

SERMON - THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER - 26 APRIL 2009
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

1 Peter 2:13-14 (KJV)

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; [14] Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

I'm indebted this morning to Tom Cochran who has sent me a couple of emails referring to a quote from the Old Testament, the Second Book of Chronicles 7:14 to be exact.

It goes like this *2 Chron. 7:14*

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

I have a feeling if I took a poll today, right now, here at St. John's, that no matter which side politically we stand individually, we would all agree that the country is in a mess. I feel that we would all agree that the country is in a mess, economically, politically and morally.

I also feel that if this poll asked the right questions, we all would agree that the economic and political messes are a result of the moral mess.

I also feel that we have swept the moral mess under the carpet so long that we may never be able to correct it.

I hope that I am wrong.

I hope that I am wrong that most people just don't care.

The funny thing is that, if you would ask them, most people would say that they do care and voice strong opinions on the subject, usually based on which side of the fence they stand. The conservatives blame the liberals and the liberals blame the conservatives.

But nobody blames the ones who have really created the problem.

You conservatives think I'm going to say the Democrats, don't you? And you Democrats out there think I'm going to blame the conservatives.

You both are wrong and you both are right.

The problem lies with our selves, us. You and I.

We cannot run away from the fact that we have allowed it by not getting involved.

But you are going to say, "Preacher, you are all wet. I have voted this way or that way and I have done my duty."

Maybe you have, then why do we have this mess on our hands. Why is unemployment galloping to a point that we have not seen it since the Great Depression. Why have home foreclosures become a major crisis. Why are our investment portfolios in the tank.

Why?

Maybe you have a better reason than I do, but I feel that it is because we have forgotten God.

We have forgotten God in our daily lives, individually and collectively as a nation.

We have allowed the almighty Dollar to replace Almighty God.

And we have allowed partisan politics to cloud that issue. We get so wrapped up in this

political party or that political philosophy that we have forgotten that it is God that we have to answer to.

But, you are going to tell me, from which ever of your political leanings, that your side represents God's will.

The German Empire thought the very same thing in World War One.

Politics is not the answer. God is the answer.

Until we ourselves begin to let God run our lives, we will never be able to let go of the politics and let God run this nation.

We give a lot of lip-service to this subject, but actually very little substance to it. It's sort of like we talk a good game but we never play a single down.

As a matter of background, my personal background, I'm the first in my family in four generations not to hold public office. One of my father's cousins was the Vice Presidential candidate on the Democratic Party ticket with Al Smith, the first Roman Catholic to run for president. I come from a political family.

Believe me, it has nothing to do with God.

Politics is centered on the individual, the individual who is running and who, when they are elected, we expect to produce miracles..... And they can't. Only God can.

We, you and I have abdicated our responsibilities and we have no one other than ourselves to blame.

We have allowed Congress to pass legislation that is contrary to the common good of us all without a single notice.

We were too busy making money.

As long as our investments were gaining, as long as our houses were increasing in double digit percentages, as long as all continued to be rosy, we didn't care.

We just let those whom we had elected run rampant over our personal liberties, our religious freedoms and our pocketbooks, all the time doing their Wizard of Oz impression of smoke and mirrors.... Just as long as we were making money.

I was born just sixty years after the end of the War of Secession, in the middle of the Great Depression. Things were more simple. God was more present.

Somehow, we have lost our way.

God is still with us, I hope.

But there is no hope for us unless we change how we do business.

Remember there is a priority to life and politics.

We are to do as Saint Peter tells us, *1 Peter 2:17 (KJV) Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*

Amen.

