

Our True Citizenship: “I pledge allegiance...”

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

After we sent out yesterday’s email, *“Without Repentance There Is No Love, Forgiveness Or Compassion”*, we finally watched the day’s news for the first time. On every station the reporters referred to the attackers on Congress as a **“mob.”** We hadn’t intended to write that email yesterday. It was only after phoning my brother Tom and his wife Billie, who is Sue’s sister, and recounting to them our encounter on Saturday with people who were yelling “Kill Democrats” that the Holy Spirit compelled us to write. “Mob” isn’t a word we normally use. But as we wrote that email, the word kept resonating in our spirits, even though at the time we had no idea of what was going on in Washington.

Mike: This morning I barely finished my prayer time, Bible reading, and coffee when the Spirit gave me two things to do. First, He had me call Tom and Billie to confirm a message I was given to share with our oldest brother, Jack. The essence of the message was, *“Quit watching the news and start helping your children make it to heaven.”* As only our Lord could know when He gave me the message, our brother Jack was at Tom and Billie’s home right at that time! I was able to share that message with both of my brothers and with Billie.

I now offer this to all of you parents of any generation:

“QUIT WATCHING THE NEWS AND START HELPING YOUR CHILDREN MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.”

KNOW THIS: Our heavenly Father isn't finished chastising this nation. Yesterday was just a bowshot warning how close we are to not being a nation any longer. We who follow Jesus as Lord can't be outcome-based, focused on some happy resolution for our country. Our Lord calls us to be obedience-based, trusting and obeying His Spirit and His Word as His ambassadors in this world. In our heavenly Father's divine providence and through His compassion for humanity, He may let the economy improve and perhaps even relieve the pandemic. But the strife that is perpetuated by ongoing arrogance and injustice (see for example Proverbs 18:6; 20:3; 22:10; 26:21; 30:33) will continue to spread until civil war erupts.

Until humble repentance and confessing sins becomes widespread in this nation, the suffering which so many are currently enduring will only continue. Our Father is indeed sovereign, and as the best Father there is, He will not let up on whatever will bring about humble repentance until His purpose is reached.

Sue: After Mike shared the Holy Spirit's message with his brothers, Tom and Jack asked how they should approach their families. Mike told them what he has done with his own family and with many congregations where he's spoken. He has asked them this pointed question: **“Does anyone have unconfessed sin?”**

For instance, when we as a family were on the way to a worship gathering, Mike would ask us this question. He knew that we owed it to everyone else at the gathering to have no unconfessed sins ourselves. When Mike asked, **“Does anyone**

have unconfessed sin?” in a congregation setting, sometimes it would be 20 to 40 minutes of the congregation falling on their knees with broken and contrite hearts before everyone became free of unconfessed sin. The whole atmosphere of the group was transformed as repentant hearts received the forgiveness and cleansing which only our God can do!

Here's another point to consider. Besides you holding on to unconfessed sin, where your foremost allegiance lays says a lot about you too. Is your foremost allegiance to our Lord or to your government? Keep in mind that our Lord Jesus didn't contest Satan's claim that the governments of the world were his (Matthew 4:8,9). Instead, our Lord Jesus told the devil where true allegiance must be: ***“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only”*** (Matthew 4:10) — and this command is squarely before us as well. Our preeminent allegiance must be to the Lord our God, and that allegiance must be demonstrated by the way we live.

Have You Been Indoctrinated Into Misguided Allegiances?

In the previous email we mentioned the Humanist indoctrination that takes place within public education. To *indoctrinate* is to instruct and train people to uncritically accept a set of beliefs. The goal of indoctrination, whether it be a religious creed or a Humanist agenda, is to create a unified understanding and unquestioning commitment. But plunging into an allegiance without fully exploring what

that really means to your life leaves you vulnerable to error.

A case in point. For several decades we've cited that the demonic spirit of Jezebel underlies the rule of this nation. This arrogant entity induces an attitude of "I have no co-equal." It's become pervasive. The whole Self-obsession addiction has degenerated from Me-First to Me-Only, and hardened hearts and numbed consciences have become the ugly fruit of this demon's influence. Added to this sorry state, *unresolved bitterness* ignites the tinder of self-absorption and intolerant disregard for others. **Bitterness has been the #1 demonic stronghold** in this nation for many years, and sadly, bitterness continues to strengthen its foul grip within Christianity as well.

Mike: As a collective body which upholds Jesus Christ, Christianity should be the bastion of **love, forgiveness,** and **compassion**, with those who are mature leading the way in these necessary virtues. Yet all too often I've witnessed instead the shroud of unresolved bitterness hanging heavily upon clergy within so many organized religious systems. I've written previously about my experiences in counseling clergy in the 1980s & 90s. What stood out starkly was an element they had in common: most had no call from God to be a pastor. Many of these men had become clergy to show their fathers they were a better man than he was. And being plagued by unconfessed and unresolved bitterness themselves, they were unable to preach about God as the unfailing Father

with any sense of a deep personal relationship with Him. Take this warning to heart: It's not so much what's preached from the pulpit as what is *consciously avoided* in the preaching — or what that person is *incapable of sharing*.

“Mike, destroy all symbols of faith. It isn't the cross that is important but what My Son accomplished on the cross.”

In 1989 our heavenly Father spoke these words to me. For a complete picture of where His command led us, please read our May 2000 Newsletter, “*Taking The High Places*” <[https://restorationministries.org/download/200005takingthehighplaces%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/200005takingthehighplaces%20(1).pdf)>. This newsletter will also give you insight into particular demons having control over a city, a region or a nation.

Elizabeth Elliot was a missionary and influential writer whose husband Jim was martyred with four other saints in Ecuador in 1956. This woman of deep faith taught our seminary missions class in 1978, and was the first to warn us about sinister, misplaced allegiance to *symbols*. If you don't believe that can happen, just look at Christian history and see how many people were killed by Christians who were carrying a cross or wearing one. Flag or cross, it's a misplaced allegiance that Satan can easily manipulate to do evil and fan hate.



Please guard your heart over where you focus your preeminent allegiance. Remember, our God gave mankind freedom of choice. He allows us to choose right or wrong, to make righteous choices or sinful ones. But His eternal purpose is for us to choose to embrace His Covenant in Christ which our Lord's sacrifice made possible for us. The lives of His children are founded on allegiance to His Son, our Lord Jesus, to not only become like Him, but also to live in this world as Jesus would live. Anything less misses that amazing purpose and is totally unworthy and unacceptable.

If this passage isn't at the core of your motivation, repent and ask for the grace which only our Lord's Spirit can give you to make it so:

“Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body” (Matthew 6:19-21; see also Philippians 3:20,21; 1Thessalonians 5:9-11; Ephesians 2:18-22; Hebrews 11:8-10).

FYI: The US pledge of allegiance has existed in some form since September 1892 when it appeared in a magazine article that commemorated the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World. Francis Bellamy, an ordained minister, created a pledge that would be taken on Columbus Day by millions of schoolchildren. His version, which follows, did not mention the words "under God": "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands—one Nation indivisible—with liberty and justice for all." The most recent alteration of its wording came on Flag Day in 1954, when the words "under God" were added.

Consider this truth and make it your way of thinking:

Your citizenship in heaven and your devotion to our Lord Jesus in carrying out our Father's will and the Holy Spirit dwelling within you make you the most compassionate, just and forgiving citizens on earth! We must refuse to let ourselves be dominated by the futility of fears, the chains of fretting, and the bondage of false allegiances and self-indulgence which so blind the world (see Ephesians 4:17-24).

We'd like to propose a pledge which we who follow Jesus in this nation can truthfully support for His Name's sake:

“As a follower of Jesus who lives in the United States of America, I pledge allegiance to the true Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and I will uphold the Bible and the Constitution to which it gave rise with regard for other humans, that we might be one nation under Jesus, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

We'd like to end by again repeating for you parents (and grandparents): ***“Quit watching the news and start helping your children make it to heaven.”*** Focus on your citizenship in heaven and help all your offspring join you there!

Mike & Sue