FIRST FRUITS FIRST LABOR IN VAIN FEBRUARY 1, 2021

*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain* [Psalm 127:1].

This opening verse from King Solomon’s Song of Ascents has contemporary application to the clear and present danger America faces as a nation this very day.

Although many would say this is due to the shift in administrations, I would say that is the tip of the iceberg. America’s deterioration of moral standards steadily declined for decades. We didn’t reach critical mass overnight by means of a hotly contested election. Perhaps this accelerated our decline, but that oversimplifies our predicament.

The world around us reflects the health of the church. These problems surrounding our moral decay are far more symptomatic of our own unwillingness to stand for righteousness, than our culture’s.

There is nothing as irresistible as a healthy church. Families bring their children. People are healed. Relationships are restored. Church-goers enjoy growth, safety, accountability, and freedom. If our contemporary church isn’t growing, then we need to avoid the temptation of looking to a broken world as the cause of our own brokenness.

I don’t know why every generation needs to learn the same lesson. The research on those who walked before us give clear indications that when a nation turns its back on God things get convoluted swiftly. Let us not further inflate our difficulties by turning our back on our nation.

This generation, as with every generation before, thinks it has a better idea. This is a sweeping and apparently judgmental statement, and of course there are notable exceptions. But we must recognize the pattern of behavior that we face.

The gospel thrives under persecution. The very same problems that plague us are the same challenges that draw us closer to our King.

The Firstfruits of humanity came under Roman occupation. Moses was sent back to a very broken and repressive ruler. Wars have been fought over the gospel. But the Kingdom of God only grows stronger under repression.

Humanity suffers. The public seeks answers. In our frustration we realize are chasing after a false God. Humbly we return to the Lord. God answers our cry for help. Christ is glorified.

Sound familiar? It’s a pattern that mankind has followed down through the ages. Let’s rise above the storm and soar on eagle’s wings. God is building His House. Let’s not labor in vain.