

FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

13820 Seal Beach Blvd

PO Box 3444

Seal Beach, CA 90740

Rev. Gwyn & Ginny Vaughn, Lead Pastors

Rev. Sheri Leming, Executive Pastor – Gary Leming, Business Administrator

Church Phone 562-598-9010

GV2fca@aol.com

www.fcachurch.net

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WHAT KIND OF FUTURE ARE WE FACING AS A NATION

If you are like me, you probably have been waiting each day with bated breath for the results of the election for the President of the United States. The suspense has been exhausting and mind blowing. Each day, I have searched both the internet and the news bulletins to hear the latest of what has been happening in these various precincts around the nation. While the reporters had their own political views I am sure, they have not been of very much encouragement during this whole process. And even today at the time of my writing this newsletter, I doubt I will know for sure by the time you hold this piece of paper in your hands as to whether anything is settled for sure.

So the question for me is “*What kind of future are we facing as a nation?*” I realize that ultimately we as believers have much greater things in store for us besides this election. But as one who loves this nation and believes in the Constitution of the United States, as well as the ideals that our forefathers stood for and were even willing to pay the ultimate price so that we as future generations could truly be free. I believe we owe it to them to do what we can to preserve that freedom that they so sincerely sought to obtain for us.

We were not just voting for a President in this election. We were voting for the ideals in which our candidate stood for. For one thing, with Mr. Trump, we believe that he was fighting for the ideals of the common man. We believe that because of what he has accomplished in the past four years in spite of all the opposition that he had to endure not only from the opposing party, but even of those in his own party.

I realize that some people refuse to vote for Mr. Trump, not because of his political conservative views so much, as it was that they do not like his style, his use of his daily twitter account, his boasting, his hair, his past reputation, etc. But sometimes when we vote for a political candidate we need to look deeper than mere personality traits, looks, and demeanor.

When we study history and the Holy Scriptures I recall a man, named Samson, who God used in regards to helping the Israelites overcome the Philistines. (Judges 13:1-16:30) Samson was no angel, and he violated most of the laws of God. Yet God used him nevertheless to help overcome the people’s adversaries, and even in the end, he accomplished more through his death, than he accomplished in his entire life time (Judges 16:30). Who are we to pick the kind of person God wants to use, when a job needs to be done? His morality with women was an embarrassment. His eating honey from a dead carcass was a violation of law. But God endowed him with strength to defeat any adversary.

But one thing we must keep in mind, when God was done with Samson, God still was able to use common men to accomplish His purposes. Samson’s time has been referred to the days of the judges. But times changed in those days just as time changes things in our day. God used another means by which to govern his people. The people asked God for a king to rule them instead of judges. Well the people’s request offended the greatest judge they ever had by the name of Samuel. Yet, God gave the people their request....and eventually God found men who were better than Samson to rule his people. Especially, when he found David...as young man “***after God’s own heart.***” (Ps. 89:20; 1 Sam. 13:14)

Too often we tend to get our eyes on the wrong thing. We see people with talents and special gifting’s and lock into those gifts and forget the “giver of those gifts” is God. God is able to use anything and anyone. If God used a mule to speak to a man who would not listen to Him, surely is able to use anyone, anything, at any time to accomplish His purposes. That is why we continually pray: “*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*” Matt. 6:10 Sometimes eyes are too glued to the Samson’s or Trump’s that we forget who is really running the show. God is still in control even in times when it doesn’t look like it. Even when situations seem to be getting out of hand, God is still able to calm the storm and bring peace in times of our greatest conflicts.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD ON THE LOCAL LEVEL

So what kind of future is this nation of ours facing? What can we even expect on the local level? I am sure that for Christians if Mr. Biden is finally selected to lead our nation we may need to prepare ourselves for things to get a little rocky. And if he is replaced by Kamala Harris, rest assured, it will probably provoke more unrest and upset in our economy, the rule of law, and strong resistance by freedom loving people.

We have already seen how those in power, who are members of the Democrat party, run their states in such places as: Washington, Oregon, Michigan, and California. They tend to take advantage of any man-made crisis by using such things as the medical crisis of Covid-19 to shut down our churches and many local businesses. We need not be surprised if we have more of it in our future.

Also, expect for there to be reaction to this overplay by politicians. We should also be prepared for unrest in the city square, mega-store closing, and the running out of supplies at the grocery store. Much of government is run like the local post office that wears out the patience of the saints. My wife is a very even-keel person...but she has had her patience tested at times. She once had a post office clerk ask her to take an ant out doors that happened to be crawling at her station. I think the woman forgot what she was employed to do for her customers and doubt removing ants one at a time was written in her job description.

Now the question is how much of this should a Christian tolerate and endure? I realize that threats that government officials use to manipulate people into compliance takes place often during crises such as we have been experiencing. And in such times one needs to measure these situations based on what we are willing to do for freedom. How much freedom are we willing to sacrifice? I for one will not give up my freedom to worship. That is my number one priority. When we are exhorted by the Apostles in "*not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some do*" (Hebrews 10:25). I take that admonishment seriously.

I feel, if you and I, during the week, go to the grocery store, restaurants, meeting with family and friends, there is no justification for you and I not being in God's House on Sunday. I realize there are justified reasons to miss church when it comes to one's health.... I realize for seniors the children are most protective of their loved ones and will do what they advise. I realize that fear is the other factor that keeps people out of church. One can use "**science**" to make their decision....but the question is whose "**science**" do you trust? I sure don't trust our Governor's "**science**" when he himself violates the very rules he applies to us; both in failure to wear a mask and eating at fancy restaurants without a mask, when he told the rest of us not to.

Rules must be consistent. You cannot make rules for one set of the population and another set for another group; that is what the Pharisees were guilty of in Christ's day. And another thing, this fear thing....is used with the threat of death....and the manipulation of the death count as well as the Covid-19 count. Over and over the government has been caught in the act of manipulation of the numbers and this should not be. I remember a saying that I learned a long time ago: "**It will be as you will have it.**"

So what kind of future are we facing as a nation? I believe that depends much upon how the people of our day react to "**governmental regulations**" which are imposed upon us as a people. Are we going to continue to comply with government officials that are determined to police their constituents or are we going to remind them that they have been elected to serve the people not dominant their lives. After all we are adults and we should be treated as adults.

So what am I saying? What I am trying to say is this. Use wisdom. If you have questions about what you should do or not do seek counsel from godly people. Don't wrestle with these edicts of men. You are an American Citizen. This is the land of the free, but it is also the home of brave. We should exercise our freedoms now, because if we don't we will lose them by the very people who love power for one purpose and that is to impose their will on others. Ever have a bully on your street as a child? Ever had some one that wanted to run your life and impose their will on you? What did you do? Did you cave or did you stand up on your own two feet and make a decision for yourself. Do you remember the joy and freedom when you finally did act? Well you can do it again. Then you can also say: "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty I am free at last." Amen