Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] Paul's Authority and the Gospel  
[Text] 2 Peter 3:15, 16; Galatians 1; Philippians 1:1; Galatians 5:12  
[Use]  
The race is on for presidential contenders in the United States. It seems the starting line gets moved back earlier every season and not soon afterwards the critics start shooting arrows. Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, was the most recent target regarding a racially insensitive name.

“Texas Gov. Rick Perry's presidential campaign on Sunday strongly disputed a Washington Post story that tied the Republican to the racially offensive name of hunting grounds his family had leased near his hometown. Perry's communications director, Ray Sullivan, said the word “N*head,” which had been painted on a rock on the property, was painted over before Perry launched his political career as a Democrat in 1984. “A number of claims made in the story are incorrect, inconsistent, and anonymous, including the implication that Rick Perry brought groups to the lease when the word on the rock was still visible,” Sullivan said in a statement on Sunday.

“Perry is seeking to defuse a potential controversy at a time he has been sinking in Republican presidential polls. Georgia businessman Herman Cain, who surged into third place in the most recent Fox News poll of likely GOP primary voters, said the issue reflected badly upon the conservative Texan.

“There isn’t a more vile, negative word than the N-word,” Cain, the only African American candidate in the GOP field, said on Fox News Sunday. Cain, the former CEO of Godfather’s Pizza, questioned the Perry campaign’s claims about the timing of the whitewash painting of the racist epithet. Yes, it was painted over,’ Cain said on ABC's This Week. ‘But how long ago was it painted over? So I’m still saying that it is a sign of insensitivity.’ Perry’s campaign flatly denied Cain’s charges, with Sullivan saying that, contrary to Cain’s claims, ‘the Perrys took quick action to cover and obscure’ the derogatory inscription.’

Defending yourself against critics took place, even in the early church. In our Sabbath school lesson this week on Galatians, the Apostle Paul defends his authority as an apostle of Jesus Christ against false teachers who were seeking to undermine him. He also confronts their false theories about the gospel. And he does so with passion. Just as we should be intolerant of racial slurs, so Paul contends that there are no racial barriers between Jews and Gentiles. All are one in Christ.

Would you take quick action, like Paul, to deal with those who seek to divide the church by race?

~cr

1. SF Gate
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Thanks so much,

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