

The Powers That Be
February 28, 2021
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

John 15:12-17

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; **for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

When the Lord leads us to preach about friendship and about loving one another, this passage of Scripture will doubtless be included in that text.

There is, however, a promise included here for us of something seldom mentioned.

Jesus said to His friends, **for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.**

Now, I am aware that through the Word of God, within the Bibles that we carry, this promise has been fulfilled.

Today we are going to look at some of the things the Lord wants His friends to understand.

I don't think you are very much going to like what I am going to preach today.

As a matter of fact, I don't very much like what I am going to preach today.

As you may know, I am not heavily involved in politics, but that doesn't mean that I am not aware of what is going on in our country.

We have just witnessed what is probably the most miraculous large-scale event any of us will ever see.

The most widely-supported incumbent President in the history of the United States, with a larger active political following than anyone has ever seen, has been put out of office and nearly put in prison.

You would have said six months ago that this was impossible...and you would have been right.

Our Country is now in the hands of Joe Biden, Kamala Harris and Nancy Pelosi.

After witnessing the venom and hatred coming from our political left, I would not sell life insurance to Joe Biden or Kamala Harris.

I'm no Prophet, but don't be surprised if within the next four years you see Nancy Pelosi sworn in as your President.

America as we have known it is over! Taxes, jobs, debt; the freedom that so many have died for will never be the same again.

There is no coming back from where America has come.

Proverbs 6:16-19

16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Look at number three on that list.

Let me tell you about 2017. That was Hurricane Harvey, right? Yes, but there is something more significant.

In 2017, there were 862,320 babies murdered in the womb in this country!

2017 is special because that year was the lowest number of children murdered by abortion since 1973!

One fourth of women in the US will get an abortion before age 45.

59% of women getting an abortion are already mothers.

We're not talking about scared, desperate teenagers.

These are mothers who have held that newborn to their breast and witnessed that incredible miracle of life...and then killed the next one!

And this is just one of the sins our nation is accountable for before God: and I'm not going to depress you further with the list.

Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

We don't mourn, we're used to it. We don't see the blood and the gore; it may be just numbers to us; but God sees it all!

Do you think that God is just going to let all of that go?

America has not mourned, but she is going to!

God is bringing America into judgment and it is going to affect all of us.

What about that promise God made King Solomon we hear so much about?

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Do you see anyone humbling themselves? Who do you see turning from their wicked ways; or even praying, for that matter?

"But how could God allow something like this to happen in America?"

"We're God's people. We're a Christian nation."

I've got news for you, God did more than allow this to happen:

I. The Powers that be are Ordained of God.

A. Elections don't put leaders in power, God does.

1. Psalm 75:6-8

6 For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

7 But God *is* the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

8 For in the hand of the LORD *there is* a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring *them* out, and drink *them*.

2. Daniel 2:20-21

20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

3. If there is one thing you have lately been witness to; it is not the votes of the people that decides the outcome.

*B. We know that Satan is good at what he does; **but God did this!***

1. **Romans 13:1-2**

1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: **the powers that be are ordained of God.**

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

2. You didn't read it wrong, **the powers that be ARE ordained of God.**

3. Come on Pastor, that can't be right... do you mean that the Romans that fed Christians to the lions were ordained of God?

4. I believe Pilate was one of those Romans, wasn't he?

5. **John 19:10-11**

10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

11 Jesus answered, **Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above...**

6. Yes, God uses both the evil and the just.

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

II. So, where does that leave us?

A. Well, that depends on whether you trust God or not.

1. Well, do you?

2. God told us that suffering would come.

3. **1 Peter 3:14-18**

14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be ready* always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

4. God told us that persecution would come.

5. **2 Timothy 3:12** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

6. God also told us He would see us through it.

7. **Hebrews 13:5** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

B. For us, nothing has changed.

1. Our instructions have not changed.

2. **John 15:16-17**

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

3. Our job, our calling, our Great Commission is still to reach as many with the Gospel as we can.

4. Winning souls; one at a time as the Lord draws them and brings them our way.

5. But that's not all:

B. We are co-laborers with God.

1. **1 Corinthians 3:9** For we are labourers together with God...

2. If we understand that what is happening is of the Lord, that it is ordained of God; surely that should affect how we respond to it.

3. We ought to at least cooperate with what we know God is doing.

C. So how should we respond in this case to what we know is evil?

1. Do we stand up and shout evil, evil, evil?

2. Do we protest, do we fight?

3. Our instructions for this may surprise you and no doubt will disappoint some.

4. **1 Timothy 2:1-3**

- 1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;
- 2 For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- 3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

5. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11

- 9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.
- 10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;
- 11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

6. **Romans 13:2** Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God...

7. **Acts 23:5** Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, [quoting the law in Exodus 22:28] Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

8. **1 Peter 2:18** Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

9. Concerning those powers that be, God commands:

Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Conclusion:

On a positive note, let me remind you of what the Lord sent us last week:

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Nothing that happens around us, nothing that happens in our country, nothing that happens in our state or in the world is going to interrupt God's flow of blessings as He takes care of His children.

Our God is bigger than the circumstances that surround us.

Sure, we can hang our heads and mourn for the America that used to be...

Or we can lift up our eyes and realize that this world was not our home anyway!

In Christ we own the promises of Abraham and we are citizens of a better land!

Hebrews 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

I don't know about you but my goal is to live life, win as many souls as I can, enjoy life as much as I can and do all I can to make every day count for God's glory.

Because of what Jesus did for me on the cross; His death, His burial and His resurrection; I am free in Christ no matter what restrictions the world or the government places upon me.

I think I have figured out what the Lord is trying to show me.

I can use the breath and influence I have been given to expose the evil leadership we are under...or I can use the breath and influence I have been given to expose as many to the Gospel as I can.

And yes, I will pray for President Biden. I may not be able to do it with as much enthusiasm as I did for President Trump, but I will do it nonetheless.