

September 26, 2015

Because we are in the middle of a Federal Election I have observed how the political parties jostle for the hearts and minds of voters with promises that they will, if elected have difficulty fulfilling; the motivation for these expressions of spending our money can be called "Political Convenience" and it makes us question their real motives. They are not always based on sound moral or practical beliefs but rather to appeal to the voters in order to gain support.

We live in countries that still suffer from decisions made from motives of "Political Convenience." Every act of political convenience will produce its own children and those who choose not to study history are bound to repeat the same mistakes. The war in Iraq and its consequences, (orchestrated by deceit) continues to torment the world.

Eve's seduction by the serpent was based on the idea that eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would make her "as God." Choosing the short cut to achieving God's purpose of man becoming like God instead of eating from the tree of "Life" seemed a good idea at the time. We all suffer the consequences of that act of flawed motive for "political convenience."

Sarah's suggestion that Abraham take her slave girl to provide an heir as a means of achieving God's promise seemed very convenient. Sarah was old and barren and technically the child born to Hagar was her property; problem solved! But history tells a different story. We clearly see the fruit of Sarah's decision in the Middle East today; there is no hope of reconciling the Israelis and Arabs.

Islam traces its roots back to Abraham and Hagar. The consequence of Sarah's plan is that now the children of Hagar hate the children of Sarah and are determined to exterminate them. God's promise was that all the nations of the earth would be blessed by the children of Abraham but the children of Hagar are determined to force the entire world to submit ("Islam" means to submit by any method) to Allah.

High Priest Caiaphas made a decision of political convenience relative to Jesus when he stated; "You stupid idiots - let this man die for the people—why should the whole nation perish?" Under the Roman system they had security and authority and they saw Jesus jeopardizing their position and status. His motives were faulty. Some 40 years later the Roman general Titus destroyed Jerusalem scattering the Jews around the world leaving them without a homeland for 1900 years until it was restored in 1948.

Pilate trapped himself into making a faulty motive decision because he had taken bribes from Caiaphas in appointing him High Priest. Despite his knowledge of Christ's innocence, his bribery left him with no alternative but to respond to the cries of "crucify him."

Political decisions of convenience have both short and long term pain and when applied to our personal lives the consequences are the same. When we make changes to our understanding of God's word to suit family or personal moral issues for convenience sake then we can expect both short and long term negative results. Understanding deeper truths is one thing but changing the fundamentals of the faith is another. Being a "Pentecostal" doesn't have much social status and being classified as a "fundamentalist" even less so but do we change our name and affiliation for political convenience?

In the 19th century the church was assaulted with liberal theology that denied the virgin birth, resurrection, miracles and the Divine inspiration of the Bible. For most main line denominations it was politically convenient to embrace these errors for fear of looking less than intelligent... a flawed motive and the fruit of that motive is churches closing their doors and others losing their people.

Secular society looks at the church as an outdated organisation based on superstition. Consequently the teaching of creation and moral Biblical principles in schools is now prohibited. We have a society that has legalised every form of sexual perversion. Let us set ourselves to live lives of truth with no decisions of convenience in faith, doctrine or practice, whatever the outcome because history tells us that vindication is coming to God's people. David records; "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? He that has clean hands and a PURE HEART." Our REAL MOTIVES HAVE TO BE PURE FOR EVERYTHING WE DO.

Our cry has to be that of Joshua; "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord" whether we are small, insignificant, mocked or laughed at by those who consider themselves the elite of this world. Let us rather be fools for Christ.

Shalom.

Ron Harris

