

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY's WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
November 9 in the year of our Lord 2016 - #671

Deplorable Duty

I had promised myself that I was not going to do a 'politically themed' WEDNESDAY's WORD on November 9, but the nature of how this election went ... and the wild conversations going on today ... make it seem as though to reflect in any other direction would be pastorally irresponsible. So here goes! **I know that I may offend folks on all sides of the issues ... but here I stand!**

I voted for Donald Trump yesterday not because I like him ... I don't. His rhetoric disgusts me. His fly-off-the-handle nature & speak-without-thinking nature scares me. But Hillary Clinton's track record and positions on issues disgusts me more. And her power grabbing nature and support for immoral cultural issues scares me more. So I voted for Donald Trump with a bad taste in my mouth. I voted about abortion. I voted about Supreme Court vacancies. I voted about culture. But I really didn't think Trump could win over the Clinton machine.

She called me a "deplorable" for the way I was planning to vote. I didn't appreciate that name calling!

We witnessed an historic moment last night. I was blown away by what I watched. The record turn out of voters ... the turning of some normally democratic strongholds to republican ... the lack of a projected democratic sweep of all ethnic voters ... it was something I've never seen anything like in my lifetime.

I can't say I feel 'good' today ... I'm still quite a bit stunned. Thankful ... I think. Hopefully optimistic ... I think. But I felt like I wanted to share some callings for conservative Christians on this amazing day. Let's call them '**Deplorable Duties.**'

1. **No Gloating!** - Enough is enough! This has been such a harsh election season. So many hurtful word bombs tossed back & forth by both sides! Let's not act like children on the playground who just won and taunt the other side. I thought President-elect Trump's victory speech late last night cast a good tone for us to emulate, and I thought Mrs. Clinton's concession speech, just a bit ago, was respectful as well. Good job candidates! Let's follow their lead.

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud.... Do not repay anyone evil for evil.... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:17,18 NIV

2. **Be Thankful!** - Our system works! There have been some demonstrations but for the most part no wars in the streets. No military take over. Respect reigning after a hard campaign by persons sharing absolutely conflicting world views! President Obama

has already made arrangements to have President-elect Trump in to begin the transition of power smoothly. Thank You Lord for our imperfect, but better-than-most nation. Also be thankful for the voter turnout. It's about time! One great thing from this contentious affair is that many, many people took their responsibility & privilege seriously. Well done!

"...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIV

3. Be Honest! - The road ahead may be very difficult! The cultural world-view clash became crystal clear. Change is never easy. It's going to take hard work. Things aren't going to change overnight. And promises made in campaigns often find a hard road to fulfillment. Be clear ... there are bigger conflicts at work here!

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12 NIV

4. Know For Sure! - The Lord has allowed this result. The Lord wasn't huddled in front of heaven's TV at 2am to see what was going to happen! It's not a mistake. Not a Divine surprise. The Lord has allowed it! That's what Scripture says. To discipline us as a nation? Maybe. In answer to many prayers for a turning of America back to more Biblical values? Perhaps. Donald Trump is not our savior! If you are a Christian, you are a citizen of the Kingdom of God first and an American citizen second. The Lord God is our King! And there is no debate about who is on that Throne!

"Everyone must submit himself to the government authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." Romans 13:1 NIV

5. Pray! - The Scriptures are clear that we are to pray for those in authority over us. These Biblical mandates were given during a time when Christians were being executed. If we dislike an official it does not give us freedom, as followers of Christ, to be disrespectful or to disregard praying for them! Pray for President-elect Trump to come to life transforming saving faith in Jesus. Pray for the decisions that will come to be made will be in alignment with God's will. Pray for another great Revival to sweep across this land! In the past such movements have had the power to drastically transform persons, towns and the nation. And pray for President-elect Trump & Vice President-elect Pence and their families, team members & supporters ... and for Mrs. Clinton and her family & supporters. It's been a long brutal campaign. Rest! Peace! New beginnings! Pray for our Nation. May we once again fully honor our Creator ... the One we name in our Declaration of Independence ... the One whose values and Biblical laws shaped this experiment in democracy. Pray!

"I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers and intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

1 Timothy 2:1, 2 NIV

Pastor Larry <><