

FROM OUR PASTOR

October 29, 2016

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

In 1858, senatorial candidate Abraham Lincoln addressed the Illinois Republican Convention in Springfield in an honest and ominous way. He warned that the nation faced a crisis that could destroy the Union. Speaking to more than 1,000 delegates in a somber tone, Lincoln paraphrased a passage from Jesus Christ: “a house divided against itself cannot stand.”

The disagreements about slavery resulted in a devastating civil war which took the lives of nearly 700,000 people. The anti-slavery side prevailed, but the conflict left wounds that lasted for decades.

We are once again “A House Divided.” The current election demonstrates for all to see that America is reliving 1858. The nation is not only divided, but the sides are becoming violent. Today the issue is much different, but just as serious. For the past 40 years “progressives” have been waging war on our cultural institutions, insisting on one-size-fits all amorality. Public prayer in schools was outlawed, infanticide made “legal” and called “choice” instead of murder, and the institution of marriage has been twisted and perverted in every way possible, mostly through judicial decree. We are now at the point where men are invited into women’s bathrooms if they feel like a woman on a particular day. If you object, you are labeled a bigot. The culture war is heating up fast and has spread throughout society and much of the world.

The past week, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, gave a speech at an event marking his 25 years on the court. He opened up about the current “broken” culture in Washington, saying, “This city is broken in some ways ... We have decided rather than confront disagreements and the differences of opinion, we will simply annihilate the person who disagrees,” he said. What an observation from someone who knows! John Adams, the second US president, wrote, “Our Constitution was made only for moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

President Adams understood that freedom requires character in order for a free society to succeed. That character is based on following the laws that our Creator God gave us in the Bible. Adams was simply paraphrasing Proverbs 14:34, “Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.” Since we have rejected righteousness, we are learning the meaning of “reproach.”

Righteousness today among our leaders is a rare thing. The recent Wikileaks emails have been a revelation of just how corrupt and controlled by big-money interests our government has become—yet the average person seems not to be concerned. Ball games or entertainment are now the big concerns.

Less than three years after Lincoln's 1868 speech war broke out. Just how long the current nation divided can survive is anyone's guess. The division is becoming strident. The next few years the culture war will intensify, resulting in more division, anger, and violence. Remember Jesus Christ's warning in Mark 13: "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place." Mark 13: 28-30

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