

# 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)*

#04-1031

## ***No Rules Equals Lawlessness***

March 23, 2010

I was amazed to hear a representative of the US House commenting on how the Democrats were pushing through the massive healthcare legislation that they passed on March 21, 2010. On camera, he stated: **“There are no rules; we make them up as we go along.”** If I had not heard it myself, I would have wondered if someone had misinterpreted his words, but there was no sense of cynicism or ambiguity in his voice. He simply and very seriously stated a fact as he saw it; a fact that he did not seem to be bothered by but rather seemed to embrace. Even President Obama seemed to support such a notion when, in an interview, he intimated that the result is more important than the process.

I am reminded of a word that came to me on September 10, 2009: “The tea parties will fail, and Obama will rule.” However, his rule seems to be contrary to the very law of the land, the US Constitution.

Do you know what leading with no rules or changing rules on the fly or like the wind in order to achieve an end result, regardless of the means, is called? It is called lawlessness. Can you imagine that some of the political leaders of the US government are admitting, even advocating, lawlessness, as if it were no big deal and as if the end (i.e., government takeover of healthcare) justifies the lawlessness (the means) to achieve it? It is shocking how far this once great nation has fallen.

I believe that the following statement is attributed to Machiavelli (1469-1527): **“A prince wishing to keep his state is very often forced to do evil.”** Someone else has been quoted as saying: **“The end justifies the means; he only sins who ill intends.”** In other words, one can use any means he or she deems appropriate, including lawlessness, as long as the end or the result one is seeking to achieve is good. **But if the means is evil, how can we be assured the end is good? If the character of the person seeking the supposed good is corrupt and deceitful, how can we be assured that what the person is seeking to do is good and not evil?** After all, **a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough** (Galatians 5:9). I believe leaven, which is corruption, has infected the heart of the nation centered in Washington DC, and its end is leaven.

Besides, we live in a day spoken of by the prophet Isaiah: **“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”** (Isaiah 5:20 NASB).

As I stated in the previous issue (#04-1030, March 23, 2010, *Fundamentally Transform*), some of our political leaders, along with their supporting special-interest groups, are determined to fundamentally transform America according to their worldview, which, I am not afraid to state, seems to be antichrist at its core. Please see issue #02-08133, October 27, 2008, *The Spirit of Antichrist*, and issue #02-08117, October 6, 2008, *The Spirit of the World*.

However, even if we give such ones the benefit of the doubt that their intentions are only good, we need to be reminded of Solomon’s words of wisdom: **“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”** (Proverbs 16:25). I believe that there is much more at work in these days, and it is the Lord’s doing. God, in His judgment of the nations, has allowed a deceptive spirit to flood the earth in order to reveal the foolishness of man’s wisdom, and we are witnessing this deception in our political/governmental leaders who, at times, seem to have lost all sense of propriety and reason. See issue #02-08136, October 31, 2008, *A Supernatural Working of Deception*.

**Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?** (1 Corinthians 1:20 NASB)

Men might justify their lawlessness, even project it as if it were wisdom, but let us be abundantly clear on how much God hates lawlessness. I wrote on this subject in issue #03-09155, August 25, 2009,

*Lawlessness*, but there is much more to be said about it. Consider what His word has to say about lawlessness, especially through the words of our Lord Jesus.

**“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”** (Matthew 7:23 NASB)

**“The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness....”** (Matthew 13:41 NASB)

**“So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”** (Matthew 23:28 NASB)

**“Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.”** (Matthew 24:12 NASB)

Or, consider what Paul had to say about lawlessness.

**I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.** (Romans 6:19 NASB)

**Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?** (2 Corinthians 6:14 NASB)

**Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction....** (2 Thessalonians 2:3 NASB)

**For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.** (2 Thessalonians 2:7 NASB)

**“YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.”** (Hebrews 1:9 NASB)

John is the one who definitely defines lawlessness for us. **It is called SIN!**

**Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.** (1 John 3:4 NASB)

But let us not despair; **the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ is coming** (Revelation 11:15), and lawlessness will cease.

Besides, as I have written often and wish to God I could shout from the rooftops for the entire world to hear: **“The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad. Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne”** (Psalm 97:1-2 NASB).

We can count on this one truth; true righteousness and justice are coming, and, in His faithfulness, our **Lord will be rescuing us from every wicked work and saving me (us) for His celestial kingdom** (2 Timothy 4:18 CV) that soon will take root among the nations.

Today, some of us might feel like righteous Lot, **oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds);** but let us be encouraged, **for the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment** (2 Peter 2:7-9 NASB).

We might be tempted to become discouraged over what we see and hear in our day, but our loving Lord knows how to rescue His righteous conquerors. Let us conquer through the life of the spirit of the Lord, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh (2 Corinthians 10:3-4). Let us not allow our love to grow cold; rather, let us conquer through His love, for **love never fails** (1 Corinthians 13:8), and **in all these things we are more than conquering through Him who loves us** (Romans 8:37 CV).