

Liberty Commentary January 19, 2009

We have just witnessed another great aspect of the freedom we have enjoyed in the United States for the past 232 years, the smooth transition of power from one administration to that of another administration.

The Bible tells us that one of the great institutions that God has erected here on earth to guide us is that of government. Romans 13 tells us that "rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

In Gods economy government leaders are actually "ministers" to conduct Gods business of protecting the citizenry. Certainly not all government leaders are God honoring men and women, but God does sanction government and we are to be submissive to the God ordained institution of government.

As President Obama takes the helm of leadership of the greatest nation in the history of the world, may he never forget the heritage and responsibility that has been entrusted to him by not only the American people, but also by God. This is a nation

that is rich in Christian heritage and biblical principles are intrinsically woven in nearly every historical document that relates to the founding of this nation. This nation is a nation founded upon Judeo Christian principles to which our founding fathers and subsequent statesmen have so vigorously defended. May President Obama do no less.

I thought it fitting to re-familiarize ourselves with some quotes of past presidents and political leaders that reveal our great heritage to which President Obama will now either embrace and promote as a timeless treasure of providential wisdom or cast aside as antiquated literature.

"I am told that tens of thousands of prayer meetings are being held on this day, and for that I am deeply grateful. We are a nation under God, and I believe God intended for us to be free. It would be fitting and good, I think, if on each Inauguration Day in future years it should be declared a day of prayer." Ronald Reagan, first inaugural address.

Alexis de Tocqueville (a French political thinker and historian) is quoted as having said of America, *"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers - and it was not there . . . in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there . . . in her rich mines and her vast world commerce - and it*

was not there . . . in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution - and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

Daniel Webster stated: *"If we and our posterity reject religious instruction and authority, violate the rules of eternal justice, trifle with the injunctions of morality, and recklessly destroy the political constitution which holds us together, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us, that shall bury all our glory in profound obscurity." I pray that together we may avoid catastrophe and uphold the "sacred fire of liberty" by choosing paths of wisdom and virtue, which alone can afford a lasting peace and happiness to each of us and to our posterity.*

"It is when a people forget God that tyrants forget their chains. A vitiated state of morals, a corrupted public conscience, is incompatible with freedom. No free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue; and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles." Patrick Henry

"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts in the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. -- Every step, by which they have been advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency." George Washington
"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim tribute to patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness."

George Washington

At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, when queried as he left Independence Hall on the final day of deliberation, a lady asked Benjamin Franklin, *"Well Mr. Franklin, what have we got a republic or a monarchy? A republic* replied Franklin, *if you can keep it."*

"...I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side."

Abraham Lincoln

Dr. Joseph Warren, President of the Massachusetts Congress, said to his fellow Americans, *"Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of.... On you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important questions upon which rests*

the happiness and the liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves."

Ultimately the keepers of the republic are the men and women of the United States who have been charged with the duty of being sure our leaders "act worthy of themselves" and conduct themselves as statesmen who act in the interest of present and future generations and not as politicians who only act in the interest of winning the next election.

Lets commit to pray for our new president and ask God to "turn the heart of the king withersoever he will." Proverbs 21:1

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