

# *Lincoln Voted Number One President*

*Posted by Dr. Gary H. Cote on March 26, 2002*

This past Presidents Day, an ABC News Poll reported that Abraham Lincoln moved to the top of the list of the greatest presidents. As I considered the man honored by so many, I wondered why politicians and people view him as great, and uphold him with such honor, yet deny the convictions that made him and our nation great. Shall we as a nation give honor to Abraham Lincoln, without giving due honor to his beliefs? Shall we stand and memorialize him without giving substance to his thought? Shall we declare him noble and great, yet walk contrary to his declarations?

American freedom and strength remains today because of his resolve, yet many live contrary to the convictions that made him great and moved him to accomplish this greatness. Educators refer to his deeds as a president; American politicians hail the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, the preservation of the Union, but they side-step his beliefs regarding the existence of God, the value of the Bible, the sovereignty and character of God Almighty, and the acknowledgment of the Savior.

Abraham Lincoln addressed the foolishness of atheism stating, "I never behold them [the heavens filled with stars] that I do not feel I am looking in the face of God. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God." [Wisdom and Wit, p.11]

Referring to Scripture and morality, Abe Lincoln stated, "In regard to this great book [Bible], I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to men. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it. [Wisdom and Wit, p.12]

Addressing Church and Christ's command to love, he said, "When any Church will inscribe over its altar, as its sole qualification for membership, the Savior's condensed statement of the substance of both Law and Gospel, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and thy neighbor as thyself,' that church will I join with all my heart and all my soul." [Wisdom and Wit, p.12]

Regarding the great Civil War, this honored president stated, "I am not at all concerned about that, that the Lord is on our side in this great struggle, for I know that the Lord is always on the side of right; but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation may be on the Lord's side." [Wisdom and Wit, p.16]

To honor a man with our lips, yet deny his convictions that made him great exposes one's desire to self-honor. To memorialize a man yet ignore the thoughts that accomplished his greatness is hypocrisy. To consider this man the greatest and refer to his accomplishments as noteworthy, yet not seek to follow his beliefs, is superficial praise displaying our own shallowness of thought. To hail the Gettysburg Address as notable, yet fail to live up to the inscribed statement, that it is the living who are being dedicated to the cause, is meaningless.

Are we not weary of those who refer to the greatness of those who have passed on, just to create a platform of association to launch their own popularity and credibility? President Clinton was a good example of this, referring to Presidents Kennedy and Jefferson regularly to give himself substance and character. Jesse Jackson uses this sort of referencing as well, yet lives a life that disgraces the title “reverend.”

Consider the esteem bestowed upon our past president, Abe Lincoln, as he is honored with the lips of man and with ritual, but denied in the heart. Interestingly, are we not exercising the same insult toward God Almighty today? We find the same service given to the Savior, Christ Jesus. The word “God” is in the mouths of man, but not in the heart. Americans are declaring and referring to God, and call upon him, yet do not seek to honor Him with our loving obedience to His commandments, His convictions, or His character. Surely the time is now to greatly honor Christ Jesus, the Lord of all glory, the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Father!