

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)*

#04-1049

Transform or Refound America?

May 11, 2010

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 3:14 NASB)

This issue is not about Paul's goal; this will be taken up in another issue. I start with this verse because it seems that, in general, mankind is continually pressing on toward some goal and some reward for achieving that goal. Whether it is on the level of the individual, the family, the community, the city, the state, the nation, or the world, people are often driven to bring about change based on their view of how things should be. Consequently, they expend a great deal of energy, time, and resources planning and plotting how to bring about their idea of change, which is often based on what is called a worldview.

Now, as Christians seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness, we need to discern change based on a biblical worldview, one that places God and His Son, our Lord Jesus, at the center and not man. In particular, when we hear of political leaders seeking for change, we need to ask ourselves a question.

Is the change they seek based on **the wisdom of God**, the wisdom from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy (James 3:17), and righteousness; or is it based on **the wisdom of man**, which is foolish, earthly, soulless, demonic, disorderly, and full of evil, jealousy and selfish ambition (James 3:16)?

At first, it may be difficult to discern the answer to this question until we see what kind of fruit, if any, comes from the change. However, if we seek God, His spirit of truth will lead us into all truth and we will know.

Now, this leads to the thought that is on my mind for this issue, and that is the change being sought for America. Of course, there are those who are quite content with the status quo, at least, as long as things do not dramatically alter or change their life. Aside from the church, which has its own multifarious view of change, there are two political forces at work today in America that are seeking for change. **We could say that it is a fight for the heart of the nation.** One force wants to **transform America** into something very much different from its past, as if to move our nation onto a new foundation, and the other force wants to **refound America** by returning to the principles upon which our nation was founded. We could say that one wants to lay a new foundation, and the other wants to clarify an old foundation. Is one better than the other for America? Or, is there a best way? To answer these questions, let us look at the two forces for change that are at work today.

We have a president who is trying to **fundamentally transform** America (see issue #04-1030, March 23, 2010, *Fundamentally Transform*) by moving us away from our founding principles into what is called *progressivism*. Others call it *liberalism*. In a sense, it is like saying that we can do better than our founding fathers; we know best because our thinking and understanding has progressed beyond theirs. For them, the US Constitution, which is one of the most profound documents ever produced to govern a nation, is not a static document but a living one that must change with the times.

There is some good in the president's idea of change. For example, it is good to seek for peace and an end to nuclear weaponry; it is good to try to make peace with our enemies; it is good to have an open and honest government, if it is truly honest; and it is good to have a heart for those who are in need. However, it is not good to call evil good and good evil, to support abortion, to speak falsehood, to shout down criticism, to continually accuse others of doing things that he calls evil or bad that he himself is doing, and to repeatedly blame others for things that go wrong on his watch.

Reject it if you will, but it is my opinion that the president's transformation is a **counterfeit to God's kingdom transformation**. The fundamental transformation that Obama seeks is a counterfeit to

what God is going to do through Christ's conquerors. Obama seeks to build Babylon, just as the ancients sought to build the **Tower of Babel**. He is trying to build with bricks and tar. His transformational change is part of **mystery Babylon**, the great city, which is the counterfeit to **the real city**, the holy city of God, **New Jerusalem**. But, it is also my opinion that this is all part of God's end-time plan.

Further, his progressivism is based on man's wisdom, with man at the center, not God. It is a progression from freedom to bondage, from righteousness to unrighteousness, from true justice to social justice, from impartiality to partiality, from order to chaos. It is antichrist in spirit and lawless in heart, for it rejects Jesus as the King of the nations and the law of God as true justice. It says its way is better than God's way, even though the words *god* and *religion* might be periodically injected into the conversation. **This people honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me** (Matthew 15:8 ASV).

The second force at work in America today is a grassroots movement of people who are seeking to **refound** America, that is, to clarify the foundation upon which we were built and **reestablish** us on it. It is a move to **restore** us back to the vision of our founding fathers and to **reaffirm** our unalienable rights endowed to us by our Creator. God is acknowledged in this movement as foundational. It appears that many Christians are engaged in this movement, which is primarily labeled as *conservatism*.

To be sure, our founding fathers were men of great wisdom, honor, and faith who were inspired and guided by the Almighty God who rules over all the nations. We have been a blessed nation and a great blessing to the nations. This is without question or doubt. It is hard to quantify all the good America has done in the world, such as setting people free, feeding the world, enhancing lives through amazing technology, and being a beacon of hope to so many immigrants, to name just a few.

However, consider this: America has fought in 13 major wars, including our own civil war and the current war on terror; nearly 1.4 million Americans have been killed in all conflicts and wars that have cost the nations close to \$49 trillion. We are the only nation that has ever released two atomic bombs on civilians, justifying it as the only way to end a costly and bitter war. Since the lawless *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision, over 49 million of our unborn have been aborted (killed), egregiously breaking the sixth commandment of God (Exodus 20:13). We have been through 2 great depressions and 44 recessions in which hundreds of businesses have gone bankrupt and hundreds of millions of Americans have lost jobs. We are driven by a banking system based on usury, which goes against God's law. We have a judicial system that incarcerates and punishes over 2 million people each year at a cost well in excess of \$60 billion, even though God's law requires restitution, not punishment.

Let me ask. Do we want to repeat this part of our history? Do we think that we will avoid following in the footsteps of our forefathers? Do we think that our wisdom and human nature has changed to the better in the last 200 years or the last 2,000 years so that we will not make the same mistakes? Based on the 6,000-year history of mankind and as long as we all continue in mortal bodies, it should be clear that, in time, we will simply repeat the same mistakes and failures. There is only one answer; we need immortality and the kingdom of God to take root among the nations. Only then will there be a people who have all the wisdom and righteousness and impartiality to lead the nations into righteousness. **We need the kingdom of the world to become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** (Revelation 11:15). The world needs to be established on the foundation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Undoubtedly, both forces believe what they are doing is right, but we need to reject both of them.

The *transformers* are more correct in seeking to press on toward a new goal; however, their goal is not the kingdom of God but a counterfeit to it that is destined to fall. The *refounders* are more correct in their acknowledgement of the need for God; however, their goal does not go far enough to establish God's kingdom on earth and is destined to repeat history. Both forces fall short and miss the true goal, the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. We need Jesus as King! And, we need to be like Him, immortal.

It is striking that the president's phrase *fundamentally transform* is quite biblical, for this is what the coming kingdom is all about. It is about transforming the whole world into the kingdom of Christ, to bring all the nations willingly into the reign of Christ where righteousness and true justice dwell. Essentially, it is built on an entirely new foundation, not of man but of God. **For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ** (1 Corinthians 3:11 NASB).