

## Newsmaker Commentary

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Military Photo by David Schauer

**Matthew 24:6** - *And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

It is very easy to get caught in the rhetoric of the modern news media as they cover the daily tragedy of the horrors of war. As we view the ongoing war on terror and difficulties faced every day by our troops in Iraq we become troubled by the sheer hatred of our enemy. We hear about tension with Israel and Palestinians in the middle east, North Korea, and Iran. We hear conflicting stories by different media outlets, talk shows, radio broadcast, it can be quite difficult to know who to believe. Each day we tend to sort out all of the information we have been bombarded with and try to make sense of it. We tend to digest the information, form an opinion and judge everything by what we know and all the extrapolations in which we filled in the blanks and guessed at what we didn't know. Who are we to do that? Do we have the right to judge? What if we are wrong?

"Judge not, lest you be judged" Luke 6: 27-38. We, as a nation, have judged our leaders the harshest because we have higher expectations from them. Yet we seldom have the same expectations of ourselves. President Bush, Condeleeza Rice and others will all have to answer to God some day. When we judge others harshly we give in to the spirit of hatred. We are then acting as if we ourselves are blameless and have the right to judge other people's hearts. That is wrong because there is only One who sees and knows what is really in our hearts.

We live in an uncertain time, only God is the sure thing. Whether we agree with our leaders and everything that is going on, the most important thing we can do is realize that we are all human, and that "there, but for the grace of God, go I." Let us not speak evil against our leaders today, but pray for them that they obtain wisdom with which to lead us. If we trust in God and confide in him, then we can have peace in a time of war.

John 14:1-3 1 "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me. 2. In my Father's house are many homes. If it weren't so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. 3. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will receive you to myself; that where I am, you may be there also.