

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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Only One Advocate, One Deliverer, One Mediator

"And there is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me. "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45.21-22 NASB) "But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him." (Habakkuk 2.20 NASB)

In the last issue, I shared that I was groaning. Well, today, it is back and stronger than before. Actually, I am groaning and rejoicing at the same time, but sharing on the rejoicing will have to wait for another issue.

The groan emanates from what I am reading coming from the Christian community that is clearly divided even after the election of Donald Trump. Along with this are the many prophecies that came forth about who would and would not win the election. Some had Clinton and others had Trump. Was God having a hard time making up His mind on who He wanted in office? Obviously, those who flipped the prophetic coin and came up with Trump were right. The others must have used the wrong coin. Some are saying that Trump is God's chosen leader. Does this mean that Obama was not, or any of the other elected presidents were not? Perhaps God is more Republican than Democrat.

Definitely, two camps have emerged during and from this election. How many are in each camp and how deep each runs is hard to tell; the Lord knows.

According to some exit polls, high numbers of white, born-again Christians (evangelicals), along with a majority of Catholics, voted for Trump. This camp believes they now have their man moving into the White House. One article quoted three Christians expressing how glad they were to be a Christian right now, how Christians took a big stand for their faith, and how they now have an advocate moving into the White House. I thought we had an Advocate. Job said his ***advocate is on high*** (Job 16.19). John wrote that ***we have an Advocate with the Father*** (1 John 2.1). And, Paul wrote that we have ***one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus*** (1 Timothy 2.5). This camp was willing to overlook Trump's glaring flaws in hopes of having one who would protect their religious freedom. It sounds like they are looking for a savior or deliverer from among men (a Moses or a Cyrus); a leader who will protect them as they continue doing their Christian things or who will establish the Kingdom for Christ.

The second camp is composed of non-white evangelicals who saw/see Trump as morally unacceptable and one who campaigned based on "racialized politics." In other words, he is a racist, as they see him. This camp celebrates their racially diverse community of evangelical Christians and claims the core of the message of Jesus is "racial justice and reconciliation." To them, racism strikes at the heart of the gospel. This seems to be taking a cause (i.e., social justice) and reading it into the gospel rather than it coming forth from the gospel, which is summed up in one word, JESUS! Their concept of reconciliation focuses on human relationships and not the reconciliation of which Paul told us we are to be ambassadors. ***God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation*** (2 Corinthians 5.19). We are to be ambassadors for Christ in the world with a message to the world to be reconciled to God through Christ. Surely, reconciliation between people and races (tribes, ethnics) is important, but, from a Christian perspective, it must start with reconciliation to God through His Son who has reconciled all things to Himself (Colossians 1.20). To put it bluntly, racial justice, even social justice, may have merit in a temporal setting, but it is not the gospel.

Interestingly, both evangelical camps hold to many of the same tenets of Christian doctrine, such as the unity of the body of Christ and the centrality of Christ, but in this context, one is looking for a deliverer and the other is looking for racial/social justice. And, neither seems to be looking for the coming or Presence of the Lord, the one and only

Deliverer, to bring heaven to earth and establish true justice, peace, and righteousness among the nations that is impossible to attain without Him. As written in past issues, Jesus is part of the message of these two camps, but He is not the whole of it. His name has been placed on man's causes (and politics), as if the gospel is driven by causes that are means unto their own ends. But, where is His life in it all? Is He truly central and supreme in life or only in name and doctrine? The latter seems to be where the public church is these days.

Now, there is one other thing that has caused a deep groan within, and it is a prophecy given by Kim Clement in 2006, 2007, and 2013 regarding Trump who would be elected president and will be a praying president filled with the Holy Spirit; he will be a trumpet; Hillary Clinton who would not become president of the USA but will have a great testimony and be "president in a Christian world"; and Bill Gates who will open up a financial realm for the church.

Frankly, I don't know how to react to this prophecy. All I know is that when I read it, I groan in a way that causes me to question it. In time, it might be proven to be of the Lord, but I just don't know. As I consider this, two points strike me.

First, why is it that Christians seem to be continually looking for leaders from among men when they have one Lord and one Spirit? We are exhorted to hold fast to our Head, Jesus, for we have no one between us and God but Him. Besides, we are His body and, as such, He is our only Head. But again and again Christians want to place men and, according to this prophecy, a woman on pedestals, as if they are the anointed and our head. What generally follows is: "Touch not My anointed." The result is that we end up with mediators who we expect to do God's bidding for us. This is not the gospel according to Paul. Mind you, it would be a wonderful thing to see Jesus break into the lives of these leaders; this is a good thing, and it may happen sooner than we realize. However, we need to guard against putting them on a pedestal or making them our head, for this is a form of idolatry, which I believe the office of the president, along with the many man-centered pulpit ministries, have become to many Christians.

As shared previously, I believe an Anointing is coming, but it will be an anointing of Christ's body. It will not be focused on one individual but upon His body that will come into oneness in a way the world has never seen. There will be no more camps. I have more to say on this in the next issue based on a living experience my wife and I recently had that was centered on the love of God.

Second, suspicion raises its head whenever I see a prophecy about wealth coming to the church or, in this case, the opening up of a financial realm. This sounds very much like a teaching or emphasis that comes out of certain prosperity groups of Christians that claim the wealth of the nations will come to the church so we can advance the Kingdom (that God gladly gives!). I asked the Lord about this one day based on "***The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine.***" What I heard was: "***You are the gold and you are the silver. The gold is My Divine essence of love in you, and the silver is your redemption.***" The Lord took His written word and made it *rhema* to my heart by taking it from the temporal realm to the spiritual realm. This leads to my concluding point.

We must guard ourselves from becoming temporal and political in our in-union walk with the Lord Jesus, making Jesus into some social justice warrior or into a warrior for our many causes. This does not mean to imply that one should not be in politics or righteous causes. If led to do so, then do it as unto the Lord. But, let us be cautious in raising the Christian banner over these things, as if God has stamped it with His approval. We are still living within the kingdom of this world or of man and, as such, many things can and will undoubtedly happen. We are in the time of Mystery Babylon that is falling, but it has not yet been ground to dust. We need to set our minds above where Christ is and not be dictated to by temporal and political events and causes. We are seated with Christ among the celestials, and we need to be spiritually minded, setting the evidence of His heavenly enthronement, not earthly minded. As the opening verses declare, there is only one God and He saves or delivers, not man. Let us not make men into our saviors or gods or heads; this is idolatry. Let us turn to the Lord, not to men. Let us tune out the many voices and be on guard for what is false, disguised as an angel of light. To this end, we are the Temple of God and He is in His Temple, Christ in us. We are still of the earth, but we have the Spirit of Christ within us. As Habakkuk declared: ***Let all the earth be silent before Him.*** Let our earthen vessel be silent before the Lord as we listen for His voice to speak to our heart in these last days. **The Deliverer is coming!**