CLASS-Online

Pastor Pete

July 5, 2020

**“Let it All Fall Down, Political Corruption”**

**I. Political Corruption before Watergate?**

* The Election of 1876 between Rutherford B. Hayes (R) and Samuel Tilden (D)
* It took almost 5 months to overcome the Voter Fraud and Political malfeasance
* The losing candidate is handed the presidency and Southern Reconstruction is over
* Prior to the 1960’s an overwhelming number of Americans trusted the government
* Because of the advent of television and advanced media people were exposed to corruption
* Three events helped destroy the trust Americans enjoyed for centuries with their government:

 the Vietnam War, the Assassination of President Kennedy, and the Watergate Scandal

**II. Vietnam**

* The Vietnam War ended in 1975, over 3 million people died, including 58,000 Americans
* A history of Vietnam is traced to its colonization by the country of France
* The Geneva Conference 1955 (split Vietnam) communists in the North, anticommunists to the South
* President Diem (South Vietnam) is assassinated in a CIA sponsored coup, November 1963
* March 8, 1965 the first American Marines land in Danang
* In 1969-70 Richard Nixon escalates the war by bombing Cambodia and Laos
* The last American troops leave Vietnam in 1973 and Saigon falls the communists in 1975
* Daniel Ellsberg’s release of the Pentagon Papers exposed the secret motives of Kennedy and Johnson
* The overwhelming motivation to stay in an unwinnable war was our reputation as world power

**III. John F. Kennedy Assassination**

* November 22, 1963, was a watershed moment in the lives of many Americans
* Was Lee Harvey Oswald the lone assassin or were there others who conspired with him?
* Oswald was a Marine stationed at a U2 Base in Japan and in 1959 he is allowed to defect to the USSR
* He works in a radio factory in Minsk and marries a Soviet wife
* The US government allows Oswald to return to America (they give him a loan) during the Cold War
* Oswald settles in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and gets a job at the Texas School Book Depository
* President Kennedy is assassinated at 12:30pm (CST) on November 22, 1963
* Oswald is arrested for the murder of J. D. Tippit (Dallas PD) and President Kennedy
* Two different governmental committees investigate the assassination
* Warren Commission 1964 (one shooter); the House Select Committee on Assassinations (conspiracy)

**IV. Watergate**

* On June 17, 1972, five men break into the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate Complex
* The FBI established Nixon had a massive spying and sabotage team through CREEP
* November 11, 1972, Nixon is reelected in one of the largest landslides in American history
* The plumbers are all found guilty of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping (Jan. 1973)
* H. R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman, Richard Kleindienst, and John Dean are removed from their jobs
* May 18, 1973, the Senate Watergate committee begins nationally televised hearings
* Archibald Cox named Special Prosecutor; John Dean starts cooperating with Watergate prosecutor
* Alexander Butterfield reveals that Nixon has a recording system in his office
* Nixon refuses to turn over the tapes; eventually the Supreme Court forces him to turn them over
* The “Smoking Gun” tape reveals Nixon’s knowledge and participation in the Watergate break-in
* August 8, 1974, Richard Nixon becomes the first president to resign the office

**7/12 “Jesus is Just Alright with Me, The Jesus Movement”**