

Monday Morning Reflection - May 19, 2008

Good morning! On Sabbath our conference president, Steve McPherson, brought us a timely word about the long-predicted, coming conflict between the "lamb" and the "dragon." It was a poignant reminder to us that the United States is the last world empire seen in the prophetic pages of scripture. There are no more human-led world powers to come, but we can clearly see the dawn of Christ's kingdom of righteousness.

One sure indicator that we may be entering the twilight of our civilization is the rapid decline of morality coupled with increasing governmental intrusion to try to reverse or halt the slide. The Scriptures paint a stunningly accurate picture of what "nighttime" looks like in the last days:

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them" (2 Tim. 3:1-5).

How should the people of God respond to the times? What do we *do* to strengthen ourselves spiritually for the coming conflict and tumultuous times ahead? Once again, Scripture has the answer:

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:24-25).

Did you see it? We're to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" as we "meet together" and "encourage one another." And we're to do this even more as we "see the Day approaching." Some things you can do effectively on your own. I encourage you to pray and to spend time with Jesus and His word every day. But sometimes you need the support of others to help you focus and stay connected. Church is great, but it's not the be-all and end-all of everything. We can't expect to cram the sum total of our Christian experience-witness, worship, fellowship, learning, growth, outreach, nurture, healing, discipleship, etc.-into a couple hours once a week. The times demand *more* fellowship, *more* time in prayer and the word, *more* heart-to-heart and face-to-face encouragement " . . . as you see the Day approaching."

What am I getting at? It may be time to join a small group, a home Bible study, or start attending our Fresh Encounter prayer meetings on Wednesday nights. There are many such gatherings happening in the Kuna church family and I think it's time we took advantage of them. If you would like to know about the groups already in place, just email Joy Johnson (joy@kunasdachurch.org) or Aileen Sox (ailsox@msn.com). If you'd be interested in hosting or starting a small group, please let us know.

The road ahead will get much rougher before it gets better. We need God and each other as never before. Let's shine our light brighter as the world gets darker. And by all means, let's do it together. - Pastor Randy

p.s. If you'd like to thank Elder McPherson for his message, drop him a line at: smcphrsn@idconf.org