

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)

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Blessed are the Peacemakers

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9 NASB)

It appears that the recent Syrian saber-rattling from the Obama administration and its strange bed-fellows Senators McCain and Graham has been turned on its head, so to speak. Now, the president, who started us down this path with much hubris about attacking Syria, and, we should add, without much interest in diplomacy, is in spin mode to make it sound like he has a sound and right policy even though his actions have been anything but "smooth and disciplined and linear." According to him, it is working, and *the end justifies the means*. It almost sounds like an argument we were fed in the deep dark past about the definition of *is*.

For a discussion of *the end justifies the means*, please see article #56, *Man's [Free] Will vs. God's Will*, page 9.

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art56.html>

And, this is all coming from a man who was given the Nobel Award for Peace and who was a strong advocate early on in his candidacy for president that all diplomatic options need to be pursued on the international front. If I recall correctly, he strongly made this argument in relation to Iran and their potential nuclear capability. Now listen to him; he is telling Iran to watch its step and not to view this diplomatic solution with Syria as a sign of weakness. So, the threat of cruise missiles being dropped on foreign soil is now considered the sign of strength and being a peacemaker is not. Or, another way of looking at it is the only way to achieve peace is to bomb people. It's like saying: "If you don't act the way we think you should, then we are going to bomb you into submission so that you will be at peace and have democracy and, oh, by the way, you will thank us for it."

At the same time, Secretary of State John Kerry is saying, "The threat of force is real," and Senator John McCain is saying, "The deal is a loser." It is interesting that two men with the name of *John* are so hawkish. John was the apostle of love; perhaps these men need to read his gospel and epistles. Or, we could consider John the Baptist who made straight the way of the Lord by warning God's enemies to repent and believe on God's King. Perhaps, it is time to repent, for the KING IS COMING!!

This sort of reminds me of my fellow Christians who tell people that if they don't believe in Jesus, then God is going to be so mad at them that He is going to toast them in hell forever and ever and ever. In other words, if you don't change, God is going to nuke you, but His nuke is never-ending. Ugh! So, according to this thinking, **God is love** threatens people with perpetual torture if they don't believe. It sounds strangely similar to America's policy regarding our supposed enemies.

To top it all off, in response to Putin's recent letter, the president stated: "I don't think that Mr. Putin has the same values that we do." I wish Mr. Obama would be careful with his use of the word *we* or at least

who he places in his universe of *we*, for many of the things he stands for are contrary to Christian values, one of which is the whole matter of peace. Besides, who went to Africa recently and lectured their leaders on being more open-minded regarding the nature of marriage? By the way, his message was not well-received either. So, whose values does he represent?

Well, my purpose is not to malign the president, for he is like all of us. We need Jesus, and without Him, our moral compass, so to speak, can and will point in an ungodly and unholy direction. We desperately need the character of Christ, His righteousness and justice and equity and impartiality. We need His government! The good news is that it won't be long until we begin to see His government manifested in the nations of the world. For He is coming!

A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (Isaiah 40:3-5 NASB)

Dear people of God and of America, the Prince of Peace is coming. What sort of people ought we to be in this day? Are we to be warmakers or peacemakers? Are we to be killing people or loving people?

Many in America, including many Christians, have become too proud and arrogant over our military might and our unprecedented use of it. It has become a prideful boast in the name of patriotism and national security; a euphemism for protecting energy (oil) interests and the petro-dollar. We have been led into senseless wars using such justification. It is time to wake up, for the hour is late.

Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God. (Psalm 20:7 NASB)

The flesh of man is leading our country in this hour. We need to be led by the Spirit of God.

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:6-8 NASB)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 NASB)

For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL." Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? (1 Peter 3:10-13 NASB)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. (Romans 12:18 NASB)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9 NASB)

Let us be peacemakers! There is nothing greater than being called a son of God by God the Father.