Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] Worship and Song and Praise
[Text] Psalm 32:1-5; Psalm 51:1-6, 17; 1 Chronicles 16:8-36; Revelation 4:9-11; 5:9-13; Philippians 4:8
[Use] August 6, 2011

Stupid. Ridiculous. Disappointing. Compromise. No winners. Not perfect, but good enough. Those are just a few terms used to describe one of the longest, drawn-out debates in Congress over raising the debt-ceiling on the national deficit. After a Monday vote in the House, the Senate has voted on a compromise to raise the debt ceiling and cut the deficit. Some say the last several weeks in Washington have been a disgrace.

Most Americans are tired of listening to the drama, watching the staging, and seeing the reactive emotional walkouts of leaders at the nation’s capitol. Many feel Republican and Democratic leaders have not learned their lessons. The recent debates have not opened up a cooperative environment to seek solutions, but have shown parties shoring up their bases, deepened their tribal partisan identities, while at the same time repulsing the country. One headline states, “Mutually Assured Revulsion: Why Americans Hated the Debt Debate and Why It’s Not Going to Change.”

On Tuesday (August 2, 2011), around 12:30 PM (EST), the Senate passed the debt-ceiling bill. The final vote was 74-26. Part of the solution will include a “super committee”. This will be a 12 member bipartisan joint committee to tackle just exactly where cuts will come. The hot talk is not over yet.

If you consider the adjectives used to describe this discussion, you might think a church board was debating worship styles in your local church. When it comes to “how” to worship, the rhetoric can be strong and the emotional appeals can run high. This is especially true of music in worship. Such discussions have not always brought unity, understanding, and a deeper desire to seek principles for true worship but rather a stubbornness to seek “what I like.” Super committees can be established but function with attitudes that are far from godly. The debates can center on relevance and preference rather than obedience and truth.

This week’s Sabbath school lesson continues our study on worship with a look at the life of David, Israel’s premiere “worship leader.” In his life we discover what it means to worship, how to worship, and why we worship. Here we see a man of humility and confession combined with joyous emotion in leading God’s people in joyful adoration. We can learn from David how to move away from compromise. He wasn’t focused on making everyone happy (which never works), but on seeking to be obedient to God.

Let’s turn from our partisan positions in our worship discussions. Let’s stop digging in our heels. Let’s study what Scripture describes as true worship. Let’s put aside our preferences and think of others. Let’s listen to each other with care and come to the place where, regardless of style, our hearts as a church family are truly united in a spirit of worship and song and praise.

~cr

1. Time
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Thanks so much,

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