

Theme for 2018

**WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD &
WE ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!**

“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)



This Week’s Thought – July, 8 2018

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
Hebrews 13:7-8 (NIV)

The question we are faced with in these very volatile times is, ‘Will we follow the faith of our nation’s founding fathers or will we cower to the smug elites who delight in satirizing our faith in Christ?’ It is better to follow our leaders who made America great by their goodness, great by their gumption and great by their love of country—than be disgraced, disrespected, disregarded and dismissed by those who deride religion and faith as a sham. Our pluralistic society can experience a unified spirit with humility, respect for one another and faith in the Almighty, Holy God!

More than the crisis of feeling like one or the other political parties is failing its supporters, or has done more for the people or groups of people than the other; our nation’s soul is experiencing a crisis of faith in the Almighty God. Once a God-fearing country, we have traded our faith in the Almighty for faith in ourselves and a self-proclaimed ‘Almighty’ and Potentate. Once a country of engaging neighbors, we have isolated ourselves with policies, rhetoric and rulings. When we do interact with people, we talk down or very demeaning about them.

Can we let go of the need to feel superior and instead respect those different from ourselves? The Lord’s love is long-suffering toward all, so can we give up the self-serving sport of cowardly name calling? Love is patient.

The writer of Hebrews gives us a solution to those who seek our culture’s systemic extermination of faith in God. Consider the outcomes of the lives of the faithful who went before us; faith that took the gospel of Jesus Christ all across this great land, so love of God and love of fellow man had become common. Faith that fought for freedom at home and abroad. Faith that pioneered space exploration, railroads, interstates and air travel. Faith that survived a depression and multiple recessions. Faith that embraced religious liberty and racial equality.

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.” (Philippians 2:1-2)

Most of all we need faith in Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday and today and forever. When Jesus Christ is lifted up within a confused culture, He brings clarity of purpose. When Christ is central in a polarized government, He brings reconciliation. When Jesus is a friend to those who have hurt each other, He brings healing. The constant grace of Christ is our constant.

If we can survive a Civil War, by God’s grace we can survive a civil cultural war. But if we continue to be uncivil in our discourse and treatment of each other, the foundation of our nation’s faith in God will continue to crumble. Will you become part of the solution by praying for those who treat you with disdain? Will you seek to serve others, instead of demanding to be served? And will you examine your heart and honestly ask if you have surrendered your life to faith in God through Jesus Christ? **We can thrive united or we can barely survive divided.**

Nations who respect faith in God experience His favor, but those who thumb their noses at their need for a Savior experience the Lord’s discipline. Faith unites us around our Savior Jesus!

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). *“But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”* (John 12:32)

Application: Ask yourself, ‘Who can I befriend who is not a friend of God?’

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear God, I pray today, that I am a living manifestation of Your love, joy and peace. I pray that I feel Your presence and influence in every thought that I think; in every emotion that I feel; and in everything that I do and say. I pray that Your Power and Strength comes through me, and overflows from within me, onto others. I pray that I live the power of Your Holy Spirit every second of this day and this night and, in so doing, I experience what true joy and happiness really is. I pray that I make joy and peace a habit that I automatically live on a daily basis. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

~Yours in Christ, Pastor King