

The Language of Liberty Series



Super Tuesday: The Time To Vote Our Conscience

By David Barton, Guest Columnist

The Presidential Primary is upon us. For voters of faith, now is the time to vote our conscience. We must not wait until November when it will be time to choose from two Presidential candidates.

Many Christians neglect voting in the Primary. As a result, the Presidential choices left for people of faith can be so disappointing, that millions decide to stay home in November. But shirking our duty to vote when we have been blessed with liberty is never an option for people of faith.

In the Presidential election of November 2012, over [90 million eligible voters](#) did not vote. It is estimated that up to [48 million of those](#) were Christians. If they found both candidates unacceptable, by then it was too late to vote their conscience. Sadly, many of them had not even registered.

After the November 2012 election, [Rev. Franklin Graham said](#), “If Christians are upset, they need to be upset at themselves... If Christians would just vote, then elections in this country would be much different.”

Rev. Graham echoed Proverbs 29:2: “When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”

This principle was well articulated 140 years ago by President James A. Garfield, who was also a minister of the gospel. In 1876 he said “Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their [elected officials]. If [they] be ignorant, reckless, or corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them...”

Proverbs 14:34 says, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” This verse affirms what has been proven by history; that it is not economics that exalts a nation, but righteousness.

Yet today, when it comes time to vote, economic issues are cited as more important to most believers than moral issues. There is simply no Biblical support for this position.

Jesus instructed his disciples in a discussion on economics in the famous Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6: “Do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ ... or ‘What shall we wear?’” Jesus told them to watch the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Notice how well God provides for them. Then He added, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these THINGS shall be yours as well.” [emphasis added]

When we seek economics and prosperity first, we not only lose prosperity, we also lose righteousness. But when we seek righteousness first, we gain economic prosperity - a fruit of righteousness. This Biblical truth has proven itself numerous times in history.

So how do we get public policies in place that God can bless? In our unique form of government, the people govern along with those they elect to represent them. Aside from God's people driving policy themselves, the way to have righteous public policy is to elect righteous men and women to office.

The righteous are not going to make bad public policy and the wicked are not going to make good ones. But the righteous are not going to get into office unless God's people vote for them.

Do you ever wonder why many elected officials seem so out of step with the rest of the country? The values expressed in any given elected official are not necessarily the same values of the people they represent, but are the values of those who voted in the last election.

We love to sing "God Bless America", but if we really want Him to bless America, we've got to give Him something to work with!

For Christians, voting is not just a right. It is a duty and a stewardship we owe to God for the blessings of liberty. And righteousness must be THE issue; one for which we will have to answer to God and to future generations.

When God confronts us, will we tell Him we voted for a candidate because of jobs and the economy? Even though they have a proven track record of attempting to redefine the institution of marriage and kill unborn children He knew before they were in the womb?

In his 1803 election sermon, Pastor Matthias Burnet said, "To God and posterity you are accountable for your rights and your rulers. Let not your children have reason to curse you for giving up those rights and prostrating those institutions which your fathers delivered to you!"

We are the stewards of liberty in our Republic. Future generations will look back and point to us if we fail to keep it.

David Barton is a historian, author, speaker and founder of Wallbuilders; an organization dedicated to preserving America's forgotten history and heroes, with an emphasis on our moral, religious, and constitutional history. [Article is adapted from Wallbuilders video, "Voter Responsibilities"](#). For more info, go to [Wallbuilders.com](#).

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