

Yankee Steve's Column
for the Week of November 4, 2010

When Prayer Doesn't Work

In the city in which I live some people gathered for prayer just before the November 2nd election. With the economy in the shape it is not even an atheist would blame them. What is most disturbing is that President Barack Obama has no program in place that will add life to our failing economy. America now knows that Obama doesn't know what to do. And what he has done has in fact made things worse.

So I ask you, why is Obama our president at this time in history? And why was George Washington our first president?

The answer is simple. We get the president we deserve.

The Colonials who freed us from the tyranny of the British King George III deserved Washington. They had fought hard and long for a just cause: liberty. After winning the War for Independence, Marquis de Lafayette said of America, “. . . Liberty has found a country.”

Washington has been compared to Cincinnatus [519-438 B.C.] of Rome. As soon as he had accomplished the task of restoring the Roman republic he went back to his farm. After defeating the British, Washington would have preferred to return to his plantation at Mount Vernon. He delayed his retirement to become our first president only so that he could firmly set the nation's foundation on freedom. He knew that he was uniquely qualified for such a task.

Would you believe that some of the revolutionaries desired to title Washington a Duke and others even a King? He would have none of it. America would be a republic. Subsequently Washington refused to run for a third term as president thereby setting a precedent for all who would follow him. [Franklin D. Roosevelt with Socialist leanings broke with that precedent.]

Had Washington not been the man he was, the United States of America would have become a constitutional monarchy. We certainly fared better than the French. After making himself Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was heard to say, “Humph, they wanted me to be another Washington.” If Washington were here now he would not doubt distance himself from neo-conservative imperialists.

Ego

Now does anyone in his right mind think that Obama would have turned down a Dukedom? Does anyone really believe that he ran for president because he thought his country needed him or that he was uniquely qualified to preserve liberty?

Obama wanted to become president because his ego could easily fill a galaxy. No sooner had he been elected than he began to call his tax-dodging lackeys Czars. If they are Czars, what is he if

not a god? No wonder some people are saying that Obama is out of touch. He breathes the rarified air of Olympus. If given the chance he would command his own coronation.

Obama is another Richard Nixon. He is tribal. This is why he will always be remembered for a recent Freudian slip in which he called his political opponents “enemies.” Obama lives in a world that is narrow. You are for him or against him; you give him what he wants or you become his enemy. This guy is still a kid.

Obama is closer to Augustus of Rome than he is to a Cincinnatus or a Washington. Augustus only **pretended** to restore the republic which Julius Caesar brought to an end. The Roman Senate continued to meet but only to rubber-stamp Augustus’ wishes. Nevertheless historians spoke well of him, but not the senator and historian Tacitus [56-117 A.D.]. He wrote,

When he [Augustus] had seduced the army by gifts, the common people by the provision of cheap food, and everyone by the blandishments of peace, then little by little, he began to enlarge his powers, to encroach upon the proper functions of the Senate, the magistrates and the laws. No one opposed him. Men of spirit had died on the battlefield or in the proscriptions. The remainder of the aristocracy was rewarded by wealth and position in proportion to their readiness to accept servitude.

History will deal well with Obama, too. After all he broke the color barrier. I do not fear Obama as much as I fear the man or woman who will follow him. He can only do so much now that we are on to him. What I fear is that Obama is a bridge to someone else even more daring and less Washingtonian. Believe it or not, there is likely someone worse than Obama waiting in the wings.

Useless Prayers

The Holy Bible has much to say about national sins. Not only individuals but entire nations are called on to repent. In language too plain to be misunderstood the Bible teaches that there are times when prayer is a waste of time. When people consort together to flaunt the will of God and when the very culture becomes anti-theistic, we can be assured that prayer will accomplish nothing.

We can sing all we want about how God should bless America, but unless we do away with our national sins we will not know the blessing of the Almighty.

The prophet Jeremiah was told that prayers offered by two of the greatest men in the Old Testament could not save Jerusalem from destruction because much like America the fabric of its society had been woven on a secular loom and then dyed a defiant crimson.

The Reverend Samuel Davies (long considered the greatest preacher in colonial times) published a sermon during a time of great stress. Everyone around him was hoping for change, the kind of change that would bring to an end a costly and bloody war that among other things had ruined the economy. Sound familiar?

Using the upper case and bold black lettering Davies called for “**A THOROUGH NATIONAL REFORMATION.**”

Yes, pray for your elected leaders. And yes, pray about elections. But with all that do not forget that God takes no wooden nickels. Change will not come unless we change. To think otherwise would mean that you think that God can change.

Now bear with me for a moment and let me think out loud.

If we mend our ways and turn from our national sins maybe God will send us a President like House Representatives Paul Ryan [R-WI] or Michele Bachmann [R-MN]. These are well educated, articulate people that have taken a stand for liberty and decency. If elected either of them, or both together working as a team, would indicate that a patient and merciful God has given America another chance.

Obama said he would bring change. A lifelong friend of mine, Kevin says, “Yeah he brought change, chump change!” But this is all we can expect while we continue to believe that we do not have to change or that a holy God has changed who will now indulge our appetite for sin.

In 2012, God will be speaking to the nation.

If Obama, the most liberal president in our history and something of a nihilist, becomes a two-term president, we will be able to conclude at that time that America has been weighed in the balances and found wanting, and we will know why.

We get the president we deserve because prayer and singing “God Bless America” at ballgames does not change God. We must repent of our national sins, chief among them, abortion-on-demand.

Ever yours,

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