

1) The last 12 months were so crazy it was like looking both ways before crossing the street and then getting hit by an airplane!

2) The last year was so crazy that Tiger King seemed like one of the most normal things that happened!

3) It's the first time in history we can save the human race by lying in front of the TV and doing nothing. Let's not mess this up!

It sounds extremely redundant and understated to say this has been an insanely crazy last 12 months. I wrote a special Bonus Corona Edition of the Perihelion, followed by a special Election Prediction Edition, now followed by this Sedition Edition after a violent insurrection coup attempt! I am thankful that the aliens saw what was happening down here and decided to invade another planet, alleviating the need for the <u>Martian Edition</u>! (Maybe they got scared off when they saw we have a **Space Force**!)

"I have learned to be CONTENT whatever the circumstances." Philippians 4:11 ~ Apostle Paul

Keep in mind he is not writing this from a 2 bedroom house in America or from a *Caribbean resort* ... he is in prison!

Poor Paul! He wanted to travel to share the great news with the whole world yet he is stuck in a prison cell . . . where the entire Praetorian Guard and other prisoners from around the world learn of his faith, resulting in his efforts and the message being multiplied as it is shared by many (Phil. 1:12-13).

Poor Paul! Instead of being free and out sharing the gospel, he is stuck in a prison cell . . . where he has a bit of time to do some writing (like a lot of the New Testament) with words that not only travel the entire known world, but through the centuries to me and you in America!

"I have learned how to be CONTENT in any circumstance."

Paul does not beg them to pray he can get out of jail or that the Roman government will have a godly emperor. Instead he tells us not to worry about anything but instead to pray about everything (Phil. 4:6-7). Why? So we can get the things we are asking for? No. From prison he says the reason to pray is for the peace from God that passes understanding!

"I have learned to be CONTENT in whatever state I am."

Paul reminds us that we are most importantly citizens of Heaven (Phil. 3:20), not America, so we need to be focusing on the Kingdom of God above everything else (Matthew 6:33). Which political side is God on? Maybe the answer is the same *Miles McPherson* (former *San Diego Charger* and current pastor of The Rock Church) as well as Ben Howe (conservative Republican evangelical author of the insightful book *The Immoral Majority: Why Evangelicals Chose Political Power over Christian Values*) came to when describing this political dilemma. They both note the verses in Joshua 5 where the leader of Israel (Joshua) asked the angelic-like commander of the Lord's army, *"Are you for us or for our enemies?"* And the reply was . . . NEITHER! "If there was ever a country or political leadership team God should have been for, it was Israel. But God is not American or Israeli and He is not Republican or Democrat. Paul confirms in Gal. 3:28 that we are now NEITHER Greek nor Jew, male nor female, slave nor free, but all are ONE in Christ.

I have been reading a number of books and articles trying to understand some of the emerging developments related to the word "evangelical." It has been extremely discouraging to discover that an entire "denomination" of Christians (German Christians) initially supported and even aligned with German Nazism. They were all for the platform that included a better national economy, no communism or socialism in response to Russia's influence, and a more pure national population without the evil influences of immigrants or other races (like Jews, which eventually led to the Holocaust). Many of the Christians praised their new leader. "If the German who truly believed in Jesus could find the spirit of the Kingdom of God anywhere, he could find it in Adolf Hitler's movement." "God has once again raised His voice in a singular individual." (Quotes from <u>The Battle for Bonhoeffer</u> -<u>Debating Discipleship in the Age of Trump</u> by Stephen Haynes.) In 1934, Hitler and the Nazi party used lines like "<u>Make Germany Great Again</u>" and stated that the press is "the enemy of the people." So for those of you who are genuine followers of Christ, I beq you to be very careful about aliqning yourself with earthly leaders.

Sadly, people have not learned from history as there are some scary similarities to the evils that took place from uniting the Catholic Church and the government in the 16th century. Both sides wanted power to control the other side as well as the people. The church was in bed with political government leaders. *Luther* helped put an end to that power stronghold by nailing his 95 theses to the Wittenburg Door on October 31, 1517, detailing all the corruption and desire for power in the Catholic Church. That was the reformation ... and now we have Protestants!

History is being replayed as some evangelical leaders are once again hungry for that POWER (might makes right) to force in the Kingdom, which Jesus over and over repudiated! In Biblical times, some of them were called Zealots and Jesus did not play that game. Conversely, I fear we have overlooked the impact "conservative" politics is having on diluting and weakening the church and the gospel.

"If your faith in God is big enough to believe He could accomplish His will through a Cyrus-like leader (apologies to King Cyrus) who, unlike Cyrus, routinely demonstrated WWJND (What Would Jesus NOT Do), then is your faith in God big enough to believe He can also use a God-fearing man in office to accomplish His will?"

If Jesus chose NOT to overthrow or infiltrate the corrupt Roman government (even though if there was ever a perfect leader who could govern the country in a Godly way, it was Him) then why in the world are *we* so caught up in the government and whether it is Godly or not? Most of the people in this country are NOT Christian so why do you think they will vote for exclusively Christian agendas? We need to be focusing on "Thy Kingdom come" above our own political agendas or preferences. As God uses us to help <u>change the hearts of individuals</u>, then the country will look more Christ-like . . . but this is not done by a coup, or force, or power in politics, and it will not be done through the government.

It was disheartening for me to hear leaders of the insurrection mob (e.g. Proud Boys) actually praying to God before their endeavor . . . as we then saw fellow Americans (image bearers of God) lose their lives as a result of this violent attack. The Enemy has deceived many into looking through our earthly lenses focusing on the temporal things of this world (II Cor. 4:18) rather than with our eternal lenses to the things that last forever. Without even realizing it, some are worshipping politics, the government, money, and power rather than God!

So let's pray that we can be CONTENT in whatever situation we may find ourselves . . . and Keep the SON in our eyes, remembering our goal is to be more and more like Jesus! (Romans 8:29)