

November 2012

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There Are More of Them

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.

--Winston Churchill

Conservatives turned in early election night because some things are just too much to bear. We heard as much from scores of people who had expected the 2012 election pendulum to swing center-right. One friend said of his wife; “Kathy went to bed early last night. She saw enough and was distressed, perplexed and could not fathom that this could be of the Lord.” Kathy was not alone. Millions of praying Christians went to bed election night equally distressed and perplexed.

So what happened this election cycle that could induce 65 million voters to stick with political leaders who unabashedly champion immoral causes and failed foreign and domestic policies?

Some commentators say Republicans ran weak candidates. Republicans had no message. Republicans didn’t reach out to women and minority voters. The top of their ticket was too nice, too bland—even giving Obama a pass in the Benghazi cover up. Others suggest massive voter fraud arguing that states requiring voter ID went for Romney. Also, Hurricane Sandy made Mr. Obama look very “presidential.”

Rabbi Steven Pruzansky who leads Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, a synagogue consisting of nearly 600 families located in Teaneck, New Jersey, says, however, that Romney lost “because it is impossible to compete against free stuff. Every businessman knows this; that is why the ‘loss leader’ or the giveaway is such a powerful marketing tool... The lure of free stuff is irresistible.”¹

“Imagine two restaurants side by side,” says the Rabbi. “One sells its customers fine cuisine at a reasonable price, and the other offers a free buffet, all-you-can-eat as long as supplies last. Few—including me—could resist the attraction of the free food. Now imagine that the second restaurant stays in business because the first restaurant is forced to provide it with the food for the free buffet, and we have the current economy, until, at least, the first restaurant decides to go out of business. (Then, the government takes over the provision of free food to its patrons).”

Rabbi Pruzansky teasingly, but tellingly, mentions that during the 1956 presidential campaign, a woman called out to Adlai Stevenson: “Senator, you have the vote of every thinking person!” Stevenson called back: “That’s not enough, madam, we need a majority!”

Whatever will be said about November 6, 2012, surely America confirmed its monumental shift in vision from that of its nearly forgotten founders. James Madison, arguably the foremost architect of the U.S. Constitution, said, “We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

That is definitely not the philosophy of Barack Obama, not the philosophy of the Democrat Party, and evidently not the philosophy of 51% of voters, including 6.4 million evangelicals who expressed their views with their ballots. So let us say what you might be thinking; “Houston, we have a problem.”

State leaders of R-74, the referendum to reject a new statewide homosexual “marriage” law, are thinking the same. Massively outspent by opponents, they were disheartened to lose by a margin of more than a quarter-million votes while 87 percent of churches watched from the sidelines. According to Family Policy Institute of Washington, only 13 percent of churches offered voter education materials to congregants.

Jane Chastain, a blogger for *WorldNetDaily* who says she was the first full-time female network sports anchor, is also very disappointed. She thinks the election was forfeited in America’s pulpits, and asks:

“So, what were these 6.4 million evangelicals who voted for Obama thinking...? How could they vote for a candidate who supports the wholesale killing of the most innocent among us when the Bible condemns the shedding of innocent blood? How could they vote for a candidate who wants to dilute marriage by including unions between two men or two women when the Bible calls this practice an abomination?...

Sadly, most pastors are not adequately preparing their flocks to be ‘salt and light’ in the world. Yes, they read the Bible and they speak in generalities but they don’t address the moral issues that are being debated in the public square. Maybe they don’t know how to begin, but more likely it is because they are afraid of offending some of their parishioners...

A pastor’s job is to speak the truth in love and hold up God’s plumb line. It is a job that should not be taken lightly. In James 3:1, the Bible warns, ‘Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.’²

While Ms. Chastain is troubled by pastors who do not teach the whole counsel of God, the late David Wilkerson was equally concerned with deafness in the pews. In one of his devotionals he wrote:

“The tragic truth is that in spite of hearing fiery messages sent from heaven, multitudes of Christians do not practice what they hear. They refuse to allow God’s entry into certain areas of their lives and as they continue to hear without heeding, hardness begins to set in... You may ask, ‘What exactly is a hard heart?’ It is one that is determined to resist obeying God’s Word, impossible to stir, and immune to the convictions and warnings of the Holy Spirit.”³

Wilkerson said people frequently approached him after a service, hugged him, and said, “Pastor, that was a powerful word you preached.” But as they walked away, the Holy Spirit often whispered to him, “They didn’t hear a word you said!”⁴ Wilkerson noted that “The children of Israel [too] loved to hear the powerful preaching of Ezekiel but they never obeyed it.

They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice . . . for they hear thy words, but they do them not. (Ezekiel 33:31-32).

If the recent General Election tells us anything, it is this: There are “more of them than there are of us.”

Pollster George Barna finds that the Church is blending so well with the culture that less than one-half of one percent of the *Mosaic* generation, those between the ages of 18 and 23, have a biblical worldview. He sees a troubling generational pattern that suggests parents are not focused on developing in their children, a biblical worldview. Barna says “you cannot give what you do not have, and most parents do not possess such a perspective on life.” So what should we do?

Jesus said, *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you... Mt 28:19-20*

Rick Forcier

¹ Rabbi Steven Pruzansky, “The Decline and Fall of the American Empire,” Rabbi Pruzansky’s Blog, *rabbipruzansky.com*, 11/7/2012

² Jane Chastain, *www.janechastain.com*

³ David Wilkerson, “Hardness of Heart,” re-published 11/6/2012

⁴ David Wilkerson, “They Never Obeyed,” re-published 11/7/2012