A Slow Vote Coming

On Dec. 6, 1865, just months after the Civil War ended, the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery was ratified and became the law of the land.

But that didn't mean every state approved the ratification of the amendment. Mississippi's legislature, for example, was dominated by whites bitter over the defeat of the Confederacy, and that governing body rejected the measure.

Amazingly, 130 years passed before Mississippi took action. By 1995, Mississippi was the only state in the Union that had not approved the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

Finally, on Thursday, Feb. 16, 1995, the Mississippi Senate voted unanimously to outlaw slavery by approving the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

Mississippi State Senator Hillman Frazier, representing the state's 27th District and a member of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, said, "I think it's very important for us to show the world that we have put the past behind us."

As individuals, that is good advice for us, too. If you are like me, there are instances and situations in our past that tend to weigh heavily upon us because of the burden of guilt that we carry. It is important to learn from past mistakes, but as Sen. Frazier rightly proclaimed, let us put the past behind us and concentrate on the present and the future – circumstances we can control – and make the days of our lives better.

In the spiritual realm, just as there was a delay in some states ratifying an end to slavery in the United States, so there is now a hesitancy or procrastination about accepting God's kingdom We can be assured that God's kingdom will one day hold sway over all the world, and His kingdom brings freedom.

This man (Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews) came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him. Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:2-3).

– Beecher Hunter