

View

Election Reflections

If you are pro-life and pro-marriage (i.e., pro-GOD), the results of the election this week were mixed. Many pro-abortion candidates were elected throughout the nation, and that's bad news. But every proposition or referendum that sought to support marriage passed. In California, Arizona and Florida, the electorate decided that marriage is defined as union between a man and a woman, thus nullifying (for now) certain court decisions ruling otherwise. That's good news.

The man I preferred between the two candidates was not

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elected and I'm
disappointed, though
not surprised. The
people decided to
elect a man who is
inexperienced and
unaccomplished, in
terms of public
service. But, these
days, style and

charisma trump experience, and the man who was elected has
charisma to burn. And the people had a mind for "change."

We'll see how much "change" the people have a stomach
for. Meanwhile, Barack Obama will become our 44th president
and, as for me and my house, we will "honor the king" (I Pet.
2:17) and will "render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God
what is God's" (Mt. 22:21).

But I will also use every ounce of influence and energy I
have, as puny as they may be, to oppose the policies of the man
when I feel they conflict with God's word. I am not as
concerned with tax and spend policies as I am with life and
freedom of speech issues. The man we elected has, in the past,
supported abortion, even late-term abortion. He even voted
"present" (instead of "no") on bills that would have preserved
the life of a child born in spite of an attempted abortion. That
is an outrage, and we can only hope and pray that he will see
the light. There is already talk, though, of a reintroduction of

The church of Christ

Meeting at 900 E. Natoma
PO Box 492
Folsom, CA 95630

916/608-4866

Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048
David Posey: 530/676-9514
Dennis Reagan: 916/797-5539

Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436
Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320
David Byrd: 916/985-6564
Barrett Cain: 916/351-0774
Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902
Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689
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Eric Fields: 916/817-6495
David Main: 650/292-5417
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514
dpaulposey@mac.com

Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.
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Webmaster: Richard Harvey

Election Reflections, cont'd

the "Freedom of Choice" act which would validate late-term abortions.

There is, too, the possibility that this president will propose legislation that would curb certain kinds of political speech (specifically, there may be an attempt to create an "equal time" component aimed at conservative talk radio). If he succeeds, it may not be long for him or his supporters to seek to stem religious speech; similar measures have been enacted in other countries.

I'm not an alarmist, but I am a realist. And, if the past is prologue, we are in for some battles. After all, who would have imagined, 20 years ago, that we would need to vote on whether marriage is between a man and woman? If that can happen, why rule out anything else? Naïveté may be quaint, but it's not very wise. Remember, Proposition 8 only passed by a few percentage points, and it will come up again.

One of my favorite passages is in Nehemiah 4. When the enemies of the Jews were frustrated in their attempt to discourage the people from building the wall, Nehemiah didn't take anything for granted. He organized the people in such a way as to get the building done, but also to guard against further advances of the enemy: "From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction and half held the spears, shields, bows and coats of mail..." (Nehemiah 4:16). We need to do the same thing, only each one of us must build and "hold a spear." Or, as Teddy Roosevelt said, "walk softly but carry a big stick."

Meanwhile, we will hope for the best from our new president and the people he appoints.

We will give him the benefit of the doubt. He faces some very large challenges and if he is not at the top of his game, he'll be looking for work in four years. After all, charisma can only carry you so far. And there will be no George Bush to kick around anymore and "kicking" someone is how the press sells papers. It ought to be interesting.

Article Excerpt

The following article excerpt is from Dr. Albert Mohler who is president of the Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary. I

think he makes some points worth considering. You can find the entire article at <http://www.albertmohler.com>.

That victory is a hallmark moment in history for all Americans — not just for those who voted for Sen. Obama. As a nation, we will never think of ourselves the same way again.

Americans rich and poor, black

and white, old and young, will look to an African-American man and know him as President of the United States. The President. The only President. The elected President. Our President...

Yet, the issues and the politics remain. Given the scale of the Democratic victory, the political landscape will be completely reshaped. The fight for the dignity and sanctity of unborn human beings has been set back by a great loss, and by the election of a President who has announced his intention to sign the Freedom of Choice Act into law. The struggle to protect marriage against its destruction by redefinition is now complicated by the election of a President who has declared his aim to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. On issue after issue, we face a longer, harder, and more protracted struggle than ever before.

Article Excerpt (Cont'd)

Still, we must press on as advocates for the unborn, for the elderly, for the infirm, and for the vulnerable. We must redouble our efforts to defend marriage and the integrity of the family. We must be vigilant to protect religious liberty and the freedom of the pulpit. We face awesome battles ahead.

At the same time, we must be honest and recognize that the political maps are being redrawn before our eyes. Will the Republican Party decide that conservative Christians are just too troublesome for the party and see the pro-life movement as a liability? There is the real danger that the Republicans, stung by this defeat, will adopt a libertarian approach to divisive moral issues and show conservative Christians the door.

Others will declare these struggles over, arguing that the election of Sen. Obama means that Americans in general — and many younger Evangelicals in particular — are ready to “move on” to other issues. This is no time for surrender or the abandonment of our core principles. We face a much harder struggle ahead, but we have no right to abandon the struggle.

We should look for opportunities to work with the new President and his administration where we can. We must hope that he will lead and govern as the bridge-builder he claimed to be in his campaign. We must confront and oppose the Obama administration where conscience demands, but work together where conscience allows.

...Christians face another challenge with the election of Sen. Obama, and a failure to rise to this challenge will bring disrepute upon the Gospel, as well as upon ourselves. There must be absolutely no denial of the legitimacy of President-Elect Obama's election and no failure to accord this new President the respect and honor due to anyone elected to that high office. Failure in this responsibility is disobedience to a clear biblical command (see Romans 13 and I Peter 2:13-17, dp).

Beyond this, we must commit ourselves to pray for this new President, for his wife and family, for his administration, and for the nation. We are commanded to pray for rulers, and this new President faces challenges that are not only daunting but potentially disastrous. May God grant him wisdom. He and his family will face new challenges and the pressures of this office. May God protect them, give them joy in their family life, and hold them close together.

We must pray that God will protect this nation even as the new President settles into his role as Commander in Chief, and that God will grant peace as he leads the nation through times of trial and international conflict and tension.

We must pray that God would change President-Elect Obama's mind and heart on issues of our crucial concern. May God change his heart and open his eyes to see abortion as the murder of the innocent unborn, to see marriage as an institution to be defended, and to see a host of issues in a new light. We must pray this from this day until the day he leaves office. God is sovereign, after all.

Without doubt, we face hard days ahead. Realistically, we must expect to be frustrated and disappointed. We may find ourselves to be defeated and discouraged. We must keep ever in mind that it is God who raises up nations and pulls them down, and who judges both nations and rulers. We must not act or think as unbelievers, or as those who do not trust God.

America has chosen a President. President-Elect Barack Obama is that choice, and he faces a breathtaking array of challenges and choices in days ahead. This is the time for Christians to begin praying in earnest for our new President. There is no time to lose.