

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)

TUC #07-1302

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January 2, 2013

Impure Hearts, Degrading Passions, Depraved Minds

As we progressed through the month of December 2012, I began to sense in my spirit, through dreams and words from the Lord, that there was much conflict all around. On December 11, 2012, I recorded in my journal: ***"Much conflict in the air!"*** During this particular night, I dreamed of people running down a street and guns or bombs going off and my wife and I escaping through this conflict. There was much more to the dream and most of it was about evil rising up. Then, three days later, on December 14, 2012, 20 children and 6 adults were massacred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut (total of 28 died).

As most normal people reacted, I too felt deeply for the many families and friends that were traumatized by this great loss. However, I woke the next day with a different type of groan within my spirit, so I inquired of the Lord to understand what was the nature or meaning of this groaning. Without delay, the Lord spoke to me.

"There is great deception in the world today. I have ordained it because man's heart has turned from Me. Man has exchanged the truth of God for a lie; therefore, I have turned their hearts over to impurity. I have sent a deluding influence so they will believe what is false. They have not seen fit to acknowledge me any longer, so I have given them over to a depraved mind. The church has exchanged the truth of God for the things of God and has lost the preeminence of Christ."

I needed no interpretation of these words, for they are from scripture, specifically, Romans 1:18-32 and 2 Thessalonians 2:11.

After the massacre, the reaction of America, especially the reaction of the politicians and the media, was quite telling. Most all comments and calls for action were focused, and still are, on treating the symptoms: controlling or banning guns, placing armed guards in every school, and beefing up mental health intervention, to name a few. But hardly anyone cried out that we need to repent and turn to God, for He alone is our answer to reversing the great decline of our nation.

On the political front, only one well-known polarizing figure actually pointed to God as the answer. There may have been others, but if they did speak out, their voices were either ignored by the media or drowned out by a cacophony of voices of humanistic intelligence and reason.

On the church level, the Laodicean church sees all the other churches on opposite street corners as Laodicean and fails to look into the Laodicean mirror of their own heart.

On the individual front, it seems that most people look at the other guy as the problem and fail to look into the worldly mirror of their own heart.

This is where we are today as a nation. We have self-righteousness on all levels and few are looking for the righteousness of God, which, of course, only comes through faith in the Son of God. We are an unrighteous nation that refuses to turn to God. The fact of the matter is that we are living out what Paul wrote in Romans 1. Commentary has been inserted to make the point.

(18) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (19) because that which is known about God is evident within them; for

God made it evident to them. **[All are without excuse; no one will be able to say to God "I didn't know that."]** (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (21) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **[Where are our national leaders who stand before the people to honor and thank God? We have a Christian foundation and many of our leaders consider themselves Christians.]** (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. **[Instead of creatures, we worship our technology, including our military might, and are ruled by it along with its massive social media.]** (24) Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. (25) For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **[What is the lie? We don't need God to tell us how to run our nation. Again, we worship our technology along with a myriad of other things like sports, entertainment, politics etc.]** (26) For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, (27) and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. **[Is not the passage of same sex marriage and the exaltation of gay rights and abortion a sign of this degrading passion?]** (28) And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer **[Politicians don't stand before the people to declare that our only hope is in God; instead they turn to more legislation, such as gun control, that only props up their agenda.]**, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, (29) being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed **[Wall Street, bailouts, banksters, politicians]**, evil; full of envy, murder **[Nearly a million abortions a year; the President advocates third-trimester abortions and forcing everyone to pay for them]**, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips **[the present-day media along with all their commentators and so-called experts on everything from A to Z.]**, (30) slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents **[To the point of killing their parents]**, (31) without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; (32) and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32 NASB)

Many other things could be added to these verses, but you get the point. Our nation knows the ordinance of God, but we are in denial. The Greek word for *ordinance* is also translated as *judgment, justice, or righteousness*.

Hurricane Irene (2011), Hurricane Sandy, and the Sandy Hook massacre all occurred as traumatic events in the same general region of the US. In the days leading up to each of these events, I was given dreams or words that indicated something was coming. With Irene, I was told that something was going to happen in the southeast, and two days later it was announced that Irene had formed into a tropical storm headed for the southeast Bahamas. Twelve hours before Sandy formed I had a dream of a major storm that involved snow and major power outages and heard: **"Storms are coming; they are already here."** Then, two days before Sandy Hook, I dreamed and sensed much conflict in the air. Interestingly, there were about 46 days between Hurricane Sandy hitting the region and the Sandy Hook massacre. In biblical numerology, the number **46** signifies *Herod's temple* and *man without the Holy Spirit*. Herod killed male babies in an attempt to stop the man-child Christ from coming forth. We are at the point in history when the powers of darkness are at work in an attempt to stop the man-child, the first fruits anointed conquerors of Christ, from coming forth. But nothing stops God, for He has set the appointed time. When a nation is without the Spirit of God at work in their hearts, they exchange the truth of God for the lie that they do not need God in their daily lives and governance, and they no longer see fit to acknowledge God. The result is impurity of heart, degrading passions, and depraved minds, and we all as a nation pay a steep price for this. God's judgment is upon us. But, please keep this one thought in mind at all times: **it is not for our ultimate destruction but for our ultimate glory**. It is time to wake up, repent, and seek God with our whole heart. It is time to acknowledge the Creator and Sovereign of all things through whom we all exist and are upheld by His love and for His glory. Now is the time!