

years. The ACLU and other such organizations wish to remove and replace core beliefs with a permissiveness that by necessity puts aside the moral standard established in the Scriptures. Infiltration of Atheism, New Age, and Humanism in our Public Schools and Universities is not an accident. It is carefully planned and implemented by slowly changing to books and materials that discard all texts that make any reference to Christian values and beliefs as valid points of view.

If as you read this, you think we are alarmists or are overreacting, we encourage you to read and listen *very* carefully — sometimes even “between the lines” — to all of the *unvoiced* ramifications of positions being advocated by some of the candidates. We also encourage you to go to the *Diligence* website and read the July 15, 2004 issue if you aren’t convinced that our country is facing a critical period.

We don’t agree with *every* position taken by *any* politician, but we can clearly see the difference between candidates who take stands on moral issues, versus those who are in agreement with the ACLU and other organizations bent on destroying *anything* that would represent or even hint of a Biblical point of view.

We *urge* each of you to *prayerfully* evaluate every issue and every candidate on your ballot in this very important national election. In the 2000 Elections about 48% of all voters considered themselves to be christians. That means that other than the male/female demographic there is probably no other voting block that is as large as the one that refers to themselves as “christians.” *That* group will be the demographic that determines who will be the leaders of this great Nation.

According to the research group *Barna*, it was christian voters who provided the margin of victory in the 2000 elections. Considering these statistics then places a very grave responsibility on the shoulders of all of those who call themselves “christians.” It is imperative that we who are christians seriously consider the positions held by each candidate for whom we will be voting.

Can we truly say that we believe in the Inspired Word of God and vote for individuals or issues that are in opposition to that Word? Can we truly say that God is our Master and support individuals and issues that undermine what His Word teaches? It is a responsibility of our God given gift of freedom to choose candidates who uphold Biblical principles. When given the choice of siding with God and His Word or siding with the so called politically correct things of this world, christians will choose God every time.

*“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4 NKJV)*

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# DILIGENCE

*“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11*

A ministry of Dennis and Sherri Owens

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## Christians And The Upcoming Elections

There are only a few days until our major national election. If you are like us, you have heard a lot said by all of the various candidates and by their publicists (or handlers) and it leaves your head spinning. Even so — spinning head and all — there is a big need for Christians to be engaged in this process.

Trying to sift through all of the clutter and chatter can sometimes be quite discouraging to some people. Often times, the effort to confuse the public is intentional. It can become so overwhelming that those who have not closely followed the different candidates or issues might easily come to the conclusion that they just want the confusion to go away. And *that* is easily accomplished by deciding to “bow out” of the whole process. It just seems easier to ignore the whole mess.

We study the Bible so that we’re able to determine the truth concerning God and His plan for us. Even those things that seem to be a bit confusing in the beginning, start to come into focus as we continue to learn. Discerning the political rhetoric is somewhat similar. It’s important that we get beyond the confusion and identify what is the truth. Taking the initiative to know what is real and what is clutter can only be accomplished as we look more closely at the candidates and the issues that will be on our ballots.

There is no doubt that a great deal of liberty is taken with the “truth” during a fierce campaign by all candidates and concerning just about every issue. We are to be wise in our attempt to choose leaders who best represent what we believe promote good for our nation and uphold values that are the most closely aligned with the Word of God.

This year’s election has much to do with religion in politics. There is generally a lot of carping that goes on when President Bush refers to his belief in God as a part of his being. The reason for the complaining is that the agenda of the opposition is to endorse all forms of other religions in direct opposition to Christianity. The religions of Secularism, Atheism, New Age, Humanism etc., find favor among those who oppose the President. His opponent says that religion is a personal thing not to be referred to as having influence on day to day decisions. It is a fact however, that in this particular campaign, the process of choosing a candidate should be made easier when we consider that many of the issues “up for grabs” will have tremendous impact on the very core of our society.

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When selecting the candidate for whom we will vote, we need to keep foremost in our mind that God created life and breathed into man the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). Not just for *this* world — but because we are in His image, it is for eternity. If (as we believe) you also believe that life begins at conception, it is important to protect that life.

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; (Jeremiah 1:5 NKJV)*

*“Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.” (Isaiah 43:7 NKJV)*

*“Thus says the Lord who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you:...” (Isaiah 44:2 NKJV)*

*“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the Lord, who makes all things,...’” (Isaiah 44:24 NKJV)*

*“And now the Lord says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant,...” (Isaiah 49:5 NKJV)*

This is one point on which our candidates for President have drastically different views. The differences translate to one of these three levels. The candidate is either 1) Pro-life, 2) Woman’s right to choose abortion if she so desires, 3) Indifferent. This one important issue alone will impact many voters and motivate them toward choosing the particular candidates for whom they will vote on election day. Do we know where each candidate stands on this issue? If we don’t, we should — *before* we cast our vote.

Another issue that is also “up for grabs” is the God designated order for mankind. God’s plan was that mankind would procreate through man and woman in a marriage relationship.

*“The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man.’ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:18 and 21-24 NIV)*

Throughout the Scriptures, all *other* relationships are denounced. The punishments ascribed to going beyond the bounds of marriage were swift and exacting to the parties involved in such illicit relationships.

The desire of a minority of society to make the majority accept forms of “marriage” *other* than one man and one woman, must now go on the ballots of many states in order to make the Biblical definition of marriage a legal reality. Even if a vote by the

majority of Ohio citizens confirms the belief that marriage is an institution founded by God and consists of a one man/one woman relationship, there still exists a determination by proponents of same sex marriage to pursue overthrowing the voter’s preference. This is attempted through challenging the vote and seeking favorable rulings handed down by judges who back their cause. Just this month, less than three weeks after voters overwhelmingly approved it, Louisiana District Judge William Morvanta threw out a constitutional amendment that would have banned same-sex marriage.

In the marriage issue, it’s amazing that many people do not believe that endorsing same sex marriage is damaging to society in general. Their battle cry is that “it doesn’t directly affect *me*.” Since when does a society become stronger by legalizing and endorsing sin? Those who truly believe that legalizing same sex marriage will not have *personal* adverse affects on each of us, may want to read Dr. James Dobson’s book *Marriage Under Fire* or visit the following web address and scroll down to “*11 Arguments Against Same Sex Marriage.*”

<http://www.marriageunderfire.com/arguments.aspx>

In the heat of a campaign there is a tendency to want to make it all go away and dismiss the whole dilemma by saying “they are all just politicians, what do you expect?” It can be fairly said that our society is moving away from God — as God — revealed to us in the Scriptures. We believe a good case can be made that there is a systematic effort afoot by many organizations, legislators and judges to make it impossible to have open discussion concerning many topics in the Scriptures. At this time a bill is proposed again to make it illegal (a hate crime) to teach the Biblical truth concerning homosexuality.

*9/30/04 — Center For Reclaiming America — Press Release*

*“Tuesday night, the U.S. House voted 213-186 to pass a procedural motion encouraging the House conference committee to approve hate crimes legislation in the final version of the Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4200). The motion refers to a ‘local law enforcement and hate crimes prevention’ amendment already approved in the Senate’s version of the defense bill.*

*This is a hate crimes bill which has been promoted for years by Senator Ted Kennedy (MA) and introduced in this congressional session by Senator Gordon Smith (OR). It adds ‘real or perceived sexual orientation, gender, and disability to federal hate crimes laws.’*

*Passage would literally throw open the door to attacks against people of faith, who could be prosecuted with federal monies for expressing their views on homosexuality!”*

This is just one of many proposals being launched and promoted by very active groups of citizens who wish to remove all order established by God and replace it with the absence of rules — allowing Humanism to flourish.

The all out attack to remove the influence of *any* Christian values or concepts from all public offices, schools etc. has never been more apparent than in recent