

January 10, 2021

“How Did Our Nation Get Here? And How Do We Respond?”

Proverbs 14:34

- 1) How Did We Get Here? (2 Tim. 3:1-5; Judg. 21:25)
 - A. We have misplaced our hope (Jer. 17:5; Isa. 33:22; Ps. 146:3-10)
 - B. We have demonized “the other side”
 - (1) Name-calling (Prov. 12:18)
 - (2) Sweeping over-generalizations (Ps. 31:13; I Pet. 2:13-17)
 - (3) Failing to see no party has a monopoly on morality (Titus 3:1-2)
 - C. Media influence
 - (1) Pictures stir reaction
 - (2) Slanted bias provokes distrust
 - D. Social media fuels flames
 - (1) Algorithms promote controversy (James 1:19-20)
 - (2) Knowledge is dangerous if unable to handle appropriately (Gen.3)
 - (3) Biblical illiteracy (Hos 4:6)
 - E. We have failed to speak up when it was necessary to do so (Isa. 5:20)
 - F. We have valued some wrong things in our leaders
 - (1) Pride is a deadly sin (Prov. 6:16-19)
 - (2) Wise leaders listen (Prov. 12:15; 13:10; 19:20, 27; 11:14)
 - (3) Honesty matters (Prov. 12:22)

- 2) Correcting Mistaken Assumptions Regarding Our Nation
 - A. God shows no favoritism (Acts 10:34-35)
 - B. God owes America nothing (Isa. 40: 15, 17; Rom. 1:28-32)
 - C. Patriotism is not blind loyalty (Ps. 33:12)
 - D. Authority structures are ordained of God, not candidates (Rom. 13:1-7)
 - E. No nation has carte blanche to do whatever they want, not even Israel

- 3) What Lessons Should We, as Believers, Learn?
 - A. Words do matter (Jam. 3:9-12; Eph. 4:31; Matt. 12:33-37; Prov. 10:18)
 - B. With freedoms come responsibilities (I Pet. 2:16; Gal. 5:13; Matt. 7:12)
 - C. We must not be stumbling blocks to others (I Pet. 2:12; Rom. 14:13-18)
 - D. Our highest citizenship is to God’s Kingdom (Phil. 3:20; I Pet. 2:9)
 - E. We are always instructed to pray for our leaders (I Tim. 2:1-4)