

IN TOUCH

CHAOS AT THE CAPITOL

AMERICA NEEDS PRAYER DESPERATELY

Dear Friend:

I am sure that like me you looked on with sadness at the chaos that unfolded yesterday in our nation's capital, and more specifically at the Capitol Building. I have visited the Capitol Building several times and have taken a guided tour for pastors only and heard the history of the building, it is amazing. What you probably did not learn at school is that for many, many years the building, and for awhile Statuary Hall, was the location for weekly church services. When I saw the chaos in that area I was especially disturbed. The portraits hanging on the wall are so moving.

If anyone saw the rioters behavior (a minority of the protestors) and was not upset he or she should check for a pulse. I apologize but let me speak somewhat randomly. It was a terrible day in American history for sure. It was stated by some politicians that it is a day that will live in infamy. It may be, but not at the level of December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor) or September 11, 2001 (9/11). I am not being trite the day and the date will never be forgotten by the family members of the 4 people who died. The young lady that was shot and the 3 medical emergencies.

As I have stated a couple times since the summer, peaceful protest is a right we have under the first amendment of the Constitution, the first ten amendments make-up the Bill of Rights and were written by James Madison. Several protests last summer and yesterday's protest were mostly peaceful but unfortunately were hijacked by some what should rightly be called rioters and criminals. And just like I said in the summer, those who commit criminal acts are responsible for their own actions. No one else is to blame, but leaders in both instances need to tone down the rhetoric somewhat, when one has "followers" they need to understand the power of influence. You can't yell "fire" in a movie theater and not expect a reaction.

A few observations about media reporting...I found it quite hypocritical that yesterday's looters were called "rioters" unmistakably by most media outlets, but yet in the summer they refused to call looters: rioters. Speaking of the summer, Chris Cuomo of CNN said: "Citizens have no duty to check their outrage." So Chris, it was okay to allow/excuse outrage in the summer but not yesterday? That's hypocritical. One network several times played President Trumps' response that included a statement for all the protesters to go home

peacefully, and to respect law enforcement. I saw this only on Fox. Unfortunately the President blew it, his response was not the time to bring-up election fraud again. In all of this my respect for V. P. Mike Pence continues to increase. The directives of the D.C. mayor? Lacking to say the least. The National Guard was allowed no pepper spray or batons. Finally about the politicians. Although I only saw a snippet, I really like what Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said: "All I can say is count me out. Enough is enough...it is over."

The root of America's problems are not political, they are spiritual and problems have been here for a long time. The church must accept a small part of the blame we have not, as a whole, rallied together enough to pray for our country. It is not impossible, but I do not think we will ever return to the Judeo-Christian values we had for the first 100 + years of our history, but certainly we can move the needle back in that direction if we increase specific, focused prayer. The past 3 years Franklin Graham has been doing a great city to city prayer tour. We need whole churches to participate and to do prayer walks around their neighborhoods. "Blessed if the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

P.S. I just heard an hour ago that if V.P. Mike Pence and the Cabinet do not invoke the 25th Amendment (removing the President) the House is considering impeachment again. Know the facts, please: the President has 13 days left in office, it takes up to 21 days to remove a President under the 25th procedure (he has 48 hrs. to decide to fight it or not). To enact the 25th Amendment it takes the vote of the V.P. plus 11 of the President's cabinet members to also vote for removal. Cabinet members right now are jumping off the cabinet like mice on a sinking ship. Impeachment and/or 25th Amendment are waste of taxpayers' money, no matter which party you support. You are a taxpayer.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: America, Frank Hammond (rehab.), Dick Hickernel tonsil cancer)