

FROM OUR PASTOR

November 5, 2016

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

Political corruption is defined as “the use of powers by government officials for illegitimate private gain.” People have long acknowledged the legendary endemic corruption of governments in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and much of Eastern and Southern Europe and Asia. Recently the President of Brazil was forced to resign due to corruption allegations, and this week South Korea’s president was the target of similar revelations. A list of known corrupt dictators and presidents around the globe would be long indeed, and some web sites have compiled such lists.

The USA has never been perfect, but for the most part the average citizen trusted their government officials to be trying to do an honest job. Corruption was assumed to be a few individuals here and there. The recent revelations from Wikileaks and other sources may have changed the trust in a permanent way. The details will probably come out like the layers of an onion over the next year or two, but what is already known reveals a strong likelihood of crimes, cover up, bribery, payoff, and political corruption on a scale hardly anyone would have predicted.

Many Americans feel betrayed or can’t comprehend the news. Others seem not to care as long as they have a house, car, and can watch inane entertainment on their TV or play computer games.

The world society is groaning in pain due to man’s inability to govern ourselves. We are witnessing some of what God’s word means when it says that the “whole creation groans and labors, waiting to be delivered.” Romans 8:20-21. Many people sense that we are in for some very, very difficult and dangerous years ahead.

So what kind of person should hold a government office? The best list of qualities needed for people who hold public office was given to Moses by his father-in-law, Jethro. In Exodus 18:21, he advised, “Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

The four important qualities are very clear: 1. Men of Ability (have the wherewithal to do the job) 2. Men who Fear God (respect the Creator and His

Commandments) 3. Men of Truth (not liars or dishonest) 4. Men who Hate Covetousness (would not give or take a bribe).

What a world it would be if all government office holders had these four qualities! The result would be a just world. Peace, prosperity, sound financial management, equal opportunity for all. Impossible? Today it is not possible, but soon it will be reality.

After the return of Jesus Christ to this earth everything will change. Government will no longer be in the hands of humans, only God beings. As the prophet Daniel saw in vision and recorded for us, "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. And all dominions shall serve and obey Him." Daniel 7:27

Our primary concern now is to obey the two great commandments, and to overcome sin to the very end so that we can be a part of the coming new world. Keep in mind Revelation 2:26, "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—".

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