

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, April 4, 2010
Easter: The Recipe for Hope

Our nation has seemed to hit critical mass in its need for hope. People are disillusioned. Teenagers have lost their sense of direction. Even children today are committing suicide. The national debt is at such historic proportions that we can't keep up with the interest. I went online to get the exact figure and found the national debt counter. I couldn't write the number down because it kept changing to the tune of about \$12,000.00 per second with the overall number at nearly 13 trillion dollars. A billion dollars is 1000 million. A trillion is 1000 billion. Yikes!

We have lost our moral compass in America by replacing the Biblical truths that our founding fathers established with a relative value system. There is no foundation. There is no frame of reference. The line moves with the tide.

The Bible says in Proverbs 13:12 ***Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.*** Our nation is sick because it has lost hope. Campaign promises offer a glimmer of hope only to be dashed to the ground because they can't be fulfilled. We need a radical change. I personally don't believe it will come through better legislation, but through the example of people who have returned to God's order. In Jesus' day there was a great need for change, but he did not come to set up a new political machine. He taught people what life was all about. His design was for individuals to come to a saving knowledge of who he was. Then their changed lives would touch those around them. Their corporate relationship would be the church he was building, a church filled with God's ambassadors demonstrating who he is. Jesus told us that as the Father sent him, so he was sending us to do the same things he did. However, the church at-large today needs a real wake-up call. An outward appearance of godliness but lacking the power will just not do. We can't just sing about what God did in the past. We must do what he did so the world will take notice. Jesus is the same Yesterday, Today, and Forever. God never changes. We can count on him to do what he said he would do. He still heals. He still forgives. He still does miracles. He still provides.

Colossians 1:5 tells us that faith and love springs from the **hope** that is stored up for us in heaven. **1Thessalonians 1:3** tells us that works are produced by faith, labor is prompted by love, and endurance is inspired by our **hope** in the Lord Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 6:19** tells us that hope is an anchor for the soul. There is **hope** for our nation. There is **hope** for this world. That **hope** is found in a loving Heavenly Father that sent his son to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life from the dead proving that everything he said was true. He loves us and wants us to succeed in life. He wants to bless us, but it must begin in a genuine relationship with him through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God cares about us and is not looking to stuff us in some claustrophobic religious box, but gives us the truth that sets us free centering on a personal relationship with him through his Son. Our responsibility is to just say Yes to his magnanimous outrageous offer of a rich wonderful life of **hope**. He then works out everything in life for our good. Easter is truly a day of **HOPE**. It was proof that Jesus is the Son of God and that he means what he says. Every promise of his is YES and AMEN. No empty campaign promise here!