

We're All in This Together

By Doug Roush

Our nation was shocked and mutually mourned as we heard the horrific news about a misled radical who murdered nine innocent people at the conclusion of a bible study period in a Charleston, South Carolina church. His stated purpose was that he wanted, "to start a race war." The aftermath of his murderous act has revealed to him, and to all who will honestly take notice, that we have risen as one nation and one people to decry the evil of racism. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people of all races were seen gathered at the church to comfort and mourn with the survivors. Although some activist and some politicians point to the actions of one person as proof that we are a racially divided nation, the actions of the majority of our citizens have displayed the exact opposite.

The word of God declares that, God, "...has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth..." (Acts 17:26). Jesus teaches us to, "love your neighbor as you love yourself," and to, "love your enemy" (Mark 12:31; Luke 6:35-36). God's word also teaches us that, "Evil men will wax worse and worse" (2Tim. 3:13). We must be on guard against their evil, and not join with them. Proverbs 24:1-2 counsels us, "Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them; For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking." "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21).

In the Blink of an Eye

"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt. 24:37-39).

The Pearl Harbor attack demonstrated that not only were an Admiral and General unprepared, but the whole nation as well. Nearly everyone, in their satisfaction with the trivia of every day living, ignored all the evidence that an attack was coming. In spite of all the evidence, people were astonished when the attack came.

The Bible repeatedly informs us regarding the Second Coming of Christ. Men are warned to flee from the wrath to come. They are warned that sudden destruction will overtake them. It will come as suddenly as the blinking of an eye, and unexpectedly as a thief in the night. In spite of all the warnings, men continue to be preoccupied with their every day trivia. When the Lord comes, they will be awakened with a blow far more destructive than Pearl Harbor. Let us not let that day take us unawares.

The Greatest Ruler

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21). The contest between Stanton and Lincoln for the office of president began with Stanton treating Lincoln with contempt. He called Lincoln "a low cunning clown" and nicknamed him "the original gorilla." A person was a fool, Stanton claimed, to wander about in Africa trying to capture a gorilla when he could find one so easily in Springfield, Illinois. However, Lincoln did not respond in kind. And, when Lincoln was elected president, he appointed Stanton as his war minister because he was the best man for the job. He treated Stanton with every courtesy. On the night when the assassin's bullet murdered Lincoln in the theater, in a little room where the President's body lie, there stood Stanton, looking down on the silent face of Lincoln in all its ruggedness. Stanton spoke through his tears, "There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen."

"...Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing" (1Peter 3:9).

Something to Hold On To

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isa. 41:10). "The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace" (Psalm 29:11).

James Black, formerly of Free St. Georges in Edinburgh, describes a trip he took through the tulip fields of Holland. He says that the beautiful beds of flowers were divided by canals which were crossed by foot-wide planks. As Dr. Black and his party visited the various beds of brilliant flowers they had to cross these little canals on the narrow planks. When they came to a canal that was twelve feet wide, they hesitated. The plank seemed so narrow. Would the owner of the field make a wider bridge for them across the canal? No. He blew a whistle and a man came and handed them a thin pole which made it easy to cross the canal on the narrow plank. Dr. Black says that he then made a marvelous discovery. "How easily you can cross the narrowest plank if only you have something to hold on to." You can go through life with all its tensions, all its uncertainties, and all its changes if you have something to hold on to. (From Pastor's Annual by William Austin, p. 256)

A Moments Wisdom

- It will be interesting to hear today's teens tell their children what they had to do without.
- We gain happiness and fulfillment when we lose ourselves in service to God and others.
- Time has a wonderful way of weeding out the trivial.
- You better get interested in the future. That's where you're going to spend the rest of your life.
- A man's character, like rich topsoil, can erode so gradually he doesn't notice it until it is almost gone.
- "I'm bored" is a useless thing to say. You live in a great, vast world that you've seen none percent of.
- To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness.
- The reason most people blame others for their problems is that there's only one other choice of persons to blame.
- There is a difference between good, sound reasoning and reasons that just sound good.
- Time is infinitely more precious than money, and there is nothing common between them. You cannot accumulate time; you cannot borrow time; you can never know how much time you have left in the Bank of Life.
- If it's free, it's called advice; if you pay for it, it's called consulting; if you can use either one, it's called a miracle.
- An egotist is someone who can hardly wait to hear what he is going to say.
- You can't cultivate a friend by digging up dirt around him.
- A valuable friend is one who will tell you what you should be told even if it momentarily offends you.
- Other books are given to us for information, but the Bible is given to us for transformation.
- We enjoy warmth because we have been cold; we appreciate light because we have been in darkness. By the same token, we can experience joy because we have known sorrow.
- A true Christian is like the ripening grain; the more mature he grows, the more lowly he bows his head.