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Elections Are Never an Endgame

.. What are the current options for “eternity-minded” voters?

Many seek the ruler's favor, But justice for man comes from the Lord. --Proverbs 29:26

In fewer than 40 days, the world will know who the next President of the United States will be. That Pope Francis has made known his “personal” preference, as have numerous other foreign leaders, confirms the fact that the forthcoming U.S. Elections are a watershed event in the eyes of the world. But on January 21, 2017, one day after either Donald or Hillary recite their oath of office, Fox, CNN, and Jimmy Kimmel, are sure to launch the 2020 presidential cycle.

Arguably, White House politics are perpetual for two principal reasons: 1) It's a trillion-dollar industry and 2), nothing in the good old USA seems to be going all that well these days.

Gary Bauer, a former Dept. of Education official under Ronald Reagan, agrees with frustrated voters, that we face tremendous challenges, including a stagnant economy, racial tensions, and increasing threats from radical Islam. He adds that many feel the American dream is slipping away, and close to two-thirds of those polled believe America is on the wrong track!

If polls are accurate, and voters do in fact want change, then Hillary Clinton should be in trouble. Bauer thinks she represents the status quo, scandals, lying, and poor judgment.

Bauer acknowledges, however, that some Republicans say they may stay home or vote for third party candidates because Donald Trump is not really conservative. To that he says, “I believe Trump is, on a number of issues, *better* than what passes for conservatism today. For example:

Trump has directly confronted the smothering, debate-ending left-wing dogma, euphemistically called ‘political correctness.’

He has said he supports a litmus test on judges. His Supreme Court appointments *will be* pro-life.

He has made corruption in Washington, D.C. a major theme of his campaign.

He rejects nation building in the Middle East—a utopian, not a conservative adventure that ignores Islam's incompatibility with the basic tenets of freedom, including religious liberty and the equality of women.

He exhibits Ronald Reagan's caution on the use of military force, coupled with Reagan's firm belief that when we do use force, we fight to win.

Trump is confronting the putrid globalism that believes secure borders are passé and that all cultures are equal. He believes in American exceptionalism and the rule of law.”¹

7. “Last, but certainly not least, Donald Trump's selection of Indiana Governor Mike Pence to be his running mate was a grand slam home run. Mike Pence is a Ronald Reagan conservative who describes himself as “Christian, a conservative and a Republican—and in that order!” ^{Ibid}

“I will not guarantee that conservatives will applaud everything Donald Trump does,” says Bauer. “But I can guarantee that Hillary Clinton will do nothing conservatives might applaud.” ^{Ibid}

Bauer warns conservative voters who doubt Donald Trump, they can trust Hillary Clinton to do everything she promises, such as:

“Impose a massive amnesty far beyond what Obama has done.

Appoint pro-abortion, left-wing judicial activists who will gut the First Amendment and effectively repeal the Second Amendment.

Put a lot of coal miners and other energy industry employees out of work.

Increase the flow of refugees from Muslim nations by 500%.

Raise taxes by \$100 billion a year.

Continue Obama's foreign policy of appeasement, allowing nations like China, Iran and Russia to expand their influence while America retreats.

Empower extremists on the left, such as the radicals in the Black Lives Matter movement and the anti-Israel fanatics on America's college campuses.” ^{Ibid}

“What on that agenda,” asks Bauer, “appeals to any conservative? ...Not voting or dividing the conservative vote by supporting a third party candidate only empowers the left, and likely means the end of conservatism in America.” ^{Ibid}

True, Gary Bauer lives, works, and breathes the air in greater Washington, DC. But he knows that asking many of us to be enthused about *The Donald*, is like suggesting we should enjoy a daily shot of castor oil. Not even America's most prominent evangelist will go there. During his stop at our state capitol on June 29th, Franklin Graham implored the body of Christ to pray, and then vote. “If necessary,” he added, “hold your nose—but please VOTE!”

We say AMEN to that, but with a caveat...

Long ago, and far away, death brought an end to King Solomon's reign. The wisest man to ever live had multiplied wives and great wealth to himself, while levying a heavy tax burden on the people. At a town hall meeting in Shechem, the people were interviewing Rehoboam, one of Solomon's sons, to learn about his proposed fiscal policies. When he disregarded advice from experienced elders and advocated increased taxes and spending urged by a few of his *Generation-X* peers, the people became disgusted and instead, engaged Jeroboam, a business capable leader who had been in exile in Egypt for some time.

Although Ahijah the prophet affirmed God's plan for Jeroboam to lead a breakaway ten-tribe coalition (1Kings 11:31), things did not go well during his tenure. The king, the priests, and the people, lavished their affections on earthly things. Jeroboam, in fact, is noted as one of Israel's most despicable leaders.

Point? Searching out principled leaders is worthwhile. But for the Church, it's not an endgame. America's current trajectory will only change when “believers” become a reflection of Jesus, rather than the culture.

Rick Forcier

¹ charismanews.com/politics/opinion/60177-gary-bauer-many-of-donald-trump-s-positions-better-than-today-s-conservatism