

September 2012

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## Look Who is Standing Up

*The church is the conscience of the state. We need to speak up and say what God's Word says...Satan's strategy is to keep good people silent in evil times.* --Dr. Adrian Rogers

**A**mong several political cartoons in the current issue of *World* magazine is a caricature of a young person with pig-tails saying: "I know he's like totally arrogant, completely incompetent, has ruined my reputation, lies to me, apologizes to everyone for being with me, hasn't found a job in 43 months, alienated all my friends and thinks he's a celebrity, spends all my money, blames everyone else for his irresponsible behavior but he's like soooo likeable...and he gives me free stuff." While intended for comic relief, the caption—*What America Has Become*—is anything but funny.

In a matter of hours, polling places from Bar Harbor to Honolulu will begin to shutter their operations, bringing to a conclusion (hopefully), the 2012 Presidential Elections. If a majority of voters think the incumbent is likeable and they prefer free stuff, then America will continue down the road of "fundamental transformation." It is our prayer, however, that *the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.* (Dan 11:32)

For more than a generation Drs. D. James Kennedy, Jerry Falwell, Adrian Rogers and Chuck Colson were watchmen—even voices crying in the wilderness. Their surviving colleagues, Drs. Phyllis Schlafley, Pat Robertson, James Dobson, John Hagee and Richard Land continue to remind us that God is always on the ballot, particularly this season. It is impossible to portend otherwise.

Yet, there seems to be much more going on this election cycle that we find interesting—even telling.

For more than a generation, the world's most well-known evangelist, Dr. Billy Graham, has befriended every president from Harry Truman to Barack Obama regardless of creed, political party, or agenda. Graham has never been known to either encourage or disparage political involvement or even to suggest the importance or folly of a biblical-values-voter-turnout. Until now.

In a recent paid ad featured in major U.S. newspapers, Dr. Graham said, in part: "I believe it is vitally important that we cast our ballots for candidates who base their decisions on biblical principles and support the nation of Israel. I urge you to vote for those who protect the sanctity of life and support the biblical definition of marriage between a man and a woman. Vote for biblical values this November 6, and pray with me that America will remain one nation under God..."

This prompted us to search for similar statements that other prominent clergymen might be issuing. Here are a few of the many we found:

"If we as Christians are unwilling to exercise our civic responsibilities, we will reap a dreadful harvest of ungodly leaders, unrighteous laws, and ultimately, the judgment of God on our land. Responsibility and freedom go hand in hand. Don't simply pursue spiritual and material prosperity for yourself and your family; fulfill your divine obligation as an inhabitant of this great land." --**Dr. Charles Stanley**, *In Touch Ministries*, Atlanta, GA

“You don't need to apologize for voting for a Christian worldview which stands up for the sanctity of life, the sanctity of sex and the sanctity of marriage.” --**Rev. Rick Warren**, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA

“A well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program that contradicts fundamental contents of faith and morals. Some candidates and one party have even chosen some of these as their party's or their personal political platform...”

**Bishop David Ricken**, *Catholic Diocese of Green Bay* (with 304,614 members in 16 counties)

“To make the right decision when deciding on the candidates whom you will support, it is essential that you look carefully at the positions of the candidates in the race. This step in the process is critical in fulfilling your responsibilities as a faithful citizen, as you must participate in the political process with a fully informed conscience...”

--**Fr. Frank Pavone**, *Priests for Life*

“At this juncture, I would say this, I would support someone whose values line up with clear Biblical mandates on the big issues of the day, versus I'll stay home, I won't vote and let an anti-God, anti-church agenda go forth. That my friend, is like the old story of Nero fiddling while Rome burns.”<sup>1</sup>

**Bishop Harry Jackson**, Hope Christian Church, Beltsville, Maryland

“Some came to here to hear an endorsement. My endorsement will be Jesus. I'll tell you whom I'm going to vote for, but I don't think that makes it an endorsement. I'm going to vote for Mitt Romney, but I'm not telling you to... It is clear that the president of the United States doesn't stand on these issues that I've been talking about, only Mitt Romney does. All I can say is this is a biblical standard of how to vote...”<sup>2</sup>

--**Rev. Jim Garlow**, Skyline Church, San Diego, California

“I do not believe he has been an asset to our country; I don't believe he's moved us forward in a good direction, and frankly, I am praying, along with many other believers, that in this mid-term election we will find a way to slow down this train that seems to be moving us toward socialism and away from our historical moorings... I'm really frightened about that, and I think in that respect, I believe he's a dangerous person.”<sup>3</sup>

--**Dr. David Jeremiah**, Shadow Mountain Community Church, El Cajon, California

“...he is a non-Christian who has no interest in Christ, no interest in God... no interest in the Bible... the man is committed to literally overturning everything this country has ever believed in...”<sup>4</sup>

--**Dr. John MacArthur**, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California

Too harsh?

Long ago, Moses met with leaders to relay the method of atonement for Israel's defilement of the marriage bed. The Lord's people were unwittingly “joining” themselves to Baal, the god of Peor, through their harlotry with the women of Moab, and were under a curse. Yet even as they were discussing the matter, a young man from a prominent family brought a Midianite woman to his tent—in plain sight of the whole congregation. Without hesitation, Phinehas grabbed a javelin and took off after the pair—thrusting it through them both.

Phinehas didn't wait to see what others would do. Evidently, his zeal in light of the apathy of others around him was so refreshing, it pleased the Lord to spare Israel from further wrath. Some centuries later, a psalmist wrote: *...But Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was checked. This was credited to him as righteousness for endless generations to come.* (Ps 106:30, 31)

It really is refreshing to find so many praying and speaking out. Maybe the plague will be checked.

*Rick Forcier*

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<sup>1</sup> Opposing Views, 11/1/2012

<sup>2</sup> Pastor Jim Garlow Tells Congregation that He's Voting for Mitt Romney, *Opposing Views*, 10/8/2012

<sup>3</sup> David Jeremiah: Obama, a 'Dangerous' Man, bibleprophecyblog.com, 10/20/2012

<sup>4</sup> Dr. John MacArthur Calls Obama A "Non-Christian," Townhall.com/blog, 10/13/2009