

The Christian and His Politics

One of the major issues of the day centers around the separation of church and state. It raises the questions as to how a Christian ought to be involved in the government. It's a very personal matter. You notice in the heading we used the word "Christian" instead of "church". We should honor the separation of church and state. History shows us that when false religious views become coupled with unscrupulous politicians the government becomes deplorable.

However, as personal as it should be the Christian needs to recognize his responsibility to the government (See Titus 3:1). He needs to pay his fair-share of taxes. He needs to obey the laws of the land. And, he needs to participate in the electoral process, which would include expressing the Biblical teachings on the various issues. Personally, I think he should do so on a non-partisan basis if possible.

There's a bumper sticker we see from time-to-time that reads: "The last time we mixed religion with politics people were burned at the stake." The reference is to the "witchcraft trials" in Salem, Mass. in 1792. A couple of serious errors are committed: One, they were not burned at the stake; they were hanged on the gallows; and the trials were not initiated on a religious basis as much so as on a medical basis. Be that as it may, I interpret the sticker to imply that religious people should be limited in their involvement in political matters. It is obvious today that there are those who would restrict religious people from expressing their political views.

Here are some of the political issues of the present in which a Christian should take a Biblical stand:

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The Benefits of Godly Wisdom

Heavenly wisdom is often the topic under consideration in the book of Proverbs. Often, wisdom is personified as an elegant lady. It is so pictured in a section of Proverbs which begins with the words of Proverbs 3:13: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." The following verses explain why such is the case. Solomon declares that wisdom is such a great treasure because of:

Her Profit (Prov. 3:14) "For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold." Earlier the wise man had stated, "If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." When seeking heaven's wisdom the return on one's investment is tremendous.

Her Preciousness (Prov. 3:15) "She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her." Later, Solomon penned the words: "For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it" (Prov. 8:11). Wisdom is indeed a precious commodity.

Her Provisions (Prov. 3:16) "Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour." This is a general statement and not an unconditional guarantee. However, one who seeks heaven's wisdom is much more likely to live a longer and more blessed life.

Her Pleasantness (Prov. 3:17a) "Her ways are ways of pleasantness...." One's attitude and actions towards others are enhanced by wisdom. Wisdom is pleasant in disposition.

Her Peace (Prov. 3:17b) "...and all her paths are peace." One guided by godly wisdom will travel a path of peace with his fellow man and with his own conscience.

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Teens

December Dates:

12/7—Youth Movie Night

12/9—TBS

12/30—Youth Conduct Evening Services

12/31—Youth Game Night

Bible Bowl Questions have been issued—Bible Bowl will be on March 1, 2008. Start studying!!

The Christian and His Politics—continued

1. We believe in the sanctity of marriage and the home; that one man should be married to one woman in a life-long relationship, and that it is only in this relationship children should be brought into the world.
2. We believe that homosexual relationships are immoral, and very dangerous to the future welfare of America.
3. We believe in helping the needy; but do not believe our government should take the taxpayers' money and give it away to people who are lazy and irresponsible for the sake of getting their votes.
4. We believe that human life is sacred, and should be protected from the time of conception.
5. We believe that the casual/nonmedical use of drugs (including all alcoholic beverages) is a plague that must be controlled with the same efforts used to control tuberculosis, typhoid and rabies.
6. We believe that every form of gambling is just another way of taking unfair advantage of the poor and ignorant, a way to get something for nothing.

We appeal to Christians everywhere not to let those who differ intimidate and discourage you from exercising your right to participate in the electoral processes ... not to keep quiet on moral issues.

-the elders

God is not looking for nibblers of the possible, but for grabbers of the impossible

Team Events

Team 4—

Team 4 will be having Team pot-luck fellowship on December 9 after morning services.

Information & Involvement Sheets

(AKA Pink & Blue Sheets)

If you have not filled out the **NEW** pink & blue sheets please do so as soon as possible. If you have not received an information sheet—see your Team leader or Jo Ann.

You are encouraged to consider all of the various “work desire” areas and put an “x” where you would like to participate.

Please place completed forms in the basket on the Media Door or give to Jo Ann.

EVERY MEMBER needs to fill out the new forms. Thanks in advance!!



Benefits of Godly Wisdom—continued

Her Permanence (Prov. 3:18) “She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.” Wisdom looks to the eternal and not merely to the temporal affairs of life (cf. II Cor. 4:18). No wonder Solomon began by saying, “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom.”

-Eddy

SICK

Madolia Rosette is in local hospital for rehab.

Teresa White, friend of Velda's, is in RMH.

Remember the following in prayer: **Betty Jenkins, Marguerite Charles, Betty Buckner, Effie Wimmer, Norma McNeil, Vance Moore, Keith Angelotti, Brent Starkey Andy & Paige Doss.**

Happy Birthday this week to:
Glenn Gabbard—11/25
Greg Edwards—11/27



MILITARY

Ty Stricklin—Stationed in Iraq

John Duran—overseas.

Kyle Nester— in Iraq

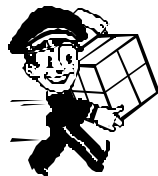
Erich Felps—in Iraq.



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Sweet 'n Low and Degree Deodorant.
Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



New Brother & Sister in Christ

Cameron Brown was baptized on Sunday evening by his dad.

Lori Whitlow was baptized on Monday by her husband.

Remember in Prayer: Preston Duff.

LOCK YOUR CARS

It's the holiday season again, so this is a reminder to please lock your cars during services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement that needs to be announced, please use the yellow announcement slips located in the box by the library door and give to the person making the announcements.

HOW TO BE A MORE ENCOURAGING CHRISTIAN CLASS

New adult class for next quarter will be meeting on Sunday morning in the fellowship hall. Please sign up today for this class so we can order books!!

POTTERS CHILDRENS HOME

Potters Children's Home Gleaner Cans will be picked up the week of December 9. Pick up a can and fill it up!!

Also the holiday season wish list is located in the foyer. These gifts need to be ready by December 9 as well. Questions—see Bob Garby.

EDP MEETING

The EDP Meeting will be on Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 in the fellowship hall.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, December 8, at 8 AM at Famous A's.

PRIMARY TEACHER MEETING

The December Primary Teachers Meeting will be on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4:30 in the fellowship hall.

LADIES NIGHT OUT HOLIDAY PARTY

The LNO Holiday Party will be on Monday, December 10 at 6:30 PM at Jo Ann's home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Member Dinner—1/19

Education Banquet—2/23

Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat—2/14&15

December 2007

Announcements Tom Duff
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)
12/2 Charlie Gwaltney
12/9 Eric Earnhart
12/16 Murphy Scott
12/23 Charlie Puckett
12/30 David Brown
Preside at Communion Tom Richardson
Serve Table Herb Baker AC Janney
 Greg Edwards Glenn Gabbard

Closing Prayer

12/2 Paul Mays
12/9 Squeaky Valentine
12/16 Wayne Dixon
12/23 Luke Guard
12/30 Jim Harrington

Song Leader (PM)

Tom Rogers

Opening Prayer (PM)

12/2 Charlie Maness
12/9 Josh Whitlow
12/16 Mike Durham
12/23 George Mellon
12/30 Youth

Scripture Reader

Sam Valentine

Closing Prayer (PM)

12/2 Glenn Hartman
12/9 Fred Altizer
12/16 Roger Mays
12/23 Grat Tucker
12/30 Youth

Serve Table (PM) Preston Duff Garrett Durham

Song Leader (Wed) Adam House

Prayer (Wed)

12/5 Bobby Martin
12/12 Don Pettit
12/19 Richard Simms
12/26 Caleb Guard

Open/Close Bldg Fred Altizer

Greeters Keiths Gwaltneys

Nursery Attend M. Earnhart M. Rogers

Ushers N. Gearhart D. Guard

Handouts Mike & Bradford Durham

Alternates David Brown

Prepare comm. Gloria White Marsha Cooke

Cards & Pencils Jimmy Harrington Dylan Tyler

Last weeks attendance 11/18&21/2007

Bible Class— 160 Worship Service—201

Eve. Worship— 163 Wed. Service—166

Contribution—\$5646

Number 2847