



THE TABLE

LINES & CIRCLES (FOR THE STARS AND STRIPES)

CRAIG REES

1. Can you think of a time when you felt like you were going around in circles? What makes it difficult to see the work of God when we feel like we're getting nowhere?
2. Based on the author of Psalm 78's declaration that even in chaos God works wonders, what advice would you tell your 'younger' self in facing chaotic seasons?
3. Review S.P. Huntington's 9 creedal passions to the right. Considering this, reflect on the following:
 - Which have you been more apt to resonate with?
 - In his message Pastor Craig did not address whether a Christian should or should not respond like this. When is responding with creedal passion inappropriate for a Christian?
 - How can the idea that, "We been here before and the church is still here" impact the way we approach current social and cultural chaos?
 - If God has worked powerful before, during, and even after each creedal passion period, how should that affect the way we pray?
4. Reflect on the following four Scriptures. What challenge do these verses give us about seeking the Lord right now?
 - a. Psalm 14:2: "The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God."
 - b. Acts 17:26-27: "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."
 - c. Colossians 3:1-3: "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."
 - d. James 4:8: "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 78

Colossians 3:1-3

Psalm 14:2

James 4:8

Acts 17:26-27

BIG IDEA:

Even in the chaos, God works wonders.
Will we pray for it?

S.P. Huntington says that American history is cyclical. In the 1770s, 1830s, 1890s, and 1960s Huntington says that American experienced 'creedal passion' caused by a gap between the ideals (with which the nation was founded) and the dissatisfaction with the institutions created to reflect them. Huntington predicted at around the second or third decade of the 21st century we would experience the fifth creedal passion. **He believes there to be fourteen realities of creedal passion, 9 of which address the motivation and/or mood of the people:**

1. DISCONTENT: "Discontent was widespread; authority, hierarchy, specialization, and expertise were widely questioned or rejected."
2. IDEOLOGICAL PASSION: "Political ideas were taken seriously and played an important role in the controversies of the time."
3. TRADITIONAL VALUES: "Traditional American values of liberty, individualism, equality, popular control of government, and the openness of government were stressed in public discussion."
4. INDIGNATION: "Moral indignation ... was widespread."
5. AGITATION: "Politics was characterized by agitation, excitement, commotion, even upheaval — far beyond the usual routine of interest-group conflict."
6. HOSTILITY: "Hostility toward power was intense."
7. EXPOSURE: "Exposure or muckraking ... was a central feature of politics."
8. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: "Movements flourished devoted to specific reforms or 'causes.'"
9. NEW MEDIA FORMS: "New media forms appeared, significantly increasing the influence of the media in politics."