

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)

#05-1141

Battle of the Debt, Washington, D.C.

July 31, 2011

It is amazing to listen to the news reports about what could be called **the Battle of the Debt**. If the nation's founding fathers were resurrected today to observe what is going on in Washington, D.C., they would be amazed to see what has happened to the republic that they founded. I would imagine some of them would say it is time for a new revolution.

Let me be clear that I am not advocating a revolution. What I do advocate is the coming of the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, for this is the only way out of our current state of affairs and the only way into true happiness and freedom. We have tried man's way and failed miserably. Only by following God's way, according to God's law, will true success come. We need God's Son who has been installed on the throne of Mount Zion as the King of kings and Lord of lords. As Christians, we must hold fast to this unequivocal and undeniable truth. Anything else is compromise.

To those truly discerning the times, it should be apparent that our nation, along with the rest of the world, has reached the point of no return. Oh, Babylonian leaders will do everything they can to save the current world system, even if they have to resuscitate it. They may even succeed for a season as they tell the world the worst is behind us, but do not be deceived; it is a lie.

In light of the current economic/financial mess we find ourselves in, we often say that we are about to fall off the cliff. I have used the same metaphor. However, when stepping back and looking at the big picture, I believe that we have already fallen off the cliff and are stuck in the muck at the bottom of the canyon, again, metaphorically speaking. Simply, we cannot climb our way back to the top, for there is no way out, at least as far as man is concerned; and God will see to it that it remains so until His Son comes. The judgment of God will continue to come upon Mystery Babylon until it fully collapses. We know this will happen because this is God's plan as revealed throughout His Word and by revelation given to His prophets.

It should be abundantly clear to any who have some idea of God's law that the political system centered in Washington, D.C. is a lawless system, for it breaks God's law in many ways. However, before looking at some of these, it needs to be stated that the United States was not founded this way.

Now, I usually stay away from the word *religion*, for I believe Christianity is a *relationship*, not a religion. Please see my first article (#1) dated September 2007, *Christ, Who is our Life*. Even among those who would agree that Christianity is about a relationship, some would, nonetheless, still call it a religion, which, by my way of thinking, simply lumps Christianity with every other religion of man. You can call me a purist on the matter of the true nature of Christianity, if you will, but I see great danger in compromising on this truth. We see the evidence of such a compromise in the fact that much of what is called Christianity in the world today is religion; it is formalism and the tradition of men. Well, there is much that could be said about this topic, but this is not my point for this issue. I simply want to be clear on my view of the word *religion* in light of the quotes that follow.

Alex de Tocqueville, the French jurist, visited America in 1831 and was quite impressed with what he saw. During his day, Europe saw religion and liberty as opposing forces, even enemies of each other. In his assessment of America in that day, he stated: "In France I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom marching in opposite directions. But in America I found they were intimately united." He noted that the American colonists "brought with them into the New World a form of Christianity which I cannot better describe than by styling it a democratic and republican religion.

There is no country in the world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America." [Source: *The 5000 Year Leap* by W. Cleon Skousen, NCCS, 1981.]

Generally, our founding fathers believed that religion is the foundation of morality and that morality and religion are both essential for good government and the happiness of mankind. Further, they affirmed the existence of the Creator, for He alone designs all things in nature and promulgates all the laws that govern nature. Some 55 years after the Declaration of Independence, these principles were manifested in an observable way to foreigners visiting our country. Today, could this be observed by visitors to our nation's capital, especially if they were to observe the inner workings of our government?

In the last few days, I have listened to news commentators "report" on and "analyze" the haranguing going on between the two political parties in Congress and the White House over the debt, spending, and taxes. The most telling remarks came from so-called elitists, who know best how things ought to run in D.C., as they analyzed the "tea party" freshman class of the House of Representatives. These freshmen were described as a group that "cannot be bought off by their leadership," "cannot be threatened with loss of committee assignments," "cannot be bought off with ear marks [pork money] for the district they represent," "cannot be threatened with withholding funds for their reelection campaigns," and "cannot be persuaded to give up their principles and turn from the very reason why they were elected by the voters in their district."

In other words, they cannot be coerced or bribed into following the rules of the power brokers.

I don't know about you, but this is something quite noteworthy and commendable, regardless of one's personal opinion of their positions. And yet, the elite Washington crowd sees this as bad, for these freshmen reps are castigated as "extremists" for not playing the Washington game as it is supposed to be played, which thrives on special interests, backroom deals, and bribes of all manner to make it work. Please do not miss this point. It is common knowledge that this is the way Washington works.

The Washington way is corrupt and lawless. The foundation of our political system has become one built upon special favor, partiality, bribery, hypocrisy, lies, and the love of money; all of which are matters addressed by God's law. No wonder God is judging it with **a spirit of stupor**. It is so bad that they cannot even discern how foolish and irrational they sound as they debate the issues.

The current political and financial system breaks the law of God in many ways. Here are a few examples.

Bribery and partiality are against God's law: "You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous" (Deuteronomy 16:19 NASB).

Lying to and hypocrisy toward one another are against God's law: "You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another (Leviticus 19:11 NASB). **"So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness** (Matthew 23:28 NASB). Notice that hypocrisy is aligned with lawlessness.

Usury [charging interest on lent money] is against God's law: "You may charge interest [usury] to a foreigner, but to your countrymen you shall not charge interest [usury] ..." (Deuteronomy 23:20 NASB).

Taxing a man's labor and taxing beyond 10% [a tithe] are against God's law: 'Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD' (Leviticus 27:30 NASB), for **the land is Mine** (Leviticus 25:23). Notice that, as the Creator and Owner of the earth, God demands a tithe for use of His natural resources. God's law does not demand a tithe from man's labor, and yet our government places its heaviest taxation burden on a man's income derived from his labor.

Do we honestly believe that man's way (law) is the best way? Lord, have mercy!