

A New President and Some Thoughts

As I sit here on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, the nation awaits as Joe Biden, is sworn in as the 46th President of the United States. Frankly, I am not watching the ceremony or whatever happens later in the day. Not as a political statement as much as having to get things done. I have not watched such swearing ins for a long time. I think there is something we can all learn from the election and events of 2020 as we get ready for a new administration in our government.

There are a number of articles written reminding us as Christians as to who is actually in charge. Ken Weliever wrote an article based on Jesus standing before Pilate. "Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" 11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." (John 19:10-11) Whatever authority Pilate or any other earthly ruler has is temporary and limited. The one who has The Power is the Almighty God. We as Christians should always remember Jesus is our King and Savior. There was also an article written by David Deistekamp titled "#NotMyCaesar" which looks at Jesus' reply when asked about paying taxes to Caesar and Him asking the people whose image is on the coin, "They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21) Caesar was the title worn by the leader of the Roman government and all of them were immoral, idolatrous, murderers. Yet, the people were told to fulfill their obligations to obey the laws of Rome, including the paying of taxes. Both articles are worthy of your reading them and available on line.

However, as I sit here, I still face some "issues" and skepticism about the next four years and beyond. As a Christian I realize my citizenship is in a greater kingdom than the United States. We are citizens of a heavenly kingdom. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20) While I love the freedoms of living in this country, I also understand my time here is limited. Therefore, I need to keep things in perspective as the eternal is more important than the temporary.

At the same time, I understand the conflict many Christians face as the rulers of this world can make life either easier or harder for the Christian. The Jewish authorities tried to suppress the preaching of the Gospel. "And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and

John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge." (Acts 4:18-19) Eventually Stephen was stoned and Christians dispersed from Jerusalem. Then persecution from Rome occurred as Christians were rounded up and killed in various ways. Is it wrong to want governing authorities to respect God's word and allow us to live in such a way so as to worship and serve God in peace and quiet? Obviously not as Paul wrote, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence." (1 Timothy 2:1-2) Future generations will be affected by whatever our government does yet our faith is not in governments but in God.

Here are truths I do pray for as we go into the future.

Our country will respect human life as everyone is made in the image of God, (Genesis 1.26-27). This includes the life of the unborn and newly born. I am afraid the pro-abortionists have a friendly administration which may actually encourage more abortions. The Bible condemns the shedding of innocent blood, hence abortion.

As a people we will be pro-family. Understanding marriage is defined as involving a man, a woman, and God. "And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Matthew 19:4-5) We will not redefine our definition of marriage to be politically correct but spiritually accurate.

Our homes will be places where God's word will be taught and respected. Moms and dads will work together to provide the right example of godliness as their children are brought up in the nurture and admonition of God, (Ephesians 6.4). Too many of our social problems are due to the breakup and failure of our homes.

We will quit blaming and hating others for our problems. This past year has shown us how divided our country is and the hatred in that division. No government program will erase all poverty, stop all crime, erase all murders, but when the Bible principles are applied it will. Instead of running away from the Bible our leaders, and educational system need to uphold the principles taught in the Bible, which includes loving one's neighbor.

Finally, I hope the Gospel will continue to be taught in the pulpit and in the public

arena. Teaching on the subject of homosexuality will not be labeled as “hate speech” and social media will not use its influence to quell teaching on “social sins”. I am afraid it is only a matter of time before a more active stand will be taken against churches which teach the Bible and only the Bible.

Am I pessimistic about the future? Only when I focus on man and not God. Let us not be distracted by the daily news and social media but keep pressing on toward the upward call. Dennis Tucker