

Light and Life

What Exalts A Nation?

The lesser of two evils cannot exalt a nation – only righteousness can do that (Pr. 14:34)! Likewise, public policy is not the problem our nation faces. Disgraceful policy is just a symptom of a nation full of sinful hearts (Pr. 14:34)!

The answers to our problems cannot be found in the philosophies of man, but only in the plan of God. God's plan cannot be enacted man's way! It must be done God's way. King Josiah did his best to legislate morality (II Ch. 34:33), but when he eventually put politics over God and died (35:20-24), the people went right back to their wickedness! It is not only good actions that matter, but even the motivation behind them.

Even if there is a candidate that can be considered righteous, like Josiah, faith in him is vain! "Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish. Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God" (Ps. 146:3-5)! When we adopt a spiritual worldview, it seems foolish to spend time investing in a man whose work will all be undone shortly after he leaves office. Rather, we should invest in the kingdom of which we are a part in Christ (Ph. 3:20)!

Throughout the Bible, bad rulers were clearly described as punishment for the overall wickedness of a nation (I Sam. 8; Hb. 1:6; Jer. 51:20-23; Isa. 10:5-7). When governments are oppressive, it is not the Republicans or the Democrats who are to blame – it is sin! And the solution is not a worldly political activism – it is evangelism!

"...if my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (II Chr. 7:14).

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Who Cares? So What?

Is there a 'right' and 'wrong'? Is there 'truth' beyond which is 'error'? Is there a standard by which such is established? We discourage a hasty answer and suggest some careful soul-searching before you commit yourself to something you do not really believe, for the consequences are tremendous.

There is the choice between man as his own final authority, and God – his Maker and Superior. At this point it is important to recognize that if God is the final authority, a revelation of 'truth and right' cannot be subject to man's feelings or approval. It must be approached objectively. And we may safely assume that God would make His will understandable to His creatures.

Then, there is the choice between man as a robot – his will, words, and actions predetermined, or man as a free moral agent. Walk with care! For with free will there is responsibility, and there must be final judgment. Ability, responsibility, and accountability – these are inseparable concepts. Even if God is removed from the scene, man must respond and give account of that response to his fellow man, and to himself. Failing this, his existence is utterly without meaning. Put God into the scene – you can't keep Him out – and responsibility becomes awesome.

Not impossible, for responsibility is linked with ability. Not terrifying, for the 'fear' of God is reverence for a loving Father – but awesome nonetheless. Its burden is cushioned by the 'good news' of His love, mercy, and sacrifice on our behalf – and by "the recompense of the reward."

We can ill afford the popular "Who Cares?" or "So What?" attitude. Nor can we afford an emotional 'love' to blind us to the realities of divine authority. It is a false peace that ignores one's need to know – and follow – the word of God.

- Robert Turner (edited for space)

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

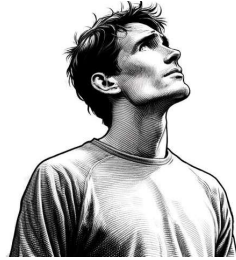
The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00–9:30a.m.
Thursday 11:30a.m.–noon
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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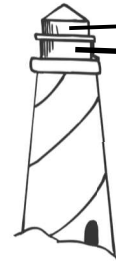
**Our citizenship
is in heaven.
Ph 3:20**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Responding to the Revolution

Those who were fortunate enough to hear David Fiddament's timely series last week were given a taste of the most recent spiritual battle that is brewing. Its roots are in Marxist revolution, and it has grown deep roots in our current culture.

Of course, sin – even in the form of corrupt political movements — is nothing new. From Babylon to Rome to Nazi Germany, Satan has used politics to his advantage.

But Christianity was born, and grew through its infancy, under such corrupt civil government. The divine genius of a kingdom that exists in the hearts of individuals, with-

out political connections or borders, should be understood, embraced, and championed by every child of God. It provides moral clarity for its citizens, as well as guidance and purpose for this life – to say nothing of the hope of life to come.

So, how should Christians respond to this 'revolution'? Fiddament discussed several strategies, such as being knowledgeable of the Marxist game plan and being unwavering in our commitment to truth (e.g., there really are only two genders). And for those who want to be politically active – God has provided the template (1 Ti 2:1-2, Ti 3:1-2).

- *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, ADosier
Shut-ins: Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter
Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

2024 EVENTS STILL REMAINING – Jul 21-25 (Vacation Bible School with PJ Anderson), and Aug 2-4 (Youth Lectures with Ben Hall)

SENTENCE SERMON – The enemy didn't tempt Adam and Eve to steal or to murder; he just got them to question the word of God.