

On the Same Page

“But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar;” (Acts 17:5 NAS95)

This Mob-ocratic Spirit

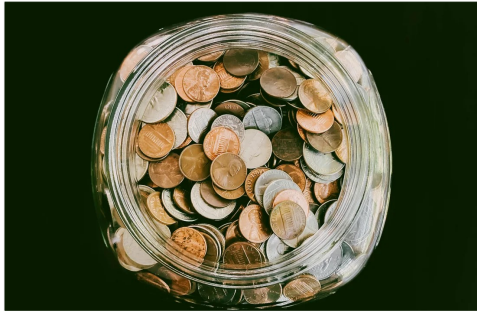
It is dangerous to pluck a phrase from the news, but not quite so dangerous if the phrase showed up in a speech back in the earlier 1800's by Abraham Lincoln quite a while before he became President and thus before the Civil War. He included it in a speech to a group of young men and spoke of the duty of preservation of liberty, not so much out of passion, but in rational and reasonable ways.

A preceding event prompted Lincoln's warning and his use of the term, “**mobocratic**,” evidently used from time to time by others, but new to me. The tragedy was the lynching of a black man by a white mob, which, you would agree, was a terrible violation of liberty of the individual by many who were certainly not much interested in preserving liberty.

When we turn to the Bible, as we should, we find mobs at work in various settings. The mob in Jerusalem rose up against the prophet Jeremiah when he did not parrot the party line. The people had been assured of “peace and safety,” and Jeremiah was predicting imminent judgment. They threw him into a muddy pit.

The heads of the religion department in Jerusalem complained to Jesus about the praise He received from the “mob” as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Those shouting “Hosanna!” would have seen this as participation in public worship and would have certainly rejected the term “mob.” Does it merely depend on one's perspective? “One man's mob is another man's worship throng?” I don't think so. Jesus' worshippers were not throwing stones. They were not demanding death and destruction. They were praising Jesus, God's Son.

But there was another mob, only days later, who would chant “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” to the Roman governor, Pilate. Yes, that would be a mob, **individuals caught up into destructive activity, driven by passion**, and with little reason or



Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long. What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.

reasonableness. Yes, they were concerned about the preservation of their “old” religion in the face of this powerful prophet and teacher, and Jewish exiles would continue to persecute Christians throughout the Book of Acts. They were so caught up in the zeitgeist of the moment that they were unable to soberly consider what the Old Testament clearly said. They were driven to an action for which they will have to answer to God Himself one day.

But doesn't that apply to us as well? Won't we be judged when we fail to reflect on Scripture and to consider what is indeed Christ-like as opposed to the prevalent “spirit of the age.” It is not so much that we are to think for ourselves (I don't know how successfully we ever do such a thing - we have very few “original” thoughts), but we should know who and what we are following. What we are committed to follow if we call ourselves Christians is the Word of God upon which we soberly reflect and learn in concert with other believers (not a mob).

I believe the devil loves to incite a mob, and he does so with a cleverness that fools us often. The phrase “everyone's doing it” is almost a definition of mobocracy, following the crowd, lending your passions but leaving your brain at home. It has happened in Biblical times and it still happens today. Democracy is one thing. Mobocracy is something much more dangerous. And mobocracy is deadly for the testimony of Jesus Christ and of His Church.

Systematic Theology by Louis Berkhof

In the last analysis atheism results from the perverted moral state of man and from his desire to escape from God. It is deliberately blind to and suppresses the most fundamental instinct of man, the deepest needs of the soul, the highest aspirations of the human spirit, and the longings of a heart that gropes after some higher Being.

Notes:

Sunday School classes for youth and adults meet each Sunday, 10 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. with a study of Ezra and Nehemiah

Men of Action Breakfast and Meeting is Saturday, March 1, 8 a.m.

Our next **Wednesday night dinner, discussion and prayer**, will be Wednesday, March 5, 6 p.m.

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, February 23, we will combine Titus 3:1-3 with a Bible story to illustrate the descriptions that we are encouraged to follow and avoid. Let's call this message **“Conflicting Worldviews.”**

Last Sunday, February 16, we saw Titus 2:11-14 as a high point of the Titus letter. It is called “Appearances of Grace.” [Listen to the message here](#)

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