

# The Source of True Promotion!

The American public is in the throes of another election year. From the Presidency to local offices, candidates are doing "whatever it takes" to get into office. With the insurmountable problems facing leaders today, we are glad that some are still willing to take the responsibility of public office. This world desperately needs good leadership. Sadly though, the tactics of successful political campaigns call for tough assaults on the character and competence of the opposition.

The Presidential conventions provided a national forum for what the Scriptures declare to be evil speaking, malice, strife and anger. How sad this is! Representatives of both political parties claimed to be stalwart Christians, yet used "the works of the flesh" to accomplish their goals. (see Galatians 5:19-21) It is unseemly for a professed disciple of Christ to use such tactics for political success. Those who would provide "Christian leadership" for our country must not do so at the expense of Christian principles.

At the Democratic convention Mr. Clinton, lifting a phrase from the Bible, promised to provide "a new covenant" for the American people. The declaration of this noble goal was followed by repeated assaults on the competency and character of the Bush administration. The Republican convention took an even more strident tone—slandering the democratic candidate and his family while quoting scriptures and calling for a "Holy War." Similarly across the country political campaigns are getting uglier with each passing election.

Christian people, concerned about the decline of morality in our time, feel that they must grasp the reigns of power and restore order. Some feel compelled to save our country by making it a "Christian nation." The drive to subdue the world for Christ is not a new idea. By war or Inquisition, "Christian" leaders have tried for centuries to do this. Their lack of success is copiously noted in volumes of bloody history.

## Christians Not To Rule Now

Sad to say, professed Christians have labored under a thorough delusion respecting God's plan for mankind. They once claimed that Christ set up his Church in Kingdom power at the first advent. They also claimed that the Church has since been reigning on earth as his representative. Western civilization referred to itself as "Christendom"—an abbreviated form of "Christ's Kingdom." On the strength of this delusion so-called heretics, the "heathen" and the Jewish people have been persecuted to death as opponents of Christ's Kingdom. However, using the "ends to justify the means" cannot win the world for Christ. Inquisition tactics of torture, murder or confiscation of

property are totally at odds with the principles of Christ's true Kingdom!

The belief that Christ's disciples would make this world his Kingdom contradicts Jesus' words. "Jesus answered and said, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews, but now is my kingdom not from hence." John 18:36 If the world would be won for Christ, the "god" of this present evil world (the real leader) must be conquered. That leader is Satan! He will be bound during the thousand year Kingdom of Christ, that he may deceive the nations no more. II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:2,3 Meantime, Christ's true followers must walk as he walked and not carelessly ignore his commands.

### **Christ's Disciples Must Bear Fruit**

If potential leaders want to benefit from proclaiming their relationship with him, they should bear the fruits of that union. Jesus left us a beautiful lesson about this before his crucifixion. This lesson was to help believers grow in their faith until Jesus' return. He would seek his fruitage (faithful believers) at the harvest of the Christian age. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." John 15:5-8

Notice that it is by bearing fruit that we shall be his disciples. What fruits did our Master expect us to bear? "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts [the works of the flesh]. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:22-25. These are the elemental characteristics of any who would be faithful disciples.

Christ's followers have little chance of gaining the world's submission while in their present humble condition. It is unlikely that the world, by popular vote, will accept the rulership of Christ. "And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered." Malachi 3:15 Should the Christian use wrath or brute force to conquer the proud, wicked or tempters? Will we do evil that good may come? No! Not by any means! Walking against the course of this present evil world brings forth the fruits of the spirit!

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21 Faithful Christians must be tried and developed through faithful obedience to Christ. They must wait until he [Christ] shall reign to subdue all his enemies.

### **Deliverance To Come Soon**

Rather than seeking to fight this world on its terms the Scriptures admonish us to "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place and it shall not be.

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalm 37:7-11

### Proper Christian Weapons

God's way of bringing the world into submission to Christ is not through the strength of the flesh or carnality. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Corinthians 10:3-5

The weapons of our spiritual warfare are to give us the victory over personal sin—what the Scriptures call, "the old man." Ephesians 4:22-24 Rather than using worldly-wise leaders to take this world by force, "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are." I Corinthians 1:27-28

The things that now are, this present evil world, will be "brought to nought" by something that doesn't exist yet! That "something" will be the completed body of Christ—a body that has many members. The disciples of Christ who are victorious in overcoming will receive the crown of life. Those who suffer with him in the present time will reign with him in his future kingdom. "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." Yes, it is God who will do the work of conquering this unrighteous world and subduing it in righteousness. He will do this great work through the agent He has chosen—the glorified Christ, Jesus the Head and the church his body. I Corinthians 12:12; James 1:12; Romans 8:17; Revelation 20:4,6; Romans 16:20

## **The Present Reality**

We would love to help the world out of its present sin-sick condition now! But we also realize that this will be accomplished in God's chosen way and time. Therefore, do not expect world leaders to be recognized as high profile Christians. The scripture is still true that "the world knoweth us not, because it knew him (Jesus Christ) not." I John 3:1 The true body of Christ is a mystery to the world and its princes. "We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory. Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." I Corinthians 1:7,8

The world still does not recognize those who are diligently following Christ. The world and its leadership still do not recognize his humble servants. They are still generally considered to be foolish, weak or base.

## **Not To Be Deluded**

The idea that Christ has already set up his kingdom through the established churches is a false doctrine. This false doctrine deluded many during the heyday of Christendom's power. The Scriptures symbolically refer to this delusion as drunkenness. All the nations

of Christendom were drunk with the wine of this false doctrine. Revelation 17:2 Christians gave assent to the power of the church, while thoughtlessly praying, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

The prophetic Word of God shows us that we may expect this deluding doctrine to become a force in the world again. Our prayer is that Christ's followers will not be deceived by that "strong delusion." II Thessalonians 2:11 May we all resist the offer of power and glory in this present world. May we resist the use of carnal weapons—the "works of the flesh"—to accomplish the works of God. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:7-9

Our desire is that all who profess Christ will give diligence to make their calling and election sure. II Peter 1:10 Jesus and his bride (the true church), as the elect of God, will rule over the earth. Then there truly will be a "new world order" that today's leaders can only dream of. God's election will result in blessings for all under the reign of His Christ.