

**“Jesus Is the Answer.”**  
(Various Scripture)

I would guess that many of you if not most of you, caught the inauguration ceremony of our 46<sup>th</sup> President and our new Vice-President on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. This inauguration was as historical as any our generation has witnessed. As you know, Kamala Harris is the person who made it uniquely historical. I addressed all of this on Wednesday on my Patio Pulpit. And I’m sure you will join with me in praying for this new administration, those who now have the rule over us. That is something we’re commanded to do.

I am thankful it went off without any domestic terrorists doing anything stupid as the rumors suggested they might. After the fiasco on the 6<sup>th</sup> I experienced a little anxiety on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I was concerned about Trump supporters and America’s enemies, the anarchists, attacking the crowds gathered to watch the inaugural ceremony. I guess the presence of 25,000 National Guard troops served as a deterrent. As it turned out nothing happened in DC, the rioting and destruction happened on the West Coast in Seattle and Portland.

The whole ceremony was what I expected from liberal politicians until it came time for the closing prayer which was offered by a minister named the Rev. Silvester Beaman. I found his prayer offensive and ridiculous. I was not surprised that it was teeming with liberal nonsense (I read the transcript of the prayer and listened to it twice) but I never expected anyone to say something so absurd as he did in his last remarks. Well, there was the prayer in the Senate a week or so ago where the minister praying ended his prayer with “Amen and Awomen.” That was pretty bad. Rev. Beaman’s was worse.

I would also guess that many who were present for the inauguration and were standing in front of the Capital building listening to this man praying this prayer were as confounded as I was. They may have said the “Amen” when he closed, but they were very likely only doing so out of common courtesy for one of their own. I’m going to quote just the closing words of the prayer, **“In the strong name of our collective faith, Amen.”**

What does that even mean? I know what he said, and I know what he meant in his prayer and even in this very bizarre closing. I have heard many liberal sermons and many non-prayers such as this one. But just the same, it was all designed to appease the strong liberal presence and not some god.

That prayer was wrong in so many ways. First, as I have already said, it made almost no sense at all. As I said earlier, I printed out the transcript and read it and reread it. Second, it was a non-prayer. It clearly wasn't intended for God's ears but for the ears of the majority liberal ears in the audience. And that, my friends, is not a prayer. And third, it was not prayed in the name of Jesus as one would expect a Christian minister to pray. The man is a pastor after all. But again, I know why he did not pray in Jesus' name and I'm sure you all do as well.

Now this is what I found so offensive and confusing about Rev. Beaman's closing words, **"I pray in the strong name of our collective faith."**

To pray in the name of some deity or entity or "our collective faith" is to pray **to** that deity or entity or our collective faith making it the object of our prayer. It means that whatever or whomever we are praying to is going to hear and answer our prayers. And I know that Rev. Beaman wasn't really praying to anyone or anything. He was merely voicing his liberal mindset.

There is no god or entity called "our collective faith," of course, but Pastor Beaman wasn't about to invoke Jesus at any time during his non-prayer. And whether he intended it this way or not, by making this thing he did **in the strong name of our collective faith**, he deified our collective faith. Again, I know what he was doing, and I know that he did not intend to do what I'm accusing him of doing. But he did nevertheless. It was absurd beyond words.

"In the strong name of our collective faith?" What does that even mean? And I know what it meant. I am not blind or naïve to the words of liberal unbelievers. I watched a video made years ago at a Presbyterian women's conference where the leaders invoked the goddess Sophia

(PCUSA). Those Presby ladies intended to do something offensive to their denomination and society in general and they succeeded. They exalted Sophia, the goddess of wisdom, to godhood. They wanted to please their fellow heretics.

Beaman wanted to please and appease the Muslims and the Roman Catholics and any liberal godless Democrats gathered before him. He did not want to offend the liberals gathered around him while he did not mind at all offending the Christians who were present or watching the broadcast. This made-up accidental deity does not have a name, much less a “strong name.”

Notice this, the Reverend Beaman prayed as though he fully expected to be understood by his hearers. I’m sure he expected a more rousing “Amen” than he received. I’m sure that he knew that his liberal audience would understand the gist of his prayer. But personally, I think he was tolerated, even by the most liberal of the liberals. I personally believe that his hearers just shook their heads. They knew what they had just heard was a crock. But that’s ok. It’s what they are accustomed to. If Beaman had finished his prayer “in the strong name of our collective crock” no one would have blinked an eye or publicly objected, well, except for those who are in Christ.

This is another example of how our nation has forgotten God as I said two Sundays ago. The United States hasn’t merely forgotten God, it has rejected Him. And so many of our citizens give their approval to the kind of jibberish we heard not only during this prayer but from our new President as well.

So my problem with the inaugural prayer this week isn’t because I am not accustomed to hearing such things and my delicate sensibilities were shocked. It is that I was surprised by the blatant and flagrant heresy on public display before an entire nation and the entire world. How far we have fallen. Does anyone remember the Rev. Peter Marshall? Have you ever read the prayers of our first President? And now this?

I have been in Christ for almost 47 years, so I have known for a long time that I am at odds with the world on how to get to heaven. I am

not naïve. I also realize that not all people who are genuinely in Christ agree on certain doctrines of the Christian faith that I hold to. Our fallen natures that express themselves through our thought patterns and ways of reasoning are corrupt and corruptible. No one is perfect in any way. Those who are in Christ live with what the Reformers called “our remaining corruption.” That is precisely why we who preach and teach the word of God must do so only after seeking the Spirit’s guidance as we seek to be diligent in rightly dividing and applying the word of truth. Otherwise our corrupt natures will corrupt our preaching, and actually, it does anyway.

I have said all that to say this, the church of Jesus Christ is being assaulted from all sides including by many within the visible church as well as by thousands outside the visible church as well as by our politicians.

It is a sad day for the body of Christ when people professing faith in Christ turn their ears away from the preaching of the word of God and gather for themselves men and women who will preach what they want to hear and who find the word of God out of date.

My duty and my calling to guard the flock over which God has placed me. The rule for the servants of Jesus Christ is I will obey God and not man when it comes to preaching and teaching the gospel. We will not stand before the Supreme Court on the Day of Judgment, but before the throne of the Judge of all the Earth. It will not be Nancy Pelosi holding the gavel, but the Lamb of God. It will not be a government bail out that makes room for us in the New Jerusalem, but a divine bail out paid for by the blood of Jesus.

Want to be ostracized by friend and family and foe? Tell them that there is no other way to heaven but through trusting in Jesus Christ. That’ll do it. *“And He answered and said, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.’”*

**I would rather be ostracized by the enemies of God and loved by the Son of God then loved by the enemies of God and ostracized by the Son of God.**

<sup>11</sup> *"He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.*

<sup>12</sup> *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11-12 NAU)*

Beloved of God, we cannot find assurance and rest for our souls and peace in Washington.

I love our country and our Constitution, but I do not and will not worship either. I will salute the flag, but I will not bow down to it.

**America is not God and the Constitution is not the word of God.**

Jesus Christ is King. He is my President. He is Lord of lords and King of kings. I did not elect Him; He elected me.

I close with this:

**This is the gospel;** this is where the lost and laboring soul finds rest. "God did for us in and through Jesus Christ what we cannot and could not do for ourselves. On our behalf, Jesus paid for our sins; He bought our forgiveness. Jesus pleased the Father perfectly on our behalf because it was impossible for us to please Him perfectly. Jesus lived a sinless life that God demanded of humanity, but humanity could not do it. Jesus lived and died and rose again on our behalf and in our place that we might have eternal life. And by calling upon the name of Jesus to save us from our sins, by trusting Jesus for our forgiveness, God the Father accounts our faith to us in such a way that He declares us to be right with Him as though we had done all that Jesus did.

Call upon the name of the Lord today that you might be saved, forgiven of all your sins and your sinfulness and reconciled to God.

In Jesus' name. Amen.