they want, even rename it to obscure a lie, but God declares that in His Son He has reconciled the world to Himself. In God's Day, everyone (no exceptions) who is exalted in this day will be humbled before the throne of God, for **every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father** (Philippians 2:10-11). When President Obama greeted other world leaders with a bow, there was a great uproar of indignation from his opposition, but he was simply acting out what every leader will do one day in the presence of the King of kings, to the glory of God the Father. Bow now or bow later!