

If God is for us....
February 10, 2019

I **SLIDE** Civil War

A) A nation divided

- 1) Men on both sides were very committed Christians
 - a) Stonewall Jackson: A member of his congregation asserted that "It would be difficult to find in the entire Presbyterian Church any other member who disciplined himself so strictly, obeyed what he believed to be the will of God so absolutely, prayed so fervently, or found so much happiness in his religion."
 - b) Robert E. Lee: A "Great Revival" occurred among Robert E. Lee's forces in the fall of 1863 and winter of 1864. Some 7,000 soldiers were converted.
- 2) Winfield Hancock and Ambrose Burnside on Union side
 - a) Abraham Lincoln: While he did not attend church, Lincoln is the first person to say, "one nation under God."

B) God cannot be on two opposing sides

- 1) A house divided cannot stand
- 2) Yet, we had honest, God-fearing men fighting each other who believed that God was for them
- 3) We have the same thing happening today
- 4) Take any issue, political or spiritual, and we will find believers on opposite sides
- 5) We will find people appropriating the name of God to justify their beliefs
- 6) Paul asked the church in Corinth, "Is God divided??"
- 7) No, He is not
- 8) Which brings us to this message: If God is for us....

II **SLIDE** Scriptures

A) **Isaiah 55:8-11 (NIV).** ⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

B) **SLIDE 1 Corinthians 1:18-29-29 (NIV)** ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- 1) Foolishness (absurd, ignorant) for those who are perishing
- 2) But POWER to those who believe
- 3) Why power? Because God will always see that His word never returns void.
- 4) When we speak and declare His truth - not we think is His truth or what we want to be His truth - we can stand confidently on that word and never be ashamed of it
- 5) This is not a name-it-and-claim-it mentality
- 6) It is a God-said-it-so-it-is-true faith
- 7) **SLIDE** ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
- 8) **SLIDE** ²⁶ Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards [intelligence]; not many were influential [wealthy]; not many were of noble birth [famous]. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of

the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

- a) Despised, lowborn, and lowly things - you and I
- b) Not one of us can say God chose us because of our position, intelligence or influence
- c) Therefore, God alone gets the glory, and we should never touch it
- d) To nullify the things that are
- e) To nullify the things the intelligent, the wealthy, the influential had decided is right
- f) To nullify = humble, subdue, expose

C) **SLIDE Romans 8:31 (NIV)** ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

- 1) If God is for us, then we cannot lose!
- 2) If God is for us, then no one or thing or ideology can stand against us
- 3) If God is for us!
- 4) God is not a god of causes.
- 5) His eyes do not scour the earth looking for good ideas to join
- 6) We do not design new deals and sign up God to be on our side
- 7) **SLIDE 2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)** For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him....
- 8) God is not God divided
 - a) He cannot be both for and against marriage as defined in Genesis
 - b) Jesus cannot be the only way to the Father and A way to the Father
 - c) Jesus cannot be for socialism and democracy
 - d) Jesus cannot be for repentance from sins and against it

- e) God cannot have a Son and not have a Son
- 9) God is for those whose hearts are fully committed to Him
 - 10) God is for those who are for His Son, Jesus Christ
 - 11) God is for those who are for His word
 - 12) Is every voice that condemns abortion also praising God?
 - 13) Is every voice that blesses abortion also proclaiming that the Bible - all of it - is the living word of God?
 - 14) Most importantly, is my life honoring, praising, glorifying my King and Savior?
 - 15) **SLIDE** Gary ended his message with this question: What are we not doing that we should be doing?
 - 16) Not what we THINK we should be doing but what God wants us to be doing - as a church
 - 17) Then Don told us that what the Lord tells us to do may not be comfortable or what we want, but it will be challenging, and He will see that it will accomplish His purpose
 - 18) This will be a year of separation: those who seek to be on God's side and those who seek to have God join their side
 - 19) We need to make sure we are on God's side!
- D) If God is for us, then we should go forth with boldness, humility, love, and redemption

STOP

Our lives are to praise Him. Thoughts, words, deeds, attitudes

We must have the attitude of Christ. Series
Plum the depths.