

11 September 2009

Greetings from Tyler,

This is a somber and sobering day for all of us, as we remember and re-live the hideous events that occurred on this day, 2001. And America is still in mourning. It is a crying shame that there has been no clear victory to celebrate in conjunction with the remembrance of the evil tragedy.

But, as we all know, the enemy remains largely intact. And there has been little attention focused on the philosophy, the mindset and the religion of an enemy that can commit such acts without conscience.

Rather than recognizing the scope of the threat that radical Islam (not just al Qaeda) poses to the security and stability of the civilized world, we've watched in a befuddled stupor as this defining occasion has been "transformed" into a national "day of service."

While we contemplate the ramifications of our "day of service", and what that might have to do with the heinous terrorist attacks of 9-11, Iran now has the ability to assemble a nuclear weapon on relatively short notice. According to Newsmax, Russia's Putin is warning against the use of sanctions or force against Iran and its nuclear program, saying it has no doubt that Iran's nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes. Another report from WorldNetDaily claims inside knowledge of the successful testing of a "secret weapon" by Israel this week, which might be preliminary to some "use of force" against Iran's nuclear facilities. An article published on the Debkafile calls this a "touch and go moment" in the standoff.

One analyst projected that a military exchange between Israel and Iran could well lead to a closing of the Gulf, and result in \$400 per barrel oil. That eventuality would plunge our already precarious economy into crisis. And yet, rather than opening up our own plentiful resources to protect against such a prospect, our leadership is dead set on nationalizing vast segments of the private sector.

Regardless of your persuasions, you'd have to be dead not to recognize that America is being "fundamentally transformed" just as promised. Where will it take us? The outlook for our economy is precarious. Seeds have been sown for the destruction of the dollar, with ruinous spending beyond our ability to repay. Our creditors are no longer comfortable with the stability of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency, and calls to replace it with some new monetary instrument are met with equanimity from our highest officials in finance.

Even if there is no major upheaval in the Middle East, no repetition of the kind of terrorist attack we absorbed in September of 2001, we are in for the demise of our currency and the loss of our unique freedoms. But the chances that nothing else will go wrong, prompting another crisis, are slim.

The GTA program this week was on the observance of the Sabbath, and brought 299 requests with one hundred twenty one first time contacts.

Please remember Mrs. Charles Gulley in your prayers. She is suffering additional complications attributable to the stroke she suffered at the Feast last year. And remember Mrs. Ham. She has had a long and complicated recovery from that terrible automobile accident. Her daughter says she is determined to walk again, and has shown unbelievable heart through a lot of pain and suffering. Both of these ladies mean a lot to us, and to the church. I'm sure there are many others who need God's intervention in other situations as well. And frankly, our nation needs His intervention if we're to avoid becoming the most notable third world country on earth.

Mr. Tom Griffith is scheduled as guest speaker here in Tyler tomorrow, and Mr. Chris Cumming is in Knoxville, TN for a special visit. We hope all of God's people will have a good, safe, and peaceable Sabbath.

Until next time,

Mark Armstrong