

Instead of Voting for the “Lesser of Two Evils,” Should I withhold My Vote?
No, and Here’s Why: A Biblical and Theological Reflection
Pastor Edward D. Seely, Th.M., Ph.D.

Note: This booklet was originally written during the campaigning prior to the 2016 United States Presidential Election but the principles always apply to all elections where Christians can vote. As you read, replace the names as necessary, e.g., Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, with the current candidates. Issues in 2016 have been left in this publication for illustrative purposes and also since many are still active matters. A key theme herein is this: elections are not popularity contests, but they are policy contests, and everyone—especially Christians—should vote for the candidate whose policies will honor God and be best for his church, their whole country, and the world, all of which and of whom belong to God.

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Short and Long Answers to the Question

I’ve been asked this question in the title many times. I’ve also been asked to write and publish my answer.

The question has a long and a short answer. The short answer is: “**NO**; do not fail to vote.”

Why? Now we come to another question that has a shorter and a longer answer. First the shorter answer to the question, Why? Because this country (as every other nation and the whole world,

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to the degree influenced and affected by this country) belongs to God, and he wants what is best for t/his country, for all of his other nations, and his world that he loves. (John 3:16) In all of the choices before us in this and in any election, candidates as well as proposals, one option is better than the other(s); God’s will is that we do all we can, including marking the ballot, to produce the best for him.

Throughout the Bible, we read that God has called his people to [engage the public square](#). An Old Testament example is when the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, spoke through the prophet Jeremiah to those God punished for the grievous evil they committed against his will by taking them into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. The LORD said, “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile,” including—but not limited to—praying for the city, “because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

God has called his people—believers in and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ—to be “the salt of the earth [and] the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:13-14) Look at the text: “the” salt and “the” light, not “a,” that is one out of many. One of the ways we can be salt and shed light at election time is to vote. The converse is also true: failing to vote eclipses the light; recall what Jesus said, no one lights a light and puts it under a bowl. (5:15) Our Lord added, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” (5:13) Who wants to be considered no good for anything, thrown out, and stepped on by people? Especially by the Lord!

Think carefully now. Who will make the best decisions on their ballots? Those who live and walk in darkness? Or, those in Christ Jesus, the Light of the world, the one who gives us our light (John 8:12), and in whom the Holy Spirit dwells? (2 Timothy 1:14) While there are obviously other applications of these texts that can be made, in the present context one is especially clear: **Do not fail to vote!**

If you are one of the 50% of Christians who have not even registered. Do it now. You have until October 15 in Colorado. If you are reading this paper after October 15, register now so you can vote in every future election. You can also help by telling people what you have read above and also what you read below, so they, too, can be salt and light in the upcoming election and far beyond.

Here Are Helpful Tips for Obtaining What You Most Want in the Longer Answer.

The longer answer follows. A correlative question is also asked, “Who can I vote for? How can I vote for Hillary Clinton (now Joseph Biden) or Donald Trump? I don’t like either of them!” My answer is in the following pages. As I typically do, I have identified my reasons and supported them with our highest standard, God’s Word, the Bible, and also logic and the finest of research that I’ve cited in the footnotes. Out of concern for the too many people who are put off

by footnotes (always read footnotes!), I have tried to limit the number of them and have included a section at the end of this booklet, “Trustworthy Resources for Further Information,” where any additional data to document, support, and/or elaborate on what is in these pages can be found by those who want that evidence.

To make it easier and quicker for readers, I’ve also supplied the URLs for the Websites of these organizations; don’t forget to use their helpful toolbars, including the “Find” and “Search” features. If you want just the shorter answer, at least for now, please be sure to look also at the concluding section, “Trustworthy Resources for Further Information.”

I write such papers with the recognition that some people want the shortest possible answer, but others, recognizing the profundity and complexity of the issues involved and wanting to have more information to satisfactorily answer their own questions, and in order to be able to explain the matter to others, want more details. Therefore, I have supplied those details that I see as being especially significant for the most important national issues before us in the coming election on which I want to comment now. Yet, I have not tried to treat each issue exhaustively—only enough for sufficient information to vote; for further information, I’ve provided the resource section at the end of the booklet for those who want the rest of the story on any issue.

I have chosen to not comment on every important issue. Some issues I’ve not included, largely due to the length of the booklet, or the candidates giving evasive answers in order to “have it both ways” or when most people know where the two candidates either do, or will, stand on this issue and why, such as the energy and environmental (more accurately: stewardship of God’s creation) questions, e.g., pertaining to the Keystone XL Pipeline (Phase IV) and hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) on public lands in oil production. Hillary Clinton has made ambiguous statements that could be interpreted as being open to fracking, but after push back from special interest groups she has said, “...no future extraction.”¹ The same is true for her position on the Keystone XL Pipeline issue, where after years of “twisting herself in rhetorical pretzels to avoid giving a straight answer,”² she has come out in opposition to the pipeline. Donald Trump supports the Keystone Pipeline³ and hydraulic “fracking,” but he says that local towns and states should be able to have a say in whether they will allow it⁴ “in their backyard.” Viewing the matter Biblically, since God has commanded us to be stewards of his creation (Genesis 1:26-28), since everything good comes from God (James 1:17), and since hydraulic fracturing has a track

¹ “The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel on Hillary Clinton’s stance on fossil fuel development,” *Reporter-Herald*, September 15, 2016, p. 4.

² Alex Seitz-Wald, “Hillary Clinton (finally) comes out against Keystone pipeline,” MSNBC, September 22, 2015, <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/hillary-clinton-finally-comes-out-against-keystone-pipeline> (Accessed 9/15/16)

³ Theodore Schliefer, “Donald Trump supports the Keystone pipeline,” CNNPolitics.com, August 28, 2015, <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/18/politics/donald-trump-keystone-pipeline-support/> (Accessed 9/15/16)

⁴ Timothy Cama, “Trump rattles industry with fracking position,” The Hill, <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/290186-trump-rattles-industry-with-fracking-position>, August 3, 2016 (Accessed 9/15/16)

record of safely extracting needed oil and natural gas safely and economically for well over half a century,⁵ I am supportive of the process, assuming appropriate, albeit not excessive, regulation.

Before proceeding, a brief note on government regulation from a Biblical perspective: One of the important functions of the government is its regulatory responsibility, to serve as a watchdog and a guard. We must remember, and help others to know and/or remember, that the government is composed of people. And these people, God informs us, are all sinners, as are we. (Romans 3:23) In his Word, we read that God gives the government the task of limiting the effects of human sinfulness. (Romans 13:1-7) Well and good. But we also need to remember, and help others to know and/or remember, that since our governing authorities, the watchdogs, are also sinners, who is to watch the watchdogs? Their sinfulness also needs to be limited. For now, the briefest answer must suffice, and it is this: First of all, God watches and brings them to justice. He functions thus directly and indirectly through us, especially in this country. Also in our nation's jurisprudence, the watchdogs only have their God-given authority as they function in their corporate responsibilities according to the Constitution and other laws of the land; as individuals they are subject to the same laws as the rest of us. Thus, and since God has called us to be stewards of his creation and to speak the truth in love, we, as all other citizens of this country, are the watchdogs of the watchdog, but we must exercise that responsibility through the Constitutionally established legal procedures. This is a very important reason why we need to be careful who is appointed to be our judges, especially our Federal and Supreme Court judges.

Following the concluding section of the main body of the booklet is an appendix that addresses the prerequisite and first question of philosophical inquiry: the epistemological question, i.e., how do you know the truth, the validity and reliability of the assertions being made? Christians have a great advantage in this matter, for we believe that the Bible is the Word of God and is the ultimate standard, together with God's help through his Holy Spirit, for discerning truth from falsehood, right from wrong, good from evil. I have written about this subject, and explained the reasons why Christians for thousands of years are convinced that the Bible is trustworthy, in a series of short essays that are posted on my Websites.⁶

⁵ For just one of several sources supporting these findings, see https://www.powerincooperation.com/issues.aspx?issue=hydraulicfracturing&utm_campaign=PiC&utm_medium=PaidSearch&utm_source=Google&utm_content=hydraulic_fracking&DDCA_RegSource=334&DDCA_Medium=PaidSearch&DDCA_CampaignAd=Search-HF&DDCA_AdUnit=Search-HF&DDCA_Term=Search-HF#sthash.2SpDkb4B.dpbs (Accessed 9/15/16). Note: this Website is sponsored by ConocoPhillips, but it is a quick read, providing an accurate explanation of the process, consistent with much else from many other sources that I've consulted. *The Daily Sentinel* of Grand Junction, CO adds, "Even the White House science adviser in the Obama Administration concedes it's unrealistic to halt fossil fuel extraction altogether. The reality is that we will need to rely on burning natural gas, nuclear energy and even outfitting coal plants with carbon capture technologies for some time." "The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel on Hillary Clinton's stance on fossil fuel development," *Reporter-Herald*, September 15, 2016, p. 4.

⁶ Click on the title, [Prolegomena \(Reasons Why We Believe the Bible Is the Trustworthy Word of God\)](http://www.fromacorntoak12.com/theology/), on the Christian Theology page of my general Website at <http://www.fromacorntoak12.com/theology/>. (Accessed 9/2/16) I also have an academic Website, which is located at <https://seelyedward.academia.edu/>. Both Websites are safe and secure. The contents of both are free; I'm not selling anything.

Additional resources for discerning truth from falsehood are also available. I identify and explain some in the appendix of this booklet.

Finally, if you prefer, you can use this booklet as a reference work rather than read it all the way through. In order to obtain the information you want most quickly, you can either scan or skim the document, looking at the headings and stopping to peruse those sections that deal with your questions. One other suggestion would be to use the “Find” feature and just type in the subject you want to access immediately, e.g., voting, Islam, or Supreme Court, and your computer will take you to just those pages and highlight the word or term you’ve chosen to search.

Please note: As always, you are most welcome to forward this document, or its URL, to anyone you wish. It, as everything else on my Websites, is free, and both of my Websites are secure.

A Biblically-based Philosophical and Theological Rationale

Following the apostle Paul’s example in his letters, I’ll first present a Biblically-based philosophical and theological rationale for the above answer. Then, I’ll primarily speak specifically to the 2016 and 2024 U. S. Presidential elections, applying this rationale to the question facing us in November. The basis of the main issues for voters to decide and which follow, are essentially moral, religious, and therefore Biblical issues; hence the reason for this publication.

How Can We Resolve the Serious Moral Issues before Us?

1. Many are saying, “I don’t like either one. Why should I vote for either of them? Can I even do so as a Christian?!” Then they usually add, “Maybe I’ll just sit this one out, or just skip the section for President and Vice President and only vote for the other questions on the ballot.” We who are Christians should not fail to vote. The following explains why.
 - a. First of all, this and all other political—including Presidential—elections are **NOT personality** contests, **but** they are **policy** contests. For the sake of God, his church, our country, and the rest of world, we must not make them about a candidate’s personality.
 - b. Also, the two candidates from which we have to choose, not only in 2016 but always, are not completely equal. That would be true even if they were identical twins. When considering the issues in the light of a Biblical point of view, one candidate has at least one, and usually more than one, quality that is better than what the other candidate stands for and promotes.

2. ***Failing to vote for “the lesser of the two evils” is a vote for the worst one.*** The only way to effectively oppose and help to defeat a candidate is to vote for his or her rival. Therefore, to not vote for the rival helps the candidate you do not like the most. As Wayne Grudem, professor of Christian ethics for 39 years, has well-written, “If this election is close (which seems likely), then if someone votes for a write-in candidate [or doesn’t vote at all] instead of voting for Trump, this action will directly help Hillary Clinton, because she will need one less vote to win.”⁷ Some say, “Well, I could never vote for a candidate who believes... or for a candidate who does..., so I’m not going to vote.” This thinking is flawed for several reasons. In addition to it being a vote for, and thus helping, the person most disliked, the message is wasted; no one knows why the nonvoter is sitting out the election or at least not casting a vote for this particular public office.

The same principle is operative in participating in boycotts. If you oppose the policy of a store’s position on a moral matter, for example Target’s decision to allow anyone to use restrooms previously designated solely for females, and you choose to boycott that business, you must either sign a petition to that effect or write a letter to the company’s president stating your intention to discontinue shopping in any of the corporation’s stores until the policy is changed. Otherwise, your inconveniencing yourself and avoiding shopping at the store is nullified and wasted. While the company’s executives will notice the loss of your money, **no one** in the company **will know why** you are no longer shopping there. A thousand other reasons could be keeping you from shopping there, e.g., you’ve moved away; you’re sick and incapacitated; you’ve died; you are upset about something else. In fact, the supporters of the policy you oppose will be using any of these and many more to justify keeping their policy; they will only consider changing if they know why people are no longer shopping at their store and can connect that rationale with the loss of revenue.

3. **We must keep in mind, what will be best for the nation?** Whose policies, when implemented, will help, and which will hurt, the nation the most? If we “take the moral high road” and vote against a candidate whose moral actions, especially 15-20 and more years ago, were reprehensible, how does that help the nation overcome the effects of the disastrous policies his or her opponent will implement if elected?

*So, since one candidate is better than the other, even if you don’t like him or her, where in God’s Word, the Bible, do you find any principle or other indication that it is God’s will to not vote for the better one **and thereby give the nation the worst of the two candidates**?* Remember, God has commanded us to be stewards of his creation, and the United States of America is part of his creation. Our vote is one way, and a vital way, we

⁷ Wayne Grudem, “Why Voting for Donald Trump Is a Morally Good Choice,” July 28, 2016, *Townhall*, <http://townhall.com/columnists/waynegrudem/2016/07/28/why-voting-for-donald-trump-is-a-morally-good-choice-n2199564> (Accessed 10/1/16)

can exercise and fulfill the stewardship responsibility he has given us. Further, the more we talk with others about how and why we are voting, the more we fulfill that responsibility.

4. God's Word as revealed in the Bible teaches that there are not only sins of commission, by which we disobey God's commandments and do other deeds that are violations of God's will, but also of omission; that is, we commit sins by what we do that we shouldn't do, and we also sometimes sin by failing to do what we should do. For just one example, consider Leviticus 19:17b: "'Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.'" We will be guilty of the sin of omission if we do not speak up and admonish someone, privately, who is doing something that is blameworthy. Other examples of sins of omission are found in the Bible; maybe one more is sufficient, Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan.

To illustrate the Biblical Law of "Love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus told of two Jewish religious leaders who saw a man, likely but not necessarily a Jew, who was badly beaten and dying and in great need of help, but they passed by and did nothing. On the contrary, a Samaritan, who Jews typically disdained, stopped and helped the man, including providing for his being restored to health. Jesus affirmed the Samaritan as the one who was a neighbor according to the Law.

One of the classic texts addressing the sins of omission is Matthew's account of how the final judgment will be when Jesus returns in his Second Coming.

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (Matthew 25:41-46)

For other sins of omission mentioned in the Bible see Obadiah 11 and James 4:17, the latter of which says, "Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin" (James 4:17). See below for insightful applications by ethics professor Wayne Grudem of these two passages concerning the sin of omission.

5. As mentioned above, we believers in and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, are here to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13-14) If we fail to do

all we can to affect the needed changes in our country, we are failing the Lord, who owns this and all other countries. (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:17-23; Colossians 2:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:22-28)

We remember that the whole world belongs to Christ by whom it was created. (Colossians 1:16) This reality was graphically described by a still oft-quoted statement of one of Europe's greatest Christian theologians, Abraham Kuyper, who also served as premier of The Netherlands from 1901-1905: "There is not one square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'"

6. We must keep in mind that we have had the unique privilege of growing up, living, and voting in a country that has for the first 200 years of its existence been largely influenced and shaped by the Bible, a country which the U. S. Supreme Court in 1892 said is a Christian nation.⁸ Christians for the first three centuries, until Emperor Constantine in 313 A.D. legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire, lived under pagan rule that often persecuted them cruelly and greatly, much less adhered to their Biblical morality and other values. This reality of Christians living under pagan rule still occurs for most Christians throughout the world. Yet, God tells them to be salt and light where they are. They are to work to do all they can to proclaim God's Word and transform their nation, in deed the whole world, in accord with God's will. To be sure, this transformation is done, as we'll discuss below, most effectively spiritually and not politically, but we must use every means we have to bring about justice and righteousness (Deuteronomy 16:20) and all other good that we can do as stewards of that part of God's world where he has placed us. *God has not raised us up in Christ to sit back and do nothing, watching pagans corrupt his creation by taking it to new and more sordid depths each day.* On the contrary, we see many places in the Bible concerning this concept of God expecting his people to live in the society where he has put them and to do all they can to make that society prosper.
7. Consider Jeremiah 29:1-7, God's Word to his people whom he was sending into exile due to their disobedience and sin, actually an act of love (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:1-13; John 3:16, 21) and a learning experience equipping them for the work he called them to do in order to effectively facilitate God's plan of redemption of the world through them. (Isaiah 11:1, 10-11; 53:2; Romans 15:12; Revelation 5:5; 22:16) Similarly, we cannot lose sight of who we are and what God has called us to do in this context: the context of our Biblical roots (e.g., Galatians 3:26-29) and the context of Loveland, CO in the 21st century A. D. and wherever else God leads us.

¹This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets

⁸ David Barton, *America's Godly Heritage* (Aledo, TX: WallBuilder Press, 1993), p. 25; cf. pp. 8-27.

and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

²(This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.)

³He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said:

⁴This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

⁵“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

⁶Marry [not cohabit; Hebrew verb is an imperative] and have sons and daughters; find [Hebrew verb is an imperative; reference is to arranged marriages, still done in many places in the world today] wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.

- [As we read elsewhere in God’s Word, such marriage was to be with fellow believers. It was very important then, as it still is, that believers marry fellow believers (and they should be demonstrating maturity in Christ.)

⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:1-7)

Seminary professor, Wayne Grudem, cites one application of this text when he says,

“I think Christians today have a similar obligation to vote in such a way that will ‘seek the welfare’ [Jeremiah 29:7 NASB] of the United States. Therefore [instead of becoming distracted by and focusing on the character of the candidates, more importantly] the one overriding question to ask is this: [voting for which candidate] *is most likely to bring the best results for the nation?*” ...

Under President Obama, a liberal federal government has seized more and more control over our lives. But this can change. This year we have an unusual opportunity to defeat Hillary Clinton and the pro-abortion, pro-gender-confusion, anti-religious liberty, tax-and-spend, big government liberalism that she champions. I believe that defeating that kind of liberalism would be a morally right action. Therefore I feel the force of the words of James: “Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin” (James 4:17).

Some may feel it is easier just to stay away from this messy Trump-Clinton election, and perhaps not even vote. But the teachings of Scripture do not allow us to escape moral responsibility by saying that we decided to do nothing. The prophet Obadiah rebuked the people of the Edom for

standing by and doing nothing to help when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem: “*On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that . . . foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them.*” (Obadiah 1:11).⁹

Remember also what Paul wrote to Timothy, “¹I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, . . .” (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

This passage provides a clear example of how God desires his people to pray for their city for sure but also to seek its peace and prosperity engage and transform the culture in which they are living. Focus on the Family president, Jim Daly, makes the very significant observation that

Paul was actually prepared to offer prayers of *thanksgiving* for the Emperor Nero, the virulently anti-Christian leader of the Roman Empire who eventually had him killed.

If Paul could utter prayers of thanksgiving for the murderous thug Nero, I hope that we can look beyond the divisive personalities involved in *this* presidential election to look at the issues at stake.¹⁰

Here and elsewhere throughout the Bible we see God calling his people to actively participate with him as he redeems his creation that is currently groaning in travail. (Romans 8:22) As Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth. . . You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:13-14)

8. We need to be proactive and not just reactive. This Biblical teaching in the preceding section is also why we must continue to pray that God raises up people from within his church to run for public office. As we can, we should engage in this process by encouraging fine people to consider running for public office and then helping in any of the other ways needed. Chief Justice John Jay, the first to hold that position in the U. S. Supreme Court, declared that “it is the duty—as well as the privilege and interest—of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”¹¹

But what if the choice we have is between two who claim to be Christians but are profoundly flawed, or, not Christians at all? Then, *I urge us all to consider and follow the principles above and below, vote for the one who is likely to do better than the other, and begin now to pray for the Lord to raise up many more of his true believers and*

⁹ Wayne Grudem, “Why Voting for Donald Trump Is a Morally Good Choice,” July 28, 2016, *Townhall*, <http://townhall.com/columnists/waynegrudem/2016/07/28/why-voting-for-donald-trump-is-a-morally-good-choice-n> (Accessed 10/1/16)

¹⁰ Jim Daly, September 2016 Newsletter, Focus on the Family, p. 2.

¹¹ Barton, p. 21.

followers, i.e., not only those who say they believe but are also doing God's Word consistently and with a considerable track record. Let us also talk with such people and encourage them to give thought to running for public office and supporting them in whatever way we can to do so, e.g. including but not limited to, praying for their victory, urging friends to vote for them, writing letters to the editor in the local newspaper, calling local radio talk shows, and supporting them financially.

Is the Lord calling you to public service? If you think that might be possible, talk with a believer already in office and other believers including your pastor, but beginning of course with your spouse and family. It may help to start with a local office and if that goes well, run for higher office later.

We cannot turn government over to the pagans and then complain. Pagans do what pagans do. If we don't participate in government, we can easily predict the result. We cannot sit back and say, "Politics is a dirty business; I don't want anything to do with it." The main reason it's a dirty business, when it is, is because of the lack of involvement of God's people who are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Neither from the point of view of political science, can we in the United States ever say we are not a part of the government of this nation; remember that we are a democracy, a word made up of two Greek words meaning the rule by the people, in contrast to, e.g., an aristocracy, rule by the aristos, the best or the privileged elite.

Sadly and humanly speaking, the main reason why the cultural changes in our country have been departing so significantly from what they have been since the founding of our nation so soundly on God's Word, is due to too many of us, who are believers in and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, not actively engaging in the life and work of our country and speaking out proactively as well as reactively. Too many of us haven't even done the latter; we've just sat back and watched. The void has been filled by activists with special interest groups whose special interests have not usually matched our, our nation's, and most importantly God's, special interests. Then, consciously or unconsciously, our besieged representative has illustrated the old adage, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease," whereupon after acquiescing to the special interest groups the representative still doesn't hear anything from us, another adage emerges, though illogically, that "silence is tacit approval." And the snowball keeps rolling, albeit in the wrong direction.

We are seeing the effects of the truth of Irish and British statesman, philosopher, and politician, Edmund Burke's (1729-1797) often-quoted and insightful observation, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."¹² Think about that if you are ever tempted to not vote.

¹² This quote is cited in many places but none precisely locate the exact source of Burke's quote. John Stuart Mill later voiced a similar observation in an inaugural address he delivered at St. Andrews University in 1867, when he said, "Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing." These quotes can be found on Google. Thoughtful readers will recall Jesus' teaching that "No one is good—except God alone." (Luke 18:19) Jesus is not saying here there is nothing that could be called good in any human. In the original Greek, there are different words that mean good. An analysis of the Greek text of Luke 18:19, and the Copyright © 2016, 2024 by Edward D. Seely. Permission granted to forward and quote with acknowledgement.

I know that many of us have so much on our plates that we cannot at this time do much more, but most of us can at least write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, or call in to a radio talk show, or write or call our Congressional and State legislator or city council representatives, or do many other influential acts that require little time, but which over time add up significantly. We can also use social media to speak out, for example with posts on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and blogging. Think of the influence you and your church and others of like mind would have if your U. S. Senator, or other representatives, received an email, or a post on his or her Website, from you on a particular issue! And if he or she heard from you several times a year! Another option for you, especially while your schedule is so tight, is to sign up to receive the highly informative emails from such outstanding organizations as the ACLJ (American Center for Law and Justice) and the Family Research Council; both organizations are very actively engaged with the U. S. government and periodically email petitions with brief explanations of an action they want the government to take. The petition takes less than a minute to read and press the “Send” button. Your voice is then added to tens and usually hundreds of thousands of others of like mind, which notifications our representatives take seriously. The URLs for both organizations are included in the section below, “Trustworthy Resources for Further Information.” Just one click and you’re there!

Those of us who are retired need to regularly reflect on the question of why God is permitting us to remain here on earth? What work does he have for us yet to do? Many retirees wonder what to do. After reading this booklet, I hope and pray you never have that wonderment again. And if, while engaging in activities to serve God in the secular domain, you still have more time, your church home and other, parachurch, ministries need your help too, all of which facilitate opportunities to extend and nurture God’s kingdom, the only hope for our nation! We’ll return to this subject for further discussion below.

Consider also Jeremiah 18:5-10.

- [5] Then the word of the LORD came to me...
- [7] If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed,
- [8] and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned.
- [9] And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted,
- [10] and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

broader context, makes clear that Jesus is teaching here that God alone is good as being the only source of salvation, which is what Christ Jesus came to do as the only begotten Son of God, the Second Person of the triune God. Jesus is reminding the ruler, who asked him the question, of the real and deeper meaning of the Greek word ἀγαθός (*agathos*), good; that it is in the connection with salvation and thus with God, thereby leading the ruler “to look upon Jesus in the true light, as the One who bestows salvation, i.e., as himself being God.” (R. C. H. Lenski *New Testament Commentary, The Interpretation of St. Luke’s Gospel*, WORDsearch, p. 914.

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Some questions come to mind:

- a. In which of these two directions (in Jeremiah 18:5-10) is the United States headed?
 - b. Do the public worship services in your congregation include a prayer of confession (preferably early in the service, immediately accompanied by an assurance of pardon)?
 - c. Which of the candidates running for office on all levels in 2016 are most likely to oppose evil and facilitate that which is good?
 - d. What mature, wise, honest, knowledgeable, righteous and courageous person(s) do you know who should be encouraged to run for public office, including the school boards, in years to come?
9. As Christians, we need to teach the truth in love, optimism, and joy. As indicated above, and as we see daily, much evil is being perpetrated in our society. And it's an intentional operation in which the demonic forces opposed to, but completely under the control of, our Lord, are operating in and through the human forces through whom they are working. One of the key results of this evil conspiracy is the reduction, with the goal of eliminating as much as possible, our freedom.

How does this occur? First of all, evil and sin require more laws to protect people. Secondly, those government and other leaders who oppose the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, are actively, motivated by the demonic, seeking to limit the freedoms in which our country was established by our nation's Founders who based their Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and other supporting documents on the Bible, the Word of God.

How else are these government and other leaders, who are committed to that which is evil and opposed to the Lord, reducing our freedom? Many ways can be cited, but in this booklet just a couple will be mentioned here. We don't have to look any farther than President Obama's infamous executive order through the full force of his Department of Education and Department of Justice to require schools and all other institutions that receive federal funds to allow transgenders and all others to use the restroom and locker room of their choice. This (il)legal action means that girls, women, and their parents and spouses are prohibited from the freedom to oppose such a regulation (based on a biased interpretation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972) and are prohibited from the freedom of using their historically designated and protected room where they have the freedom of fear of molestation (which has occurred as I've documented in my book on homosexuality elsewhere cited in this booklet) and freedom to undertake in modesty the other normal procedures in such restrooms and locker rooms.

Providentially, a federal judge in Texas has temporarily halted the implementation, nationwide, of Obama's regulation. Nevertheless, do not fail to be vigilant on this matter.

Less than a month after the extremely unwise Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) decision on the *Obergefell vs. Hodges* case (June 26, 2015), on July 23, 2015 homosexual and pro-homosexual activists introduced the so-called "Equality Bill," in the

U. S. House and U. S. Senate. This bill (H.R. 3185 and its Senate companion bill, S. 1858) redefines the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and prohibits The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 from the freedom of allowing opposition to the homosexual agenda. For example, if passed into law, this bill would effectively force a Christian baker against his or her will to bake a cake celebrating a homosexual “wedding” in violation of his or her moral values and Biblical commitment to following God’s will. The baker would no longer have the freedom to say, “No. I cannot bake this cake and participate in the celebration of something I believe is against God’s will.” That bill is wrong and another example of the loss of freedom those who disavow the teaching of the Bible are trying to perpetrate on United States citizens and others.

Can you see how practical God’s Word is? Consider again Jesus’ teaching and its implications for life now as well as in eternity.

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:31-36)

Freedom is one of God’s communicable characteristics that he has given us, one of the aspects of his image in which he has created us (Genesis 1:26-28) that he has in macrocosm but which he has given us in microcosm. The entrance into the world of evil and sin due to Adam’s and Eve’s rebellious disobedience has corrupted our human nature and inserted disharmony in all relationships, and even throughout all creation, (Romans 8:22) such that we humans are misusing our freedom in many ways, including the attempt to make others less free.

This is one of the main issues between the Democrat and Republican Parties. The former holds to the importance of as many laws and as much regulation as possible; the latter trying to limit government control and facilitate the proper use of freedom without unwarranted governmental restrictions. Examples of Democrat practice of restricting freedom include, but are not limited to, what has been discussed above and the following:

taking your tax dollars to fund immoral and unbiblical acts as abortion through Planned Parenthood subsidies; abortion in hidden procedures in Obamacare; Obamacare itself; requiring schools accepting taxpayer money to allow biological males to use women’s restrooms and locker room showers; so-called and oxymoronic “same-sex marriage;” and a

multitude of “politically correct” limitations with litigation and other forms of punishment for “offenders.”¹³

Remember this when it comes time to vote. Tony Perkins, President of the Family Research Council, has summarized the situation well.

As Christian citizens, we are obligated to stand for truth. And one important way we can do that is at the ballot box. We simply cannot shirk from this responsibility—especially today. There is far too much at stake.

Can we sit back and allow the radical Left to take over the Supreme Court? Can we let the government force schools to allow boys who “feel” they are girls share showers and locker rooms with our daughters and granddaughters? Can we continue to let our religious freedom be infringed? Can we trust our future to big government bureaucrats whose goal is to control every aspect of life?

If you care about your religious freedom—and all the other freedoms depend on it—now more than ever your voice must be heard....

As we elect more conservatives in Washington...our state capitals...and local counties, cities, villages, and townships, the far-left policies that target our liberty will be overturned and the light of freedom will shine brightly one again....

The choice is clear. The platforms couldn’t be more different. Look at them and decide. It is critical that you vote—and vote biblical values!¹⁴

Very sadly, there is one area, the spiritual and moral domain, where the liberals, including the official Democrat Party platform does encourage freedom, freedom to do what is evil in matters that conflict with God’s Word, such as abortion, homosexuality, and involvement with non-Christian religions, to name just a few. Here, too, Tony hits the target:

God has commanded Christians to be a light in the darkness. That’s one of the most important missions of Family Research Council. The radical Left works in the shadows to further their covert assault on religious freedom. We win by exposing their lies to the light of day [and I would add, to the light of Christ Jesus, the Light of the world].¹⁵

¹³ For thorough documentation and further information on these issues, see the related pages on my general Website at www.fromacorntoak12.com.

¹⁴ Tony Perkins, “Your Vote Counts. Don’t Sit Out This Election,” *Washington Watch*, September 2016, Vol. 27, No. 3, p. 4.

¹⁵ Tony Perkins, *Washington Watch*, September 2016, Vol. 27, No. 3, p. 3.

10. Speaking of the Left working in the shadows, one clear example is their strenuous efforts to give noncitizens the right to vote. Noncitizens, including illegal aliens! Cal Thomas asks, and then insightfully answers, the question this way:

...Why are liberal groups determined to repeal laws requiring proof of citizenship and residence? The answer is found in a definition of the word fraud: “deceit, trickery, sharp practice, or breach of confidence, perpetrated for profit or to gain some unfair or dishonest advantage.”

...Notice the left never focuses on emancipating people from poverty. That might make the poor independent of government, which would be intolerable to the left. They need a reliable voting bloc and keeping the poor dependent on government is a modern form of slavery that is cynical in the extreme.

Unless discrimination against an individual can be proved, these voter ID laws should be upheld. Otherwise, expect more votes from dead people, illegal aliens, people with false addresses and even Mickey Mouse. All of these scenarios have occurred in previous elections and are likely to be repeated in this and future ones without proper identification.¹⁶

Therefore, if you haven't already done so, check on your state's voter ID laws. A call to your county clerk's office or your state representative or senator should give you a fast answer and an opportunity to request holding firm on requiring citizenship and preregistration before being able to vote.

11. Thus, we need to remember we are accountable to God for what we do and fail to do. As Dr. James Dobson says, “We have only two choices, Hillary or Donald. This much is self-evident: we can't afford to sit out this election, and we must be in prayer for our nation at this time of crisis.”¹⁷

Prayer is huge! Remember, we're praying to the Creator, Owner, and Sovereign Ruler of the cosmos; it all belongs to him. He can do anything that is in his will. Therefore, we need to always keep in mind “...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16 TNIV)

When tempted to not do or say anything, let us also consider what our society will be like for our children and grandchildren if a particular issue about which we are concerned, and/or more generally, the direction of our country, continues on as is without our saying or doing anything. In Deuteronomy 16:20 (NRSV) we read, “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue....”

12. Also, never forget that every vote counts; a considerable number elections have been won or lost by only one vote. These are readily identified online, and the number increases

¹⁶ Cal Thomas, “To ID or not to ID?” Tribune Content Agency, *Reporter-Herald*, August 24, 2016, p. 4A.

¹⁷ <https://www.drjamesdobson.org/about/august-newsletter-2016?sc=MSIDEBAR> (Accessed 8/16/16)

significantly the more local the elections. Further, notice that many more elections have been won or lost by just a few votes. As of this writing, one current Loveland, Colorado City Council member won his election by just one vote, and another current council member won her election by just three votes. The [population of Loveland in 2024](#) is 79,406. Every vote counts, and for those of us whom God has placed in this society where leadership and proposition questions are decided by registered voters (be sure you are registered), God expects us to vote; it is one of the ways we have to speak effectively, including the approval of what we like, the overturning of what we don't like, and, if we lose, we still send a message that not a small number (and one that we can, with God's help, make grow) hold to this position or this person who represents these values.

Furthermore, voting produces other positive outcomes, including a good model for family, fellow church members, friends, and others. It also tends to encourage active caring for our local, state, national, and international affairs, and it gives the voter a positive feeling of accomplishing an important service.

Now reflect on the huge implications of this tragic, yet curiously encouraging, observation from the Providence Forum.

But we're not talking about one vote. We're talking about one VOICE - the collective vote of millions of like-minded people of faith who stay away from the polls each year. Consider:

ONLY ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.

OF THOSE, ONLY 50 PERCENT SHOW UP AT THE POLLS, MEANING 75 PERCENT OF ALL CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ONE OF THEIR GREATEST PRIVILEGES.

IF EVERY CHRISTIAN WOULD REGISTER TO VOTE AND THEN DO SO, CANDIDATES WHO SHARE THEIR BELIEFS AND VALUES WOULD WIN THE PRESIDENCY IN A LANDSLIDE.¹⁸

As Franklin Graham states below, the above statistics mean that nearly 30,000,000 ***evangelical*** Christians did not vote in the last General Election.¹⁹ Can you imagine what a difference the last four years would have been for our country if they had voted?

Concerning polls, keep these two realities in mind. First, always remember that many polls are sponsored by those with a vested interest in the outcome, and their polling company wants return business; therefore, they will do all they can to please and

¹⁸ <http://www.providenceforum.org/yourvotematters> (Accessed 8/28/16)

¹⁹ Other sources cite a higher number, closer to 40,000,000. See Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk Fri 10/7/2016 12:15 PM enews@enews.drjamesdobson.org.

satisfy their sponsor, including corrupting the scientific method.²⁰ Consequently, a second important matter to keep in mind pertaining to a major purpose of polls at election time, is to present the sponsor's candidate as having such a commanding lead that those in the population supporting the other candidate or proposition will be disheartened enough to conclude that their vote won't count, and they'll just stay home, a conclusion that—as shown herein—is highly mistaken and an illogical and unwarranted assumption.²¹

It is unbiblical and unconscionable that believers in Christ who profess most strongly that the Bible is the Word of God do not see and/or act on its application to choosing the leader, not only of the United States but also of the free world and one who influences much if not most of the rest of the world, that is God's world, as well. The highly regarded Barna research firm reveals that

Although evangelicals are the religious segment most likely to characterize the outcome of this year's presidential election as "extremely important to the future of the United States," Barna's research finds they are the group least engaged thus far with the presidential race.²²

Do you still need more reasons to vote? Consider these observed by Focus on the Family:

November's General Election will decide key positions of power in our nation—from the White House and the U.S. Congress to state leaders and lawmakers. Voters will also decide important state ballot measures and local policies. **Those who are elected to office will then decide the composition of state and federal courts for years—even decades—to come.** Consider what's at stake, and why your vote matters:

- **435:** All Members Of The U.S. House Of Representatives are up for election/re-election;
- **34:** One-Third Of The U.S. Senate Is Up For Election; Many In Key Competitive States;
- **12:** State Governorships Will Be Decided;
- **86:** A Majority Of State Legislative Chambers (42/50 Senates; 44/49 Houses)
- **100+:** Certified Statewide Ballot Measures In 35 States
- **100s:** Many State And Local Races, Including Municipal, Court And School Board Positions²³

²⁰ For further information and more specific details on how the scientific method is frequently abused, see my essay, "[Science: Distinguishing Between Sound and Flawed Science.](#)"

²¹ Pertaining to logic and more on this logical fallacy in particular, see my paper, "[Logic: A Primer on Common Logical Fallacies.](#)"

²² Barna Research, "Evangelicals Least Likely to Pay Close Attention to 2016 Campaign," March 24, 2016, <https://www.barna.com/research/evangelicals-least-likely-to-pay-close-attention-to-2016-campaign/> (Accessed 10/10/16) and "The Faith and Ideology of Trump and Clinton Supporters," October 10, 2016, <https://www.barna.com/research/the-faith-and-ideology-of-trump-and-clinton-supporters/> (Accessed 10/10/16)

²³ "Do You Need a Reason to Vote Nov. 8?" Focus on the Family email of 9/13/16 at 6:27 PM.

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13. I am greatly concerned about the evils that have been done and promoted, especially in the current federal and state governments. The constant lying, as will be discussed below; the promotion and institutionalizing of unbiblical, unhealthy, dangerous, and immoral lifestyle practices such as homosexuality and abortion; the gross injustices, e.g., the IRS withholding tax exempt status for conservative advocacy organizations.

Another of many examples of gross injustices is the widely disclosed bribery and extortion that U. S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U. S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid perpetrated in order to pass (and by a very slim margin) the so-called Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as Obamacare, which is rapidly becoming unaffordable and causing many insurance companies to back out of the operation. Before leaving this topic, the shameful lying in order to obtain enough votes to force Obamacare on our nation (remember not one Republican representative or senator voted for the bill), was even perpetrated by the Democrat leaders on their own party! Pro-life Michigan Congressman, Bart Stupak, was lied to when he asked if the bill provided for abortions. Pelosi and Reid are “champing at the bit” to regain their former positions, and the thought of what they would do is reason enough to not even consider staying home and “sitting out” this or any other election.

Not only have many injustices been done by our federal government domestically, but also internationally. For just a few of many examples, recall the disastrous decisions pertaining to Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Afghanistan that have resulted in the deaths and displacement of millions of people, including a million Christians in Iraq alone.

Other world leaders generally hold President Obama in derision. Consequently, they don't have any more regard for Obama's Democrat subordinates, including for the next most powerful in the administration, Secretary of State John Kerry, who Russian President Vladimir Putin kept waiting for three hours outside his office, before meeting with him. This and many similar observations lead perceptive commentator Charles Krauthammer, to write of

[t]he world's general disdain for President Obama. His high-minded lectures about global norms and demands that others live up to their “international obligations” are no longer amusing. They're irritating.

Foreign leaders have reciprocated by taking this administration down a notch knowing they pay no price....And when Iran took prisoner 10 American sailors in the Persian Gulf, made them keel and broadcast the

video, what was the U.S. response? Upon their release, John Kerry publicly thanked Iran for its good conduct.²⁴

Recall God's Word in Proverbs 29:2, "When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan." We're groaning; it's time to give the Republican Party the opportunity to rule rightly, including undoing as much of the damage of the past decade as possible. A caveat: if the Republicans are given the presidency and the majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, we cannot simply sit back and forget about government and politics; with the Washington system and mentality in place, where some representatives are more inclined to engage in politics and make unwarranted compromises in order to advance themselves, we must remain vigilant and let them know we're watching and will hold them accountable.

The foregoing has been a philosophical and theological rationale for the answer to the question before us, i.e., whether it is ever right to not vote. The answer for us all in this country, and especially for those of us who are believers in and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, is a clear and resounding NO; it is never right to withhold our vote.

Implications and Applications of the Rationale

Now, let's look at some implications of and applications to the election of 2016 of this rationale, specifically pertaining to the choice for President of the United States between the Democrat nominee, former U. S. Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and the Republican nominee, businessman and entrepreneur Donald Trump. While not an exhaustive list, here are the most important in my mind from a Biblical perspective. The following considerations are primary, prerequisite, and most important, and they sufficiently outweigh those not mentioned as significant as they are. Remember the principle: Though the option is not my first choice, it's all I have from which to choose; therefore, which alternative will do the best for this country that belongs to God?

I must also make one more prefatory statement pertaining to politics. I am not a member of any political party. As a pastor and college and seminary professor called by God to proclaim and teach his Word, I need to be unencumbered by political constraints. Where warranted, I critique both parties; neither one is totally right or totally wrong. I subject both to the standard of God's Word, and I urge readers of this booklet to also do so.

Nevertheless, I do understand and strongly support clergy who feel they should be members of a political party in order to be most well-positioned for affecting change within the party and heading off the worst of decisions that are made by people functioning apart from God's leading

²⁴ Charles Krauthammer, "Incident in Hangzhou," Washington Post, *Reporter-Herald*, September 12, 2016, p. 4A.

in their lives. I understand their logic, but I hope they are having more success than is apparent to me. The more other Christians join them, the more success they may have.

Pastors should not be afraid to speak out for fear of government reprisals. As I've written in my recent book on homosexuality,

encourage your pastor(s) to not fear being taken into court or jeopardizing or losing their church's 501(c)(3) tax status due to faithfully preaching and teaching the Word of God. They and you may have heard about some of the misguided, counterproductive, and illegal acts by local governments and other officials in several places in the United States, and are afraid of being taken to court if they speak out.

The IRS and other governmental agencies have misled pastors and other church leaders to think they cannot speak the truth from the pulpit or in other aspects of the life and work of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ concerning social and political issues and candidates. That misunderstanding and false impression, which stems from an unconstitutional 1954 amendment to the §501(c)(3) tax exemption for charitable organizations, that then Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson inserted to thwart his Republican challengers in Texas, is being successfully tested by the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF).

Each year on what is called Pulpit Freedom Sunday (October 2 this year), sermons address political issues and candidates and then are sent to the Federal Government. This has been done since September 28, 2008 when 33 pastors joined in the effort that has been growing steadily. The Website states that in 2012 (the last figures mentioned) 1621 participants submitted sermons, and to this date the government has not challenged a single sermon.

Of possible reasons the government has not attempted to take a church to court for such proclamation, the most likely is its awareness of the unconstitutionality of the Lyndon Johnson amendment that is the basis of the threat of losing tax exempt status. They know they would lose the case. To save the cost of litigation, and to leave in place the threat that still causes some churches to hesitate to speak out, the government is allowing the status quo to remain.

[That status quo may be in jeopardy. The Family Research Council (see "Trustworthy Resources for Further Information" below) is leading an effort to repeal the illegal Johnson Amendment that was forced through Congress by LBJ. Please contact them for more details and to sign their petition to Congress.]

In order to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world Jesus said we are, and to do all else the Bible says we should, let us proceed to function in the high and holy calling God has given us without fear. God will take care of us as we do his work faithfully. One way he has already done so is by raising up the Alliance

Defending Freedom, which is prepared to legally defend any church against any government threat to end the tax exempt status of the church for such sermons.²⁵

I also fully support and encourage church members to run for public office. I fully agree with our first U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice, John Jay, quoted above as saying that it is not only a privilege but a duty to select and prefer Christians for our governing authorities. Especially Christians who are maturing in Christ-likeness, are committed to God, his Word, and his will as their standard and perspective that guides them to make decisions according to what will please God. In their worldview and mentality, they are not conforming “any longer to the pattern of this world, but [are being] transformed by the renewing of [their] mind[s]. [Thereby they are] able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2) and in so doing the Lord is honored and blessed as is their constituents and the rest of the nation as well.

As previously indicated, I believe that as a pastor my being independent enables me to speak more freely, and more objectively, and with the perception of being able to do so more than I could as a member of a political party. I want readers to know that I have criticized all political parties. I've also commended them when they have done well. I make this point now, because what follows is going to be more critical of the Democrat Party; nevertheless, I am very disappointed with much going on in the Republican Party. I also want readers to know I maintain that we need the two main parties, but both have to shape policy and govern more in accord with God's Word as revealed in the Bible if they and our country are to prosper. With that principle in place, and in the light of it, I proceed with my answer to the question before us.

1. Donald Trump was not my first choice for the Republican candidate for President of the United States. There are several who I preferred be the GOP nominee. Nevertheless, he and Hillary constitute our choice, unless one wants to make a political statement and vote for one of the other two candidates representing the two minor parties that are most noted. The practical reality is, considering how minor they are, it seems unlikely that statement will have any significant effect and rather would be a wasted vote. It is one of the two candidates from the major parties who will be elected, and for the sake of our nation, we need to vote for the one who will do what is best for our country, because the United States of America (and every other country) belongs to the Lord, and he expects us to do all we can to make it prosper.

Others agree. And there is another reason: Voting for the Libertarian party is a vote for Hillary. As the Associated Press reported,

²⁵ Edward D. Seely, *What Is God's Will Concerning Homosexuality? Help for Church Leaders and Others to Speak the Truth in Love*, p. 290. The book and its second edition (a work in progress) are available for free on my general Website at <http://www.fromacorntoak12.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Homosexuality-What-Is-Gods-Will-Concerning-Homosexuality.pdf> (Accessed 9/20/16)

About a dozen of the most contested states will help determine which candidate gets the 270 electoral votes to win the presidency. In Arizona, where the Republican nominee has carried the state in 11 of the past 12 presidential elections, [Libertarian presidential candidate Gary] Johnson could play the spoiler, potentially putting 11 electoral votes in Clinton's column.

...Johnson could move a close race toward Clinton, in much the same way that Ralph Nader pulled enough votes away from Democrat Al Gore in 2000 to hand Florida to Republican George W. Bush.

Four years ago, Libertarian candidates in Arizona drew enough votes away from Republicans that Democrats Ann Kirkpatrick and Kyrsten Sinema won election to the U. S. House....

"It's a really sore spot for the party," Arizona Republican Party spokesman Tim Sifert said of those 2012 results. "You could see people frustrated throwing away their vote and going with a third-party candidate."²⁶

Furthermore, Johnson and the Libertarian Party have other reasons not to vote for them. Like the Democrats and many others, they have an unbiblical anthropology that is dangerous. What is dangerous about it? They don't view people as having a human nature that has been corrupted by sin and is inclined to do that which is evil. Their view of human nature is that it is essentially good, and if you reason with people who are mostly good, differences can be overcome by talking out the problems and reaching resolution through deliberation.

One serious implication of this theological flaw is their overriding desire to avoid war at all costs, believing war is unnecessary, since they maintain we can reason with our enemies and resolve our differences in that manner.²⁷ Such thinking leads to the Libertarian proclivity to transfer funds from the military to other causes they prefer. Such a policy weakens the military and leaves the American people vulnerable to our enemies. The most they will say, is in the brief, parsimonious, and intentionally ambiguous party platform statement that they "support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression."²⁸ What does "sufficient" mean? Would it mean the same to our military experts who have such a good track record of

²⁶ Thomas Beaumont, "Arizona is home to best chance for a spoiler," Associated Press, *Reporter-Herald*, September 8, 2016, p. 4B.

²⁷ This view was explained in a political ad featuring Gary Johnson himself that aired on KCOL radio (AM 600 in Northern Colorado and nationally on iHeartRadio) the afternoon of September 6, 2016. It is the same view I have heard by other Libertarian candidates.

²⁸ Libertarian Party Platform, "Statement of Principles," <http://www.lp.org/platform>. (Accessed 9/7/16)

winning and of keeping the peace, when they are allowed to do so? The concern for the weakening of the military over the last eight years of the Democrat administration has led to the release of a letter from 88 retired generals and admirals as reported by the Associated Press. The letter cites

an urgent need for a “course correction” in America’s national security policy.

‘We believe that such a change can only be made by someone who has not been deeply involved with, and substantially responsible for, the hollowing out of our military and the burgeoning threats facing our country around the world,’ the military leaders wrote. ‘For this reason, we support Donald Trump’s candidacy to be our next commander in chief.’²⁹

We don’t have to look far to see our enemies working to develop military capability to attack us and our allies. Consider just for starters, North Korea, Iran, and other Middle Eastern countries that are funding terrorism in Western countries. It has been widely reported that ISIS has claimed responsibility for terrorist acts in the United States.

Contrary to their philosophy that war can be avoided, is our Lord’s teaching that between now and the time he returns there will be wars and rumors of wars and that these things “must take place.” (Matthew 24:6) In the light of God’s Word, we can see that some people will not be persuaded by reason; they must be defeated, and when that occasion presents itself, we better have a strong military.

Most of all, we need to be walking in the way of the Lord. The Libertarian Party comes up short on the primacy of the Christian faith and placing a priority on the need to emphasize and promote the Christian heritage and institutions of our country. Clearly, there are more effective ways to make a political statement than to waste our vote on either of the two most prominent minor parties.

The Libertarian candidate, Gary Johnson, gave everyone a clearer view of how myopic the Libertarian perspective is when he was stunned by MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” Scarborough’s question on September 8, 2016, “What would you do about Aleppo [Syria’s largest city and a key battleground that has been heavily fought over in the country’s civil war]?” “What is Aleppo?” Johnson replied.³⁰

²⁹ Ken Thomas and Steve Peoples, “Clinton and Trump think of one another as national security danger,” Associated Press and *Reporter-Herald*, September 7, 2016, p. 6A.

³⁰ Nicholas Riccardi, “Libertarian Johnson takes heat for ‘What is Aleppo?’ blunder,” Associated Press, *Reporter-Herald*, September 9, 2016, p. 5A.

2. The character of the candidates is frequently raised. Christians ask, “How can I vote for an egotist who has bragged about his flagrant disobedience of the Bible’s commandments about sexual immorality or for an inveterate liar?” Other accusations are also made about Trump being a sociopath and the so-called mainstream media don’t even try to hide their disdain, even in what used to be objective non-editorial pages, for his comments that they consider improper. The character of a person is vitally important; from his or her character come thoughts that govern actions. But in this election, we have only two realistic choices where our vote counts.

Again, we need to keep in mind that God’s people through the millennia and all over the world have had to live under governments run by pagans. God exiled his people to Babylon, which was under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar, who was not to be their role model by any means, but under whose pagan rule the people of Judah were to work to make the city prosper where they were going.

Similarly, Paul wrote these words to the church in Rome:

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (Romans 13:1-7)

This letter was likely written in A. D. 57, when the wicked and mentally imbalanced Emperor Nero was just beginning, or just about to begin his reign, that same year. In either case, the Holy Spirit, who guided Paul, knew that what Paul was writing would apply to authorities even as cruel and evil as Nero, who lived a lifestyle of debauchery; murdered his mother; systematically persecuted Christians, including impaling them, covering them with a flammable substance, and then lighting them on fire, leading many Christians to view him as the antichrist. The Holy Spirit knew that the Christians who

read Paul's letter to the Romans would see chapter 13 as applying to Nero and others like him, and even worse, such as Domitian, even before the end of the first century A. D.

Think carefully about one other applicable Bible text. Focus on the Family President, Jim Daly, explains it well.

I find it interesting that, in his first letter to Timothy, Paul encourages a certain level of civic engagement by urging that “supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV). Did you catch that? Paul was actually prepared to offer prayers of *thanksgiving* for the Emperor Nero, the virulently anti-Christian leader of the Roman Empire who eventually had him killed.

If Paul could utter prayers of thanksgiving for the murderous thug Nero, I hope that we can look beyond the divisive personalities involved in *this* presidential election to look at the issues at stake.³¹

Notice also where Paul says that we need to so support “kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way,” we saw such a situation occurring for Christians in Iraq under Saddam Hussein. The same relative peacefulness has occurred in other Middle Eastern countries under their dictators, who protected most of the citizens of their country, including Christians, from the chaotic demonic forces stealthily lurking, waiting, and preparing for an opportunity to take over the country.

Consider for example the historic city of Mosul in Iraq, formerly since Bible times called Nineveh, where the prophet Jonah came to proclaim God's Word. Jacob Thomas describes the situation that occurred after the President George W. Bush administration unwisely took out Saddam Hussein and the President Barak Obama administration unwisely withdrew U.S. troops that (together with coalition troops which left when the U.S. decided to pull out) were protecting the country of Iraq, including its significant Christian population, from chaos that was boiling up under the surface, just waiting for the opportunity to inundate the country, which is why Trump correctly stated that in so doing Obama fostered the origin of ISIS (aka ISIL).

On Saturday, 19 July, 2014, the widely read online daily Elaph published at 11:33 (GMT) a report on the ruling of the Islamic Caliphate [ISIS or ISIL] that controls vast areas of western Iraq and

³¹ Jim Daly, September 2016 Newsletter, Focus on the Family, p. 2.

eastern Syria vis-à-vis the Christians living under its rule. It had distributed leaflets in Mosul with an ultimatum addressed to the Christians still remaining in the city: **“Islamize, or Pay the Jizya Tax, or the Sword.”** The response of the Christian community must be given not later than today!

Furthermore, it stipulated that Christians who remain within the area under the control of the Islamic Caliphate must adhere to the rules of Dhimmitude that had been promulgated in the Seventh century A.D.³²

The same organization issued a similar order in Raqqa, on the Syrian side of the border, in February, 2014 requesting that the Jizya be paid in golden currency!

Mosul used to be the home of 100,000 Christians ten years ago. Due to the American invasion of Iraq, their condition became precarious; forcing many began to immigrate to other parts of the world. Before the Islamic Caliphate entered the city they numbered around 5,000; by now only 200 are left in the city [out of 100,000!]....

A great number of Christians have fled from Mosul to the Iraqi Kurdistan after the expiry of the ultimatum issued by the Islamic Caliphate. Some refugees said that upon leaving the area, they were searched, and their possessions were confiscated by armed men. Before leaving the city, their homes had been marked with special signs to indicate that they belonged to Christians....

Christians have lived in Iraq for 2000 years, and have managed to continue living in their homeland during the last 1400 years of Islamic occupation. What is happening in Iraq and Syria amounts to nothing else but ethnic and religious “cleansing”!³³

The question aside at this point of whether the President George H. W. Bush administration should have even authorized U.S. troops to enter Iraq in the first place, the

³² Thomas notes, “The Pact of Umar was a treaty drawn up between the second Caliph *Umar ibn al-Khattab*, and the conquered Christians and Jews. It set forth regulations that Christians and Jews had to comply with, in order to live under Islamic rule. It was based on following Qur’anic Surah 9 (Repentance or Submission) Ayah 29: *“Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.”* Translation of Yusuf Ali”

قَاتِلُوا الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا بِالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَلَا يُحَرِّمُونَ مَا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَلَا يَدِينُونَ دِينَ الْحَقِّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ حَتَّى يُعْطُوا الْجِزْيَةَ عَنْ يَدٍ وَهُمْ صَاغِرُونَ

³³ Jacob Thomas, “An Ultimatum to the Christians in Mosul: Islamize, or Pay the Jizya Tax, or Face the Sword,” <http://www.elaph.com/Web/News/2014/7/924517.html#sthash.Uy4kDfop.dpuf>

above development is why it was good that George H. W. Bush left Saddam Hussein in limited authority when he defeated Iraq in the war Operation Desert Storm in 1991. He would still have enough power to keep Iraq from chaos and most people would be able to have a peaceful and quiet life. It's also why his son, President George W. Bush said, after Hussein was captured and hanged, that the U.S. troops would have to remain in Iraq for an indefinite time in order to provide for that peaceable and quiet life. (1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV).

Contrast that relative peace and quiet with the chaos that occurred when President Barak Obama very unwisely (and publicly announced ahead of time!) withdrew the troops: countless Christians were tortured and lost their lives and homes, and other minorities, such as the Yazidis, were also persecuted. Very significantly, as you may recall from daily press coverage, while all this persecution and more was being perpetrated against the Christians, Obama did nothing in spite of many pleas for help, until the Yazidis were attacked.

Furthermore, as far as character of candidates is concerned, it is difficult to ascertain what those without a public track record are truly like with the limited information we have. Most of us don't really know, nor can we know, how these and all other individuals function in private. For example, Donald Trump is reported to be a much different person than he is portrayed to be and often appears in public, especially in the biased "news" media. He is said to be very caring about those who work for him and toward others as well. The story is also told of an occasion when his limousine broke down out in the countryside, and a young couple stopped by to help him. The man was able to fix Trump's limo and get him on his way, and Trump in gratitude paid off the couple's mortgage.

We need to disregard accusations of candidates when we hear them described with prejudicial terms, such as sociopath, by people who are not trained psychiatrists and have obvious, and even not so obvious, biases of their own. Such a professional also would not be making such disclosures in public. They are being made as off-hand and pejorative remarks that are arguably untrue.

Comments of the primarily left-leaning media constitute such evident bias that they are discrediting the formally respectable profession. So many comments by Trump have been taken out of context and inaccurately reported that to address each one would make this booklet unnecessarily lengthy.

Having lived in the Eastern, Midwestern, and Western United States, I'm also aware of some significant perspectives and subcultural mentalities that are helpful to understand people from these different areas of the country. Having been born and raised in the East, and in the New York City metropolitan area, I understand how New Yorkers think. They are typically blunt and straightforward, a what-you-see-is-what-you-get approach. New

York cultural thought forms often heard are “Take it or leave it;” “If you dish it out, you’d better be able to take it;” and “If you can’t take the heat, get out of the kitchen;” and “If you get hit, hit back twice as hard.” Growing up in that area, I sensed that people knew where they stood with someone. If he or she liked you, you knew it; if he or she didn’t like you, you knew that.

And even in the latter case, that’s OK, because a concomitant corollary to that cultural perspective is a “live and let live” mentality. New Yorkers don’t think everybody has to like each other to get along. The way New Yorkers typically deal with disagreements, is to “go at it,” that is debate, vigorously, and often passionately, arguing their points head to head, face to face, toe to toe, until they’ve had their say and then being done with it, unless on another occasion more has to be said. Yet, after all is said and done, in my experience, when it’s over, it’s over. Whether an agreement has been reached or not, at best the combatants are still friends, or at worst they agree to disagree and “let bygones be bygones; after all it’s a free country, isn’t it?”

I don’t ever remember someone pretending to like me, and then finding out much later what he’d been saying behind my back. That didn’t occur until I moved to another part of the country and was very surprised and disappointed to hear that someone I trusted was saying negative things to others while pretending to be my friend. Does that mean that there is no hypocrisy in the New York City area? Of course not, but what I experienced living there the first 20 years of my life and continuing to visit my parents and friends there for many years after, and still relating to people living there, the mentality I’ve observed and described above, is generally the way life is lived there, and we see it expressed now in Trump.

Concerning Trump’s morality, he certainly has engaged in very unbiblical activities, though arguably not as bad as Nero’s, but still immoral. Yet, looking at the whole picture, some encouragement especially for those of us who are believers in and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ includes some evidence that will be discussed further below, that Donald is a relatively new Christian. If so, that is significant. As Paul wrote, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Of course, track record is necessary to confirm the validity and reliability of the faith, but some positive indicators can be observed. He has been married to his present wife for 16½ years. During his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention, I recall him thanking “the evangelical community that have been so good to me and so supportive,”³⁴ but he then softly adlibbed a statement not included in the printed text herein cited that he didn’t think he was entirely worthy of their support, an expression of

³⁴ <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/07/full-transcript-donald-trump-nomination-acceptance-speech-at-rnc-225974> (Accessed 8/17/16)

humility that is consistent with the Bible and yet that doesn't appear in daily media coverage. This is one reason why it is good to spend most if not all of our time listening to the candidates live and at length, rather than through the biased filters the secular press produces.

Some may say that Trump doesn't sound humble to them; he comes on strong and self-assured, and he doesn't back down easily. That is a positive sign of strength that the leader of the free world needs to have, and it doesn't indicate a lack of humility. The humility we need to see is a humble attitude in relationship to God and God's will, and we heard that humility in Trump's acceptance speech and in some other comments, which is encouraging.

For both candidates we should focus on specific actions, measurable behaviors and practices, including policy stands to which each is committed. Such information forms an observable track record that offers a reliable indication of how the person would function if elected.

When we use that principle of measurable behaviors and empirical evidence as applied to the accusation of Hillary lying, the accusation is indeed substantiated. Most recently evidence of her lying has been presented by House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT).³⁵ Radio programs, such as Rush Limbaugh, have cited many audio statements made by Hillary Clinton at one point in time and contrasting audio comments of her saying the opposite at another point in time. Print and video evidence of her many lies are online.³⁶ Even friendly liberal media have identified the corruption involved in foreign and other contributors to the Clinton Foundation in order to give them access to her while she was Secretary of State in the first Obama administration.³⁷

Donald Trump has also been accused of lying. I have read all of the lies he has purportedly told in the document, "Lying Donald: 101 of Trump's Greatest Lies."³⁸

³⁵ <http://www.businessinsider.com/fbi-director-james-comes-testimony-hillary-clinton-email-investigation-2016-7> (Accessed 8/17/16)

³⁶ <https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=hillary+lies&ei=UTF-8&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-001> (Accessed 8/29/16)

³⁷ See the video in the preceding footnote. See also Kathleen Parker, "Hillary's [Achilles] heel," *Washington Post, Reporter-Herald*, August 27, 2016, p. 4A. However, Parker underreports the amount the Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa of Bahrain's government gave to the Clinton Foundation; it was not \$50,000, as Parker stated in her column, but \$32 million, as reported on August 26, 2016 by Judicial Watch (JW), the legal organization that sued the government under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and won the release of these and over 700 pages of State Department documents and 191 new Clinton emails, key ones of which JW has sent to those, including me, who are on their email list that are communications between Clinton Foundation top executive, Doug Band, and Hillary's top aide, Huma Abedin, that gave large donors access to Hillary. This is only one example of many others in what Parker admits confirms Hillary's "critics' allegations that the Clintons were in a global pay-for-pay arrangement."

³⁸ <http://www.dailywire.com/news/4834/trumps-101-lies-hank-berrien> (Accessed 9/1/16)

While it appears that some of them are substantiated, many if not most, which have been cited by a reporter obviously opposed to Trump, can be viewed in other ways, e.g., some could be explained as citing unsubstantiated information that is mistaken; some are of the “he said, she said” variety of conflicting statements without proof of who was correct; some could be explained by slips of the tongue or memory lapse; some might be hubris-motivated hyperbole;³⁹ and others may well be the result of ambiguous statements that can be interpreted differently by different people. I checked out the sources of some of the accusations and found they are based on “fact checkers” who are themselves suspect: liberal media (e.g., *PolitiFact*, a project of the *Tampa Bay Times* that has been checked itself and found to be wanting even by another liberal “fact checker,” *PolitiFact Bias*).⁴⁰

Thus, it is evident that both Trump and Clinton have lied. Therefore, we need to ask, “Is there any indication that one candidate’s lies are of greater concern than the other’s?” Reflect on the fact that humans lie primarily to cover-up wrong doing, and that that lying requires more lying to cover-up the wrong doing of the lies. Keep in mind that some wrong doing is much more serious than other wrong doing. In that perspective, consider that Clinton’s lies have resulted in the deaths of millions of people, four of whom in Benghazi were American citizens, one of whom was our Ambassador to Libya. Clinton lied much about that one incident alone, all of which is on public record, including TV and radio coverage in her own voice, and not only print quotes, the credibility of which can be questioned as to accuracy of recording and of interpretation. When proof was presented that Clinton’s comments about the Benghazi attack were not true, she blew off the whole matter, including the deaths of the Americans, by saying, “So, what’s the difference?!” Just for starters, the difference is the huge chasm between lying and telling the truth and between having a moral character that gives credibility and one that has lost credibility.

³⁹ One may say, “How does hubris fit with the humility you’ve seen in Trump?” That is a fair question, and it has a Biblical and theological answer. First of all, I said “might be” (which also may not be) and hyperbole is a valid communication device. Yet, as I mentioned, and as will be considered more below, Trump is apparently a new Christian, which means that he has had a new birth, the new nature, being “born again” (John 3:3 ff.), that in Christian theology is called regeneration, a once-for-all experience that brings one into a saving relationship with our triune God, the Father, his only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit three-in-one. From then on, for the rest of his or her life here on earth, the believer experiences a sanctification process, wherein he or she grows in holiness to God, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit dwelling within him or her, growing more and more in Christ-likeness. Never completely free from sin and sinning in this phase of life here on earth, the new believer is spiritually immature but gradually grows, sometimes in a two-steps-forward-one-step-backward manner, yet nevertheless with the Spirit’s help growing more and more in holiness in relationship with God, with whom the believer is now connected due to being credited with Christ’s righteousness by faith in Christ. The sin of hubris, as all our other sin, is forgiven by God in Christ, and as a believer matures in sanctification, the sinfulness becomes less and less. In the possible case of hubris in some of Trump’s statements, that is also largely on the horizontal level vis-à-vis other individuals; his humility that was expressed was on the vertical plane, in reference to his relationship with God. I sense most healthy (albeit sinful) humans, especially Christians, have hubris on the horizontal level that quickly evaporates when becoming conscious of their relationship with and accountability to God.

⁴⁰ <http://www.politifactbias.com/>. (Accessed 9/2/16) Be careful of so-called, and especially self-proclaimed, “fact checkers.” I have found more that are liberal than conservative and need to be fact-checked themselves. See the Appendix to this booklet.

One other concern, arising from strong social science research and applied to lying, should be remembered. Empirical evidence in the behavioral sciences, especially in the behavioristic school of human learning research, demonstrates that behavior that is reinforced, i.e., rewarded, tends to be repeated. If Hillary were to be rewarded with the Presidency, what would she and most others conclude? They would conclude that lying works; that most people (sic: it would be most of those who voted) aren't bothered by the lies, at least enough to override other concerns; and she would have no reason to cease her lying. We would be in the same situation we find ourselves in now, with a President Obama who has lost credibility due to lying; as with him, who could believe Hillary?⁴¹

3. We need to be careful to concentrate on the most important issues of the time in which we live and examine how each candidate is likely to address those issues. What answer does each give as to what he or she will do if elected to resolve these matters? As important as moral character is, we also need to view this election from a considerably broader perspective as we see in the Bible, including the passages identified above; in fact, we always need to look at specifics in the light of the general, the short-term details in the light of the long-range realities. Here Professor Grudem is again correct and insightful:

“But are you saying that character doesn't matter?” someone might ask. I believe that character does matter, but I think Trump's character is far better than what is portrayed by much current political mud-slinging, and far better than his opponent's character.

In addition, if someone makes doubts about character the only factor to consider, that is a fallacy in ethical reasoning that I call “reductionism” – the mistake of reducing every argument to only one factor, when the situation requires that multiple factors be considered. In this election, an even larger factor is the future of the nation that would flow from a Clinton or a Trump presidency.⁴²

Professor Grudem then cites what each candidate states he and she will do if elected president. He includes the following extensive list of many issues crucial to the future of our nation: Abortion (including partial birth abortion); Borders, including ISIS and terrorism; China and Russia; The Supreme Court and the Federal courts; Energy; Executive orders and bathrooms; Healthcare; Religious Freedom, including for business

⁴¹ Hillary and her husband are not regarded in Arkansas, where he was governor before becoming president. Those who know them best have little good to say about them. See “Not for Hillary,” *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, October 9, 2016 editorial, <http://m.arkansasonline.com/news/2016/oct/09/not-for-hillary-20161009/> (Accessed 10/10/16)

⁴² Wayne Grudem, “Why Voting for Donald Trump Is a Morally Good Choice,” July 28, 2016, *Townhall*, <http://townhall.com/columnists/waynegrudem/2016/07/28/why-voting-for-donald-trump-is-a-morally-good-choice-n2199564> (Accessed 10/1/16)

owners and workers; Christian schools, and churches; individual freedom of speech; Criminalizing dissent; freedom for Christian influence in politics; Taxes and jobs; Minorities; the Military; The Unprotected.⁴³ Read this valuable essay for important information on each of these issues.

The position of each of the two candidates is 180° apart from the other. For the sake of our nation (actually God's nation, as is every other country in the world and the entire universe), please read Grudem's summary of each candidate's position on these issues and ask yourself, "Which of these positions is closest to God's Word; which is the closest to the Founders' intention as recorded in the U.S. Constitution; which is closest to our historic, traditional, practice; which system has produced the greatness of this country; and under which system would I like my family and our grandchildren and great grandchildren to live?"

Franklin Graham, President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse (International Christian relief organization) and President of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, has analyzed and commented well on aspects of the moral issue in the 2016 General Election. His observations will help you answer the question in the preceding paragraph.

The crude comments made by Donald J. Trump more than 11 years ago cannot be defended. But the godless progressive agenda of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton likewise cannot be defended. I am not endorsing any candidates in this election. I have said it throughout this presidential campaign, and I will say it again—both candidates are flawed. The only hope for the United States is God. Our nation's many sins have permeated our society, leading us to where we are today. But as Christians we can't back down from our responsibility to remain engaged in the politics of our nation. On November 8th we will all have a choice to make. The two candidates have very different visions for the future of America. The most important issue of this election is the Supreme Court. That impacts everything. There's no question, Trump and Clinton scandals might be news for the moment, but who they appoint to the Supreme Court will remake the fabric of our society for our children and our grandchildren, for generations to come.⁴⁴

4. President Obama has failed to achieve many of his initiatives through Congress, especially his most egregious ones, so he is trying to accomplish his goals by ignoring the separation of powers in the U. S. Constitution and using the authority he has to issue executive orders but exceeding the limits of those executive orders to the extent that attorney and President of the American Center for Law and Justice, Jay Sekulow, calls the Obama administration "the most lawless Administration in history." Sekulow adds

⁴³ Wayne Grudem, "Why Voting for Donald Trump Is a Morally Good Choice," July 28, 2016, *Townhall*, <http://townhall.com/columnists/waynegrudem/2016/07/28/why-voting-for-donald-trump-is-a-morally-good-choice-n2199564> (Accessed 10/1/16)

⁴⁴ Wayne Grudem, "Why Voting for Donald Trump Is a Morally Good Choice," July 28, 2016, *Townhall*, <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinGraham/?fref=nf> (Accessed 10/10/16)

that “Courts call President Obama’s Department of Justice (DOJ) ‘unethical.’”⁴⁵ Now since these unilateral rules are imposed via executive order rather than legislation, they can be overturned by the next President if that President is so willing. Clinton is not likely to overturn them; Trump is likely to do so.

5. Viewing the matter again with a Biblically-based theology, the answer to the question before us becomes clear. Let’s begin with one of the most important of the criteria for voting for the President: what type of SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) appointments will he or she make? The two candidates are already on record.
 - a. While the terms, “liberal” and “conservative” are not as precise and always valid and reliable for accurate communication, they are not as vague as some like to argue, and they are generally sufficient to indicate how a given government official, including a SCOTUS Justice or a Federal Judge, will vote on most issues. And yes, we have to consider not only the Supreme Court ***but the Federal courts as well***, for their decisions are often upheld in the SCOTUS, especially when a vacancy exists that leaves an even number on the Supreme Court. Furthermore, the Federal judges are typically the ones who are promoted to the Supreme Court when a vacancy occurs.
 - b. The liberal justices together with so-called “swing justices” have rendered disastrous decisions that have, to say the least, negatively affected our country. Some that readily come to mind are *Roe vs. Wade*, that allowed for abortion on demand, which has caused the death of over 61 million children and horrific guilt on the part of most of their mothers (which is never disclosed in the liberal media but which is disclosed in a pastor’s office!) and many of their fathers, some sooner, some later, and all very painful, but not like the pain the baby experienced in the womb! Even worse in many ways than *Roe vs. Wade* is *Doe vs. Bolton* which was passed 20 minutes after *Roe vs. Wade*. *Doe vs. Bolton* allowed for abortion at any stage of development in the nine-months in utero.

Many advances in science since the 1970s have shown conclusively that the unborn babies feel pain. Think what it must feel like to be torn apart!

Dr. Mathers-Roth, a principal research associate at Harvard Medical School, Department of Medicine, has reported that “It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception, when egg and sperm join to form the zygote, and this developing human always is a member of our species in all stages of its life.” Dr. Hymie Gordon, a physician and professor of medical genetics at Mayo Clinic, maintains that “we can now also say that the question of the beginning of life

⁴⁵ https://aclj.org/executive-power/hold-the-corrupt-lawless-obama-administration-accountable?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=d-09022016_top-EP_seg-N_typ-PT (Accessed 9/2/16)

‘when life begins’ is...an established fact...all life, including human life, begins at the moment of conception.”⁴⁶

An attempt to pass a “Life at Conception Act” is proceeding in the U.S. Congress. President Barak Obama and Hillary Clinton are highly unlikely to sign the bill into law. Donald Trump would be more likely to do so. Maria Gallagher, the Legislative Director and Political Action Committee Director for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and Vitale, has identified more significantly distinctive differences between these two candidates.

The truth is that life is a fundamental good, and that no one can enjoy any other right without first having the right to life. This means that the fundamental life issues—abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia—are pre-eminent issues, and should be considered before all other issues (as important as those issues may be) when voting.

The two major party candidates for President have dramatically different views on the life issues. Republican Donald Trump supports a ban on late-term abortions—abortions in which fully-developed, living babies are killed in the womb. Hillary Clinton, in contrast, voted against the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, which outlawed a gruesome practice in which a baby was partly delivered, then killed.

Donald Trump supports a ban on taxpayer funding of abortion. Hillary Clinton wants to wipe out the Hyde Amendment, which bars tax funding of abortion except in the rare cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of a mother. *Research shows that abortion totals skyrocket when taxpayer funding of abortion occurs.* [Emphasis EDS]

Donald Trump will appoint Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court who will strictly interpret the Constitution according to its text and history and not use the bench to legislate. Hillary Clinton has a pro-abortion litmus test for Supreme Court Justices. Because of the advanced ages of many of the members of the Supreme Court, the next President may appoint as many as four Justices. A President with a pro-abortion agenda could enshrine, or even expand, Roe for generations to come.

We have lost more than 58 million [now 61 million] innocent babies to abortion since the tragic 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling Roe v. Wade. One million precious children die each year in our country because of Roe.

Countless mothers are left to grieve the children lost to abortion. Some turn to drugs and alcohol to numb their pain. Relationships frequently die with these abortions. Families are fractured, and limbs of the family tree are severed. For with each abortion, we lose the children,

⁴⁶ Drew Whelchel, “Face it, life begins at moment of conception,” *Reporter-Herald*, 11/11/08, p. 4A.

grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who may have been born to that particular person who died in Roe’s wake. Often, the abortion is not actually the woman’s choice—research shows that as many as 60 percent of abortions are coerced, meaning that a boyfriend, husband, parents, or even grandparents are making the decision for her.

One of only two people will be elected President—third party candidates or write-ins simply cannot generate enough votes to win the White House. *Staying home on Election Day, or skipping the office of President when casting a ballot, is, in this election, a vote against babies and their mothers. It is also a vote for a culture that fails to respect the dignity of life from conception to natural death.* [Emphasis EDS]

Please do not throw away your vote this critical year. Cast your vote for life. Future generations depend on it.⁴⁷

Think about it again: Gallagher disputes the canard that most women want the right to abortion, reporting research showing that frequently abortion is not really the woman’s choice. Over 60 percent of abortions are coerced, meaning that a boy “friend,” husband, or other relative are forcing their opinions on the woman to have the abortion.⁴⁸

Some people, usually pro-abortion (euphemistically called “prochoice” but meaning choosing to allow for abortion), will try to silence you by repeating the old canard, “But you’re not a single issue voter, are you?!” One answer you can give, which I’ve used many times with success is, “Of course not; but some issues are far more important than others.”

Friends, I am called and ordained by God for over half a century, an ordination vetted by the oldest Protestant denomination in the United States, the Reformed Church in America (similar to and with the same origin as the Presbyterian denominations) with a continuous ministry in this country since 1628, to faithfully proclaim and teach his Word, and therefore, I must tell you that abortion is a violation of the commandment, “Thou shalt not murder.” (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17) Yes, the original Hebrew word in that text, *רָצַח* (*rātsach*), means murder, as it is accurately so translated in the New International Version. At the same time, God has also called me

⁴⁷ Maria Gallagher, “Here are The Reasons Why Pro-Life Voters Should Vote for Donald Trump,” Life News.com, September 1, 2016. <http://www.lifenews.com/2016/09/01/here-are-the-reasons-why-pro-life-voters-should-vote-for-donald-trump/>. (Accessed 9/17/16)

⁴⁸ Maria Gallagher, “Here are The Reasons Why Pro-Life Voters Should Vote for Donald Trump,” Life News.com, September 1, 2016. <http://www.lifenews.com/2016/09/01/here-are-the-reasons-why-pro-life-voters-should-vote-for-donald-trump/>. (Accessed 9/17/16)

to gladly declare that if someone has had an abortion, God graciously offers forgiveness with sincere repentance in Jesus Christ. In God's Word repentance, μετάνοια (*metanoia*) (noun) means remorse, turning about, change of mind, and it comes from the verb, μετανοέω (*metanoēō*) meaning to repent, change one's mind, be converted (literally to turn against) and remain turned against the sinful act of which one is repenting, including a commitment to not ever do it again. See [*Essential Christianity: Historic Christian Systematic Theology—With a Focus on Its Very Practical Dimensions*](#). Talk to a pastor who faithfully preaches and teaches the Bible for further help if need be.

One other example of a SCOTUS decision that has had disastrous effects on this country and elsewhere in the world, and is having more and more serious effects every day, is the extremely unwise decision to legalize so-called "same-sex marriage," which is an unholy oxymoron from the perspective of God's Word. I further explain why in my book, *What Is God's Will Concerning Homosexuality? Help for Church Leaders and Others to Speak the Truth in Love*, which is available for free on the Current Issues page of my general Website at www.fromacorntoak12.com. A second edition is also included on that page as a work in progress, not yet finished, but which contains the whole first edition together with very important additional information on several subjects plus a lot on what churches, Christian schools, other Christian organizations, and individual Christians who own their own businesses need to do to protect themselves from the highly aggressive agenda of the activists, who are moving fast even after the SCOTUS decision, *Obergefell vs. Hodges*, on June 26, 2015.

This very misguided and unwise decision by the Supreme Court has resulted in grave injustices not only throughout the country, that are being compounded daily, but also grievous injustices to homosexuals themselves. As I explain with sound and thorough documentation in the book, the Bible and also careful science reveal what the media rarely if ever discloses, that homosexual practice, which was never part of the paradise God created and only began after Adam and Eve's disobedience and sin, is a very unhealthy and dangerous, even violent, as well as unholy lifestyle, that is extremely harmful to homosexuals. The empirical evidence, as well as anecdotal conversations, show that these people are not at all "gay." As I say in the book, since God loves all people, including the homosexuals, and since he has commanded that we love all people, including homosexuals and enemies (Matthew 5:44), *how is it loving to encourage people to affirm, much less embrace, a lifestyle that is going to kill them?* (There are 50 sexually transmitted diseases, several without any cure, and homosexuals have all 50; it is thus no surprise that they die 20 to 30 years earlier, depending on the scientific study being examined, than average people do.) Homosexuals, lying on their death beds have expressed in much anger the question,

“Why didn’t someone tell me all this?!” All this and much more are available in my book, free on the Current Issues page of my general Website.⁴⁹

- c. What does this have to do with this year’s Presidential election? Remember what was said above about abortion and the so-called “Equality Act” that is designed to remove many of our freedoms. Donald Trump has promised to appoint only pro-life and conservative nominees to the SCOTUS. Hillary Clinton will not make such court nominations. The result will be to lead the nation much farther from God, his Word, and his will. How long will he be patient with us?

⁴⁹ Edward D. Seely, *What Is God’s Will Concerning Homosexuality? Help for Church Leaders and Others to Speak the Truth in Love*, <http://www.fromacorntoak12.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Homosexuality-What-Is-Gods-Will-Concerning-Homosexuality.pdf> (Accessed 9/18/16) On the same page, see also the second edition, which is a work in progress that contains further research, applications to new developments, and answers to more questions.

I should take a moment here and say that all people have a bias, and I'm not here using that term in its pejorative sense but in the sense of a philosophical bent. That is, we all have our philosophical and theological perspective, "liberal" or "conservative" or points in between, that serve as the main lens through which we view, interpret, understand, and apply what see. Our understanding informs and guides our decision-making and actions. Since we all have a bias, the key question is how sound is the information that shapes that bias. I know the liberal mindset and method, having worked with many liberals, mostly as a volunteer with them and when I was much younger, having some sympathy with their social, but never their theological, views; however, that was prior to *Roe vs. Wade* and *Doe vs. Bolton*, the SCOTUS decisions that "legalized" abortion on demand and abortion at any stage.

I am persuaded that the conservative bias is to be preferred over the liberal bias, because it is more carefully considered and thus more accurate and fruitful. Some thoughtful liberals agree. In my doctoral program at Michigan State University, one of my professors was talking about this issue, and he told the class, while looking at me, "You conservatives actually think more carefully and deeply than we liberals do." He was referring to what is a strength the liberals have that we conservatives should also do, and that is implement their orientation to activism. The liberal mentality is more concerned to dig in and become actively involved in addressing and fixing a problem. We conservatives, on the other hand, rightly but often too cautiously, want to carefully research the issue, sort out fact from fiction, discern between right and wrong, think through all aspects of the matter including possible as well as likely outcomes if implemented, consider the validity and the implications of the alternatives, and weigh any related information before jumping in and engaging the issue. Too often, we have been content to do the study but not the work of implementing our findings, whereas the liberals have been acting and working at solving the matter. The problem with their approach, however, is too often the solution they are trying to implement, which is not carefully enough considered, is not the one that will produce the most efficient and effective resolution of the issue over time.

Stopping Islam's Goals in the United States Is Essential.

6. Donald Trump has a much clearer and more realistic understanding of Islam than Hillary, most Democrats, and most "moderate" Republicans. He is right in putting a freeze on the admission of Muslims to the United States *until they can be vetted*, and such vetting is possible; he has pointedly said that he is not for a permanent freeze on immigration of all Muslims. Here are some of the key reasons why at this point in time Muslim immigration must be halted.

- a. There is historical precedent for a moratorium on immigration. For example, from 1924-1952 the Immigration Act of 1924 significantly restricted immigrants from various parts of the world, except for the Western Hemisphere (e.g., no restriction on immigration from Mexico); it contained no provision for refugees (resulting in only about 250,000 refugees of Hitler’s opponents and Jews); and instituted a total ban on Arabs and Asians. It was not until the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 that the statute was modified.⁵⁰
- b. ***It is vital to know and remember key tenets of Islam.*** Most—if not all—liberals, most Democrats, and some—especially “Moderate”—Republicans, do not understand Islam, and current foreign policy blunders in countries with a majority of Muslims, have been disastrous. Close to if not over a million Christians have lost their lives and/or homes and property in Iraq alone since the fall of Saddam Hussein. As we saw above, as unjust a ruler as Hussein was, mostly against other Muslims, he kept the country under control, so the demonically inspired and evil chaos that has erupted since could not occur while he was head of state. The same has occurred in Libya, Egypt, Afghanistan, and would be much more so in Syria if Obama and Hillary had their way, as they were doing in these other countries, which have had such devastating effects, including for fellow Christians in these countries. Obama clearly blundered badly in these nations and in other foreign affairs, and Hillary Clinton was his key agent and advisor in these matters. Much in addition could be said, but this is more than enough.
- 1) ***Islam is much more than a religion.*** It is essentially a political system based on a theology that is opposite to and contradictory of God’s Word as revealed in the Bible. **Do not forget this fact about Islam: it is a political system as well as a religion.** Muslims *who take their religion seriously* (which is most who are immigrating to our land) do not assimilate into the culture of a country in which they live wherein they are not in the majority. They live together and expand in communities until they reach over 50% of the population, then they establish “No Go Zones” where non-Muslims are unwelcome, and they try to institute Sharia Law. Plenty of evidence exists that global domination is the worldwide goal of Islam. I explain more and cite sound resources that support and further explain the above pertaining to Islam in my PowerPoint program, “Living out Our Faith: How Do We Speak the Truth in Love in Today’s Culture?” on the Current Issues page of my general Website, www.fromacorntoak12.com. See especially the resources listed on slides 63-65. See also the section below, “Trustworthy Resources for Further Information.”

Rev. Bassam Madany (see below) informs me that the best authority on Islamic imperialism is Professor Efrain (Ephraim) Karsh, who is the author of the book, *Islamic Imperialism: A History*. In his review of the book, Leif Torkelsen writes,

⁵⁰ <http://www.hoover.org/research/making-and-remaking-america-immigration-united-states> (Accessed 8/29/16)

The author's thesis is that an appreciation of the millenarian imperatives of Islam is essential to understand the geopolitical dynamic of the region, as well as the region's relationship with the larger world...

Of the major world religions, three have been distinguished by ambitious proselytizing: Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. All of these religions also periodically augmented their missionary agenda with military conquest and the rise of Islam is intimately connected with military and spiritual conquest. Mohammed himself served as a religious, political and military leader. This experience, Karsh argues, served to distinguish Islam from all other major religions in its imperialistic attitudes, as only Islam has its genesis in armed conflict.⁵¹

- 2) All religions do **not** worship the same God, and Muslims clearly state in the Qur'an that they do not worship the same God as Christians. Muslims do not believe in the Trinity; neither do they believe that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. They do not believe God is a Father. Further, Allah is not at all the same God who reveals himself in the Bible, which discloses that God is essentially love. ("Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:8) Islam has 99 names for God; not one of them is love. In fact, I'm told by people who know and speak Arabic that the word love does not occur in the Qur'an.

The "politically correct," but very wrong and misleading concept that all religions believe essentially the same thing, including worshiping the same God, comes from ignorance. Those who make such statements obviously have not studied these religions, are uninformed of their teachings, and are being deceptive.

In stark contrast to the love in Christianity (Matthew 5:45; 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13), Islam does the following, as documented by the American Center for Law and Justice.

Children are being kidnapped and slaughtered. President Obama does nothing.

Women are raped, sold as slaves. Our President does nothing.

Families are brutally murdered simply because they're Christians.

He still does nothing.

⁵¹ Review by Leif Torkelsen, <http://origins.osu.edu/review/islamic-imperialism-history> (Accessed 9/20/16)

The Obama Administration even calls it “genocide.” We [the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ)] urged his State Department, and Congress, to make this designation, and it is official now. This means the President is obligated under law to protect those Christians. Yet our President does nothing.

We filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to find out why the Administration has done nothing to protect Christians—but the Obama State Department has refused to respond. Which violates the law again.

So now, the ACLJ is going back to federal court, in our most significant legal action ever in response to the genocide: filing a brand-new lawsuit against the Obama Administration to force compliance with the law....

It’s outrageous—it’s infuriating and heartbreaking—that the President’s own State Department could officially declare it “genocide” [only after much pressure from the ACLJ and others] and then he could sit back and watch it happen. Watch the torture, the mutilations, the abductions, the rapes, the beheadings, the crucifixions, the victims burned alive—and do nothing...even when obligated by law to fight radical jihadists and protect Christians!

But this new lawsuit could compel the Administration to finally take tangible steps against ISIS—the Islamic State—and their campaign of genocide. We could save Christians’ lives.⁵²

- 3) An important doctrine in Islam is the doctrine of *taqiyyah*, which means that it is permissible for a Muslim to lie, especially to a non-believer. In a country in which I led Bible study tours, where the majority of the population is Muslim, I was told by a reliable source there that Muslims want Christians to be the head of the banks, because the Muslims don’t trust each other; with the doctrine of *taqiyyah*, how could they? And how can anyone else?

Can you see how realistic and important Trump’s insistence is that we thoroughly vet Muslims trying to enter our country? Since they hold to the doctrine of *taqiyyah*, how realistic is it to believe what they say when they state to immigration authorities that they will abide by the U. S. Constitution? How can

⁵² Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel, American Center for Law & Justice, September 2016 letter.

one believe other crucial statements they make? There is an answer, but it takes time and investigative work into the track record of these applicants including their country of origin, and their associations, statements, and commitments in those and other places in the world.

Which candidate for the office of U. S. President (and for the U. S. Congress) is the most realistic in questioning the honesty of Muslim immigrants and Muslim visa applicants? Trump, who insists on thoroughly vetting Muslims, or Hillary and other politicians, Democrats and some “Moderate” Republicans, who even refuse to discuss the matter and who want to allow Muslims to enter our country and become citizens without any more vetting than all other immigrants who are not a part of any such religio-political system with its published belief system and related goals, even objectives?

- 4) Hillary Clinton has accepted well over a hundred million dollars from Muslim countries.⁵³ Her long-time lieutenant, chief aide, and vice-chairman of her campaign, Huma Abedin, comes from an activist Muslim family and background, worked for 12 years as an editor of a radical Muslim journal, and has been linked with Islamic terrorist organizations. Abedin was very influential in Hillary’s ill-advised and misguided foreign policy wrongly named the “Arab Spring” that led to chaos throughout North Africa and the Middle East including disasters resulting in the loss of millions of lives, including over a million Christians, in Libya, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria.⁵⁴

In the light of this information, and much else, is there any question why *not one* of the first 61 speakers at the Democrat National Convention in July 2016 even mentioned the words Islam or Muslim? It has been calculated that every 84 hours there is an ISIS event, but neither Hillary, who receives a lot of Saudi and other Muslim money, nor Obama, criticize Islam. If Hillary became President, it is considered likely that Abedin would become a major part of the administration such as policy director or chief of staff.

In the light of the above, and what follows, Hillary is unlikely to make the right decisions pertaining to this dangerous religious-political system, leaders of which strongly disavow the United States Constitution, seek to control the world and especially America, and intend to institute Sharia Law wherever they attain control, and they cite as the basis of their intention the Qur’an and the Hadith. The objective evidence is all there in those two authoritative books of Islam and the related literature.

⁵³ <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/06/14/hillary-clinton-took-millions-anti-lbgt-countries-gays-jailed-put-death/> (Accessed 9/19/16)

⁵⁴ <http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/263183/huma-abedin-daughter-jihad-matthew-vadum> (Accessed 8/29/16)

- 5) The Democrats in general, including current President Barak Obama and Hillary Clinton, and most if not all other liberals, have an unbiblical and therefore unrealistic anthropology. Their view of human nature, unlike what is taught in the Bible, is that our nature is essentially good, and that we can sit down and dialogue and reason with our enemies. They also believe that if a tyrant is ruling a country, he (and presumably she) can be overthrown and the country will be able soon to restore order and function better. As indicated above, that is a very unwarranted assumption that has proven disastrous when implemented.

Even after over 7 ½ years in office, where he has failed in his attempt to reason with enemies committed to doing evil, President Obama still doesn't get it. In his last speech to the United Nations

Obama, who stands down in January after eight years in office, acknowledged that the extremist and sectarian violence wreaking havoc in the Middle East and elsewhere “will not be quickly reversed.” Still he stuck faithfully [and unrealistically] to his insistence that diplomatic efforts and not military solutions are the key to resolving Syria's civil war and other conflicts.⁵⁵

Can you see how vitally important it is to study the Bible, God's Word, and historic Christian theology in order to have the most realistic and safe worldview? As the outstanding Christian theologian, Francis Schaeffer, repeatedly reminded us, sin is nonsense. It is therefore, ipso facto, illogical and an oxymoron to assume one can reason with nonsense all the way through to a satisfying conclusion. It is necessary for justice to begin with an attempt to reason out differences with people, even enemies, but with the latter, it must be done with the awareness that it will likely not succeed and that a strong military is necessary in order for the enemy to know that their attempt to accomplish their objectives by force will fail. A strong military will head off much aggression of the enemy, but since sin is nonsense, many times the enemy will have to be defeated by force, after reasoning with the pagan mentality as expected, will not work. We need to keep in mind the basic principle that evil cannot be reasoned with; it must be defeated. The defeat occurs spiritually only in Christ; in daily affairs, we must first ask God's help, for he sometimes gives victory through other means than militarily, (e.g., 2 Kings 19, esp. vss. 15-16, 35; Jeremiah 18:5-10), but sometimes those means include the mobilization of a strong military.

⁵⁵ Edith M. Lederer and Matthew Pennington, “Chief rails against leaders with ‘bloody hands’ in Syria,” Associated Press, *Reporter-Herald*, September 21, 2016, p. 6A.

- 6) It is now known, despite attempts of the Left to disavow and discredit the reports, that Muslim activists, including the Muslim Brotherhood, are involved in our federal government. Retired U. S. Air Force General Tom McInerney, who served as both assistant vice chief of staff and commander in chief of U. S. Air Forces Europe, confirmed in a radio interview that there are at least 10-15 Muslim Brotherhood members are serving in the U. S. federal government.⁵⁶ The WND exclusive by Bob Unruh also documents further details.

The Islamic supremacist movement's influence on Washington was reported in "Impeachable Offenses: The Case to Remove Barack Obama from Office" by New York Times bestselling authors Aaron Klein and Brenda J. Elliott.

The book documents that Obama aided the rise to power of Islamic extremist groups in the Middle East as members served on important national security advisory boards.

The book confirms the Obama administration may have exposed national security information through Huma Abedin, Hillary Clinton's deputy chief of staff, who has deep personal and family associations with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Another key figure with Muslim Brotherhood ties is Mohamed Elibiary, a member of the Department of Homeland Security's Advisory Council.

McInerney was being interviewed Thursday by WMAL in Washington about a tell-all book by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates that strongly criticizes President Obama and Vice President Biden for making politically motivated decisions regarding national security.

McInerney said Gates was doing the nation a service by exposing decision-making in the Oval Office but said he should have done it sooner. He also noted that the Muslim Brotherhood influences have been causing major problems throughout the Middle East....

He cited the organization's influence in Homeland Security and the secretary of state's office under Clinton, where Abedin has worked.

⁵⁶ Bob Unruh, "General: Muslim Brotherhood Inside Obama Administration," <http://www.wnd.com/2014/01/general-muslim-brotherhood-inside-obama-administration/> (Accessed 9/5/16)

“Her parents are Muslim Brotherhood. And her intuitions are in that direction,” he said....

He said Islam experts Frank Gaffney or Claire Lopez would have the details.

Gaffney, president of the Center for Security Policy, has created a publication called “The Muslim Brotherhood in the Obama Administration,” which addresses the issue that was brought to the attention of Congress in July 2012 by Republican Reps. Michele Bachmann, Trent Franks, Louie Gohmert, Tom Rooney and Lynn Westmoreland....

...as WND reported, Abedin worked for an organization founded by her family that is effectively at the forefront of a grand Saudi plan to mobilize U.S. Muslim minorities to transform America into a strict Wahhabi-style Islamic state, according to an Arabic-language manifesto issued by the Saudi monarchy. Abedin also was a member of the executive board of the Muslim Student Association, which was identified as a Muslim Brotherhood front group in a 1991 document introduced into evidence during the terror-financing trial of the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation trial.

The internal memo said Muslim Brotherhood members “must understand that their work in America is a kind of grand jihad in eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within and ‘sabotaging’ its miserable house by their hands and by the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated and Allah’s religion is made victorious over all other religions.”

Lopez, a CSP senior fellow, wrote at The Gatestone Institute: “The careful insinuation of Muslim Brothers into positions from which they can exercise influence on U.S. policy began long before the attacks of 9/11, although their success has accelerated dramatically under the administration of President Barack Obama.”⁵⁷

Frank Gaffney’s 50-page book, *The Muslim Brotherhood in the Obama Administration* is available on Amazon.com. The summary reads as follows.

When U.S. Representatives Michele Bachmann, Trent Franks, Louie Gohmert, Tom Rooney and Lynn Westmoreland asked

⁵⁷ Bob Unruh, “General: Muslim Brotherhood Inside Obama Administration,” <http://www.wnd.com/2014/01/general-muslim-brotherhood-inside-obama-administration/> (Accessed 9/5/16)

federal inspectors general if the fact that Huma Abedin, Hillary Clinton's deputy chief of staff, has three close family members who were intimately connected to the Muslim Brotherhood might be affecting U.S. foreign policy, they were called "McCarthyites" and "Islamophobes." But as Frank Gaffney shows in this shocking pamphlet, it is actually worse than these members of Congress imagined. Abedin was herself deeply involved in Brotherhood organizations in the U.S. and she is, moreover, only one of many individuals with Islamist ties now working in sensitive government roles. Gaffney tells who they are, how they are making U.S. social and political institutions friendlier to Islamism, and how they may have tilted U.S. foreign policy in the Brotherhood's direction.⁵⁸

In the light of the above, especially that pertaining to Huma Abedin, Hillary Clinton's long-time friend, advisor, chief aide, and vice-chairman of her campaign, who would likely become her chief of staff if she won the Presidential election, can any reasonable person not conclude that if Clinton won, Islamist sympathies and influence would grow and change our nation according to the stated Islamist objectives?

Put another way, which candidate, Clinton or Trump, would be most likely to impede and deter the Muslim influence in the government of the United States?

- 7) It must also be recognized that Muslim influence in the United States has resulted in leading Obama and Democrat policy to tragic and expensive outcomes abroad.
 - a) In addition to what was said above about Hillary Clinton's and Obama's extremely unwise foreign policy interventions and failures in North Africa and the Middle East, many other failures can be cited. Among the most serious: President Obama's role as a civilian, as General McInerney stated in the radio interview above, should only be critiquing the military (and I would add supporting it), not trying to control and run the military of which he knows very little. In fact, Obama, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter, and other Democrat Presidents, have tried and succeeded in their attempts to weaken the military. Remember the urgent plea from the military to Obama to send 60,000 additional troops to Afghanistan. He dallied for a month and then sent 30,000—half the desperate troops needed to succeed. That is unconscionable! I remember thinking at the time, "I wonder if he had a son in Afghanistan if he would have taken that long to ponder and then decide to only send half of

⁵⁸ <https://www.amazon.com/The-Muslim-Brotherhood-Obama-Administration-ebook/dp/B009HIP79K#nav-subnav>
(Accessed 9/5/16)

what our country needs?!” Does anyone think that Hillary would do any differently from what her boss and her husband did to the military?

- b) The American Center for Law & Justice reports that “the U.S. government supplies an average of more than \$400 million a year to the P.A. [the Palestinian Authority]. Our taxpayer funds are being used by Hamas [an officially designated terrorist group that sympathizes with the Islamic State (ISIS), and whose charter states annihilation of the Jewish people as its goal, is officially partnered with the Palestinian Authority] to bomb Israeli citizens and build tunnels under the border so terrorists can be smuggled into Israel.”⁵⁹ Is this what we want our taxes spent on and for the purpose of destroying our hitherto strongest ally in the Middle East?

Consider the more realistic approach of the new British Prime Minister, Theresa May. May said “that a global response was needed against terrorists who are exploiting banking networks, targeting airlines and using social media ‘to spread an ideology that is recruiting people to their cause all over the world.’”⁶⁰

Again, which candidate for President of the United States is most likely to continue such support for Islamic objectives, Clinton or Trump? Remember, Islam’s stated goals are for world domination. Which candidate will do more to hinder the accomplishment of those goals? In the light of the foregoing, the answer is clear.

We need to address the immigration issue with the recognition that it is a very complex matter that will not be solved with simplistic answers but with a Biblically realistic, including at the same time compassionate, rationale. I suggest one here.

7. We need to secure our borders. Trump is correct on that point. At the same time, *we need to distinguish between immigrants who are decent people who are here for many reasons but primarily to have a better life and to contribute to their new country by assimilating into our culture, abiding by our laws, and providing their strengths and skills for our country’s well-being, and immigrants who are coming here to exploit and change our country by any means they can (and many, if not most, of those who are Muslims have a plan to bide their time and do such exploitation and change forcefully when they reach a certain percentage of the population).* As considered above, Donald

⁵⁹ American Center for Law & Justice, “Killing for ‘Religion,’” August 2016, p. 1.

⁶⁰ Edith M. Lederer and Matthew Pennington, “Chief rails against leaders with ‘bloody hands’ in Syria,” Associated Press, *Reporter-Herald*, September 21, 2016, p. 6A.

Trump is correct in placing a moratorium on Muslim immigration until the necessary vetting can be done to determine whether a given immigrant is a terrorist threat.

Such vetting need only be done with Muslim and certain other, but not all, immigrants. Therefore, not all immigration has to be stopped. Some, who are woefully uninformed about Islam, and who have a liberal perspective on all matters, will quickly accuse us of profiling. Even racial profiling. The latter is not true, as I explain below.

The former is not only what should be done, but it is not, as uninformed people shout, biased, pejorative, wrong, or racist. Profiling has been given a negative connotation by people, including the so-called “mainstream media,” who are misinformed and misled. If you check the standard for our language, an established dictionary such as Merriam-Webster, there is no indication that profiling, or to profile, is a pejorative practice. In fact, it is what social science research is primarily about. *The science of profiling seeks to find and classify the key variables about persons and social entities that will enable theoreticians and practitioners to predict outcomes under certain circumstances and to identify what modifications and treatments to make that will effectively enhance positive, and ameliorate negative, outcomes that can be identified as likely to occur with certain individual or group profiles.*

Such profiling is very helpful and in many cases provides vital information. To cite only a few examples, educators rely on such information to identify which students are likely to need additional help, and what kind of help will be most beneficial, before they get too far behind, become disheartened and demoralized, and drop out. Health organizations are able to advise us as to which lifestyle choices will strengthen us, increasing the likelihood of living longer and which choices typically weaken and shorten human life and especially so for people with which conditions. Police and criminal justice officials use this information to protect us. Countless other examples can be given. The latter is especially important and germane to the present discussion.

Those of us who are believers in and followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom he has called us to be his witnesses, have a golden opportunity to do so with new neighbors from abroad and from closer to home, Latin America, many of whom share our faith in Christ or have a background sympathetic to Christianity. While some people in every nationality are, or have the potential to be, criminals, that should not be a reason for keeping all people from that nation out of our country. Vetting can, is, and should be done for all immigrants, but it needs to be done with extra care for those who are Muslims, because of their religion’s stated goals and their historic track record for implementing those goals. **Anyone who is ignorant of that history must be informed of it.**

That said, I should add that I’m very much aware of the fact that many who call themselves Muslim are so in name only. They are Muslim because they were born and

raised in a country where the majority of the population is Muslim, and they are simply trying to live the best they can as they've been taught. Part of my work in one church involved my leading tours to the lands of the Bible and church history. In so doing, I was involved with Muslim individuals who were decent people, and I enjoyed working with them. But they were not, at that point in their lives, so committed to their religion that they were acting in zealous accord with the teachings of the Qur'an and The Hadith.

We need to be very careful to discern the difference between Muslims in name only and those here on a mission. We also need to keep learning about what they are doing from trustworthy sources. I've identified such sources in the section below entitled, "Trustworthy Resources for Further Information." Pertaining to Islam and Muslims, see especially the resources from Rev. Bassam Madany.⁶¹ As for the idea that there are moderate Muslims, think again in the light of what Islam authority Jacob Thomas discloses.

The term "Moderate Muslim" is a Western construct that has no equivalent phrase in contemporary Arabic....

Having explained the thesis that there are "moderate" or "reformist" Muslims, I would like to turn now to the topic of "Mainstream or, **Moderate Islam.**" Here, I am in full agreement with Mr. Makasey's assertion that "**If by 'mainstream Islam' Mr. Bergen means moderate Islam, there is no such thing.**" Here are the facts:

A study of the sacred texts of Islam and its history leads us to conclude that there is no such thing as "**Moderate Islam.**" From its earliest days, Islam was beset with internal divisions and conflicts that were solved through violent means.

In closing I would like to quote some pertinent observations from Ephraim Karsh's book, **Islamic Imperialism: A History.** Mr. Karsh is Professor and Head of the Mediterranean Studies Programme, King's College, University of London, published by Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2006.

In his Introduction to the book, Professor Karsh writes:

"The worlds of Christianity and Islam, however, have developed differently in one fundamental respect. The Christian faith won over an

⁶¹ Rev. Bassam Madany is a dear friend with whom I keep in close touch and who keeps me informed on Islam. He is a native of Syria, who had to flee Syria as a child with his family. He grew up in Syria as a refugee. He came to the United States as an adult, studied for the Christian ministry, and worked for almost 40 years proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Arabic to the Middle Eastern countries via the Christian radio program, The Back to God Hour.

existing empire in an extremely slow and painful process and its universalism was originally conceived in spiritual terms that made a clear distinction between God and Caesar. By the time it was embraced by the Byzantine emperors as a tool for buttressing their imperial claims, three centuries after its foundation, Christianity had in place a countervailing ecclesiastical institution with an abiding authority over the wills and actions of all believers. The birth of Islam, by contrast, was inextricably linked with the creation of a world empire and its universalism was inherently imperialist. It did not distinguish between temporal and religious powers, which were combined in the person of Muhammad, who derived his authority directly from Allah and acted at one and the same time as head of the state and head of the church. This allowed the prophet to cloak his political ambitions with a religious aura and to channel Islam's energies into 'its instruments of aggressive expansion, there [being] no internal organism of equal force to counterbalance it.'

Professor Karsh continued:

"Whereas Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God, Muhammad used God's name to build an earthly kingdom. He spent the last ten years of his life fighting to unify Arabia under his reign. Had it not been for his sudden death on June 8, 632, he would have most probably expanded his rule well beyond the peninsula. Even so, within a decade of Muhammad's death a vast empire, stretching from Iran to Egypt and from Yemen to northern Syria, had come into being under the banner of Islam in one of the most remarkable examples of empire-building in world history. Long after the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the abolition of the caliphate in the wake of World War I, the link between religion, politics, and society remains very much alive in the Muslim and Arab world." Pp. 5, 6.⁶²

The preceding correction to political correctness corroborates Trump's concern. Trump simply wants, correctly, to extremely vet the ideology of

immigrants seeking admission to the United States, vowing to significantly overhaul the country's screening process and block those who sympathize with extremist groups or don't embrace American values.

⁶² Jacob Thomas, "Moderate Muslims & Moderate Islam," Answering Islam: A Christian-Muslim Dialog, http://www.answering-islam.org/authors/thomas/moderate_islam.html (Accessed 9/20/16) Mr. Mukasey served as attorney general of the United States from 2007 to 2009 and as a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of New York from 1988 to 2006. He is a lawyer in private practice at the New York office of Debevoise & Plimpton.

“Those who do not believe in our Constitution, or who support bigotry and hatred, will not be admitted for immigration into our country,” Trump said in a foreign policy address in Youngstown, Ohio. “Only those who we expect to flourish in our country—and to embrace a tolerant American society—should be issued visas.”

...He called for parents, teachers and others to promote “American culture” and encouraged “assimilation.”⁶³

What realistic and reasonable person, unencumbered and free from the stranglehold of Political Correctness or ideological or personal constraint, would disagree? This is a very wise and important statement, since *the actual religion/political system of Islam does not include assimilation; it rather calls for transformation*. As explained above, Islam is much more than a religion; it is a combination of a religion and a political system, and Trump is more truthful and wise to discern and proclaim that reality than are the Democrats, and the “Moderate” Republicans, who are either ignorant of or ignoring that reality pertaining to Islam. It is too important to not only our nation’s security, but to its very survival as we know it, to disregard this matter. The Democrat party line, as well as the “Moderate Republican” line, are very misguided and misleading concerning Muslims. Do not follow that ignorant, naïve, and dangerous perspective.

Their naiveté shows how little thinking they and many if not most others of a liberal mind have done. Clearly, they have not taken Islam seriously. If they don’t even want to abide by God’s will as revealed in the Bible, the joyful “yoke” of Jesus that is easy and whose burden is light, (Matthew 11:30) they surely will never be able to bear the much different and extremely heavy yoke of Islam’s Sharia Law, especially those who are women and also others.

For those of us who are Christians, God’s calling of us to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our freedom to do so, makes this an even more vitally important matter with hugely practical implications! If we are not vigilant on this issue, and our country comes under Sharia Law, may God forbid! it will be a lot more difficult and dangerous to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and much more dangerous to do a lot else that we now take for granted, for the freedoms to do so would be prohibited under an Islamic regime following Islamic law.

There is even more reason for concern and to secure our borders, even if it means building a wall between the U. S. and Mexico. Evidence exists that Muslims are entering our country from Mexico, coming in with people from Latin America, including terrorists

⁶³ Jill Colvin and Julie Pace, “Trump calls for ‘extreme vetting’ of immigration applicants,” Associated Press, *Reporter-Herald*, August 16, 2016, p. 2A.

teaming up with violent Mexican drug gangs in order to do so, and that they have been doing so for many years.

A few years ago [already prior to 2010] the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) revealed details of how Islamic terrorists and violent Mexican drug gangs have teamed up to successfully penetrate the U.S. as well as finance terror networks in the Middle East. Additionally, the top Homeland Security official in Texas confirmed that indeed terrorists—with ties to Hezbollah, Hamas and Al Qaeda—have been arrested crossing into the state through the Mexican border. This proves that the U.S. government has known for years that terrorists are using Mexico as a pathway into the country.⁶⁴

More disconcerting is the evidence that this infiltration, especially of Muslims with jihad, including terrorism, on their minds is on the rise...and rapidly.⁶⁵

A new[er] study shows that the number of immigrants in the United States jumped 3 percent in three years — to a record 41.3 million in 2013 — and that the nearly 300,000 who came from Muslim countries pose a major national security threat, the report's co-author told Newsmax on Thursday.

“All of that does raise national security concerns, and I don't think there has been any consideration of that,” said Steven Camarota, research director for the Center for Immigration Studies....

“The primary threat from a group like ISIS to the homeland is through our immigration system,” Camarota said, referring to the Islamic State terrorist group that has beheaded three Westerners in recent weeks.

“Our immigration system is a vital part of national security. Everybody doesn't seem to recognize that,” Camarota said. “The question is, what are the implications of our rapidly growing Middle Eastern population? The numbers certainly raise it.”

The CIS report shows that the United States was home to a record 41.3 million legal and illegal immigrants last year. That was up nearly 1.4 million from the 39.9 million in 2010, while the number was 31.1 million

⁶⁴ Judicial Watch, “Feds Warn Of Terrorists Sneaking Into U.S. Through Mexico,” May 28, 2010, <https://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2010/05/feds-warn-terrorists-sneaking-through-mexico/> (Accessed 9/21/16)

⁶⁵ Todd Beamon, “Study: Mideast Immigrants to U.S. Pose Huge Security Threat,” Newsmax, September 24, 2014, <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Muslim-immigrants-security-threat/2014/09/24/id/596742/> (Accessed 9/21/16); Judicial Watch, “Feds Warn Of Terrorists Sneaking Into U.S. Through Mexico,” May 28, 2010, <https://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2010/05/feds-warn-terrorists-sneaking-through-mexico/> (Accessed 9/21/16)

in 2000.

By comparison, the U.S. immigrant population stood at 9.6 million in 1970.

About 16 percent of the U.S. population last year was foreign-born, whether in the country legally or illegally, according to the data. That's about one in eight residents, or one of every six adults.

“Those numbers reflect two basic facts: an extremely high level of legal immigration, a very permissive legal immigration system — and they also reflect a failure to control illegal immigration,” Camarota said.

“Somewhere between a fourth and a third of those immigrants are here illegally.”

The largest number of immigrants in the United States are Mexicans, with more than 11.5 million living here illegally and legally last year. The number of Mexican immigrants fell by 126,126 — or 1 percent — over the period because of some dying and others leaving the country, Camarota said.

According to the study, the Middle Eastern population grew by 207,758 in the period, or 13 percent, to more than 1.8 million last year. That compared with 1.6 million in 2010 and 1.1 million in 2000.

[Consider the implications here: the Mexican population, which has a worldview shaped by the Bible and historic Christianity, much more congruent with the historic basis and worldview of the United States, declined by 126,126, while the Middle Eastern population, which is largely Muslim and opposed to a Biblical worldview and historic Christian theology, increased by 207,758 or 13%.]

Leading the growth from that region was Saudi Arabia, with 43,878 immigrants — nearly double the number who were in the U.S. in 2010. The analysis shows that 88,894 Saudis lived in this country last year.

Iraq was next, with about 41,094 immigrants, for a 26 percent increase to a total of 200, 894.

But the total number of immigrants from predominantly Muslim countries totaled 295,743 in the period, according to the CIS study. That was up by 13.5 percent.

The total number of immigrants from primarily Muslim countries in the U.S. was more than 2.4 million last year, compared with 2.1 million in 2010 and 1.5 million in 2000.

Camarota attributed the rise in Mideast immigration to myriad U.S. policies, whether they granted asylum or refugee status to people from the region or involved the nation's defense forces.

“Once there is a presence, the possibility of going to the United States becomes a much more realistic possibility,” he said. “The presence of the United States in a country in a big way, whether it's Afghanistan or Iraq, tends to spur immigration.”

Overall, however, the Middle East is only fourth among regions of the world from where people emigrate to the U.S.

The leader is south Asia, which was up 372,546, or 16 percent, to 2.7 million; east Asia, up 364,909, or 5 percent, to 7.8 million; and the Caribbean, up 223,011, or 6 percent, to more than 3.9 million immigrants.

China is No. 1 in east Asia, with 217,305 people coming from that country in the period, or 10 percent, for a total of 2.3 million last year. India is the leader in south Asia, with 254,355, or 14 percent, to more than 2 million.

More people came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic than any other Caribbean country, with 111,859, or 13 percent, to a total of 991,046 last year.

From Central America — the nexus of the border crisis that has led to hundreds of thousands of illegals, especially minors traveling alone, crossing the Rio Grande into south Texas in recent months — the number of immigrants jumped by 113,744, or 3.7 percent, over the three years.

The number of immigrants from the region in the U.S. surpassed 3.1 million last year.

The biggest number, 71,469, came from Guatemala. That marked an 8.6 percent surge, for a total of 902,293. Next was El Salvador, up 3.1 percent, or 38,018; and then Honduras, up 2.1 percent, or 11,017, to a total of 533,598.

“It just reminds us of how enormous the immigrant population is and what a large share of the population it is,” Camarota told Newsmax.⁶⁶

In spite of all of the above, Obama and his administration officials insist on raising the number of Muslim immigrants. They believe that pausing “the U.S.’ acceptance of refugees helps make the case for terrorist groups such as the Islamic State that seek to turn Muslims against the West,” and that they will use such a policy in recruitment of more terrorists.⁶⁷ This is leadership?! Since when has our country, or any country, let its enemies govern its official decision-making, especially when it comes to its own national security! And especially when it doesn’t make sense, when such decisions are counterproductive to its own security? What other successful nation’s leader has let fear of the enemy determine his or her (can you picture Margaret Thatcher doing such) decision-making?!

When it comes to the question of refugees, people fleeing persecution, we also need to vet this matter. A study has been made of Muslims wanting to come to the United States, and it was discovered that most of them wanted to come in order to obtain much better jobs than they could have in their country of origin. They were coming here for economic reasons, not for fear of their lives.⁶⁸

Trump’s word, extreme, when he says he wants to extremely vet the ideology of immigrants, could but most likely won’t be carried too far; that word is obviously the candidate’s inclination to employ the valid English communication device called hyperbole to make a point. It is such an important point, and any such plan would have to pass Congress and survive any appeal to the SCOTUS (notice the implications for Supreme Court and Federal Court appointments), that it is certainly not a matter of worry.

8. What about Mexicans and other Hispanics?

As stated in the preceding section, we must distinguish the key, indeed vital differences, among the immigrants to our country. *Race is neither a valid nor an important factor for*

⁶⁶ Todd Beamon, “Study: Mideast Immigrants to U.S. Pose Huge Security Threat,” Newsmax, September 24, 2014, <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Muslim-immigrants-security-threat/2014/09/24/id/596742/> (Accessed 9/21/16)

⁶⁷ Josh Siegel, “Conservatives Aim to Block Obama’s Plan for More Refugees,” The Daily Signal, September 20, 2016 http://dailysignal.com/2016/09/20/republicans-aim-to-block-obamas-plan-for-more-refugees/?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CapitolBell&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RGbFpETmtZV0k0TURKbSIsInQiOiJtcTQxYzIkeXd5NWRZbWVYc2tmZVZFMWdqMDNnS1VoMVV1XC8xc0swdkIvYjZzV0tYaUhYakNNS3daemtjTnRMeHVuMldURnd1eVVIMUxpMnJzcERrYmp2UUF1SmxReUtJWWErbG15MjNaT2c9In0%3D (Accessed 9/21/16)

⁶⁸ A report by an authority on the Sean Hannity radio program, KCOL, 9/24/16.

such discernment; but ideas and values, especially religious values are. Anyone who ignores this strategic reality is ignorant of a religion that wants to control them and destroy them if they do not become one of them. Color of skin has nothing to do with the required discernment; what is underneath the skin and within the skull does. These points, which are so obvious, are oblivious to too many people and must be pointed out.

What follows is information I have received from many sources. I know Mexican and Hispanic people. I grew up and went to school with many. I have studied the Spanish language for over four years, and with the study of a language comes more than the ability to speak it but also an understanding of the culture and thinking of a people. Part of my study was at the University of Madrid. I taught at a Pastors' seminar in Mexico City.

Regarding Mexican and other Hispanic people, many if not most are Christians. Most others are from a culture shaped by Christianity, the church, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are not our enemies. Far from it. They are strongly grounded in and oriented to their families, and many are so grounded in and oriented to the church.

Contrary to Muslims who take their religion seriously, the Mexican and other Hispanic people who take their religion seriously want to become citizens and to assimilate into our culture. They want to be part of us, and they have much more in common with the rest of us Americans than do immigrants from a Middle Eastern culture shaped by Islam. This is easily seen by anyone who has read the Qur'an and The Hadith. Do not be ignorant of this very important reality. Muslims, who are not just Muslims in name only due to being born in a Middle Eastern country, are here with the mission of their religion to take over and change our country and our culture, no matter how long it takes. They do not intend to assimilate into our culture and become one with us.

Mexican and Hispanic people in general are here to assimilate and become part of us, and with their strong background shaped by Christianity, Christ and his church, they have much to offer the United States and have already contributed greatly to our culture. Residents in, and visitors to, states in our country where many Mexican and other Hispanic people have settled, see daily testimonies to the impact of their significantly Christian-influenced Spanish culture here in the U. S. Consider just the names of many cities.

Here are only a few: Las Cruces (NM; The Crosses), Los Angeles (CA, The Angels), Santa Cruz (NM, CA; Holy Cross), Santa Fe (NM; Holy Faith), Corpus Christi (TX; Body of Christ, a Latin term in the Roman Catholic Church used to designate the lush semi-tropical bay on the southern coast of TX discovered in 1519 on the Roman Catholic Feast Day of Corpus Christi by Spanish explorer Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda⁶⁹),

⁶⁹ <http://www.ccparkandrec.com/customer-service-center/facts-stats/history/index> (Accessed 9/18/16)

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Sacramento (CA; sacrament, esp. the bread), and the many cities named San or Santa (Saint or Holy, e.g., San Diego [CA, Saint James], San Jose [CA, Saint Joseph], San Juan Bautista [CA, Saint John the Baptist], San Juan [CA, Saint John], San Mateo [CA, Saint Matthew], San Pablo [CA, Saint Paul], San Pedro [CA, Saint Peter], Santa Maria [CA, Saint Mary]). One of the most breathtaking is the Sangre de Cristo (Spanish meaning Blood of Christ in reference to their striking red hue) Mountains, one of the longest mountain ranges on Earth; they run from Poncha Pass, CO to Glorieta Pass, NM, and they contain 10 peaks over 14,000 feet high (called fourteeners in CO) and more than two dozen over 13,000 feet high.

The foregoing are all names related to and found in the Bible. In addition, there are a host of cities named after Christian, especially Roman Catholic, theologians and other church leaders, e.g., San Francisco (CA, Saint Francis), Santa Monica (CA, Saint Monica, the outstanding fourth century A. D. mother of the great Christian theologian, Saint Augustine, both of whom are remembered and honored by most if not all Christian denominations), and San Antonio (TX, Saint Anthony). And then there are all the many missions which brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to South, Central, and North America, which are still very visible reminders of the history and basis of our culture, especially in California, such as Mission Viejo (CA, Ancient Mission).

Of course, some people from every nationality engage in criminal activity. Nevertheless, due to the strong grounding in Christianity, that they share with the Founders of our country, Mexican and other Hispanic people are significantly different from those who embrace the religion of Islam. **It is ultimately fatal to fail to make this vital distinction.** For Muslims, we have to vet to find out their track record and their current commitments in order to determine whether their future behavior will be consistent with the values and Constitution of the United States of America or hostile to our country.

9. **Do not fail to remember the reason for this very crucial and absolutely necessary difference in the immigration policy for admitting Muslims and Mexican and other Hispanic people: It has nothing to do with race; it is all about religion, and when it comes to Islam it is also intrinsically political, truths the Politically Correct media and politicians won't tell you.** Read the books these two distinct populations with their two very different religious orientations hold to as their authority. One religion wants to come in, refuse to assimilate, and then change and control a country according to a combined religio-political system that is diametrically opposed the Bible and which has historically used force when they reach a certain percentage of the population.

The other wants to come in, fit in, and function as contributing members of the society which has the same Biblical basis *and which, as we just saw above, share this culture which the Mexican and other Hispanic people have helped to shape!* Further, they daily

show they have much more to offer! Many have contributed to our economy, at significant cost to themselves, working for substandard wages. And the many who are fellow Christians have the Holy Spirit within them guiding them; you can see the joy in their daily lives and in their worship.

Providentially, we have been given vivid and still existing examples of both the method and the result of Muslim expansion. Historically, consider how the Middle Eastern and North African countries thrived in freedom as the church came in peace and brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ and freedom contrasted with the oppression that came with the military conquests of Islam.⁷⁰ More recent evidence is readily observable. One need look no farther than France and other European countries to see how Islam works when entering a country. In Sweden, more than 75% of the rapes are committed by Muslim immigrants.⁷¹

As indicated above, we must with our commitment to justice, (Deuteronomy 16:20) as well as realism, remember that many Muslims are Muslims just because they were born in a particular country, and that they are not now interested in taking over our country. This is why Trump insists that vetting must be done; those who are not here with an overt or covert plan to take over our country, and pass our immigration procedures, may be admitted. Nevertheless, we must keep in mind several important dimensions of this reality.

First, as a Christian missionary to Muslims told a group of us who were meeting with him, when Muslims pass through customs, enter our country, unpack their luggage, and begin the first days of their life in this country, they experience enormous culture shock. They are half a world physically, and lightyears emotionally, from their own cultural comfort zone and from their extended families in their homeland. They are lonely, and many are open to experiencing the love of Christ. If we Christians find Muslims moving in next door or nearby as neighbors, let's show them Christ's love by welcoming them: bringing them a meal; inviting them into our homes; offering to help with the moving-in process, such as suggesting trustworthy businesses, plumbers, electricians, and others needed; answering questions they have about how we function in our local community relations; introducing them to other neighbors; and offering to help in other ways they may need, e.g., giving a hand with moving heavy furniture and/or appliances. As communication research and evangelistic organizations say, such caring gives us in the minds of those receiving such acts of love and caring the opportunity and inclination, to be heard. When such a time seems good, invite them to your church home. Always

⁷⁰ Incidentally, be prepared to correct the Islamic canard about Crusaders, even calling us Christians Crusaders. Time and space do not allow more here, but make these points in response to that accusation: The Crusades were begun by the Roman Catholic Church as a response and retaliation to the Muslim aggression to conquer the Holy Land. Also point out that many Christians also suffered during the Crusades, e.g., when some during the Fourth Crusade went to Constantinople and attacked Orthodox Christians there.

⁷¹ A report by an authority on the Sean Hannity radio program, KCOL, 9/24/16.

remember the Great Commission our Lord gave us to be his witnesses. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15)

It is good to do such outreach as soon as possible. The natural and understandable tendency of human beings living in another culture is to connect with others of the same nationality or with others with whom one perceives he or she has most in common. Our greatest opportunity to reach people for the Lord in such circumstances is to try to establish relationships as soon as possible, before they become connected and bond with other Muslims, some of whom may be engaged in proselytizing, and/or recruiting jihadists, for Islam, and there are many here to do just that.

Furthermore, many nominal Muslims, who have hitherto been content to live as a Muslim in name only, come into contact with others who take their faith very seriously, including the texts of the Qur'an and The Hadith commanding harsh persecution of and violence upon non-Muslims, whom they call infidels. Read in the Qur'an and The Hadith what they are supposed to do to us whom they call infidels.

Sometimes the nominal Muslims come into contact and fall under the influence of radical relatives or other Muslims who have come to this country on a mission. And there are many. The missionary to the Muslims, I referred to above, also asked us if we'd seen the many Muslims working in 7-11-type convenience stores. He asked us if we knew where they were from and how they were able to come to the U. S. He explained that many of them are Pakistanis. Then he asked how did they get here? He explained that most Pakistanis are so poor they could never afford the travel tickets to come to the United States, much less afford to live in the communities where they worked. He then gave the answer: they are here on Saudi oil money. We in fact have paid their way with the cost of our gasoline.

Other Muslim-in-name-only immigrants travel back to their country of origin and become "more religious" while visiting and after returning from their former homeland, e.g., as did Ahmad Khan Rahami, the suspect in the bombings in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York City and the New Jersey town of Seaside Park.⁷² Still other originally nominal Muslims come under the influence of fiery anti-Christ and anti-West sermons that are being preached in Arabic in mosques here in the United States, with the resultant radicalization of Muslims who have been relatively peaceful to this point. Children of so-called "moderate" Muslims tend to be more radical than their parents.⁷³ That's a trend in the wrong direction, yet Obama and Hillary want to bring hundreds of thousands more into the U. S. each year. Constant vigilance is required.

⁷² Deepti Hajela and Jake Pearson, "Suspect shot, captured in N.Y.-area bombings," Associated Press, *Reporter-Herald*, September 20, 2016, p. 2A.

⁷³ A report by an authority on the Sean Hannity radio program, KCOL, 9/24/16.

Our previous illegal immigration problem has become much worse under the Obama administration, and Hillary would not only maintain what has been done *but add to it*. The current policy, and *the one Hillary would continue and expand, must be stopped*.

Consider these recent revelations. The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) disclosed in their weekly newsletter that

the Washington Post reported that a Department of Homeland Security inspector general's report found that the US government not only missed more than 800 other potential terrorists, it mistakenly gave them US citizenship: "...at least 858 immigrants from countries that pose national security threats or their neighbors who have mistakenly been granted citizenship. They were naturalized despite being ordered to be removed from the country, because the government couldn't match their identities to their removal orders.

These immigrants were supposed to be deported because they posed a threat to national security, but instead they were given the right to vote.

Wait, it gets worse. CNN then reported that the number of individuals mistakenly granted citizenship is more than twice as large as initially reported:

[T]he truth is the report is even worse than reported, with more than 1,800 individuals naturalized who should have been deported from the country.... The Inspector General determined that the agency granted citizenship to 858 individuals who had been ordered deported or removed under another identity but "their digital fingerprint records were not available" during the naturalization process.

But a footnote on page one of the report also states that there were, as of November 2015, an additional 953 individuals about whom the Inspector General couldn't determine if there was a problem with the fingerprint records specifically, but also should have been deported. This other group consisted of members of a slightly broader classification, from countries of concern as well as from neighboring countries where there is a history of fraud.

That amounts to a total of 1,811 individuals granted citizenship who should not have been.

Apparently, US officials can't tell the difference between a deportation order and a passport application.

And all this comes in the wake of the news last October that the State Department had revoked the visas of 9,500 individuals since 2001 who were believed to have either engaged in terrorist activities or were associated with a terrorist organization. They mistakenly gave visas to nearly 10,000 people now considered too dangerous to enter the United States because of suspected terrorist activity or association. Worse still, State Department officials told Congress that they have no idea what had happened to the 9,500. Lost into the ether.

And President Obama and Hillary Clinton wonder why there is resistance to the idea of admitting Syrian refugees into the country. ISIS has openly bragged about how they are using refugee flows to infiltrate terrorists into the West, and Obama administration officials have told Congress that they cannot properly vet refugees for terrorist ties.⁷⁴

Such dangerous, life threatening, ineptitude and bungling is unacceptable; it must be stopped. On the basis of what she has been saying, Hillary is highly unlikely to do so.

Thus, Trump is correct in calling for the vetting of Muslims before allowing them to enter our country. Not only they themselves but their connections in their country of origin and track record there need to be examined carefully. For more information on Islam, see the text below and Appendices A and B.

Again, this is another reason why I pray every day, and urge all other Christians to do so as well, for the extension and nurture of God's kingdom, the new birth (being born again, John 3:3) and maturing of the human spirit in Jesus Christ through the operation of the Holy Spirit providing the rule of God in human hearts and minds, throughout the United States. It is the only hope for our country, and the rest of the world as well, all of which belongs to God. I will explain why below.

10. **Consider the following recommendation for resolving the issue with illegal immigrants.** We must distinguish between immigrants we need and want here in our country and those who are harmful and should not be admitted.

We must acknowledge and take into account that many Mexican and other Hispanic people are here because they were invited, even recruited, for cheap farm and other labor. Most of those uninvited came here to work incredibly hard and long hours each day as laborers, earn as much as they could, scrupulously saving their meager wages (meager here but far more than they could earn south of the border), sending much of it home to their extremely poor families in their country of origin, until they could find a way to

⁷⁴ Marc A. Thiessen, AMAC, "More Than 1,800 People Who Were Supposed to Be Deported as National Security Threats Were Given Citizenship Instead ... By Accident," September 22, 2016, <http://amac.us/1800-people-supposed-deported-national-security-threats-given-citizenship-instead-accident/> (Accessed 9/24/16)

bring them here to the United States so they could have a much better life, one hugely superior to that in Latin America even though substandard in the U. S.⁷⁵ These are admirable qualities; the same qualities employers are looking for but not finding in many Caucasian adults today.

Many Mexican and other Hispanic people have been here for decades, even most of their lives. Many have families here and are living otherwise law-abiding lives. Do not their employers who enticed them to come with jobs that they have been performing for many years not have *some responsibility* for their being here? Have we not given tacit approval to their being here by purchasing the produce they have harvested and consuming it without complaint, preferring the lower prices than would have to be charged with U. S. citizens doing the planting, cultivating, and harvesting?

What's the Difference between this Recommendation and Amnesty?

We need to urge our legislators on the federal and state levels to construct a just resolution of the “illegal immigrant problem.” Since this is such a complex and multifaceted situation, wherein many if not most of us are involved to one degree or another, we, especially those of us who are Christians, cannot ignore the injustices involved. Surely there is a way to facilitate a just and fair resolution of this matter that will make it possible for those illegal immigrants who are here to either remain here with either an extended noncitizen status or, for those who wish to become citizens, a way to make amends to the United States in order to become citizens. This would not be amnesty.

I am not recommending amnesty. Do you know the standard dictionary definition of amnesty? Are you sure? Amnesty is defined as “the act of an authority (as a government) by which pardon is granted to a large group of individuals, a decision that a group of people will not be punished or that a group of prisoners will be allowed to go free.”⁷⁶

⁷⁵ I remember these exact qualities being held up for admiration, respect, and as a model, and referred to in the 20th century as the character we want to see in Americans. Of course in those years the immigrants referred to mostly came in white skin from Europe. But as I said above, the skin color is not a valid factor; it's what is under the skin that reveals the true character of a person and is a more reliable predictor of how he or she will function. For Christians, skin color and blood are of no consequence in the discernment we are discussing here. Much more is that true in the church, where God wants people from “every nation, tribe, people, and language” included, and in heaven there will be so many of them that no one will be able to count them! (Revelation 7:9) For Christians, only the blood of one Person is important: Jesus Christ, who shed his blood that we who believe might be approved for coming into the presence of God. (Colossians 1:10-24; Acts 4:12) Some may say that, as mentioned above, many Muslims want to come to the U. S. for much better jobs than they could obtain in their country of origin, so why not let them in too? My response, in accord with my arguments above, is to allow them to enter after proper vetting and if employers cannot find citizens already in this country to fill those positions.

⁷⁶ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/amnesty> (Accessed 9/14/16)

I also recognize and insist that we must acknowledge that many of our Mexican and other Hispanic citizens followed the rules and stood in line, some having to wait a considerable amount of time for their turn to become citizens. Understandably, many of them, who became citizens by adhering to the U. S. immigration laws, have concerns that range on a continuum between being at least unwilling and at most outraged at the thought of illegals from their own country of origin being allowed to become citizens by amnesty without adhering to the laws of our land. To do so would be neither wise nor compassionate to all involved.

Amnesty would not be wise for many reasons, not the least of which is, it would send the wrong message to everyone: that you can disregard and disobey the law and make out just fine, even get your way without any penalty. That's neither the way life works, nor should it work.

Neither would it be compassionate. It would be a very uncompassionate slap in the face to the many Mexican and other Hispanic people who have followed the rules and are making fine contributions to our country and our culture in their citizenship they have thereby earned.

So I recommend a resolution that would involve some means of those who are here illegally to make some form of restitution that would give them a legal status in our country for any who choose to not become citizens, and a track to citizenship for those who do want to become citizens. The construction of this resolution should take into account the contribution they have already made to our country, and the state in which they reside, and of course whether they have otherwise lived according to the law. We already have a basis for such a resolution that President George W. Bush's administration produced that was wrongly labeled as amnesty. According to the standard dictionary definition above, it was not a plan for amnesty.

Does this mean that when such a just plan for resolving the matter of illegal aliens living in our country is instituted that millions more will pour into our country and repeat the same situation? No, because as I said at the beginning of this section of the booklet, we need to start by securing the borders of our country. With a proper sealing of the borders, and a just plan in place for vetting and admitting immigrants who will assimilate into our country and culture and function positively and productively we can resolve this issue. Trump is on the right track, not Hillary, but as this plan is carried out we must be vigilant to not allow it to be slowed, sidetracked, or blocked by "Political Correctness." (PC) Here again Trump, not Hillary, will be most likely to overcome that PC obstacle.

The above is my recommendation of what we should do to correct injustices to and involving the estimated 11,300,000 illegal aliens. George Will supplies additional information.

[The] approximately 11.3 million illegal immigrants (down from 12.2 million in 2007), have these attributes: Eighty-eight percent have been here at least five years. Of the 62 percent who have been here at least 10 years, about 45 percent own their own homes. About half have children who were born here and hence are citizens. Dara Lind of Vox reports that at least 4.5 million children who are citizens have at least one parent who is an illegal immigrant.

[Contained herein are] almost 10 percent of California’s workers, and 13 percent of that state’s K-12 students.

A substantial majority of Americans—majorities in all states—and, in some polls, a narrow majority of Republicans favor a path for illegal immigrants not just to legal status but to citizenship. Less than 20 percent of Americans favor comprehensive deportation.⁷⁷

Implementing the above recommended resolution, will help put a stop to the unwise, counterproductive, and illegal practices such as “sanctuary cities,” letting illegal aliens vote, serve on juries,⁷⁸ receive economic benefits designed originally for citizens, and otherwise ignore the laws of the United States of America.

What should we do in this regard? Oppose, including voting against, amnesty.

We should contact our state and federal representatives by phone or email and urge them to construct a just settlement of this important matter that is affecting so many lives, including our own, directly or indirectly. As Americans, and especially for those of us who are Christians, we cannot sit back and do nothing, thus allowing this injustice to continue unabated.

Much of God’s Word could be cited; consider for now just these three passages: “Follow justice and justice alone....” (Deuteronomy 16:20) Please keep in mind that the original Hebrew word translated justice is *ṭṣḏḥ* (*tsedheq*), which means righteousness, and the ultimate standard for God’s people to determine what is righteous is his Word, both written and in the person of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the triune God.

“You are to have the same law for the alien and the native-born. I am the LORD your God.” (Leviticus 24:22) We should acknowledge that many of the laws in this section of the Bible were given by God to his people when he governed them as a theocracy, and his rule in that manner was only for a period of time in the Old Testament age. Nevertheless,

⁷⁷ George Will, “Trump redefines the GOP,” *Washington Post, Reporter-Herald*, August 23, 2015, p. 4A.

⁷⁸ Thomas Fitton, President of Judicial Watch, “Illegal Alien Election Impact Survey” cover letter, August 2016, p. 4.

this law is one of the moral laws that God intends for his people to be our guide throughout this age until Christ returns.

Though it is true that the United States is not coterminous, and certainly not synonymous, with the kingdom of God or the church, nevertheless, God has called his people to function according to his Word and in so doing to be as Christ Jesus said, “the light of the world [and] the salt of the earth.” (Matthew 5:13-14) Since the church is catholic, i.e., global, universal, we believers in and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are to facilitate the extension and nurture of his kingdom (understood in the Bible to refer to the rule of God in human hearts and minds) throughout the country in whatever nation we live, and especially in the nation in which we are citizens.

Remember the still oft-quoted statement, referred to above, of one of Europe’s greatest Christian theologians, Abraham Kuyper, who also served as premier of The Netherlands from 1901-1905. “There is not one square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’” This great statement is a contemporary illustration of what we read in God’s Word, e.g., in the apostle Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus, where Paul writes of God’s incomparably great power that he

exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:20-23)

As long as there is injustice and people, many of whom are his, are being mistreated, we have work to do. If you are wondering where to begin, start here. If you wish, you can copy and paste any of this section of this booklet—of course substituting current names and issues for the ones on the ballot when this publication was first written—and send it to your representatives, urging them to no longer delay bringing a righteous resolution of the unjust situation of the illegal aliens among us.

Here’s Why, Humanly Speaking, Change in the Funding of Schools is Necessary for All the Other Required Changes to Occur.

- 11. Public education, contrary to its historical founding and functioning, is now based on an atheistic philosophy of humanism that has caused very significant and widespread changes in its schools.**

My doctoral degree is in curriculum research in secondary education and curriculum from the College of Education at Michigan State University. I took courses with public school teachers and administrators who were studying to be principals and superintendents. I know how the public school education system works.

I found out that the philosophical base of much if not all public education is secular humanism. For a quick, but appalling, read of what that philosophy involves, see the Humanist Manifesto II, available on the Internet, which clearly outlines the intention to eliminate all theistic references and the desire to rid public schools of anything to do with God. The last section contains a list of the signatories of the document. Look at it: it is a virtual Who's Who in public education at the time it was produced.

When God, his Word, and his will is no longer considered as the values standard for determining what is right and what is wrong, the standard is lowered to the opinion and perspective of human values, that is, sinful human values. Instead of a criterion standard which in our country historically has been the Bible at the top, we have a norm reference as the standard of judgment. In other words, disputants can no longer appeal to a commonly agreed upon criterion as the standard to which to appeal; the bar has been lowered to a norm reference standard, the opinion poll approach, or in limited cases the opinion of the two or few that are having an issue.

How did we as a country allow the change in thinking that a sin-flawed and evil-motivated criterion composed by and of sinful human beings who want nothing to do with God would come up with a "better" way to run the school system than the criterion of our perfect God, the criterion insisted upon by our nation's founders? The answer is that too many of us with a Biblical commitment to God sat back and did not engage the debate and allowed those with a pagan, and others with a liberal, mentality have their way on this vital issue, another illustration and application of Edmund Burke's famous quote above.

The lower human opinion approach as the standard, is flawed for philosophical as well as theological reasons. Enter philosophical relativism, the child of humanism. The premise of philosophical relativism is that all truth is relative, all opinions (wrongly from a Biblical perspective, but without God's Word) being considered equal, which means that even if you believe in X and I believe in Non-X, that's OK; we're both right. Humorously, but very sadly, that conclusion is not only nonsense, it results in a logical fallacy, a violation of the law of non-contradiction: X and Non-X cannot both be true at the same time, and for Biblically based philosophical and theological issues never.

Consider also that the schools educate not only the politicians but the media; Hollywood actors and actresses, writers, directors and producers; scientists; and future teachers. They also educate parents and others influential in our communities.

Therefore, it seems clear, humanly speaking, that significant and lasting change will not occur until a more equitable system of funding public education occurs, such as a voucher or even better a tax credit system is put in place, that gives parents true choice of which school to send their children and grandchildren. Our country has long had an anti-trust and anti-monopoly value and has passed laws to eliminate trusts and monopolies...all except for one: public education. When we can eliminate the one remaining monopoly and put all schools on a level playing field, positive change is more likely. For the most part, schools that do well will succeed and survive; those that do poorly will fail and rightly close.

It is unjust that not only poor but many middle-class parents cannot afford to send their children and grandchildren to the best schools. Neither is it fair that those who can afford to send their children and grandchildren to the better private and parochial schools have to pay twice: once for failing public schools and then for the tuition to their school of choice.

This practice sends the wrong message to the schools: poor behavior is rewarded. What makes this occurrence especially serious is the axiom in behavioral science that behavior that is rewarded tends to be repeated.

One of the biggest obstacles, if not the biggest, to “leveling the playing field” and letting parents truly have free choice in where to send their children to school is the working relationship between the Democrat Party and the teachers unions. As Cal Thomas explains, “a lot of poorer Americans with children [are] trapped in failing schools because Democrats won’t let them escape due to pressure and donations from the teachers’ unions.”⁷⁹

Several methods of improving education have been advocated. Not only vouchers, but others, such as tuition tax credits and education savings accounts, are being promoted to replace the current flawed public education system, which is based on a centralized, government controlled, and highly regulated monopoly that is accountable to politicians and unelected bureaucrats with philosophies counterproductive to the values of the parents. The current system is not accountable to the parents, and therefore the parents’ needs, views, and desires for their children, who they know best, are typically ignored. No wonder the public education system is failing.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ Cal Thomas, “Pence is salt to Trump’s pepper,” Tribune Content Agency, *Reporter-Herald*, July 20, 2016, p. 4A.

⁸⁰ For an excellent explanation of the very promising plan for education savings accounts, see Jason Bedrick and Lindsey Burke, “How Texas Can Lead the Charge on Education Choice” at http://dailysignal.com/2016/12/13/how-texas-can-lead-the-charge-on-education-choice/?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CapitolBell&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWmpRMVlUOXhZV1EyTkRVNClSInQiOiJrWkRnOWNCRXBqNjNIN1VvTDRrY0w5RGIFRkRFZDNCZFhaUW5rbVFcL1p2eXZuK3paZmh4ZnJPZmZybDZ2b1oxR0I0UTB4NlIKdW5BNDBNVEJtcDgxeGtURnplSjNFa094ZjBaMHN5WXR3Q0tDXC9UMW95M3VwMTVMskdcL2pLaFI0UyJ9<http://dailysignal.com/2016/12/13/how-texas-can-lead-the-charge-on-education-choice/>

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Which candidate is on record to favor changing the system to permit true school choice for all? Donald Trump. Which candidate opposes such school choice? Hillary Clinton.

12. Liberal, and especially Democrat, economic and educational policies purportedly designed to free poor people from the burden of poverty have done just the opposite.

Kay Coles James is Founder and President of The Gloucester Institute, an organization that trains and nurtures leaders in the African American community. She has served as Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the State of Virginia and has served on the Fairfax County School Board and the Virginia Board of Education. In the President George W. Bush administration, she was Director of the U. S. Office of Personnel Management and in the President George H. W. Bush administration, the Associate Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and Assistant Secretary for public affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to cite just a few of her many accomplishments in local, state, and national government. She is now a trustee of The Heritage Foundation. From this vantage point, Kay Coles James observes that

...under the weight of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s “Great Society” programs,...high-performing neighborhood schools gave way to bureaucracy-choked failure factories. Today, grim statistics and generations of wasted talent are the legacy of an agenda that has failed our children and community.

That’s why I say what’s really important here isn’t the political noise, but the personal tragedies it is masking.

Scores of well-paid consultants and media personalities are on the air, seemingly debating race. But their focus isn’t really on community renewal—it’s on full-combat politics. As a result, they gleefully throw around words like “racist” and “bigot” without pausing to truly, honestly consider the plight of the minority community they purport to defend. And when they’re done, they’ll put another notch in their professional belt and move on to the next campaign or news show while African-Americans continue to suffer.

choice/?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CapitolBell&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWmpRMVlUQXhZV1EyTkrVNCIsInQiOiJrWkRnOWNCRXBqNjNIN1VvTDRrY0w5RGIFRkRFZDNCZFhaUW5rbVFcL1p2eXZuK3paZmh4ZnJPZmZybDZ2b1oxR0I0UTB4NlIKdW5BNDBNVEJTCdGxeGtURnplSjNFa094ZjBaMHN5WXR3Q0tDXC9UMW95M3VwMTVMskdcL2pLaFI0UyJ9 (Accessed 12/14/16) and “Recalibrating Accountability: Education Savings Accounts as Vehicles of Choice and Innovation,” at <http://thf-reports.s3.amazonaws.com/2016/SR-190.pdf>. (Accessed 12/14/16)

That's just not acceptable, not at all.

It's not OK that black kids aren't getting the very best education possible. It's not OK that black adults are out of work and unable to pursue their dreams. It's not OK that black families are homeless. It's not OK that black seniors live in fear for what tomorrow may bring.

And it's not OK that so many consultants and pundits would rather play politics than help save my people.⁸¹

13. Political Correctness has been growing over the decades to produce an increase in legislation that restricts freedom. Teachers being reprimanded for having a Bible on their desks; students being disciplined for witnessing for Christ in time outside of class; business owners being forced to perform services that oppose their moral values; and countless other cases of the restriction of free speech contrary to protections of the First Amendment are causing a loss of freedom in "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

It goes without saying, but is important to remember when the time arrives to mark our ballots, which candidate supports such restriction, and which candidate is well known for his fearless opposition to the stranglehold of Political Correctness that is now being carried to an extreme. What compounds the seriousness of this matter is that this situation is in direct opposition to the Lord's command for his people to be his witnesses and to obey him in all that we do.

To Relieve Our Country of the Out-of-Control National Debt and Provide Sustainable Job Growth and Family Finances, Remember Economics 101.

14. Today's Democrat politicians do not adequately understand how business works. Many, if not most, including President Obama's administrative cohort, have no understanding of what it takes to run a business and consistently meet a payroll.

Our economy is in a dangerous situation. Do not believe the misleading figures on unemployment percentages, hiring data, and other "Washington math" being put out by the government and promoted by the liberal media that are designed to deceive, to

⁸¹ Kay Coles James, "I'm an African-American Woman. Here's My Advice to Conservatives Wooing My Community." http://dailysignal.com/2016/08/29/im-an-african-american-woman-heres-my-advice-to-conservatives-wooing-my-community/?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningBell&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTkRNMFPQOTJOR0l6TVRSaSaSIsInQiOiJkUjM1N0syZE9iRHJDOG9aWHN3MGppMjNiemF5VWQyQklwYlczYkV0MTIIRTR3cFhBa1NwZlFaTGw4VWd4YW9PZUttTHIrS2NvM2RxbHN4aklcL2JrdUhhajlCQUJtdnZzdWFSXC9OR0dIUjNPSJ9 (Accessed 8/31/16)

greatly increased costs owners see coming next year and the following year. Here is more of what is negatively affecting the economy and healthcare.

Double-digit premium increases and exits by big-name insurers have caused some to wonder whether “Obamacare” will go down as a failed experiment.

...Premiums are expected to go up sharply in many insurance marketplaces, which offer subsidized private coverage to people lacking access to job-based plans.

At the same time, retrenchment by insurers that have lost hundreds of millions of dollars means that more areas will become one-insurer markets, losing the benefits of competition. The consulting firm Avalere Health projects that seven states will only have one insurer in each of their marketplace regions next year.

Insurers blame the problems on sicker-than-expected customers disappointing enrollment and a premium stabilization system that failed to work as advertised. They also say some people are gaming the system, taking advantage of guaranteed coverage to get medical care only when they are sick. ...

How Much Is One Trillion Dollars?

We speak in millions, billions, and now more and more in trillions of dollars today. Even one million is a challenge to understand. I have a book that contains one million dots, with 5,000 dots on each page. Can you guess how large it is? Yes, 200 pages! The author, Hendrik Hertzberg states that the largest number of discrete objects that most human beings can form a mental picture of is five or six with exceptional minds not doing much better, with nine cited as about the limit. How can we comprehend billions and now trillions?

One Million:

- A million one dollar bills, laid end to end, would reach from New York to Philadelphia, a distance of 151 kilometers or 94 miles on land.

One Billion:

- A billion dollar bills, laid end to end, would span Earth four times around the equator.
- As of January 7, 1972: If a person had a billion dollars and he went into business the year Jesus Christ was born, and he lost \$1,000 each day, he'd still be in business and could stay in business for 765 more years before the billion ran out. (A fact confirmed by an M.I.T. professor)
- As of May 20, 1999:
 - A billion seconds ago, Harry Truman was President.
 - A billion minutes ago was just after the time of Christ's first coming here on earth.
 - A billion hours ago man had not yet walked on earth.

One Trillion: (Our U.S. national debt was 20 trillion in 2016; in 2024 it is 34 trillion!)

- A trillion dollar bills, laid end to end, would stretch more than 200 times the distance to the moon and back.
 - Or, end to end, one trillion one dollar bills would stretch 3.5 million miles beyond the sun to a total distance of 96,907,000 miles.
- Stacked up, one trillion silver dollars would reach as high as 5,661,000 Empire State Buildings one on top of the other!
- A shopper buying goods 24 hours a day, seven days a week, would have to spend \$6,000,000 per hour for 19 years!
- One trillion barrels of oil would fuel the entire world for almost 35 years.
- Texas is approximately 270,000 square miles. One trillion square miles would equal 3.7 million states the size of Texas.

If you can think of how much one trillion dollars is, now try to comprehend how much 34 trillion dollars is!

Sources: Hendrik Hertzberg, *One Million* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1970), *AMAC Advantage*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Readers' Digest*, <http://www.travelmath.com/> (Accessed 9/21/16)

Tennessee’s insurance commissioner said recently that the individual health insurance market in her state is “very near collapse.” Premiums for the biggest insurer are expected to increase by an average of 62 percent. Two competitors will post average increase of 46 percent and 44 percent.

But because the spigot of federal subsidies remains wide open, an implosion of health insurance markets around the country seems unlikely. More than 8 out of 10 HealthCare.gov customers get subsidies covering about 70 percent of their total premiums. Instead, the damage is likely to be gradual. Rising premiums deter healthy people from signing up, leaving an insurance pool that’s more expensive to cover each succeeding year. “My real concern is 2018,” said Caroline Pearson, a senior vice president at Avalere. “If there is no improvement in enrollment, we could see big sections of the country without any plans participating.”

If Republican Donald Trump wins the White House, he’d start dismantling the Affordable Care Act [and replace it with a much better plan.] But Clinton would come with a long list of proposed fixes, from rearranging benefits to introducing a government-sponsored “public option” as an alternative to private insurers. *Not all her ideas would require congressional action.* [Emphasis mine. Obama has shown her how to avoid the U. S. Constitution’s tripartite balance of power.]

...But Democrats could not get a public option through Congress even when they had undisputed control.⁸⁴

As often occurs, especially in politics, once a bad idea has been approved, a worse one building on it and taking it to an extreme follows. This Fall, voters in Colorado will find on our ballots Amendment 69, “The State Single Payer System (SSPS),” which has been referred to as “Obamacare on steroids”⁸⁵ by Colorado State Senator Kevin Lundberg.

The proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution has bipartisan opposition, reports Walker Stapleton, the Colorado state treasurer. Stapleton and other Republicans are joined by Democrats including former Governor Bill Ritter and current Governor John Hickenlooper in opposition to the measure.⁸⁶

⁸⁴ Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Can Clinton save health overhaul from its problems? Associated Press, *Reporter-Herald*, August 20, 2016, p. 4B.

⁸⁵ Kevin Lundberg, “Amendment 69: The State Single Payer System (SSPS), a brochure prepared by Senator Lundberg.

⁸⁶ Opinion, “No on Amendment 69: ColoradoCare would be too costly,” *The Denver Post*, April 1, 2016, <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/04/01/no-on-amendment-69-coloradocare-would-be-too-costly/> (Accessed 9/21/16)

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Stapleton also reports that Amendment 69 begins with a \$25 billion tax increase each year, which is a floor, not a ceiling.⁸⁷ If passed into law, writes Linda Gorman, who directs the Independence Institute’s health care policy center, it would make “a bureaucracy called ColoradoCare. It will double the state’s budget in the first year and from then on have a larger budget than the entire State of Colorado.”⁸⁸ It is a 10% tax on all gross income, capital gains, and rental income. It will be administered by a 21-member ColoradoCare board, which is not accountable to the state government and “is empowered to increase taxes, subject to a vote of the plan’s ‘members.’ (This is, by the way, a far different group than Colorado voters, and includes felons, prison inmates, undocumented individuals and others.)”⁸⁹ The foregoing is only the beginning of an economic, health, and political disaster.

The ColoradoCare Amendment 69 is based on ObamaCare. “Boilerplate language lifted from the Obamacare statute requires that ColoradoCare cover broad categories of health care. The requirements are so general that they are effectively useless.”⁹⁰ Opponents argue that sick people from all over the country and elsewhere in the world will come to Colorado for free health care, paid for by you know whom. Amendment 69 makes Colorado a health care Mecca. Be a resident for 15 minutes and you’re covered, legal or illegal, taxpayer or not. But who will supply health care if physicians, investors, suppliers and taxpayers flee the state? As Stapleton says,

Access to quality care is also a concern, since reimbursement levels for doctors and hospitals are not spelled out, causing nationally prominent institutions such as Children’s Hospital of Colorado to express deep concern. We are blessed that Children’s is home to cutting-edge research in childhood diseases, but under ColoradoCare, these pioneering physicians may choose to go elsewhere—or never consider Colorado in the first place.

[Moreover], massive tax increases will drive jobs away from our state.⁹¹

⁸⁷ Walker Stapleton, “Amendment 69 will hurt Colorado,” *Reporter-Herald*, August 5, 2016, p. 4A. Loveland Chamber of Commerce President, Mindy McCloughan, writes that the cost would be “at least 30 billion at outset....Additionally, all non-payroll income would be taxed at 10 percent; this includes business income, rental income, farm and ranch income, taxable pensions, taxable Social Security, taxable interest dividends, taxable refunds and credits, capital gains, taxable IRA distributions and more.” The chamber board of directors has made a unanimous decision to oppose the amendment. “Mindy McCloughan, “From Where I Stand...”, *Reporter-Herald*, May 8, 2016, p. 7B.

⁸⁸ Linda Gorman, “ColoradoCare brings higher taxes, but not health care,” *Reporter-Herald*, August 18, 2016, p. 4A.

⁸⁹ Walker Stapleton, “Amendment 69 will hurt Colorado,” *Reporter-Herald*, August 5, 2016, p. 4A.

⁹⁰ Linda Gorman, “ColoradoCare brings higher taxes, but not health care,” *Reporter-Herald*, August 18, 2016, p. 4A.

⁹¹ Walker Stapleton, “Amendment 69 will hurt Colorado,” *Reporter-Herald*, August 5, 2016, p. 4A.

Linda Gorman explains more. This is just the beginning; it gets worse.

...the bureaucracy will be free to hold snap elections at inconvenient times in obscure places.

...Neither voter registration nor U.S. citizenship is required to vote in ColoradoCare elections.

As icing on the “let’s go back to holding corrupt elections” cake, Amendment 69 lets ColoradoCare accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source.

Amendment 69 does not contain healthcare guarantees. Section 1 directs ColoradoCare to control “the per capita cost of healthcare.” In practice, this means that if someone gets more health care, someone else must get less. It also directs ColoradoCare to “optimize quality, value and healthy outcomes.” If you and your care are insufficiently valuable, ColoradoCare doesn’t have to pay. [EDS NOTE: And here we have the end product of socialism and socialized medicine!]

Notice Section 9!

Section 9 of Amendment 69 stipulates that paying ColoradoCare taxes does not “constitute the purchase of a health insurance policy.” Without a policy contract, ColoradoCare is not required to provide you with any particular treatment or service. According to legal opinion provided to the Colorado Health Foundation, the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act will protect ColoradoCare from lawsuits brought by people harmed by its refusal to provide care.

Amendment 69 includes another effectively useless directive guaranteeing that people be allowed to choose their primary care provider. It does not guarantee that who you see will be a physician. Covered primary care providers may be limited to nurse practitioners or physician’s assistants. It also fails to guarantee that patients have the right to choose their treatments, specialists or hospitals.

It does not cover people in Medicaid, Medicare, and other federal programs. It does not cover people with private insurance. These people must still pay the 10 percent tax increase [emphases mine]. Amendment 69 does not guarantee out-of-state treatment....Under it, people may end up needing coverage for health care provided out of Colorado.

Amendment 69 uses price controls to ration access to ColoradoCare’s “free” care....Providers cannot accept more than the allowed amount even if patients or insurers want to pay more to ensure decent care.

Amendment 69 is a combination of the highest taxes in the nation and an unaccountable bureaucracy that dictates the care you may receive and the price you may pay for it. It guarantees higher taxes, but not health care.⁹²

For these, which are enough, and many other reasons, our Colorado state treasurer correctly concludes, “Amendment 69 must [not only be defeated but] soundly defeated.”⁹³

This is like kids thinking they’re in a candy shop! They want whatever they want and for someone else to pay for it.

What we are observing here is an exact illustration of what careful thinkers were saying would occur, during the heated debate in Obama’s first term prior to the passage of the deceptively and purposefully misnamed Affordable Healthcare Act. The wisest approach to the healthcare debacle is to repeal and replace it. As Republican Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming said, “We have an obligation to the people who voted for us to proceed with ‘repeal and replace.’”⁹⁴

That’s not what Hillary is thinking at all. Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) has done the following analysis.

[ATR] has analyzed Clinton’s proposed \$1 trillion list of tax increases. They include:

- Increasing income taxes by \$350 billion in the form of a 28 percent cap on itemized deductions.
- Businesses would be slapped with a tax hike on \$250 billion through “undefined business tax reform.”
- There’s the euphemistically named “fairness tax” of \$400 billion she says would restore “basic fairness” to our tax code and an increase in the death tax.

⁹² Linda Gorman, “ColoradoCare brings higher taxes, but not health care,” *Reporter-Herald*, August 18, 2016, p. 4A.

⁹³ Walker Stapleton, “Amendment 69 will hurt Colorado,” *Reporter-Herald*, August 5, 2016, p. 4A. [EDS Note: Thankfully, this ill-conceived amendment was soundly defeated 78.9% NO (2,065,362) vs. 21.0% Yes (551,979) after 100% of the vote was tallied.] <http://data.denverpost.com/election/results/amendment/2016/69-state-healthcare-system/> (Accessed 12/14/16)

⁹⁴ Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Obamacare: Repeal or retain? Election opens final act,” *Associated Press, Reporter-Herald*, August 21, 2016, p. 7A.

ATR notes: "...there are even more Clinton tax hike proposals not included in the tally above. Her campaign has failed to release specific details for many of her proposals. The true Clinton net tax hike figure is likely much higher than \$1 trillion."⁹⁵

Columnist, Cal Thomas, offered these informed quotes from Donald Trump's speech to the Detroit Economic Club Monday, August 8, 2016, explaining the more proper role of government and business.

'...The most direct and significant kind of federal action aiding economic growth is to make possible an increase in private consumption and investment demand—to cut the fetters which hold back private spending.'

Increasing federal spending, as Clinton has proposed, would, said the economic club speaker, 'soon demoralize both the government and our economy. If government is to retain the confidence of the people, it must not spend more than can be justified on grounds of national need...'

The federal government, he said, 'siphons out of the private economy too large a share of personal and business purchasing power; (and) reduces the financial incentives for personal effort, investment and risk-taking. In short, to increase demand and lift the economy, the federal government's most useful role is not to rush into a program of excessive increases in public expenditures, but to expand the incentives and opportunities for private expenditures.

"Corporate tax rates must also be cut to increase incentives and the availability of investment capital. ...For all these reasons, next year's tax bill should reduce personal as well as corporate income taxes for those in the lower brackets, who are certain to spend their additional take-home pay, and for those in the idle and upper brackets, who can thereby be encouraged to undertake additional efforts and enabled to invest more capital."

If you haven't yet guessed, the quotes you just read are from a speech President John F. Kennedy delivered to the New York Economic Club on Dec. 14, 1962.

⁹⁵ Cal Thomas, "Hillary's recycled speech," Tribune Content Agency, *Reporter-Herald*, August 3, 2016, p. 4A. Thomas reports that more details can be seen at atr.org/full-list-hillary-s-planned-tax-hikes.

In attacking Donald Trump for wanting to cut personal and corporate taxes, and reduce federal spending and federal control over our lives, Hillary Clinton is effectively attacking the martyred JFK. Kennedy's proposals were followed by Ronald Reagan's major tax cuts and a reduction in tax rates, which had reached 70 percent on regular income for the highest earners under Jimmy Carter. Under Reagan, the government took in more tax revenue because lower tax rates gave people and businesses the incentive to work harder and earn more.

In his Detroit speech, Trump noted how liberal economic policies have failed that once-prosperous city. That's because Democrats have controlled the political machine there for more than five decades.

Detroit is the living, breathing example of my opponent's failed economic agenda," Trump said....She supports the high taxes and radical regulation that forced jobs out of your community and the crime policies that have made you less safe. And the immigration policies that have strained local budgets....And she supports the education policies that deny your students choice, freedom and opportunity.

...Liberal policies have failed....[Thomas concludes his column with the observation that Hillary Clinton is actually] "the anti-JFK candidate."⁹⁶

By contrast, Trump has proposed a simplified three-bracket income tax system similar to what Republicans in the U. S. House of Representatives have presented.

Trump focused in part on taxes on U.S. businesses, declaring that no company should pay more than 15 percent of its income in taxes. That would be a major drop from the current 35 percent corporate tax rate, though many companies pay much less because of various deductions. He also called for a moratorium on federal regulations, which he framed as strangling businesses.⁹⁷

For a very thoughtful explanation of the fundamental principles of economics that is written in a very engaging and conversational manner, see the essay by my friend and fellow church member, Greg Northrup, entitled "Economics from a Christian Perspective." This long-time and successful businessman explains the key principles of sound economics and integrates his explanation with historic Biblically-based Christian theology. He shows how these principles can be used in the home, at work, and to help

⁹⁶ Cal Thomas, "Those 'old tired ideas'," Tribune Content Agency, *Reporter-Herald*, August 12, 2016, p. 4A.

⁹⁷ Jill Colvin and Josh Lederman, "Trump tries to right his campaign," Associated Press, *Reporter-Herald*, August 9, 2016, p. 6A.

disadvantaged people, for example in the inner cities. The essay can be accessed on the Current Issues page of my general Website at <http://www.fromacorntoak12.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Economics-from-a-Christian-Perspective-by-Greg-Northrup.pdf>.

Which of these two tax plans above do you think will leave businesses with more money to hire people?

One day, Carol, my wife, came to me and asked, “Did you hear about the new simplified tax form the government has come up with?” I said, “No; what is it?” She said it just has four lines:

1. How much did you make last year?
2. What were your expenses?
3. How much do you have left over?
4. Send it in!

That was several years ago, and it was a joke. Now it’s becoming all too close to reality.

15. Much, much more can be cited as evidence that the heavily promoted view that the Democrat Party is the party that cares about poor people and has the best economic and social policies for them is both highly questionable and not borne out in reality. Just these few examples, out of many more available, are sufficient to establish the point. First consider Sheriff David Clark of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, who has been interviewed widely and is receiving a lot of press.

...Sheriff Clark, who is African-American, offered his explanation for the major cause of riots in Milwaukee and other cities: “You know what encourages this? The growth of the welfare state. These are underclass behaviors. Seventy percent of the kids born in Milwaukee...are born without an engaged father in their life [due in large part to government requirements necessary to receive public money]. So I look at the progressive policies that have marginalized black dads. They push them to the side and say, ‘you’re not needed.’ Uncle Sam is going to be the dad, he’s going to provide for the kids, he’s going to feed the kids....Uncle Sam has been a horrible father. Uncle Sam does not love these kids. He might keep a little food in their mouths and that’s about it. But we all know the importance of an intact family, what it can do to shape the behavior of kids.”

Sheriff Clark called progressive policies “a total disaster,” not only in Milwaukee, but in Chicago, Baltimore, New York and elsewhere. “These

progressive policies have hit the black community like a nuclear blast, and until we reverse this government dependency, that's what creates all this and it encourages it by the way along with some questionable lifestyle choices."⁹⁸

Many other examples, in addition to this one from columnist Cal Thomas, can be given, and I'm only describing the tip of an iceberg. ***An increasing number of African-American and other minorities are articulating the same observation from their own experience.*** LBJ's "Great Society" never worked in spite of spending \$20.7 trillion. Nancy Thorner writes,

According to Robert Rector, a specialist on welfare and poverty at The Heritage Foundation, the war on poverty has been a failure when measured by the overall amount of money spent (\$20.7 trillion) and how poverty rates haven't changed significantly since Johnson gave his address back in 1964. *Notwithstanding, during the Obama administration the poverty level has reached a 50-year high.* [Emphasis mine]

According to Rector, too many government anti-poverty programs still discourage marriage. Statistics show how more than four in 10 children are born to unmarried parents. [Put this stat together with the well-documented social science research showing that single parent families are more likely to be poor than other families and less likely to ascend the income ladder.] When the war on poverty started, about 6 percent of children were born outside of marriage.

As benefits swelled, welfare came to serve as a substitute for a breadwinner husband at home through the marginalization of the men who had heretofore headed those families. *It is inconceivable today that a record 47 million Americans receive food stamps.* That is about 13 million more than when Obama took office. [Emphasis mine]

In commemoration of the 50 years and the \$20 trillion spent since President Johnson used his State of the Union address in 1964, to declare his unconditional War on Poverty in America, the *Wall Street Journal* on January 7 published an opinion piece by Robert Rector: "How the War on Poverty Was Lost."

What an unmitigated disaster. We never learn, no matter how bad the outcome. What do we do? We double down and believe more welfare will be better.

⁹⁸ Cal Thomas, "Sheriff David Clarke speaks truth," Tribune Content Agency, *Reporter-Herald*, August 19, 2016, p. 4A.

About all we have accomplished in the last 50 years of this lost cause is to spend \$20 trillion (that is with a *t*, and a very large sum of money); destroy the nuclear family idea (most tragically, blacks suffered most); moved out-of-wedlock birth from around 6% to over 41% (again mostly imposed on the African American community [*many if not most of whom are our brothers and sisters in Christ!*]); destroyed any semblance of work ethic among those in poverty; and created a welfare society no economy can afford or sustain.⁹⁹

Since Nancy Thorne wrote that article two years ago, at least a million more are on food stamps. Now 14 million more people are on food stamps than eight years ago.

Conservatives and many Republicans argue that the most realistic way to look out for the weak, helpless, and needy is to give them opportunities for having a sustainable job where they can provide for their families and themselves, and where they can improve, where they can move up to jobs with more likelihood for advancement, responsibility, and remuneration, and where they can more easily view themselves as having self-worth and dignity. However, on June 3, 2016 it was reported that the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics disclosed that a record 94,708,000 people were not in the labor force in May, 664,000 less than in April; they're giving up looking and are not included in the unemployment figures (the "Washington math") regularly reported in the media that are designed to mislead than to accurately inform.¹⁰⁰

The above evidence parallels my own perception that the Democrat party of today is not the Democrat party of 50 years ago. Many Democrats I knew back then and previously would never have supported, not only with votes but with public tax dollars, such unbiblical, dangerous, unhealthy, and grossly immoral policies as abortion, much less at any stage; tax money going to paying for birth control; homosexuality; the oxymoronic concept of "same-sex marriage;" and "Obamaphones," Medicaid, Social Security benefits, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), "sanctuary cities," and allowing Muslim immigrants without vetting from countries rife with terrorists. I remember one Democrat in our family who wanted the country to go back to the previous policy that required immigrants to have a sponsor in this country so the public didn't have to support them with their tax dollars.

⁹⁹ Nancy Thorne, "LBJ's 'Great Society' Programs Are at the Core of America's Poverty Crisis," The Heartland Institute, January 16, 2014. <http://blog.heartland.org/2014/01/lbjs-great-society-programs-at-the-core-of-nations-poverty/> (Accessed 9/7/16) See also Robert Rector, "The War on Poverty: 50 years of failure," The Heritage Foundation, September 23, 2014. <http://www.heritage.org/research/commentary/2014/9/50-years-of-failure-in-the-war-on-poverty> (Accessed 9/10/16)

¹⁰⁰ Susan Jones, "Record 94,708,000 Americans Not in Labor Force; Participation Rate Drops in May," <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/susan-jones/record-94708000-americans-not-labor-force-participation-rate-drops> (Accessed 9/10/16)

Those Democrats who do have some concern for the dangerous national debt offer as their solution an increase in taxes. This would be to tax not only ourselves but also our children and grandchildren, many of whom are as yet unborn and many not of voting age, which means that they are being taxed without their voice being heard. Ironically, such taxation without representation was the key issue that resulted in the revolution against England that led to the beginning of our country in order to have independence and freedom from such taxation. Such thinking also ignores the historic fact that lowering taxes typically results in a significant increase in revenue due to the corporate and individual incomes being higher and more taxable and people spending more on goods that are taxed.

Furthermore, the debt is largely the result of the misguided and unjustly maneuvered policy to try to stimulate the economy (“the economic stimulus”) when the “Great Recession” began. The stimulus, the shaky rationale for which was hotly debated, was enacted when the Democrats held the office of President and the majority of both houses of the U. S. Congress, the first two years after the election of Barak Obama. The stimulus failed to end the recession, which arguably continues in spite of the manipulation of “Washington math” that attempts to make the economy look better than it is. Just ask the 95 million people who are out of work, the many others who have jobs where they haven’t received a raise in several years, and others who can only find a part-time job doing work for which they are overqualified, find unfulfilling, but necessary in order to feed their families and pay other bills.

In fact, the recession’s main cause has been ignored and very underreported, except by some who’ve been paying attention. A significant cause of the “Great Recession” was the very unwise government pressure on banks in the 1990s that required banks to make risky home loans to lower income people who were unable to keep up with the payments. The program finally collapsed toward the end of the first decade of the new millennium with a multitude of foreclosures and related negative economic ripple effects.

Taxing our children and grandchildren to pay off a huge national debt is unjust and unfair, immoral, irresponsible, and unconscionable, not only philosophically but Biblically and theologically. It teaches children and others that it is OK to spend money one does not have and expect others to help pay for the debt, with the additional result that instead of helping, they wind up with the bulk of the burden. It is also poor stewardship.

One does not have to have the gift of prophecy to foresee the end result of such “fiscal foolishness,” as columnist George Will refers to the Democrat economic philosophy that, I add, is supported by weak “Moderate Republicans” who “go along to get along” (and accomplish some of their personal goals and sellout their constituents) in the process. We are seeing the results in the failure of city and state economies. Will cites Illinois as just one example.

...self-government is failing in the nation's fifth-most populous state...the Democrats who, with veto-proof majorities in the state Legislature, have reduced this state they control to insolvency.

Illinois' government, says [Republican Gov. Bruce] Rauner, "is run for the benefit of its employees." Increasingly, it is run for their benefit when they retire. Pension promises, though unfunded by at least \$113 billion, are one reason some government departments are not digitized at all.

What is misleadingly called the state's Constitution requires balanced budgets, of which there have been none for 25 years. This year, revenues are projected to be \$32.5 billion with spending of \$38 billion....

Illinois is a leading indicator of increasing national childishness—an unwillingness to will the means for the ends that it wills.

Nationally, neither party is eager to talk about the rickety structure of the entitlement state, although the Democratic [sic] platform promises to make matters worse. Although scheduled Social Security benefits vastly exceed the value of worker and employer contributions plus interest, the platform, a case study in reactionary liberalism, opposes even raising the retirement age.

The federal government can continue to print money. There are bankruptcy procedures for cities but not for states. So Illinois will continue bleeding the population and businesses....¹⁰¹

many of whom are fleeing to next-door Wisconsin and Indiana. What about the United States? Where can it flee? It can only pass the baton of an incomprehensively huge national debt to its children and grandchildren. This is wrong. Look for the candidate who will most likely try to reduce, rather than add to, the national debt. Obama doubled the national debt during his term in office, of which Hillary Clinton was a part. What is she likely to do?

The Democrat plan to raise the funds for anything, including getting out of debt, is to raise taxes, which is what Hillary wants to do. That, of course, takes more money out of the family's bank and other financial accounts. It limits what they can spend and what the government can receive in sales tax revenue. It also takes money away from

¹⁰¹ George Will, "Illinois exemplifies our fiscal foolishness," *Washington Post, Reporter-Herald*, August 11, 2016, p. 4A.

businesses and prohibits them from hiring more workers and giving raises to those they already employ. Cal Thomas explains more.

Hillary Clinton again is using the liberal code word “investment.” She means [more government] spending. As the debt approaches \$20 trillion, a wise person might say we need to spend less, not more, starting with reforming entitlement programs, which consume a great deal of the budget. Would any business survive a sales strategy that has failed so dramatically?

President Obama has tried everything Hillary Clinton is proposing. It hasn’t worked. Economic growth is stagnant and the 5 percent unemployment rate masks a labor force that has either given up looking for work, is working only part time or is working at jobs that pay less than the employee previously earned. Insurance companies are pulling out of Obamacare due to its high cost....Bloomberg.com reports home ownership is at its lowest level since 1965.

...If you like the damage President Obama has caused, vote for Hillary. She will give you more of the same and you won’t like it.¹⁰²

The liberal, Democrat, economic view is to raise taxes and give poor people a lot of government programs to try to “redistribute the wealth,” and in the process to keep them dependent on the government with the result that they will continue to vote Democrat. It is encouraging to see that some poor people are noticing the flaws of that policy and are beginning to speak out, as we saw above.

We don’t need to look any farther than Indiana to see the evidence of the effects of lowering taxes. Consider what Trump’s running mate, Gov. Mike Pence has done in Indiana. Cal Thomas reports on his interview with the governor.

Pence’s record as governor is a profile in conservatism: a 5 percent reduction in the state income tax; a reduction in the state corporation tax from 6.5 percent to 4.9 percent (that must have appealed to Trump who wants to cut corporate taxes to return jobs to the U.S.) and an increase in the state labor force which according to the governor’s office, by the end of 2014, had grown by more than 51,000 over that year. That was *five times the national growth rate*.¹⁰³ [Emphasis mine]

¹⁰² Cal Thomas, “What the past can teach us,” Tribune Content Agency, Reporter-Herald, August 17, 2016, p. 4A.

¹⁰³ Cal Thomas, “Pence is salt to Trump’s pepper,” Tribune Content Agency, *Reporter-Herald*, July 20, 2016, p. 4A.

He's putting many people back to work and in jobs where they can advance and improve their and their families financial well-being.

Not only African-American people, but Hispanic people are understanding this reality as well. In Colorado, former CU regent, Tom Lucero, whose great grandparents immigrated to the United States from Spain, has become the paid Hispanic outreach coordinator for Donald Trump's campaign. Lucero explained more in a recent interview.

As for reaching Hispanic voters in the state, Lucero, like Trump, blames "the media" for much of the disconnect of the Republican Party with minority groups.

...While the Hispanic voting bloc isn't monolithic, Lucero said, Hispanic communities are entrepreneurial and care about education.

His focus is to show Hispanic voters that the Republican Party and Donald Trump want to help them with their businesses through the repeal of stringent government regulations and Obamacare, and provide school choice and vouchers, which he asserts Hispanic voters want.¹⁰⁴

16. Don't buy the deceptions being promoted to justify the poor economy. Two deceptions in particular are being promulgated: that the economy is just fine and that we are in the "new normal."

a. George Will observes that our economy is not at all fine, and it hasn't been fine for the last 7 ½ years.

America's economy has now slouched into the eighth year of a recovery that demonstrates how much we have defied recovery down. The idea that essentially zero interest rates are, after 7 ½ years, stimulating the economy "strains credulity," says James Bullard, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. But last month he and other members of the Federal Reserve Board understandably felt constrained to vote unanimously to continue today's rates for an economy that created just 38,000 new jobs in May, and grew just 0.8 percent in the first quarter, after just 1.4 percent in the previous quarter.

N. Gregory Mankiw, Harvard economist and chairman of George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers, writes in *The New York Times* that in the last decade the growth rate of real GDP per person averaged

¹⁰⁴ Saja Hindi, "Lucero campaigns for Hispanic vote: Resident and Former House District 51 candidate working for Colorado Trump campaign," *Reporter-Herald*, August 13, 2016, p. 3A.

0.44 percent, down from the historical norm of 2 percent: At 2 percent, incomes double every 35 years; at 0.44 percent, about every 160 years.

...Bullard says “labor market data is giving us different”—he means more encouraging—“signals than the GDP data.” But surely the fact that the official unemployment rate is down to 4.7 percent is less important than this: The workforce participation rate has plunged, which has been only partly because of the population aging—baby boomers retiring. If labor participation were as high as when Barack Obama became president, the unemployment rate would be over 9 percent.

...Those whose wealth comes from wages—formerly the Democratic Party’s base—are losing ground. No wonder Hillary Clinton vows to “expand” Social Security, never mind its rickety financial architecture.

...Bullard says “the most disturbing number about the economy is that for five years productivity has grown only half a percent a year.”¹⁰⁵

- b. When the first deception is shown to be untrue, when faced with the statistics that cannot be denied, the line is being promoted that “we’re just going to have to face the fact that things are different today, and we can’t go back to the ‘good ole days’ that weren’t that good anyway. We just have to get used to the fact that this is the ‘new normal.’”
- 1) In the first place, such a statement not only ignores solid math and sound economics, a sample of which follows, it displays a common error in logic called the naturalistic fallacy. The field of logic, a subfield of philosophy, has identified and explained many errors in reasoning, one of them called the naturalistic fallacy is the attempt to reason from “is” to “ought.” Doing so is illogical; just because something is, does not mean it ought to be. The existence of something does not ipso facto validate it.¹⁰⁶
 - 2) Regarding the issue before us, many thoughtful people in the field of economics and related fields point out the faulty reasoning that has led to the financial trouble in our current economy. We cannot here present the exhaustive explanation, but neither is it necessary. As any family knows, if more money is spent than is brought home, debt occurs, and if it builds to a certain point, deep and difficult trouble occurs that is hard, but not impossible, to overcome. How is

¹⁰⁵ George Will, “Is anemic growth the new normal?” *Washington Post, Reporter-Herald*, July 10, 2016, p. 4A.

¹⁰⁶ If you’d like a brief primer in logical fallacies, see [Logic: A Primer on Common Logical Fallacies](#), which is available on both my general and academic Websites.

it overcome? By first of all cutting spending. The same is true on the levels of local, state, and national government.

How Can I as a Christian Vote for Donald Trump?

17. Donald Trump is likely a relatively new Christian, and therefore one who still has a lot to learn about maturity in Christ-likeness. As Dr. James Dobson observed, he appears to be a baby Christian.¹⁰⁷ Author, Christian psychologist, and radio host Dobson, whose work I've long known, respected, and used, was invited to be part of an Evangelical Executive Advisory Board of 25 well-known Christian leaders to give advice to Trump through the campaign process and, if he's elected, to continue doing so in the White House.

In the citation in the preceding paragraph, Dobson identifies the 25 members of the advisory board. While I question certain theological positions of some of the 25, they all are conservative evangelical Christians who will give much better advice than liberal Christians or non-Christians. That observation, together with other signals of who Trump is likely to select in advising roles, suggests he will be receiving significantly more accurate advice that will better serve our country, indeed the Lord's country, than will Hillary and those who have her ear.

If he is a new Christian, and he matures in Christ, the Bible and historic Christian theology indicate that behavior change for the better is in progress, especially the more the new believer engages in the time-honored procedures that facilitate sanctification, the spiritual growth in Christ-likeness. Such procedures include attendance at public worship services and personal Bible reading and prayer. This is an important matter to look for in the candidates.

While not being able to say for sure where the candidates are spiritually, since I don't know them personally, from what I can tell from their publicly observable behavior, it seems that if they are Christians, neither of them are very mature in the faith. The question then becomes, "Is there any indication that one will likely mature spiritually more than the other, which maturity would affect their decision-making, especially on many key issues?" An attendant question is, "Who are they relating to; specifically, who is influencing them?" Since Clinton doesn't appear to be maturing and is heavily involved with many who are non-Christians and also with immature Christians who espouse and hold to unbiblical positions, as does the candidate, one of the most serious of which is being pro-abortion, and since Trump is a new Christian, relates to people who are more conservative and has gathered around him Christians and conservatives who hold views more consistent with God's Word, including the advisory group to which Dobson referred and of which he is a member, and since the candidate holds to views more in line with the Bible, such as being pro-life, I expect that we are more likely to see more mature behavior from Trump.

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.drjamesdobson.org/about/august-newsletter-2016?sc=MSIDEBAR> (Accessed 8/15/2016)

My concern with Clinton is that while she for many years has claimed to be a Christian, I don't see evidence of concomitant moral applications to daily life. It is true that she has remained with her husband, who is well known to be an adulterous womanizer, instead of divorcing him, which at face value is admirable, but in the light of her other, unbiblical, values, I'm wondering if her motive is more political than spiritual: her obvious focus for decades has been on positioning herself for being the first woman President. She must know it is uncertain whether this country is ready for a woman President and that it is much less certain it is ready for a divorced one, all due compassion and grace toward those who are to the contrary notwithstanding, given the desire of most people, whose national ethos has been shaped by the Bible, for the President being a role model. Even Obama presents the positive public image of a traditional family man, until one looks beneath the image and sees the unbiblical values he has voted for, espouses, and promotes pertaining to partial-birth abortion; allowing babies who've survived an abortion to lie and die alone on a gurney unattended and uncared for by any human; LGBTQ+ activism; and so-called "same-sex marriage."

With the above-mentioned indications that Trump is a new Christian, we have more likelihood that maturing in Christ may be forthcoming. Strong predictors of how people are likely to behave are indicated in the people they invite into their inner circle, their best friends, confidants, and advisors. The old Spanish proverb states this truth well: "Tell me with whom you walk, and I'll tell you who you are."¹⁰⁸

From a Biblical perspective should I vote, and if so, can I vote for Donald Trump?

Much more could be said. However, none of it outweighs the above, which is sufficient to answer the initial question and the corollary question it begs, i.e., should I vote, and if so, for whom? From the perspective of the Bible, the answers are clear: Yes, and for Donald Trump. In spite of the fact that we might prefer another candidate to be the standard bearer of the GOP, he's the only viable one at this point, and what he is likely to do—especially in light of his track record with one term in office—as President is much more in line with the moral values and other proven principles in the history of this country than those for which Hillary Clinton (and now also current President Joseph Biden), stands, promotes, and practices.

As I stated above, Donald Trump was not my preferred choice for candidate for President. But this election is not about what I prefer. The guiding principle is that this is God's world; it's all his, including the United States of America. When I mark my ballot, I have to do so on the basis of what does God's Word tell us in the way of guidelines indicating what his will is for the leaders in his world. When I mark my ballot this year with those guidelines as my standard, and, realistically, with only these two candidates as the ones from which to choose, the choice is clear: Donald Trump, whether I like him or not, the likelihood that he will lead this country closer to the values espoused in the Bible is considerably higher than Hillary (and now Biden)

¹⁰⁸ *Chicago Tribune*, September 30, 1998, Sec. 1, p. 30.

doing so. Trump is no savior, but he's much more likely than Hillary (and now Biden) to do what this country (which is God's country, as is the rest of the world) most needs.

Consider what Dr. Wayne Grudem, seminary professor of Christian ethics for 39 years has written:

In the history of American politics, candidates who have been elected president have occasionally changed their minds on one or another issue while in office, but no president has ever gone back on most of what he has promised to do, especially on issues that are crucially important in the election. In this election, it is reasonable to think that the *most likely result* is that both Trump and Clinton will do what they have promised to do. That is the basis on which we should decide how to vote.

And notice how Trump has changed his mind. He continues to move in a more conservative direction, as evidenced by his list of judges and his choice for vice president. Just as he succeeded in business by listening to the best experts to solve each problem, I suspect that he has been learning from the best experts in conservative political thought and has increasingly found that conservative solutions really work.¹⁰⁹

I do not claim to have the gift of prophecy; I do not believe that is one of the gifts the Holy Spirit has given me. Furthermore, it is my practice to avoid making predictions. Nevertheless, as one with a background in social science research, I'm well aware that that is one of the main goals of social science: to study social phenomena and try to predict what will occur under specific circumstances in order to inform decision-making so that the outcome of the decision will be positive and productive. Some of those phenomena that are examined constitute trends, what business executives call track record, which tends to be very reliable. So I read carefully, especially the most trustworthy and thoroughly informed people. Thus, I like Grudem's conclusion after thorough study, the findings of which he documents in his essay, the URL to which I've included in the footnotes for your further reading. Please read his essay, including this section:

...the *most likely* result of not voting for Trump is that you will be abandoning thousands of unborn babies who will be put to death under Hillary Clinton's Supreme Court, thousands of Christians who will be excluded from their lifelong occupations, thousands of the poor who will never again be able to find high-paying jobs in an economy crushed by government hostility toward business, thousands of inner-city children who will never be able to get a good education, thousands of the sick and elderly who will never get adequate medical treatment when the government is the nation's only healthcare provider, thousands of

¹⁰⁹ Wayne Grudem, "Why Voting for Donald Trump Is a Morally Good Choice," July 28, 2016, *Townhall*, <http://townhall.com/columnists/waynegrudem/2016/07/28/why-voting-for-donald-trump-is-a-morally-good-choice-n2199564> (Accessed 10/1/16)

people who will be killed by an unchecked ISIS, and millions of Jews in Israel who will find themselves alone and surrounded by hostile enemies. And you will be contributing to a permanent loss of the American system of government due to a final victory of unaccountable judicial tyranny.

When I look at it this way, my conscience, and my considered moral judgment tell me that I must vote for Donald Trump as the candidate who is most likely to do the most good for the United States of America.¹¹⁰

Franklin Graham has summarized the significance of the election very well. As he typically does, he writes from a sound Biblical frame of reference. Please read it carefully and use his reflections to inform your decision as to how you will vote.

The Most Important Election of Our Lifetime

Franklin Graham

In just three weeks, our nation will select a man or woman who will become the 45th president of the United States of America. Whomever we elect will take the helm of a nation that has grown increasingly hostile and intolerant of the very foundation and principles upon which it was so nobly founded—the Christian faith and biblical values.

That’s why I believe this election is the most significant since Abraham Lincoln was chosen to guide a divided country through a bloody and protracted civil war.

For if the forces of evil that are allied against the free exercise of our faith succeed—and they have done severe damage already—then I have no doubt that the nation we love will devolve into moral anarchy more quickly than we can imagine.

Earlier this summer, I had the privilege of meeting with the Stormans family, devout Christians who own a local pharmacy in Olympia, Washington. The Stormanses refused to dispense a drug called Plan B that induces abortion. After a series of state and federal court battles, they filed a petition before the U.S. Supreme Court. The day before we met, the Supreme Court refused to hear their case. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas said they would have heard the appeal, but unfortunately they were in the minority. In his dissent, Justice Alito said, “If this is a sign of how religious liberty claims will be treated in the years ahead, those who value religious freedom have cause for great concern.”

¹¹⁰ Wayne Grudem, “Why Voting for Donald Trump Is a Morally Good Choice,” July 28, 2016, *Townhall*, <http://townhall.com/columnists/waynegrudem/2016/07/28/why-voting-for-donald-trump-is-a-morally-good-choice-n2199564> (Accessed 10/1/16)

He is absolutely and frighteningly right. The generations of Americans who have treasured and enjoyed the blessings of religious liberty, of being one nation under God, now have “cause for great concern.”

Same-sex marriage zealots have launched an all-out war on traditional marriage, which is defined in Scripture—and virtually every civilization in history—as a union between one man and one woman. Human sexuality itself is being completely redefined by elite sexual revolutionaries who seek to impose their warped views on society, resulting in fierce battles over such things as transgender bathrooms—supported by none other than the president himself.

The same anti-Christian forces are seeking to strip funding from Christian colleges to keep them from educating students with a biblical worldview. Business owners across the nation have been forced to close their doors because they refused to participate in same-sex ceremonies due to their religious faith.

The skirmishes over moral standards have turned into pitched battles over the last decade and now have become an all-out war on religious liberty. Think of the moral degeneration that has transpired under our current president, who has helped lead the fight to promote ungodly sexual behavior while failing to protect basic religious liberties.

What if that depraved trajectory continues over the next few decades? Can you imagine what our great nation, whose foundation was laid by a moral and religious people, will look like? The next president will appoint several Supreme Court justices (three of the current eight are 77 or older), so this election will profoundly affect generations to come.

That’s why this fall we must take pains to examine where the candidates for our nation’s highest elected office stand on the critical issues that face our troubled nation.

Will they do everything they can to protect the life of the unborn child? Will they fight for the religious freedom that is guaranteed under the Constitution? Will they fully support the rights of men and women of faith to act in accordance with their sincerely held religious beliefs?

Will they defend our nation against Islamic terrorists who have slaughtered and killed innocents across our country in the name of their god? Will they call the enemy—radical Islam—by its name? Will they work to strengthen our military so the United States of America can continue to be the dependable guardian of the free world?

Will they defend the biblical sanctity of marriage as between one man and one woman, and do all they can to protect the family unit? Will they continue to lead us down the road of irresponsible socialism, where the biblical injunction for hard, honest work is ignored? Or will we embrace a resurgence of vigorous

entrepreneurship and industry that has been a hallmark of our nation since its founding?

Will they appoint judges to the Supreme Court and federal courts who respect and uphold the safeguards of the U.S. Constitution? Judges who refuse to interpret the law based on decadent ideology and liberal political agendas that are directly opposed to the fundamental tenets of religious freedom?

It's also crucial for us to examine the positions of candidates who are running for office on the state and local level. Check their stance on pivotal moral issues, and vote for those who best reflect biblical values. We must be willing to do our homework on those men and women who represent us, and go out on November 8 to do all we can to exercise our voting privilege. Remember: Nearly 30 million evangelicals failed to make their way to the voting booth in the last election cycle. We must not repeat that mistake again this November.

Samuel Adams, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence, reminded us of the staggering responsibility of casting a ballot. "Let each citizen remember, at the moment he is offering his vote, that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual—or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society, for which he is accountable to God and his country."

As I have visited state capitols for our Decision America Tour, beginning in Des Moines, Iowa, on January 5 and ending in Raleigh, North Carolina, on October 13, it has been clear that multitudes of Americans know our nation is in deep trouble. They have come by the thousands because they love their country and are willing to call on God in prayer.

Standing shoulder to shoulder at every stop, they have come repenting of their sins and asking the Lord to heal our land. I believe God hears the cries of His people, and that there is still time for our nation to turn once again back to Almighty God for a renewal of righteousness.

I've made it clear from the beginning that I am not endorsing any candidate. I don't have any hope in either the Republican or Democratic Party. My hope is in Almighty God alone, who can turn hearts back to Him so that we can sincerely say that "righteousness exalts a nation" (Proverbs 14:34). Yet, a careful vote could extend the time we have to freely preach the gospel.

In our nation's history, we have witnessed such spiritual and national renewal in seasons like the Great Awakening. I believe it can happen again, because I believe that God is full of mercy and forgiveness to people who come in genuine repentance.

The Bible says, “Sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). The disgrace of America due to persistent, willful, rebellious sin is shameful. We will not survive as a “city set on a hill” (Matthew 5:14) without God’s help.

I want God’s blessings on America, but that will only come to a people who forsake sin and pursue righteousness. That’s the vision of America that I have, and one that I hope will once again hold sway for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. ©2016 BGEA¹¹¹

We must never forget this Biblical reality.

As we make our decision for whom to vote and how to vote on the proposals in this year’s election and in all future elections, none of the outcomes, even if they all go our way, will be sufficient to turn our country around and make us righteous and acceptable in God’s sight. Our hope and our well-being is not, and never can be, in politics.

The only hope for our country is the extension and nurture of God’s kingdom. In the Bible, the kingdom of God, which the Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray for it to come “on earth as it is in heaven,” the kingdom of God is the rule of God in human hearts and minds. One enters the kingdom of God by the regeneration, the being “born again,” of the Holy Spirit.

But it is not enough to only “be born again.” If the Holy Spirit regenerated everyone in the United States, but their faith was not nurtured, we would have a nation full of spiritual infants. Chuck Colson observed that the church is too much that way now. He said, “Christianity in America is three thousand miles wide and an inch deep.” His point, of course, was that too many Christians don’t nurture their faith; it remains shallow and lacks solid substance to provide maturity in Christ-likeness.

Therefore, it is important to not only extend God’s kingdom, by proclaiming God’s Word and praying for the Holy Spirit to make that proclamation effective in people’s hearts and minds, thus enabling them to believe in Jesus Christ, experience salvation, and become part of his church, but we also need to facilitate the nurture of the people in God’s kingdom as well. The nurture of his kingdom is what the apostle Paul was referring to in the fourth chapter of his letter to the Ephesians when he wrote that the church (God’s primary means through which he is fulfilling his plan to redeem his creation) has been given gifts and work to do using those gifts

...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹¹¹ Quoted in Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk enews@enews.drjamesdobson.org Tue 10/4/2016 9:15 AM

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:12-15)

Can you imagine what this country would be like if everyone, even if over half the nation, functioned according to the rule of God in their hearts and minds?

The brilliant Christian thinker, author, and founder of Prison Fellowship, Chuck Colson, pointed out the link between our Christian faith and engaging the political process, between believing God's Word and acting on it in daily life. He maintained that "Christians have a duty to be engaged in the political process. The very least we should be doing is voting. **We should be the best of citizens.** We should bring the values of the kingdom of God to bear in the kingdom of man."¹¹²

The immorality in this country, and the people it harms, is appalling. We don't know how much more immorality God will permit in this country before he disciplines us. At one point he told Abraham he was going to give the Amorites only 400 more years before he would destroy their nation due to the evil it was doing. (Genesis 15:13-16) How much longer will he allow our country to do such evil as it is doing and heading in the wrong direction of doing more with impunity. We could have only 400 years...or more...or less!

Let us thank God that in addition to his being not only holy (Leviticus 19:2), but holy, holy, holy (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8), he is also patient. We need to thank him for his patience and to plead for his help to turn this country away from the evil its politicians and other public officials, even some who call themselves Christians, some of whom are passively allowing, but others are espousing and even promoting, including immorality he has called תועבה (*tô 'ēbâ*), detestable, abomination, to be abhorred.¹¹³ This is nothing less than rebellion—a fist in the face uncaring, disregard, and disobedience—against God!

We must not forget that God has feelings too. Consider for now that word, patience. In the New Testament the word is μακροθυμία (*makrothumia*), literally long-suffering. God puts up with a lot that displeases, pains, and even angers him, greatly. But we see throughout Scripture that there is a limit as to how long he will put up with evil that harms people he loves.

¹¹² Quoted in "Commit 2 Vote 2016" the family resource section on the Website of Focus on the Family, which features a new resource for the whole family entitled, "Your Family's Election Activity Kit." It's free, contains activities for all ages, and is downloadable at <https://focusonthefamily.webconnex.com/co-commit2vote2016-familykit>. (Accessed 8/31/16)

¹¹³ Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

Friends, I am very concerned for our country. And I'm not the first one to have such concern and sound this alarm. After careful and exhaustive study of the documents left to us by our nation's founders, David Barton observed that

The Founders understood that America could prosper only under God's blessings and therefore refused to separate His principles from any aspect of public affairs. As Benjamin Franklin confirmed:

[W]ithout His concurring aid...we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down to future ages.

The Founders recognized that for God to bestow His blessings, His principles had to be honored and embraced. As George Washington pointed out:

[T]he propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.

In fact, the thought of disregarding what Washington identified as God's "eternal rules of order and right" was a fearful thought for the Founding Fathers. As Thomas Jefferson acknowledged:

I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just—that His justice cannot sleep forever.¹¹⁴

A closer look at the Bible, reveals that God's justice never sleeps. (Psalm 121:4) Yet, Jefferson's main point is on target.

Recall Abraham's pleading with the LORD for Sodom, a city with much sin similar to what is going on in our country today.¹¹⁵ God said he would not destroy the city if 50 righteous people could be found there. Abraham continued to ask him to lower the figure, and the Lord said he would not destroy the city if 45 could be found, then due to Abraham's further pleas, 40, 30, 20, and finally 10. The Lord said for the sake of 10 righteous people, he wouldn't destroy Sodom. Surely, we still have more than 10, even far more *for now*. But who today is pleading for our country and working to facilitate the extension and nurture of God's kingdom among us?

¹¹⁴ Barton, p. 43. Exact documentation of the quotes from Franklin, Washington, and Jefferson are meticulously provided in detail in the Endnotes on p. 60.

¹¹⁵ I have discussed this situation and why this traditional interpretation of the account in Genesis 18-19 is preferred over against some contemporary revisionist casuistry in my book, *What Is God's Will Concerning Homosexuality? Help for Church Leaders and Others to Speak the Truth in Love*, pages 16-19. It can be accessed for free, as is everything else, on both my academic and also my general Website at <http://www.fromacorntoak12.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Homosexuality-What-Is-Gods-Will-Concerning-Homosexuality.pdf>. On both of my Websites a second edition of this book is also available as a work in progress. In addition to the contents of the first edition, the second edition contains more information, including additional research and applications not mentioned in the first edition.

I pray every day for God to extend and nurture his kingdom. Please join me in doing so. That is the only hope of our nation.

Yet, this reality should not lead us to conclude we don't have to vote as some are saying. As we saw in the Scripture cited above, God does expect us to work for the well-being of his world, and this part of it in particular. As theologians say, we need to read the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. We must put the two together and do all we can to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, including bringing light to all the processes involved in improving God's world with his help.

We need to do our homework and then vote. My purpose in writing this small book, is to help you in your decision-making with respect to the next upcoming election, especially with the decision concerning the question of for whom to vote for President. I've identified key principles to consider. I've indicated my preference. Of course, I'd like you to vote as I'm planning to do.

But please remember this important distinction: to vote and vote wrongly is a mistake, and it is becoming more and more a very costly mistake with local, national, and international implications that negatively affect God's whole world, a world he loves so very much that it cost him dearly! (John 3:16) If you are a parent, how long have you put up with the defiant behavior of your children before doing something?

To not vote is not only unwise and facilitates the election of the worst candidate. To fail to vote is to fail to do all we can to work for and "seek the peace and prosperity" of the land in which God has placed us. (Cf. Jeremiah 29:1-9)

It only means we don't put our hope in politics. Our hope is in the Lord, the owner and ruler of the universe and beyond!

I close with good news. God is sovereign and he loves us. It doesn't get any better than that this side of glory. Yes, the policies of the federal and many state and local governments are taking this country in the wrong direction, and it's tempting to wring our hands, do nothing, and try to construct a contorted and confused casuistry designed to theologically excuse not voting and, worse, not "getting contaminated with politics."

A more careful reflection on God's Word and historic Christian systematic theology discloses that we are already contaminated with the sin of this world, but in Christ we are freed from it and connected with God who has the power and the will to help us overcome the opposition. Help. Us. We can't just sit back and pray that he does it all. That's not how he reveals in his Word that he works. He has called us to be stewards of his creation, which includes this part of it.

Sadly, many Christians say words to the effect that “Since politics is dirty; since the candidates are dirty; and since the end times will be getting much worse, (Matthew 24; 2 Timothy 3:1) and already is; therefore, I’m going to stay home and not vote in order to let the evil compound to bring the end times to a close and hasten the Lord’s return.” How is that acting in love as we are commanded to do throughout Scripture? Do you want your family, other loved ones, friends, and God’s people everywhere to suffer the painful effects of sin and evil?

What does God’s Word say? Remember the first verse of Romans 13: “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” And in the United States, how does God put these authorities into place? The ones in charge are voted into office by the people in elections; the others, such as SCOTUS, federal judges, cabinet officials, and staffers are appointed but affirmed and/or retained by the decision of those who vote in the elections.

Does anyone think that God prefers the worst people to be the ones in authority in the government he has established, one of the purposes of which is to restrain evil? Will evil people restrain evil or exacerbate it? Recall Jesus’ words, “If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?” (Matthew 12:26) Here, again, we see that **failing to vote for “the lesser of the two evils,” or to vote for a candidate who cannot win who is also a sinner, amounts to a vote for the worst one, for that is one less vote the worst one needs to win.** How can anyone produce a logical, or more importantly a Biblical (Isaiah 55:8-9), rationale to support the thought that God would be pleased with the worst people in his government, people who are not only disobedient to him and his will but also in rebellion against him? Therefore, how would he be pleased with what we have done, or in the case of failing to vote not done, to facilitate the people most inclined to do evil being elected to God’s government?

As to the illogical and unbiblical thought of trying to speed the end of this age and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ by failing to engage the political process and thus facilitate the increase in evil that will bring the Lord sooner, besides the flawed logic in that thinking, the Bible teaches just the opposite. Only one passage in the Bible talks about speeding the coming of the Lord’s return, and it’s 2 Peter 3:12. But, always employing the interpretative guide of context, look first at verse 11 to see how the Holy Spirit, speaking through Peter, says it can be speeded: “¹¹... You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.” Far from the unbiblical and disobedient facilitating of the people who will do the most evil winning election to public office by failing to vote, the only way Scripture indicates to hasten Christ’s return is to live holy and godly lives; disobedience is not a part of the definition of living holy and godly—just the opposite. Holy means functioning separately from the world’s values and uncommon; i.e., not participating in the evil of the world, including facilitating it. We are to be holy to God, separate to him, and separate from sin. God has called us to be holy to him (e.g., Leviticus 19:2), which means to serve him and by every means he has given us to be stewards of his world, including where he has placed us.

Moreover, the total context of this passage in 2 Peter 3 indicates that the speeding of the coming of the Lord is spiritual, not political. The subject he is addressing is salvation, as the verses preceding and following clearly indicate (e.g., nine and fourteen). Therefore, what Peter is saying is that the speeding of Christ's Second Coming will occur when the Gospel has been proclaimed throughout the world and all who will accept it come into God's kingdom, "[t]he Lord...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (3:9) So we see that the only passage in the Bible which talks about speeding the Lord's return has nothing to do with politics, and even less, in fact nothing at all, with disobedience facilitating the spread of evil. Throughout the Bible God's people are told to oppose and overcome evil, *never* to facilitate it, which is the exact opposite of our calling, and exactly what people do who fail to vote.

Having given us a job to do, he will one day call us to account as to what and how well we did. Let's spread the Word and the word of encouragement to engage in the effort to overcome the evil that is spreading like yeast through our land. To turn the country around, we need to consciously rely on God's help and operate on at least two planes both bathed in much prayer. God's people especially need to be in prayer, for the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

- (1) Let's work with God and others to extend and nurture God's kingdom, his rule in more and more human hearts and minds and facilitating the maturity in Christ-likeness. We'll extend his kingdom by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ with every opportunity we have, whereby the Holy Spirit can regenerate the human heart and mind and bring the new birth to those are living in darkness and confusion and bring them into the kingdom.

We need then to help the new and spiritually immature believers to grow in Christ-likeness, nurturing their faith in Jesus Christ by inviting them to worship with us in a church congregation that faithfully proclaims God's Word; study the Bible and pray individually and together in classes and small groups; and engage in that unique fellowship believers in and followers of the Lord Jesus have together in the Holy Spirit.

- (2) Then we need to apply the teachings of God's Word to our daily lives individually and corporately. Each of us needs to live moral and upright lives, day by day by day providing a track record of respectability and attractiveness that the public closely observes (as the apostle Peter states using a unique word translated "see" in 1 Peter 2:12 that only he uses and is found nowhere else in the Bible), and that is deep down that for which they yearn and hope to see in reality and which so clearly differs from the dismal debauchery daily held up as "the new normal." That debauchery is not new; it is not normal; it is not helpful; to the contrary, it leads to death, physically and spiritually.

We need to defeat this “new normal” by opposing it with every tool and at every opportunity we have: e.g., in conversations with family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and others. Let’s take a few moments to call in to a radio talk show, write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, post thoughts on these subjects on our Facebook page and in other social media, such as beginning and maintaining an Internet blog (some Websites provide blog sites for free). Consider setting up and maintaining a Website. Use email, or snail mail if you prefer, to write to your representatives on the federal, state, and local levels, and phone them. If you feel uncomfortable in talking with someone in high office, don’t worry one bit; your phone call will most likely be answered by an administrative assistant or another member of his or her staff who will usually be quite pleasant, take notes, and assure you that your representative will receive the message. Don’t hesitate to call or write with some frequency.

Communicate with and financially support such fine organizations as the Family Research Council, Family Talk, Focus on the Family, the American Center for Law and Justice, the Heritage Foundation, Judicial Watch, American Family Association, FreedomWorks, and many others doing fine work throughout our society and in government. I’ve listed others below and in the documents on the Current Events page of my general Website at www.fromacorntoak12.com.

These are just some of the opportunities that we can use to get started. Don’t feel like you have to become involved with a lot of them. I only list them to let you know God has a multitude of people working with him. I want you to know about them so you’ll be encouraged with the awareness that you are not alone in your desire to turn this country in a different direction, the direction the Lord wants it to go. You are not now, and never will be, alone. To start with choose just one to do.

Remember: God plus one is a majority, and we have a host of people of like mind on the Lord’s side. The Lord has raised up many outstanding people who have formed very capable teams which God is using very effectively to stop and deter the progression of evil in our nation and to provide positive, healthy, and God-honoring alternatives to the wrong direction too many leaders are taking our country. Each of these organizations has highly motivating stories of success the Lord has given them in their work. Contact information is easily obtained via Google and other Internet search engines.

Much more can and should be said. However, to keep this small book, as readable and usable as possible for most people, I must conclude. Providentially, the much more that can and should be said has been said and is still being updated. For further documentation and support of the data

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presented above, and for well-documented additional information on the above and other related issues, please refer to the trustworthy and insightful resources in the section which follows.

And, to end with one more reference to the answer of the question before us: be sure to vote! Don't wait for the perfect candidate; in this sinful age, there will never be one. Pick the candidate who will do the best for the nation and the rest of God's world. Pray, work, and vote for the candidates on all levels who will support and provide for the freedoms in the First Amendment, who will not build more roadblocks to the extension and nurture of God's kingdom and will remove obstacles that already exist, and who will allow all people, including business owners, to live and act on their faith. I've offered thoughts above as to who of the candidates for President I think will do the best. Please use the preceding principles as guides for making your choices pertaining to the candidates for all the offices and the proposals on your ballot this fall.

While you are thinking of this subject, give some thought as to people you would like to see in public office locally, statewide, and nationally. Is there some way you can facilitate their running for office two, three, or four years from now? Another subject for prayer...and action.

May God bless you. May he bless our nation. May he bless the rest of his world, as we pray and work for his glory and for the accomplishment of his purposes...and by all means...including our vote!

Appendix A

More to Remember about Islam and the Western Left

We must always keep in mind the realistic theology and anthropology of the Bible and use it to evaluate the constant propaganda of the Left, including those in the Obama administration, and Hillary, pertaining to Islam. They continually repeat the misguided and misleading slogan that “We are not at war with Islam; Islam is a peaceful religion.” It is not.

In addition to what I’ve written above, another example of the unrealistic, indeed dangerous, theology and anthropology of the Left is seen in this quote from Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, in a statement he made on CNN. “What I can tell you is that we are, when it comes to ISIL, [another acronym for ISIS] we are in a fight, a narrative fight with them, a narrative battle.”¹¹⁶

They are blind to the spiritual and cosmic warfare that is going on in the world that is described in passages such as Ephesians 6:10-20 and Revelation 12-20. Put these passages together with what the Qur’an, The Hadith, and other Islamic literature teach, and you can see that we are engaged in the most real and lasting of wars, indeed the most serious, due to the eternal dimensions of the outcome. Further, this war has painful effects in the physical realm. The battle is **truly not** a narrative battle, i.e., just a matter of words. As I’ve explained and urged in the preceding text, read their literature.

Read also the enlightening revelation of one more who has much knowledge of Islam. Columnist Cal Thomas introduces us to one who knows, and is not afraid to disclose the truth about, Islam. His name is Srdja Trifkovic, a Serbian-American writer on international and foreign affairs and editor of the magazine *Chronicles*. In the September 2016 issue he writes,

“The enemy is Islam, a supremacist ideology of permanent conflict and conquest, which is and has always been structurally unamenable to compromise with non-Islam. It has a highly developed legal, political, and moral doctrine, rooted in its core texts, which denies the legitimacy of any other belief system and form of social organization. Its exponents are state actors (most notably Saudi Arabia), groups with some state attributes (ISIS), decentralized terror networks (al-Qaida), and self-starting ‘radicalized’ cells and individuals in most Western countries that have a sizable Muslim diaspora.”

[Thomas adds] All Muslims do not buy into these doctrines, but those who don’t are regarded as heretics by those who do. Don’t take my word for it. Do the

¹¹⁶ Cal Thomas, “More terror; more denials,” Tribune Content Agency, *Reporter-Herald*, September 23, 2016, 4A.

research. The motives and goals of radical Islamists are in their writings, sermons and media.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁷ Cal Thomas, "More terror; more denials," Tribune Content Agency, *Reporter-Herald*, September 23, 2016, 4A.

Appendix B

Trustworthy Resources for Further Information

Please Note: This is not an exhaustive list of trustworthy resources. Most of them on this list are the sources I regularly use. There are other good sources as well. Just be careful. Again, the most sure and certain standard for determining truth is the Bible, God's Word. If you read anything anywhere else that conflicts with the Bible, you know that it cannot be trusted. This is why we need to read the Bible, our standard, each day individually and at least once a week with God's people in worship at a church where God's Word, including the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is faithfully proclaimed, in addition to meeting regularly with a Bible study group of fellow Christians. The following have additional information on the subjects I've mentioned above.

American History, Economy, Election, Family, and Social Issues

- ACT for America, <http://www.actforamerica.org> (Accessed 9/22/16)
- Family Policy Alliance (formerly CitizenLink), <http://familypolicyalliance.com/> (Accessed 9/1/16)
- Family Talk, <http://drjamesdobson.org/> (Accessed 8/31/16) Dr. Dobson's meetings with and perspective on Donald Trump are included in his August 2016 newsletter at <https://www.drjamesdobson.org/about/august-newsletter-2016?sc=hpslider1>. (Accessed 8/31/16)
- Family Research Council, <http://www.frc.org/> (Accessed 8/31/16)
- Focus on the Family, <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/> (Accessed 8/31/16) This Website also contains a new and free downloadable resource for the whole family, including activities for all ages, at <https://focusonthefamily.webconnex.com/commit2vote2016-familykit>. (Accessed 8/31/16)
- FreedomWorks, <http://www.freedomworks.org/> (Accessed 9/2/16)
- Heritage Foundation, The <http://www.heritage.org/> (Accessed 9/22/16)
- Indiana Family Institute, <http://www.hoosierfamily.org/> (Accessed 9/22/16)
- The Witherspoon Institute, <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/>

Islam

- ACT for America, <http://www.actforamerica.org/> (Accessed 9/19/16)
- Rev. Bassam Madany
 - www.unashamedofthegospel.org This is his own Website. (Accessed 8/27/16)
 - <https://independent.academia.edu/BassamMichaelMadany> This is a Website for which he writes highly insightful and informative academic essays on Islam. (Accessed 8/27/16)
 - www.answering-islam.org Access his articles by clicking on the Home page and the button on the left side labeled "Individual Authors." Click on Rev. Bassam M. Madany for articles he has written on the religious aspects of Islam. See also

the articles by Jacob Thomas on the political aspects of Islam. (Accessed 8/27/16)

- Pamela Geller, “Here’s why Somali Muslim Refugees are moving to Cheyenne, WY, Prepare to be shocked,” <http://pamelageller.com/2014/11/heres-why-somali-muslim-refugees-are-moving-to-cheyenne-wy-prepare-to-be-shocked.html/> (Accessed 8/27/16)
- Pamela Geller, “Muslim Immigration,” http://pamelageller.com/atlas_shrugsmuslim-immigration/ (Accessed 8/27/16)
- Pamela Geller, “Arabic: Most Common Language of Refugees in America” <http://pamelageller.com/2015/08/arabic-most-common-language-of-refugees-in-america.html/> (Accessed 8/27/16)
- *God’s Kingdom and the Utopian Error: Discerning the Biblical Kingdom of God from Its Political Counterfeits* (Paperback), by Peter Beyerhaus, https://www.amazon.com/Gods-Kingdom-Utopian-Error-Counterfeits/dp/0891076514/ref=la_B001K1CFB0_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1438878440&sr=1-1 (Accessed 8/27/16)
- *What Every Christian Needs to Know about Sharing the Gospel with Muslims*, by Roland Clarke at http://www.answering-islam.org/authors/clarke/sharing_gospel_intro.html (Accessed 8/27/16)

Legal Matters

- Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), <https://www.adflegal.org/> (Accessed 8/31/16) A new and free downloadable political guide for pastors and churches is available on their Website; it is entitled “Pastors, Churches & Politics: A Legal Guide for Ministries on Political Engagement” and can be accessed at http://adflegal.org/politics-and-your-church?_ga=1.2180982.7540832.1472686015 (Accessed 8/31/16)
- American Center for Law and Justice, <http://aclj.org/> (Accessed 8/27/16)
- Clear the Bench Colorado, <http://www.clearthebenchcolorado.org/> (Accessed 8/28/16)
- Judicial Watch, <http://www.judicialwatch.org/> (Accessed 8/27/16)

Other Resources

- Heritage Foundation, The Daily Signal morningbell@heritage.org (Accessed 8/28/16)
- Edward D. Seely, <http://www.fromacorntoak12.com/current-issues/> (Accessed 8/27/16) Pertaining to the matters in this book, start with the “Current Issues” page.
- Edward D. Seely, <https://fromacorntoak12.com/christian-action/>. (Accessed 4/6/24)

News

- Breitbart News Network, <http://www.breitbart.com/> (Accessed 9/5/16)
- Drudge Report, <http://www.drudgereport.com/> (Accessed 9/19/16)
- Newsmax.com, <http://www.newsmax.com/> (Accessed 9/5/16)
- Townhall, <http://townhall.com/columnists/> (Accessed 9/5/16)
- WND, <http://www.wnd.com> (Accessed 9/5/16)

Voter Guides

Please Note: All of the following voter guides are trustworthy. Notice that some guides do not list all of the candidates and proposals. Don't set yourself up to be overwhelmed: use as many of the following as will help you, but don't feel like you need to examine them all. **Pray** for God's wisdom, insight, and guidance, and look at as many of the guides as it takes for you to be satisfied that you have the information you need in order to vote for the candidates and propositions on your ballot. As of this writing, several of these and other trustworthy organizations have not yet completed their voter guides for the 2016 election; they are waiting for candidates to reply to their questions. Most expect to have their voter guides for this year online by the end of September or the first of October; some do already. When you access these Websites, if you don't find an updated guide, please keep checking back. As I find any other good guides, I'll add them to this list.

- American Family Association, <http://afaaction.net/> (Accessed 8/30/16) <https://home.ivoterguide.com/partner/?partner=AFAACTION> More complete voter guide available October 17.
- Clear the Bench Colorado, <http://www.clearthebenchcolorado.org/> (Accessed 8/28/16)
- Colorado Family Action, <http://coloradofamilyaction.org> (Accessed 8/30/16) Access the voter guide at www.coloradovotersguide.org.
- Family Policy Alliance (formerly CitizenLink), <http://familypolicyalliance.com/> (Accessed 9/1/16) To find resources, including a voter guide, pertaining to the state in which you live, click on the "Allies" button in the tool bar.
- Family Research Council, <https://www.frcaction.org/2016> (Accessed 8/31/16) For state specific information click "Voter Resources" in the tool bar and "STATE FPCS" in the drop down menu.
- Heritage Alliance, <https://home.ivoterguide.com> (Accessed 8/28/16)
- Illinois Family Institute, <https://illinoisfamily.org/actions/voter-guides/> (Accessed 8/28/16)
- Michigan Family Forum, <http://www.michiganfamily.org/>. See their voter guide at <http://www.michiganfamily.org/index.php/michigan-online-voter-guide/> (Accessed 9/1/16)

Appendix C

How Trustworthy Are the Fact-Checkers?

Some people are becoming Internet and election savvy to the extent that they are aware that the so-called main-stream media, politicians and political candidates, Hollywood “stars,” public school teachers, and others including sadly, not a few religious leaders, do not always report or tell the truth. This misleading of readers and listeners is done not only by sins of commission but by sins of omission. That is, not only do they commit wrong doing by what they say but by what they leave unsaid that involves necessary information in order to obtain the whole truth.

Enough people have recognized this widespread untruthfulness that several self-proclaimed “fact check” organizations have developed. In my research over many years of using and of fact-checking the fact checkers, I have found that they too are biased, often with more of a tilt to the left than to the right, i.e., more liberal than conservative in their bias.

For the reasons cited above, I am persuaded that the conservative bias is to be preferred. However, it is important to also check out the facts of our conservative cohort. I find that while they are generally more accurate, occasionally our colleagues on the right come across some information that is consistent with and illustrates our philosophy and goals, and they pass it along without checking it out, and it has not held up to the scrutiny typical of conservative thought. Therefore, we must hold ourselves to the same standard we require of others.

I mentioned at the beginning of this book that the Bible, God’s Word, together with his help through the Holy Spirit, enables us discern right from wrong, truth from falsehood, and good from evil. In addition, some other resources can help concerning specific statements that are reported on the current issues before us, but these resources themselves need to be checked out to see which of them are telling the truth and which are not.

Fact Checking Accuracy in Politics

So to apply the basic principles above to ourselves and to the sites we like, let’s do so beginning with Accuracy in Politics. Actually, little is known about this site, and it may not be operative any more. I haven’t seen any posting after the critical review of Snopes.com, which was May 31, 2013. It may just have been a blog written by a perceptive person. However, I’ve read a lot of attacks on Accuracy in Politics, and they have not been persuasive. As the old saying goes, when you say something critical, even in the sense of speaking the truth in love, of someone or some organization and get attacked for it, you know you’re on target and have uncovered some truth.

Moreover, such attacks commit the logical fallacy of *argumentum ad hominem*, literally, “argument directed to the man.” It is an invalid argument, because if I offer a critique of

something, and someone attacks me instead of logically addressing what I've said, the attack against me does not pertain to what I've said, and it leaves my argument untouched; it is not disproven.

Corroborating Accuracy in Politics' critique of Snopes.com, I've observed Snopes' bias for many years prior to and since 2013. That is, I saw nothing in the Accuracy in Politics critique that I haven't observed myself. The attackers of Accuracy in Politics and their support of Snopes fail to explain away the obvious left of center tilt of Snopes.

Fact Checking PolitiFact and PolitiFact Bias

As mentioned above, I typically fact check the "fact checkers," as much as I can with the time available, such as I did with *PolitiFact*. I found that *PolitiFact* is a project of the *Tampa Bay Times* that has been checked itself and found to be wanting even by another liberal "fact checker," *PolitiFact Bias*.¹¹⁸ Breitbart writes that *PolitiFact* has a liberal bias.¹¹⁹

Fact Checking Factcheck.org

Thus, while it takes some time, one way to expose the bias of the fact checkers and other organizations is to check into who owns and funds them. To cite another example, one Website that has fact checked the fact checkers themselves, has disclosed the following important information.

If you look behind the scenes at these phony "fact check" sites, you find that they are funded by organizations with political biases. You must always ask yourself some questions. Who is writing about this so-called "truth?" Who funds the site and pays their expenses? What are the origins and history of the funders and with whom are they associated? In the case of factcheck.org they receive their funding from the liberal Annenberg Foundation.

The Annenberg Foundation was originally founded by Walter J. Annenberg, a conservative who supported Ronald Reagan. However, when Walter Annenberg died, his family took over the management of the foundation and it took a turn to the far left and has ties to radical left individuals such as Bill Ayers and his friend and fellow left wing radical colleague Barack Obama. How is factcheck.org associated with these people?

¹¹⁸ <http://www.politifactbias.com/>. (Accessed 9/2/16) Be careful of so-called, and especially self-proclaimed, "fact checkers." I have found more that are liberal than conservative and need to be fact-checked themselves.

¹¹⁹ http://www.breitbart.com/big-journalism/2017/12/08/facebook-informs-breitbart-gloria-allred-yearbook-forgery-is-fake-news/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+breitbart+%28Breitbart+News%29 (Accessed 12/9/17)

To start, Ayers was the key founder of the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, which was a Chicago public school reform project from 1995 to 2001. Upon its start in 1995, Obama was appointed Board Chairman and President of the Chicago Annenberg Challenge. Geesh, that alone connects all three. Well, it branches out even more from there.

Ayers co-chaired the organization's Collaborative, which set the education policies of the Challenge. Oddly enough, Obama was the one who was authorized to delegate to the Collaborative in regards to its programs and projects. In addition to that, Obama often times had to seek advice and assistance from the Ayer's led Collaborative in regards to the programmatic aspects of grant proposals. Ayers even sat on the same board as Obama as an "ex officio member". They both also sat together on the board of the CAC's Governance Committee. Obama and Ayers were two parts of a group of four who were instructed to draft the bylaws that would govern the CAC. Keep in mind that the "A" in CAC is for Annenberg, the owners of FactCheck.org. The funding for Ayer's projects and those of his cronies was approved by Board Chair, Barack Obama.¹²⁰

Fact Checking Snopes.com

Similarly, as introduced above, we cannot automatically assume that Snopes.com can be trusted; in fact, Snopes cannot be trusted with all their writing. The Website is largely the work of a husband and wife team with a liberal bias, who have not had investigative training, and who largely do their "research" using Google and writing their findings shaped by their bias. Peter Hasson, Reporter and Associate Editor of *The Daily Caller*, discloses that

the site has tried to pose as a political fact-checker. But Snopes' "fact-checking" looks more like playing defense for prominent Democrats like Hillary Clinton and it's political "fact-checker" describes herself as a liberal and has called Republicans "regressive" and afraid of "female agency."

Snopes' main political fact-checker is a writer named Kim Lacapria. Before writing for Snopes, Lacapria wrote for Inquisitr, a blog that — oddly enough — is known for publishing fake quotes and even downright hoaxes as much as anything else.

While at Inquisitr, the future "fact-checker" consistently displayed clear partisanship.

¹²⁰ <http://theswash.com/liberty/who-fact-checks-factcheck-org> (Accessed 9/2/16) It is helpful to check into such data by digging deeper into the subjects therein, e.g., at <http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/wreck-annenberg> (Accessed 9/2/16) As with anything else, including always with the Internet, check what you read over against reliable standards, first of all the Bible and then trustworthy sites such as those identified in this booklet.

She described herself as “openly left-leaning” and a liberal. She trashed the Tea Party as “teahadists.” She called Bill Clinton “one of our greatest” presidents. She claimed that conservatives only criticized Lena Dunham’s comparison of voting to sex because they “fear female agency.”¹²¹

Does this disclosure mean that one should never use Snopes.com or the other self-proclaimed “fact checkers,” which tend to be liberal? Accuracy in Politics has also investigated Snopes.com. The following is an excerpt of their finding about Snopes, and its caveat about how to use Snopes and the other “fact check” sites is sound.

A simple review of their "fact-checking" reveals a strong tendency to explain away criticisms towards liberal politicians and public figures while giving conservatives the hatchet job. Religious stories and issues are similarly shown no mercy. With the "main-stream" media quickly losing all credibility with their fawning treatment of President Obama, Snopes is being singled out, along with MSNBC and others, as being particularly biased....

So if you really want to know the truth about a story or a rumor you have heard, by all means do not go to Snopes.com! You could do just as well if you were a liberal with an internet connection. Don't go to wikipedia.com either as their team of amateur editors have also been caught in a number of bold-faced liberal-biased untruths. (Such as Wikigate and their religious treatment of Obama.) Take anything these sites say with a grain of salt and an understanding that they are written by people with a motive to criticize all things conservative. Use them only to lead you to solid references where you can read their sources for yourself.¹²²

The comments about Wikipedia.com are well taken. Most colleges and graduate schools will not allow citations from Wikipedia; references are required to be from trustworthy sources. (Though most in academe should be more discerning as to what they view as trustworthy.)

When cross-checking Snopes with other, more reliable, truthful, sources, you will be able to tell when Snopes is telling the truth and when it is not. They sometimes do come through with the truth, though even then they typically find ways to slant it to favor liberals more than conservatives. A recent example is their “fact-checking” the Clinton team’s accusation (heavily supported by the largely liberal so-called, but not as true now as in years past, “main stream”, media) that Donald Trump, not Hillary Clinton, actually started the birther movement, the belief that Barak Obama was not born in the United States or a United States territory, thus making his presidency illegitimate. This flap resurfaced on September 16, 2016 when Trump declared that not he but Hillary started the birther movement and that he was finishing it. To their credit, Snopes confirmed, without specifically saying so, that Trump was right in his statement that he didn’t start it and that Hillary’s first campaign in 2008 peddled and reinforced that rumor, but in their report they couldn’t resist their bias to avoid saying anything positive about Trump. Snopes

¹²¹ <http://dailycaller.com/2016/06/17/fact-checking-snopes-websites-political-fact-checker-is-just-a-failed-liberal-blogger/> (Accessed 9/3/16)

¹²² <http://accuracyinpolitics.blogspot.com/2013/05/snopes-got-snoped.html> (Accessed 9/3/16)

spent most of the time showing that it was others who started the rumor and that Hillary picked upon it and gave it more momentum (though that is not Snopes' words, but it is what their report means). Nevertheless, no matter how they put it, they vindicate Trump and discredit the Associated Press and other liberal media who are making it look like Trump is "peddling another false conspiracy."¹²³

Cross-checking Snopes and other so-called "fact checkers" can be done most thoroughly by consulting trustworthy sources such as Breitbart. On the above matter of the Left-biased media's attack on Trump, Breitbart vindicates Trump with a thorough analysis using the Left's own people. The following is a lengthy excerpt for those interested in order to see the length to which the Left will deceive but also as an illustration that in the end the truth will be known; the full account can be obtained by clicking on the URL citation in the accompanying footnote.

Bombshell: 'Washington Post' Confirms Hillary Clinton Started the Birther Movement

by JOHN NOLTE 26 Sep 2015



Maggie Haberman: 'There Were Some Supporters of Hillary Clinton Who Started the Birther Movement'

Breitbart

New analysis from the *Washington Post* removes any doubt that the anti-Obama Birther movement was started in 2007 and 2008 by Hillary Clinton, her campaign, and her Democrat supporters.

As Breitbart News reported earlier this month, other left-wing media outlets, like Politico and the *Guardian*, had already traced the Birther movement back to Democrats and Ms. Clinton. Using his wayback machine on Wednesday, the *Post's* David Weigel took an in-depth look at the origins of the false rumors that President Obama is a practicing Muslim who was not born in America. Weigel's reporting contains the final pieces of a very disturbing puzzle.

¹²³ David Emery, "After birth," Snopes.com, September 17, 2016, <http://www.snopes.com/hillary-clinton-started-birther-movement/> (Accessed 9/17/16). Jill Colvin and Jonathan Lemire, "Reversing his course, Trump admits Obama was born in U.S.: Trump spent years believing in birth conspiracy," Associated Press, Reporter-Herald, September 17, 2016, p. 7A.

What Weigel found and re-reported was astounding, details many of us had forgotten or never heard of, including a 2007 bombshell memo from the Clinton campaign's chief strategist.

What the left-wing Weigel left out of his reporting was even more astounding, including a documented confrontation between Clinton and Obama over the Birther issue, and video of Hillary herself stoking doubt about Obama's Christian faith.

Because the *Washington Post's* primary job is to protect Democrats, Weigel's headline and conclusion are an objective lie. Despite the fact that what he uncovered (and chose to not cover) points directly to Ms. Clinton and her campaign, Weigel concludes she had nothing to do with the Birther movement.

Naturally, Weigel's own facts support the exact opposite conclusion.

His research, however, is all that matters.

Defcon 4: Mark Penn's March 2007 Strategy Memo

Everything began in March of 2007 when Hillary's chief strategist, Mark Penn, wrote a now-infamous campaign memo laying out his overall plan to win the election.

Weigel sums up the Birther elements of Penn's memo as a nothingburger; indeed, according to Weigel, the memo actually proves that the Clinton campaign wanted nothing to do with Birtherism: "But Penn wrote that as a warning, not a strategy," Weigel writes.

While most of Weigel's lies in his defense of Clinton are of omission and deflection, the wrist-flicking of Penn's memo is pure audacity.

Because this is important, I'm not asking anyone to believe my interpretation of the memo. You can read the memo for yourself [here](#). Below are two mainstream media sources. [emphasis added] As you'll see, the idea that the memo was a warning against "othering" Obama is preposterous:

[The Atlantic:](#)

[Penn] wrote, "I cannot imagine America electing a president during a time of war who is not at his center fundamentally American in his thinking and in his values." **Penn proposed targeting Obama's "lack of American roots."**

[Bloomberg](#)

The idea of going after Obama's otherness dates back to the last presidential election—and to Democrats. ... Hillary Clinton's chief strategist, Mark Penn, recognized this potential vulnerability in Obama and sought to exploit it. ... Penn wrote: ... "[H]is roots to basic American values and culture are at best limited. I cannot imagine America electing a president during a time of war who is not at his center fundamentally American in his thinking and his values."

Penn also suggested how the campaign might take advantage of this. "Every speech should contain the line that you were born in the middle of America to the middle class in the middle of the last century," he advised Clinton. "And talk about the basic bargain as about [sic] the deeply American values you grew up with, learned as a child, and that drive you today." **He went on: "Let's explicitly own 'American' in our programs, the speeches and the values. He doesn't ... Let's add flag symbols to the backgrounds [of campaign events]."**

Bloomberg adds: "Penn was not a birther."

His memo didn't raise the issue of Obama's citizenship. Furthermore, he was acutely aware of the political danger that a Democrat would court by going after Obama in this way, even subliminally: "We are never going to say anything about his background," he wrote.

That is what the memo said. The truth, though, is that the attacks on Obama's background would come the following year, and those attacks would not only come from Hillary's supporters but directly from her own campaign and her own mouth during a nationally televised *60 Minutes* interview.

In March of 2007, the campaign could afford to attack Obama's otherness "subliminally."

By the following year, as the primary losses mounted, the gloves came completely off.

Defcon 3: Hillary Clinton and Her Supporters Birth 'Birtherism'

Weigel's superb reporting uncovered how the Clinton campaign and legions of diehard Clinton supporters took Penn's othering campaign and the questions surrounding Obama's faith and birthplace to the next level.

It was no longer subliminal.

By now Clinton's 2008 presidential aspirations were in serious jeopardy. Pay special attention to what Weigel writes about John Heilemann. Weigel's lie of omission here is crucial and I'll address it below: [emphasis added]

According to John Heilemann and Mark Halperin in *Game Change*, the most ludicrous "othering" theory that **Clinton allies engaged in was that a tape existed, somewhere, of Michelle Obama denouncing "whitey"** — and that Clinton herself believed it when consigliere Sid Blumenthal talked about it.

But the Clinton campaign never pursued the idea that Obama was literally not American, and therefore ineligible for the presidency. **A small group of hardcore Clinton supporters did.** Specifically, anyone reading the fringe Web in the summer of 2008 could find the now-defunct blog called TexasDarlin, the now-defunct blog PUMAParty, and the now-conservative blog HillBuzz posting updates on the hunt for a birth certificate. It was a thin reed, and they knew it.

"It looks like Obama was born in Hawaii, based on a recently discovered birth announcement found in a Hawaiian newspaper," one HillBuzz blogger wrote in July 2008. "It also looks like the reason Obama refuses to produce his actual birth certificate is that it very likely records dual Kenyan and U.S. citizenship at Obama's birth."

Weigel's sleight of hand here is genius. Let's unpack the lies of omission.

1. Weigel uses Bloomberg's John Heilemann as a witness for the defense of Hillary but intentionally chooses not to tell his readers that a mere two days earlier, on Monday, Heilemann confirmed on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* that the Birther movement began with the Clinton campaign.

Again, I'm going to [quote a left-wing source](#):

Host Joe Scarborough called Clinton's attack on Trump "rich," saying, "For Hillary Clinton to come out and criticize anybody for spreading the rumors about Barack Obama, when it all started ... with her and her campaign passing things around in the Democratic primary[,] ... This started with Hillary Clinton, and it was spread by the Clinton team in 2008." ...

Heilemann, author of the insider account of the 2008 election *Game Change*, said it was the case that Clinton spread the rumors. "It was the case," he said. "I'm affirming the Scarborough-Brzezinski assertion."

2. Weigel also chose not to report:

It was not until April 2008, at the height of the intensely bitter Democratic presidential primary process, that the touch paper was properly lit.

An anonymous email circulated by supporters of Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Obama's main rival for the party's nomination, thrust a new allegation into the national spotlight — that he had not been born in Hawaii.

3. Pretending to be naïve, Weigel uses these third party Democrat attacks on Obama's identity as **proof!** that Hillary's hands are clean, you know, because it's her supporters raising the conspiracy, and not Hillary.

Apparently, it's only Republicans who are held accountable for the actions of their supporters.

Apparently, only Republicans are capable of coordinating with outside groups to do their dirty work.

Despite more smoke than you'll find in Jeff Spicoli's van, Weigel uses that smoke as proof that there is no fire. This isn't journalism, it's desperate partisan spin.

4. Weigel says nothing about the Clinton campaign's shattering silence during this smear campaign.

5. Weigel doesn't want his readers to know that Barack Obama himself believes Hillary Clinton started the Birther rumors, even though this fact was reported by no less than Weigel's own employer [at The Washington Post](#):

Obama and Clinton were both at Reagan National Airport on their way to Iowa for a [2007] debate, and the candidates met on the tarmac for what became a brief but heated conversation. Then-Obama personal aide Reggie Love witnessed the event and describes it in his new memoir:

[Obama] very respectfully told her the apology was kind, but largely meaningless, given the emails it was rumored her camp had been sending out labeling him as a Muslim. Before he could finish his sentence, she exploded on Obama. In a matter of seconds, she went from composed to furious. It had not been Obama's intention to upset her, but he wasn't going to play the fool either.

Why Weigel chose to leave all of this crucial information out is obvious.¹²⁴

It is also helpful to consult trustworthy organizations such as those listed in the previous section, “Trustworthy Resources for Further Information.” In addition to that list, there are also others such as the Cato Institute.¹²⁵

¹²⁴ John Nolte, <http://www.breitbart.com/big-journalism/2015/09/26/washington-post-confirms-hillary-clinton-started-the-birther-movement/> (Accessed 9/17/16)

¹²⁵ <http://www.cato.org/> (Accessed 9/2/16)