

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

In this speech Lincoln addresses the public as "fellow country men". He starts off by talking about his four year term coming to a close after the civil war. Lincoln states that one of the parties sought to destroy the union and the other sought to keep it intact. Through war, such a feat would be met and the union would dissolve. The other party decided to fight back to preserve the union. These sides were of course the Union and confederate armies. One eighth of the population were colored slaves. Lincoln states clearly that these slaves were not evenly spread out throughout the union but most of them were in the southern region of it. Lincoln makes it very clear that the people of the south are people just as them, "they read the same bible and pray to the same god", and that each side was guilty of invoking the will of god to aid them in destroying the other.

I believe that the part where he talks about god is important because it reflects on Lincoln nature of seeing people as equals. Also that he was aware that the same atrocities that the confederate committed, the union was not, not guilty either.

In the speech he states that taking the bread of another man's labors without proper payment is an offense against god himself and is improper. These acts were said to be hurtful to man, and that in the end the punishment will be paid in full by the same lord that they worship.

Lincoln concludes his speech by addressing the fact that all people should act with charity for all, malice toward none, and rights given by god. To bind the wounds, of war and the division of people is important and must continue if society is to prosper.

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