

July 26, 2009  
The Graph

I had a dream recently. In the dream I saw what could be described as a graph. It started and remained almost level for quite a good portion of the graph but then, at a point, began to rise and continued up and up. I took note of a point just where the line began to go up. In life I have seen a graphical representation of data in regard to when prayer was outlawed in public schools by Judicial fiat in 1962. That factual graph showed the increasing societal ills of our nation as we have continued away from legal public prayer (but let's face it - school prayer has never stopped, it has just gone underground). As I looked closer at the graph in my dream I saw that this 1962 event was indeed marked. But there was a mark before 1962 and as I looked closer I noted that it was a mark on 1954.

That was the year that Lyndon Johnson had an amendment placed in the IRS code to protect himself from criticism from not-for-profit organizations during his bid for re-election to the US Senate. I have pondered what the Lord may have been saying to me through this dream.

Before 1954 American Christian leaders had a long, powerful and important history of being involved in the political health of the nation. This went all the way back to its foundation long before the constitution was ratified. Without this preaching of "politics" from the pulpit it is reasonable to say that we would not have had the hunger or directions for American Liberty and Independence, or seen the end to slavery, or advances in civil rights - among many other things.

I believe the Lord is showing us that after 1954 a subtle concern entered into our system over the possibility of losing "tax-exemption" causing many pulpits to become quite on important issues which are deemed "political". I think the Lord is saying that had the pastors preached from the pulpits of America in those days the people would have risen up and kept their rights. It's been almost three generations now, and we have not repossessed our rights. Perhaps the Lord is indicating that we should return to the days when pastors and church leaders spoke clearly from the pulpit about the ills of society, as well as the ills of their government, so that these ills may be cured. Perhaps the people should demand it of them.