

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

AN UNCIVIL WAR

By Jeff Sweeten

On June 16, 1838, former president John Quincy Adams stood before the House of Representatives and gave a three-week speech opposing the annexation of a little country that had fought and won its freedom just two years earlier; that country was Texas. I've often wished he'd been more convincing; I think Texas would still make a fine country. Seceding may be an option but we might rethink that idea if we look back to our nation's history and the memories of the harshness of civil war.

Twenty years after Adams' speech, June 16, 1858, Abraham Lincoln would lose his bid for election in a senatorial race but would make a statement that would identify him throughout history. He said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." These were the rumblings of a war between the states that would rip this nation apart pitting brother against brother to the death; no family escaped unscathed.

There is a similar war we fight every day, a war between flesh and spirit, and the whole family of God is involved. The words Mr. Lincoln quoted were from Jesus in Matthew 12:25 and they reduce this war to its lowest common denominator – the conflict between Christ and Beelzebub. It is a wholly, and holy, uncivil war. Satan's villainy knows few boundaries; he will use any and all of the most prurient, unprincipled tactics to attack the mind of humanity, including treason (Romans 6:16, 19b). This uncivil war does get ugly.

Even Paul struggled in his warfare. He said, "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do*" (Romans 7:18-19). Living in this material body should be a preparation for living with God in an immaterial body.

The good news is that Christ has won the war, even though our battles rage in this fleshly life. "*But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life*" (Romans 6:22). This is a battle we can win!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130