

Monday, December 26, 2011

## **THE 5 BEST TOYS EVER**

Lots of whimsy and wisdom in this List and photos from a really cool website-  
<http://www.wired.com/geekdad/2011/01/the-5-best-toys-of-all-time/all/1>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 08:07

Friday, December 23. 2011

## **TOP 10 ALBUMS**

Here are the Top Ten Music Albums of 2011 as chosen by Christianity Today magazine. There are reviews of each one, plus runner-ups. Wide variety of lyrics and styles.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/music/commentaries/2011/2011ctmusicawards.html>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 19:14

## **CAN A CHRISTIAN BE A LIBERTARIAN?**

"The Iowa State University/Gazette/KCRG survey is the latest poll to show Paul leading in the Hawkeye State's caucuses. Paul's supporters are disproportionately young, independent, non-interventionist, non-Christian and ...dedicated. [emphasis added]" In the Iowa poll, Paul gets more than 50 percent support from the two youngest age groups — 18-29 year olds and 30-44 year olds — but gets less than 12 percent of 45-64 year olds and those 65 and older. In the Post poll, he gets 20 percent among 18-49 year olds, but just 8 percent among those 50 and older. That's a remarkable age gap."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/post/who-is-a-ron-paul-supporter/2011/12>

I note that many supporters of Ron Paul, a Libertarian, are non-Christians; but I know Evangelicals (mostly Tea Party members) who support Dr Paul. I do not understand how a Biblical Christian could be a true Libertarian. The highest values of Libertarians are individual free-will, free-thought and personal liberty. These are not Biblical values. The word "libertarian" is the antonym of "authoritarian". Isn't a Biblical Christian someone who is under the authority of God and His Word in all areas of life? Biblical Christians are committed to the Lordship, the absolute authority, of Christ over their hearts and minds. They are his bond-slaves. They do not have or believe in or desire personal autonomy or free-will.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 13:50

## **QUIZ: SEE IF YOU ARE A LIBERTARIAN**

"Libertarians support maximum liberty in both personal and economic matters. They advocate a much smaller government; one that is limited to protecting individuals from coercion and violence. Libertarians tend to embrace individual responsibility, oppose government bureaucracy and taxes, promote private charity, tolerate diverse lifestyles, support the free market, and defend civil liberties." "Centrist prefer a "middle ground" regarding government control of the economy and personal behavior. Depending on the issue, they sometimes favor government intervention and sometimes support individual freedom of choice. Centrists pride themselves on keeping an open mind, tend to oppose "political extremes," and emphasize what they describe as "practical" solutions to problems." "For a decent indicator of whether you are a libertarian according to the simple definition, take the World's Shortest Political Quiz."

<http://www.theadvocates.org/quiz>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:53

Thursday, December 22. 2011

### **NEW QT THOTS (DEVOTIONALS) HAVE BEEN POSTED**

Three of my Devotional articles has been posted at  
[http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/pages/library/QT\\_Thots\\_December2011.html](http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/pages/library/QT_Thots_December2011.html)  
"His Will sustains me"  
"His will strengthens me"  
"His will feeds me"

Posted by Cal in QT Thots at 20:22

### **WE ARE STILL IN IRAQ**

Read about our largest Embassy in the world, the 1000s of Americans who work there and the additional 1000s of "contractors" the US employs for "security" there and the billions of tax dollars to maintain all of this.

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20111221-us-diplomatic-security-iraq-after-withdrawal?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 20:18

### **WHEN IS A TAX INCREASE NOT A TAX INCREASE?**

It's a matter of definitions- again. The media tell us the debate before Congress this week is about increasing taxes on American workers. It is actually about continuing the 2% decrease in payroll taxes approved one year ago. If that decrease in the percentage, temporarily down to 4.2%, is not extended the tax would not be increased, it would return to its previous rate of 6.2 %, which it has been for decades. An actual increase, by my definition, would be if the tax went above the original 6.2 %. But yes, failure to extend would mean more of a worker's current paycheck would be taken by the Govt than workers have been getting this past year. The issue is what effect this adjustment will have on Social Security. These same workers will complain if they have a smaller SS check some day because they were paying less into it. Someone has to use some money from somewhere to make up the billions of dollars lost. The usual answer is that the Govt will make up the difference from the "General Fund". Really? The other issue being debated concurrently is the extension of unemployment benefits. How does the Govt pay for them? Part of the justification proponents give is that giving these Benefits actually increases employment and that helps make up the difference. How's that. Well the unemployed will then have money to spend and that creates jobs or adds to income of other workers. Really? Check out this- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/nancy-pelosis-misfire-on-job-and-tax-cut-claims>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:59

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

## **DECEIVED MASSES MOURN DICTATOR**

"A KCNA dispatch said North Koreans from all walks of life were in utter despair but were finding comfort in the "absolute surety that the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong-un will lead and succeed the great task of revolutionary enterprise." "Chinese state television showed North Koreans crying in the capital of Pyongyang. KCNA reported people were "writhing in pain" after losing the man who in 1994 succeeded his father Kim Il-sung, the North's first -- and officially eternal -- president as leader of the totalitarian state. "An 'endless stream' of soldiers, working people and students visited a massive memorial of Kim Il-sung in central Pyongyang mourning the death of the "Dear Leader" until past midnight. "They are weeping bitterly out of self-reproach and regret that they failed to keep Kim Jong-il in good health," KCNA said. "<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/19/us-korea-north-idUSTRE7BI05B20111219>" Aid agencies have estimated that up to two million people have died since the mid-1990s because of acute food shortages caused by natural disasters and economic mismanagement. The country relies on foreign aid to feed millions of its people. "The totalitarian state also stands accused of systematic human rights abuses. Reports of torture, public executions, slave labour, and forced abortions and infanticides in prison camps have emerged. A US-based rights group has estimated that there are up to 200,000 political prisoners in North Korea. "[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country\\_profiles/1131421.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/1131421.stm) find this reaction of the North Korean people absolutely incredible, but not surprising. They are the latest example of how masses of people can be brainwashed and deceived by their Leaders. (There have been innumerable others throughout History) What else can explain their mourning over a man who was an absolute, oppressive Dictator personally responsible, following in his father's footsteps, for the extreme hardship, poverty, suffering and death of millions of his followers (all the while enjoying a luxurious, indulgent lifestyle at their expense)? This is more evidence that the Bible's prophecies and warning of an Anti-Christ very believable and its warning about Totalitarian Government something to be taken very seriously!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:01

Monday, December 19, 2011

### **WHO CONTROLS OUR SCHOOLS AND WHY?**

The Federal Government has no constitutional power over public schools run by the States, BUT it does have great influence in the form of setting national educational standards and money in the form of grants to compel States to meet those standards. If they do not comply, they do not get the Money. Thus Federal control over the Nation's public schools gradually spreads and leads to the achievement of Educational Goals set by the Administration in Office not the State, local School Boards, local Staff and definitely not the Parents. Do Teachers really want this control [not their Union- the teachers themselves] Do Biblical Christians really support this Federal control?

<http://www.masslive.com/newsflash/index.ssf/story/mass-wins-federal-grant-for-early-education>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/dec/18/schools-race-teaches-states-a-hard-lesson/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:36

### **REAL CHANGE REQUIRES MORE THAN SLOGANS AND PROTESTS**

It is not so simply. Times Magazine chose the Demonstrators of the world to be their "Person of the Year" last week, but while they definitely got attention and have been influential in their respective Countries, a lot more than noisy protests is required to make real change in a Society. I think many Americans like to think all the uprisings were to achieve something like the "Democracy" we say we believe in. Most media carry that message. But National change requires a lot more than slogans, protests and the demands of minority groups. Here are two articles that give a reality check. They are about Syria but illustrate well the many factors involved in changing any Country's Leadership, Policies and direction. Many deep rooted social, cultural, ethnic factors are involved. Politics, Power and a history of conflict and control of one group over another is involved. We must consider "Regime change" not just the elimination of a Dictator. Often that "Regime" is the Military. And when it comes to American intervention in other Nations, political pragmatism and strategy and even greed come before ethics and morality.

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20110504-making-sense-syrian-crisis?>

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20111214-syria-crisis-assessing-foreign-intervention?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:00

Saturday, December 17, 2011

## **THE AFGHAN WAR- LONGER THAN IRAQ- WE ARE STILL THERE**

"The War in Afghanistan, also called the Afghan war, began on October 7, 2001, as the armed forces of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Afghan United Front (Northern Alliance) launched Operation Enduring Freedom. The primary driver of the invasion was the September 11 attacks on the United States, with the stated goal of dismantling the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization and ending its use of Afghanistan as a base. The United States also said that it would remove the Taliban regime from power and create a viable democratic state. A decade into the war, the U.S. continues to battle a widespread Taliban insurgency, and the war has expanded into the tribal areas of neighboring Pakistan." Source: Wikipedia. For excellent commentary on this War and essential lessons not yet learned, read-

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/136882/paul-l-yingling/an-absence-of-strategic-thinking>

"The preludes to the war were the assassination of anti-Taliban leader Ahmad Shah Massoud on September 9, 2001, and the September 11 attacks on the United States, in which nearly 3000 civilians lost their lives in New York City, Arlington, Virginia. and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The United States identified members of al-Qaeda, an organization based in, operating out of and allied with the Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, as the perpetrators of the attacks." A March 2011 Congressional Research Service report notes the following about Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan: 1) Defense Department spending on Afghanistan has increased to \$6.7 billion a month. Troop strength is expected to be at 102,000 for fiscal year 2011; 2) The projected total cost relating to Afghanistan from inception to the fiscal year 2011 is expected to be \$468 billion. The estimate for the cost of deploying one US soldier in Afghanistan is over US\$1 million dollars a year."

The War in Afghanistan is the longest continuous military conflict second only to the Vietnam War (1959–1975) The war in Iraq came later and lasted from 3-03 to 12-11.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:46

## **WE ARE NOT DONE WITH IRAQ**

How the War officially ended-"In October 2011, Iraq's leaders announced that they had agreed on the need to keep American military trainers in the country in 2012, but declared that any remaining troops should not be granted immunity from Iraqi law, a point the United States had said would be a deal breaker. On Oct. 21, President Obama declared that the United States would bring all American troops home by the end of the year, ending a nearly nine-year military engagement that cost the lives of 4,400 troops and more than \$1 trillion, divided the American public and came to define America's role in the world". But it is not really over- The departure of the soldiers is by no means the end of a large American presence. The administration had already drawn up plans for an extensive expansion of the American Embassy and its operations, bolstered by thousands of paramilitary security contractors. It also created an Office of Security Cooperation that, like similar ones in countries like Egypt, would be staffed by civilians and military personnel overseeing the training and equipping of Iraq's security forces. Even without an extension of the deadline after 2011, that office is expected to be one of the largest in the world, with hundreds if not thousands of employees. Officials have previously suggested that keeping American soldiers in this office might not require a new security agreement to replace the expiring one since they would be covered by the same protection offered to diplomats. And the State Department was to assume responsibility for training the Iraqi police, a task that will largely be carried out by contractors. With no American soldiers to defuse sectarian tensions in northern Iraq, it will be up to American diplomats in two new \$100 million outposts to head off potential confrontations between the Iraqi Army and Kurdish pesh merga forces. How the war in Iraq began- "Almost immediately after ousting the Taliban from power in Afghanistan following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 — some argue, even before — President George W. Bush began to press the case for an American-led invasion of Iraq. He cited the possibility that Saddam Hussein still sought nuclear, biological and chemical weapons in defiance of United Nations restrictions and sanctions. Mr. Bush and other senior American officials also sought to link Iraq to Al Qaeda, the terrorist organization led by Osama bin Laden that carried out the Sept. 11 attacks. Both claims have since been largely discredited, though some officials and analysts continue to argue otherwise, saying that Mr. Hussein's Iraq posed a real and imminent threat to the region and to the United States." Read the full article- <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/iraq/index.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:40

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

## **HIS WILL SUSTAINS ME**

My latest Devotional on Kudos Press website is now available-  
[http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/pages/library/QT\\_Thots\\_December2011.html](http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/pages/library/QT_Thots_December2011.html)

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 20:08

## **SEEING STARS, MISSING THEIR CREATOR!**

If you are interested in Space Exploration and Astronomy in General complete with extraordinary photography, here are 2 sights to check out!

<http://www.universetoday.com/>

<http://fragileoasis.org/blog/2011/11/coming-back-down-to-our-fragile-oasis-2/>

It is interesting that while there is no mention of God here, these photos and descriptions document His work to me. I appreciate what these Scientists have done, but wonder if they are evidence of Rom 1:18-20. How could they not see the Creator?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:05

## **EUROPE'S NIGHTMARE**

"The European Union is an attempt to build an economic and legal superstructure without a linguistic, cultural, historic and civic base. It was the final of the post-World War II efforts — the United Nations was among the first — to build governments that were transnational, passionless and safe. The desire for a unified Europe is strong, at least among the leadership class and those over 60."But now the inherent flaws are undermining the project. The nations of Europe have been running different kinds of economies and different kinds of democracies, reflecting their diverse histories, values and cultures."... shared identity doesn't exist between Germans and Greeks, or even between French and Germans. It was easy to be European when it didn't cost anything. When sacrifices are necessary, the European identity dissolves away."The mess threatens to bring down the European project and European economies. It threatens to send the world into another global recession. On a superficial level, the fault lies with the current European leadership ... . But the real problems emerge from the technocratic mind-set, from the arrogant gray men who believe they can engineer society, oblivious to history, language, culture, values and place." Hmm, increasingly, sadly, that last sentence describes America!

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/18/opinion/brooks-the-technocratic-nightmare.>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 12:03

Tuesday, December 13. 2011

## **BLAMING ISRAEL**

This article conveys the current sad state of affairs of the relations between the United States and Israel <http://www.creators.com/opinion/mona-charen/obama-default-mode-blame-israel.html>  
God loves "Israel". Today's Nation of Israel is not the Covenant People in the Bible. It is a secular, democratic State. I am not a Dispensationalist and do not believe the Nation of Israel is the People of God today (the Church is). But I respect the History and Heritage of the Jewish People going back to the days of Abraham. The Church is indebted to the Israel of the Bible. Through them to us came our Scripture, our Lord, our Salvation and our Hope. I admire and respect the stubborn commitment of the Jewish people to their God and ours, through millennia of persecution and suffering because of that Faith. I respect that the Jewish people world-wide consider the Nation of Israel their Home, even though there are more Jews living in NYC (and elsewhere) than in the Nation of Israel. God gave the Land to their ancestors. I believe they have an historical, as well as Biblical, right to it which precedes any claim on it by today's Palestinians. I am convinced that the latter as a people are sworn enemies of the Nation of Israel (especially Hamas in Gaza and the Hezbollah in Lebanon) and they are determined to destroy it (or see it destroyed) in concert with Iran. The latter are all anti-Semites in the extreme. I can not be sympathetic to them. Hear the Word of the Lord-Zechariah 2:8 For thus said the LORD of hosts ... regarding the nations that plundered you: Truly, one who touches you touches the apple of my eye. 9 See now, I am going to raise my hand against them, and they shall become plunder for [others].

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:49

Monday, December 12. 2011

## **BIG LIES THAT MANY BELIEVE ARE TRUE**

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=2084>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:56

## **GLOBAL WARMING TREATY**

In this account of the recent Climate Change Summit notice the call for some Authority to have legal control over all Nations of the world limiting their greenhouse-gas emissions and pollution allowances, hence their economies. Not good. But also note all the vague and soft language used by everyone involved which could mean the proposal agreed upon will come to nothing. Most interesting is the effort to bridge the differences between the Global South and the Global North as well as the key role of China, again, in international issues and the future.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/un-climate-talks-real-world-outcome-will-be-determined-in-asia/>

Here is a good critique of the UN Conference in Durban and its agenda

<http://blogs.cfr.org/levi/2011/12/11/a-misplaced-climate-celebration-in-durban/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:45

Saturday, December 10. 2011

### **FIGHTING WORLD POVERTY- A GOOD RESOURCE**

There are many organizations dedicated to alleviating extreme poverty around the Globe. Here is one I have recently learned about that seems to have a very good all-inclusive approach, incorporating Biblical Principles. Their website is worth a look-

<http://www.povertycure.org/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:11

### **EUROPEAN UNION**

The proposed Treaty (yet to be ratified) among the European Nations portends serious trouble for all Nations. Yes, Ireland, Greece and Spain are in financial crisis, but this Treaty gives away much of their sovereignty and will probably not solve their poor credit and great debt problems (which really have political and social roots). This is another short term move with very long-term consequences. Can we imagine our 50 States giving strict control over their separate Budgets to the Federal Government? And unlike us, those Nations are divided by different languages, Geo-political realities and cultures (a problem for centuries). And notice which Nation is calling the shots and will gain power over the others: Germany. I hope Mr Cameron and the UK hold their ground and their independence.

The adoption of the EURO was but a step toward intended political unification of Europe- a vision of many since WWII and not a good one. Watching all this is Russia and China who have great stakes in it all

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the-evolution-of-the-european-union/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:21

Thursday, December 8, 2011

## **PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

The so-called Arab Spring has turned to the Arab Winter in many ways, not the least of which is the freezing up of Religious Freedom, particularly the persecution of Christians by Islamists.  
<http://www.acton.org/pub/commentary/2011/10/19/arab-springs-forgotten-freedom>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:31

## **"FOOD"**

My latest Devotional writing (QT Thots), entitled "Food" is now available in this ever interesting webzine  
<http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/pages/library.html>

Posted by Cal in QT Thots at 09:18

## **ELIZABETH WARREN WARNING**

"Professional Progressive", passionate and persuasive Elizabeth Warren is running against our only conservative Republican Senator here in Massachusetts. Polls show her increasing popularity. There is even talk of her as a presidential possibility in the future.

<http://www.boston.com/Boston/metrodesk/2011/12/poll-shows-warren-surgin-ahead->

Here is a CT editorial both praising her and spotlighting her major weakness.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/december/notaxpayerisland.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:07

## **ANOTHER EARTH? THANK GOD FOR THIS ONE!**

A discussion of the recent discovery of another planet which might be "habitable" for human life and why this one we live on is, thanks to God.

<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=2067>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:47

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS SOURCES**

These are some resources I use for keeping up with Near and Middle Eastern News

[http://www.cfr.org/interactives/CG\\_Iran/](http://www.cfr.org/interactives/CG_Iran/)

<http://www.meforum.org/topics/52/democracy-and-islam>

<http://www.cfr.org/>

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templatel01.php>

<http://nation.com.pk/>

<http://www.dawn.com/>

<http://www.reuters.com/>

<http://www.economist.com/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:29

## **IDEALISM vs REALISM IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

This very timely analysis of the state of affairs in Egypt is fascinating. It raises many important issues for debate and action going forward. I disagree with some of what the writer says, but find it all very helpful. "The first round of Egyptian parliamentary elections has taken place, and the winners were two Islamist parties. The Islamists themselves are split between more extreme and more moderate factions, but it is clear that the secularists who dominated the demonstrations and who were the focus of the Arab Spring narrative made a poor showing. Of the three broad power blocs in Egypt — the military, the Islamists and the secular democrats — the last proved the weakest." "The idea that the destruction of repressive regimes opens the door for democratic elections that will not result in another repressive regime, at least by Western standards, assumes that all societies find Western values admirable and want to emulate them. This is sometimes the case, but the general assertion is a form of narcissism in the West that assumes that all reasonable people, freed from oppression, would wish to emulate us." Read more: Egypt and the Idealist-Realist Debate in U.S. Foreign Policy | STRATFOR

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20111205-egypt-and-idealist-realist-debate-us-foreign-policy>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:51

## **REMEMBERING PEARL**

"[Today] the country observes the 70th anniversary of the aerial bombing that killed 2,390 Americans and brought the United States into World War II. A larger ceremony to remember all those who perished will be held Wednesday just before 8 a.m. Hawaii time -- the same moment the devastating attack began. Most of the 12 ships that sank or were beached that day were removed from the harbor, their metal hulls salvaged for scrap. Just the Utah and the USS Arizona still lie in the dark blue waters."

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/12/07/pearl\\_harbor\\_survivors\\_return\\_](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2011/12/07/pearl_harbor_survivors_return_)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:46

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

## **COMMON CORE STANDARDS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

If you are trying to keep up with and understand what the federal Govt is trying to do with education in public (ie-tax-payer funded State) schools, you know about the emphasis these days on testing and meeting standards set by the Govt. The latter include meeting what are called the "Common Core Standards" that States and local school districts are adopting and requiring teachers and students to achieve. (I post often on this subject)"In reality, then, these standards were written by highly educated adults who do not teach children at present and, possibly, never did. Unconnected to the scientific research on children's intellectual and emotional development and the everyday realities of children's needs, interests and behavior, these writers relied only the folklore of academia, fantasizing not only what children should be expected to know and do, but also what adults need to function in actual colleges and workplaces."Unfortunately, what's done is done. Forty-five states plus the District of Columbia have already signed on [the federal Govt can not dictate that they do this, but it is required if the schools want to receive Govt funding] to the Common Core Standards (according to the Standards website), commercial publishers are racing to produce materials aligned with them, school districts are re-writing their curricula, testing companies are creating new tests to measure students competence, and teacher training specialists are offering standards workshops. Even some of the teachers who have lived through No Child Left Behind are resigned to this new swing of the pendulum and changing their classroom practices. The only hope for America's children and its public schools is that parents and teachers will raise their voices for reason, wisdom, and quality education."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/choking-on-the-common-core-standards>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:43

## **LATEST GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE**

Chinese climate negotiators raised the prospect of negotiating a legally binding climate pact at U.N. talks this weekend in South Africa, but the requirements they laid out for reaching that goal might make such a deal hard to reach.  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/chinese-climate-negotiators-raise-possibility-of-global-warming-pact->

Here is a very cynical, critical view of latest effort for a new international Treaty about Global Warming-"Global warming has become the ultimate means for anyone lacking a beneficial product or service to cash in and realize their dreams of wealth through government subsidies and mandates. With the Kyoto Protocol set to expire in 2012, carbon speculators are not about to let their billions (and hoped-for trillions) slip away without a fight."  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/nov/29/scary-climate-talks-in-durban/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:17

Sunday, December 4, 2011

## **ROMNEY vs GINGRICH**

Here are the pros and cons laid out: the undesirable against the unelectable

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/12/02/charles-krauthammer-gop-choice-pits-the-undesireable-against-the-unelectable/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:08

Friday, December 2, 2011

## **SUMMARY OF STUDY: IS AMERICA CHRISTIAN?**

Is the United States a Christian Nation? I am not asking if the majority of Americans today are evangelical Christians. I am not asking if the majority of Americans today share Christian values and live accordingly. I am not asking if our goals and accomplishments, our History, as a Nation have been Christian, at least most of the time. My answer to these questions would be probably or definitely not. This is not to say that America is not a great and wonderful Country. It is and I am proud and thankful to be an American, but it is not Christian by these standards. In answer to the original Question, many people refer to our Founders and the Founding Documents: the Declaration of Independence, the original 18th Century Constitution (understood according to "original intent") and the Bill of Rights. Are these documents Christian? No, they are not. Christ is not mentioned in them. And it is significant that the Founders did not want the Govt to establish or support any Christian Church and that candidates for elected Offices did not need to be Christian (there was to be no religious test at all for them). Officially, the United States is not a Christian Nation. But, those Founding Documents embody and codify Principles of Govt that are found in the Bible, ie- Principles that are ordained by God. Our Nation was originally built on those Biblical principles. We were officially designed and intended by the Founders to be a Nation that obeyed the Law of God and as long as we have those Founding Documents this is what we are officially and this is what we must always work at becoming in practice. A Summary of the argument for this Conclusion is in this Essay posted now on my website. Summary of Studies re Principles of Government as of 12-11 <http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 15:29

## **NEGATIVE ON AFFIRMATIVE**

In a post below, there is a new article about the current trend in college admissions policies to give preference to cash customers over those seeking admission who require a "Financial Aide Package". (There is an interesting footnote that the students who enroll on an all-paid basis often under perform academically!) Here is an article from last March bemoaning preference being given to white male students over those who are neither white nor male. (regardless of money matters) [http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/quotas-everyone-ignores\\_554831.html](http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/quotas-everyone-ignores_554831.html)

And then there is affirmative action that benefits the children of Alumni

("Legacy") <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/11/13/why-do-top-schools-still-take-legacy-applicants>

Both articles bemoan these types of Affirmative Action as unfair, but the implication is that Affirmative Action for Minorities (usually meaning African Americans) is ethically correct, necessary and to be legally enforced (even there is much evidence that such "Quotas" hurt the "Minorities")

[http://www.mindingthecampus.com/originals/2010/07/how\\_diversity\\_punishes\\_asians.html](http://www.mindingthecampus.com/originals/2010/07/how_diversity_punishes_asians.html)

Personally, I vote for Admissions on merit alone across the board.

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:04

## **NOT MY VALENTINE! NOT MY KIND OF GUY!**

"STAMFORD, Conn. - This is home. This is the place he loves, the place that loves him. This is the place where, no matter what happens, the controversies and failures, the enmity and injuries, Bobby Valentine can be the person, the star, he was always meant to be. The awe still lives here, the wonder, the adulation. This is home. This is where Bobby Valentine is - and always will be - everything." He is who he is because of Stamford. Here he is deified, always has been. His star has been bright as long as anyone can remember, from the first days he showed athletic promise, in baseball and football and track. It is the foundation of everything he is, including the parts that don't win him favor, the brashness, the bluster."

[http://articles.boston.com/2011-12-01/sports/30463784\\_1\\_](http://articles.boston.com/2011-12-01/sports/30463784_1_)

The new Manager of the Red Sox may be good for the Team, but if this adulatory description is true, he is also the kind of guy that got the Sox in trouble and what is wrong with Sports everywhere else. Can Christians root for a man described like this? Could a Christian ever aspire to be such a person?

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 09:32

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION MESS**

"Stanford University Education Professor Linda Darling-Hammond helped Barack Obama draft his educational plan when he was a presidential candidate, and advised him on education issues during the transition between Obama's 2008 election and 2009 inauguration. Since then, she has opposed the standardized test-based school reform policies of the Obama administration. Her speech at last Saturday's Save Our Schools March in Washington D.C. explains the extent of the trouble public education is in. Here it is."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/darling-hammond-the-mess-we-are-in/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 08:53

## **AIDS IS STILL HAVING ITS DAY**

"Some 17,000 state residents have been diagnosed with the virus, but the true number of those infected may be closer to 25,000, accounting for those who do not know they're infected and, hence, are not receiving treatment, Cranston said."Nationally, 20 percent of people infected with HIV do not know they are, according to a federal report released this week. It also found that three out of four infected people do not have the virus under control. More than 16,000 Americans die each year from AIDS. There are still 40,000 new infections every year in the United States."Massachusetts encourages health care providers to offer HIV testing during routine physicals, but most eligible patients skip the test or are not offered it. "Unfortunately, we're a victim of our success with HIV treatments being so effective," said Dr. Richard Marlink, executive director of the Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative. "We have a new generation of adults who really haven't known the devastation of people wasting away and dying. It's become a treatment problem, and the complacency is very high; that's what we're battling." [emphasis added]

[http://articles.boston.com/2011-12-01/lifestyle/30463889\\_1\\_offer-hiv-testing-new-infections-world-aids-day](http://articles.boston.com/2011-12-01/lifestyle/30463889_1_offer-hiv-testing-new-infections-world-aids-day)

My understanding is that locally, AIDS is spread mostly by promiscuous heterosexual behavior, typically among women who have sex with men carrying the Virus and often as part of their way to support drug addiction. This problem with AIDS continues to be primarily a matter of behavior, immoral sexual behavior.

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 08:46

## **DOES MONEY OR MERIT MAKE FOR ADMISSION TO COLLEGE?**

Latest Survey indicates that the college admissions policy is increasingly about money and profits

<http://shankerblog.org/?p=3965>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 08:22

Thursday, December 1, 2011

### **GLOBAL WARMING MELT-DOWN**

What can we believe about this?

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/groups-frame-climate-as-a-moral-cause/2011/11/30/gIQAFABdEO\\_story.html?wpisrc=nl\\_cuzheads](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/groups-frame-climate-as-a-moral-cause/2011/11/30/gIQAFABdEO_story.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzheads)

BUT on the other hand-

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2066240/Second-leak-climate-emails-Political-giants-weigh-bias-scientists-bowing-financial-pressure-sponsors.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:51

### **NEGATIVES ABOUT NEWT**

I think Newt Gingrich would do well in debates with Mr Obama. But I have serious doubts about him being our next President. Mona Charen explains some of my own concerns

<http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/charen112911.php3>

And then there are these considerations-

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/newt-gingrich-offers-big-ideas-for-social-security-medicare-and-judicial-branch/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:44