

Signs of the Times

Post Election Observations

Good News!

Many college professors will have to replace hard left indoctrination with real education. Many of these (hopefully) will want to quit. Cynical comedians and Bush haters will be out of a job. David Letterman has reportedly gone into deep therapy sessions.

The Will of God?

- Although John McCain ran a much less effective campaign than Barack Obama, what defeated him was the financial meltdown and the resulting (unfair) association with Bush. God could have prevented that, or its timing.
For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another. (Ps 75:6-7)
- Rom. 13:1-7 clearly tells us we are to both submit to and honor those in authority.
- This does not mean we lose our prophetic voice!

A Positive Result

- Although I disagree with his policies, I am glad to see an African American in the highest office in the land. This sends a clear signal to the entire world that we have made great progress in the area of discrimination.
- (I was much and still am much more critical of Clinton than Obama).

End of Socialism?

- This could be the beginning of the end of America's love affair with big government spending. People will see again that it simply doesn't work. Jimmy Carter's administration led to the Reagan revolution.

Biblical Economics 101

- (1) Faith in God (Matt. 6:22-33)
- (2) Hard work (Prov. 14:23; 2 Thess. 3:10-12)
- (3) Deliverance from materialism (Luke 12:15)
- (4) Diligence (taking responsibility for results) (Prov. 10:4; 12:24; 21:5)
- (5) Sowing (giving) and reaping (Mal. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 6:6-9)

Does Acts 2:44-45 promote communism?

44 Now all who believed were together, and **had all things in common**, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

This was due to the immediate dislocation of thousands of brand new Christians in Jerusalem. There were no churches for them to return to. This pattern was not repeated in any other city as new churches were planted.

New Era for the Church?

- Just like we say people shouldn't depend on the government to do their job – raise their children, work hard, take personal responsibility, etc., the Church will hopefully again do its job and quit depending on Washington to do it. Christianity was birthed under the reign of Caesar! It still changed the world.
- Quit waiting for an election to fight for your cause.
- The Great Commission is still intact.
- *18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Mt 28:18-20).*
- Are you doing your part? Who are you witnessing to? Who are you discipling?

Become people of substance.

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What do you believe God is showing you through this election?

True or False: "Jesus taught that we should help the poor"

- True:
 - o Jesus taught generosity at a personal level, so that we would not be materialistic or covetous (Matt 19:21; Luke 19:8)
 - o He taught that the "poor in spirit" would be greatly blessed by God (Matt. 5:3)
 - o He stated that the gospel was to be preached to the poor (Matt. 11:5; Luke 4:18)
 - o He taught that we should be sure to invite marginalized people to our social events. He especially included minorities (Samaritans). (Luke 4:13)
 - o He taught that we have a responsibility to take care of the poor within our own household of faith (Matt. 25:40)
- False:
 - o Jesus did not feed the 5,000 as a social cause. ("Jesus fed the poor"). He fed them because they had been in church all day and they were in the middle of nowhere! (Luke 6:12-16)
 - o Jesus did not promote feeding the poor as a priority of Christian activity. Judas did! He actually promoted a woman's extravagant act of worship (expensive fragrant oil) as a legitimate expenditure instead of giving it to the poor. (John 12:1-7)
 - o Jesus did not teach or imply that if we all have enough compassion, we will eradicate poverty (what communism teaches). In fact, He taught that in a fallen world, there would always be poor people.

Poverty is a result of many things, mostly sin and corruption. Jesus taught that if we really want to elevate someone else's quality of life (vs just feeling good about ourselves), we must change how they think on the inside ("the gospel"). (John 12:1-7)