

Liberty Commentary December 9, 2008

We continue to be bombarded with “bad news” about the economy, unemployment, as well as government corruption with the arrest this week of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich on two counts of corruption relating to trying to sell President –elect Barack Obama’s vacated Senate seat.

On the social front we have learned this week that an employee of Planned Parenthood in Indiana tried to cover up the rape of a 13-year old girl by encouraging her to have an abortion across state lines where the parental consent laws do not apply. We have word coming out of San Francisco that some supporters of same sex marriage are promoting a “day without a gay”, urging people to “call in gay” to show how much the country relies on gays and lesbians. We have also been exposed to the “Pink Christmas” festival in Amsterdam, featuring a manger stall with two Josephs and two Marys.

These indeed are challenging times economically, socially and spiritually as we now live in a post Christian era in the United States. We must not give up hope. As rampant as sin is in our nation because of abortion, the expulsion of God from the public square, the breakdown of the family and the national endorsement of immorality, America is still the best hope for reaching the world for Christ. As bad as drug-abuse, robberies, and violence are in America, this nation is still the best hope for world evangelization. We must have faith that God will work through us even in the midst of a crooked and perverse culture.

No one had more faith and knew this principle better than the Apostle Paul. Paul writes from a Roman prison cell these inspired words in Philippians 2:15-16, “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a

crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain”.

Our nation is in need of a great spiritual awakening. I believe if we are going to reach our community, country and world for Christ, we must get serious about our prayer life. We must fast and pray for revival. If one were to look at the rapid growth of Christianity in the first three centuries as well as the two Great spiritual awakenings in this country in the 18th and 19th centuries one would see that the two necessary ingredients that provided the impetus for revival were always prayer and persecution. Men and women would spend hours in prayer seeking the moving of Gods spirit upon their lives as well as the lives of others, even while they were in the midst of hardship.

Maybe we should not just pray for a spiritual awakening, but maybe we ought to pray that God would bring about conditions that will spur a spiritual awakening, realizing that persecution and hardship have been the seed for the growth of the church in this church age dispensation for the past 2,000 years.

We need to recognize how much we need and how much we depend upon the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and it ought to drive us to stay on our knees before God. We need to pray for our children and grandchildren asking that God would grip their hearts and that they would see a consistent spiritual testimony from our lives. We need to pray for our fellow believers that God will provide unity amongst the body of believers. We need to pray for our nation and our leaders that God would work in their hearts to make righteous decisions that will turn our nation toward God.

Paul experienced oppression and opposition yet he just remained faithful because he walked by faith and he knew what was at stake

if he should fail at the task God had called him to. He understood the conflict and he equipped himself for the battle. Paul writes in Ephesians chapter five, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

We too must equip ourselves for the battle and put on the whole armour of God so that we can withstand these challenging times and know that out of hardship can come great spiritual renewal and blessings if we will faithfully seek Gods guiding hand upon our lives as well as collectively upon this great nation.

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