

## Pastoral Musing

June 23, 2020 (Eve of the Nativity of St. John Baptist)

It's not ANTIFA or Black Lives Matter. It's not Planned Parenthood or the Human Rights Campaign (LGBTQ organization). It's not Big Tech or Corporate America. It's not the Democrats or the Republicans.

The current condition of the United States of America is not the blame of any of the aforementioned. It's not! Oh, each has a role for sure. Each is a pawn in the hands of the evil one. But they are not to blame.

Who is to blame? The Church! Christians, you and I are to blame.

For my entire lifetime at least, Christians; men and women who have been baptized and confirmed or made a profession for Christ, have wanted to adulterate, fornicate and contracept. We've (a good number) wanted unrestrained materialism. "Rugged individualism" has evolved into egotism and self-righteousness. In summary, we've wanted as much of the world as we can have while still feeling like Christians.

And while the Church has been asleep in the light, the world, the flesh and the devil have been busy working their way into every area of life like leaven. They control our education system. They control our government institutions. They control our corporations. They control a number of churches (including the ones our Anglican heritage is rooted in).

Why then are we surprised that parts of our cities are occupied by Marxists? Why then are we surprised the SCOTUS has ruled that being homosexual and lesbian (moral choices), and transgender (a psychological condition) are the same as biological sex and race, and should have the same protections? Why are we surprised when only a few politicians push back against it?

In 1 Samuel 8, Israel told the prophet they wanted to be ruled by a king like other nations had. In wanting this, God said Israel had chosen self-rule over His own (v. 7).

For these past 50 plus years Christian Americans have been asking for the same thing. We want someone like "us" to rule. As long as we can be as materialistic and as driven by our lusts as we want, few care what else happens. And so today we have a ruling class (on both sides of the aisle) whose religion is political power and who use the American people as pawns to gain or keep it. We truly have government "By the people." Our government is merely a reflection of who we are.

1 Peter 4:17 states "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" I think we have embarked on this judgment in America. It may become very visible before this year is out? Before America as a nation is judged, the Church (Christians) within America will be judged. We will have to choose whom we will serve...

There are a number of times in the Old Testament when God sent dire warnings to Israel and even other nations (for example Nineveh) that He was about to judge them. When they repented, God stayed His hand.

Hopefully there is still time for the Church in America to repent. But if not, the only one we can blame is ourselves.

This is my musing for today. Thank you for reading it.