

Thursday, November 29, 2012

AN INTERESTING SITE: GOOD ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

a favorite website <http://kudospress.com/serendipity/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:47

DOES RELIGION GET SPECIAL PRIVILEGES IN AMERICA? SHOULD IT?

"What's so special about religion, that it should be granted such deferential attention? Many people deem religion's "special privileges" needless, embarrassing, or downright illegitimate. Can we offer them any arguments they'll find compelling, or at least persuade them to see things in a different light? To the skeptics, let me offer five such arguments in what follows."

http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/november/honoring-faith-in-public-square.html?utm_source=ctdirect-html&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_term=11430839&utm_content=144154715&utm_campaign=2012

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:25

HELL FIRE or HOLY SMOKE?

A local Pastor made the headlines here today because he is quoted as saying the great explosion last week on Thanksgiving Day was the wrath of God destroying what had been a Strip Club and surrounding buildings in the heart of our local "Entertainment District". I walked around the area this morning. I gave thanks to God. I saw overwhelming evidence of His mercy. For example one destroyed building I passed was a child day care center nearby. There are normally more than a 100 toddlers there every day- but not that day because it was the Holiday. I guess we see what we look for and we should look for the goodness of God present and active in the midst of the dark acrid smoke rising from our sinful society.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:07

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

THE REAL DEAL? THE WORLD ACCORDING TO ANGUS JONES

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/november-web-only/i-am-paid-hypocrite-two-and-half-men-star-talks-to-ct-about.html?>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 14:43

SHALL HUMANITY BE DESTROYED BY MICRORGANISMS?

<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/7146>

This article is a long Essay about the future of Humanity and the reasons for its probable demise from factors you probably would not guess. I didn't. It is fascinating and worth the time to read it. It is also a marvelous testimony to the amazing achievements of Humanity and to what could be considered the work of God in Humanity's History. God is not mentioned, but I can see His Hand in the History. It offers reasons for hope for what could be.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:27

NEW EVIDENCE FOR EVOLUTION?

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21628921.500-our-true-dawn-pinning-down-human-origins.html?full=true>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:41

Tuesday, November 27. 2012

ABORTION RATE DECLINES

<http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctliveblog/archives/2012/11/cdc-abortion-rate-ratio-lowest-since-2000.html?>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:17

THE DELUSION AND DANGER OF ROMANTIC NATIONALISM

This analysis (and its lessons) applies to America and Christian Denominations, too
<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/gaza-catalonia-and-romantic-nationalism>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:37

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

GOV'T SURVEILLANCE OF EMAILS

After public criticism of proposal that lets government agencies warrantlessly access Americans' e-mail, Sen. Patrick Leahy says he will "not support" such an idea at next week's vote.

http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57552687-38/leahy-scuttles-his-warrantless-e-mail-surveillance-bill/

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:42

BEWARE METADATA

"Every move we make online leaves a trace. This is a lesson former CIA director David Petraeus and his lover, Paula Broadwell, learned in dramatic fashion a few weeks ago after an FBI investigation – begun in response to an unrelated complaint – found email records of their illicit affair.

"Such troubles may seem far from the day-to-day concerns of the average internet user. But federal government searches of user data have been growing rapidly. Last week, Google released its biannual transparency report, which shows that the US government made nearly 8,000 requests for data on its users' accounts over the past six months – one third more than the previous reporting period. Of those requests, 90 per cent were fully or partially complied with."
<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn22511-how-metadata-brought-down-cia-boss-david-petraeus.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:34

ISLAMIC LAW IN THE USA?

A constitutional battle over Muslim family law has begun. In November 2010, Oklahoma voters approved a state constitutional amendment banning the use of Muslim Shari'ah and other international laws in its state courts. This was a direct rejoinder to other Western nations allowing Muslim citizens to enforce Muslim marriage contracts in state courts and to resolve family law issues before Shari'ah tribunals without state interference. Oklahoma's citizens wanted none of it, and they voted to ban the use of Shari'ah altogether. Twelve other states are discussing comparable measures.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/november/shariahs-uphill-climb.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:01

WHERE NEW WORDS USED ON TWITTER COME FROM

www.newscientist.com/article/mg21628916.300-twitter-shows-language-evolves-in-cities.html

Posted by Cal at 09:41

GLOBAL WARMING WORSE?

"Five years ago, we were warned that the climate change outlook was bad. In this week's cover feature, read the seven reasons why it's even worse than we thought. Also on newscientist.com this week (or right now for subscribers): the revival of bloodletting to cure a modern malady; how the sun is messing with radioactive decay; and why taking a day off from food could put you on the fast track to longevity."

www.newscientist.com/special/worse-climate Flora Graham, deputy editor, newscientist.com

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:33

Tuesday, November 13. 2012

A REVIEW OF NEW SCIENTIST, A MAGAZINE

"We live in a golden age of science writing, with an embarrassment of riches to choose from. This month ..., we're looking at magazines, starting with New Scientist, the British-based weekly."
<http://www.booksandculture.com/articles/webexclusives/2012/november/science-magazines.html?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:51

THE SECOND COMING: BAD NEWS/GOOD NEWS

Joel 2 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near. 11 ... Truly the day of the LORD is great; terrible indeed-who can endure it? Revelation 19:1-10 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God, 2 for his judgments are true and just; he has judged the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants.' 3 Once more they said, 'Hallelujah! The smoke goes up from her forever and ever.' 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying, 'Amen. Hallelujah!' 5 And from the throne came a voice saying, 'Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who fear him, small and great.' 6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; 8 to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'-for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. 9 And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 09:48

BIBLICAL HOME SCHOOLING

Psalm 78

2 ...I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. 3 That which we have heard and known and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children. 4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD and the wonderful works he has done. 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, which he commanded them to teach their children; 6 That the generations to come might know and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children; 7 So that they might put their trust in God and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 09:21

Monday, November 12, 2012

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT IMMIGRANTS?

Probably the major argument used by Christians in favor of open borders and full inclusion of "illegal aliens" into American life with all rights and privileges of Citizens is based on the Bible and what it allegedly says about "aliens", "sojourners" and "strangers" in Israel. The Bible has texts like these-
Exo 22:21 "You shall not wrong a sojourner [a temporary inhabitant, a newcomer lacking inherited rights or foreigners in Israel] or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
Lev 19:34 "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.
See the rest of this study at www.reformedliving.org/

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 10:38

NEW BIBLE STUDY ON THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth: but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. 15 Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

The salt and the light of the world are not Christ or the Gospel, nor are they people who evangelize. The reference is to people who exhibit these characteristics. Their life, how they are with others, what they do- all of that together is the salt and light that the world needs.

I just posted an extensive study of the Beatitudes to define what these characteristics are.
www.reformedliving.org

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 10:26

Sunday, November 11. 2012

PRAYERS FOR AMERICA AND OUR VETERANS

Prayers for America and Those Who Serve It (from the Book of Common Prayer)

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail;

O Lord our Governor, ... We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will.

Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; [and we especially are thankful for all those men and women who have been and are now serving "this People" in the Military. Help all of us being so served to be grateful and do our part to pray for and properly respect, support and aid them in the performance of their Service.- added] through Jesus Christ our Lord ... Amen.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:17

IN GOD IS OUR TRUST

Fourth verse of the National Anthem-

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall
wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:16

Saturday, November 10. 2012

NEW MATERIAL Re THE ARTS (AESTHETICS)

What is Art? What is good Art? What is Christian Art? What is not any of these things?
New Essays and Notes on Art at reformedliving.org [cut and paste or highlight and drag]

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 10:56

Friday, November 9, 2012

A PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 19:37

EVIL MEN AND INTELLECTUALS WHO LOVE THEM

www.forbes.com/sites/currentevents/2012/11/01/men-blinded-by-their-brains/

For more documentation of men blinded by their brains read
Intellectuals and Society by Thomas Sowell
Intellectuals by Paul Johnson

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 19:15

LEARNING TO THINK AND WORK BIBLICALLY- FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

As I wrote below, I believe in the Sovereignty of God. Therefore I believe He is interested in, involved with, everything. It means that He has a will for all things and that His will is revealed in Scripture. If He is Sovereign, His Word is sovereign.

I am convinced no Academic Subject is neutral or objective. Every Discipline is religious, i.e, based on assumed suppositions- presuppositions. They all have faith foundations and rest on, or are ultimately derived from, fundamental philosophies or ideologies- all of them.

For many years I have researched major academic fields: Law, Government, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, including Economics and Mathematics, Technology, the Humanities and the Arts looking for their underlying faith foundations, philosophic presuppositions, ideology, or World View. This is a life-long enterprise. I have barely scratched the surface.

Having a grasp on the commonly accepted faith assumptions of a particular Subject, say Mathematics or Economics, I examine that in light of the Bible and try to understand what God's Word, His will as Sovereign, is on the Matter. The latter should be of serious concern to Christians.

I seek to expose weaknesses, inconsistencies and illogical positions in a particular Field in an effort to create doubt in Christians who advocate the dominant presuppositions of a Discipline to the point where they might be willing to consider another, i.e.- a Biblical approach to it.

My primary hope is to find and teach Christians the Principles, Norms and teaching of Scripture for each Academic subject, from Art to Zoology. I believe Christians who claim God as their Sovereign are bound to do His will in their academic work and thus to build their Field, their lives, upon it. In this way they extend God's Kingdom on earth and Glorify Him in all things. I know this shall often lead to conflict with the status quo and may lead to loss of a career. If this is the result of thinking and acting biblically, this is what it means to be a Disciple of Christ and gives meaning to "bearing one's cross". The alternative to profess that Jesus is Lord but not seek His will and obey it in one's vocation or work is unacceptable. To tolerate such a Dualism in our lives is to be unfaithful to God.

There remains much to do and my time here to work on this Project is getting shorter as I become older. I know many others also do this intellectual work. But I have found very few Evangelicals who are interested in the project or in my work. I wish many more, especially young people, would join the effort. See my Essays posted at ReformedLiving.org I hope and pray at least some who know me and read my work will be inspired to pick up the challenge and do better and more. Pro Rege!

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 10:16

Thursday, November 8, 2012

MY WEBSITE, REFORMED LIVING.ORG

Welcome to Re/FORMED LIVING! <http://www.reformedliving.org/>

This website is the portal to the writing of Calvin (Cal) Fox. I hope you will browse and discover material that will be interesting and helpful to living a Re/Formatted life, that is, a life being formed by the Word of God in all aspects! Pro Rege!

My Theology is grounded in the Bible as primarily understood by the 16th Century Reformers, especially John Calvin. Calvinism is far more than the 5 famous doctrines having to do with Salvation. It is about the Sovereignty of God over all and is actually a World View to live by. (Many who call themselves Calvinists do not grasp this or do not want to do so.) The Calvinist worldview was developed by the Dutch Theologian, Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920), and it is known as Kuyperism or Neo-Calvinism. Kuyper proclaimed, "there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" Amen! The post below is a list of the key principles of Neo-Calvinism. On the Front page of my Re/Formatted Living website, you can find links to many essays I have written in several Categories: EcclesiastiCAL (church related topics, mostly from an Anglican perspective), TheologiCAL (theological topics), Re/formation Institute (articles on a variety of academic subjects such as Economics and Government) and also to this Blog, "Dutch Treat" and my to some of my occasional devotional writing called "QT Thots".

Begin by clicking on one of the Topics on the Menu bar at the top of the page then click again on subtopics. Notice the space provided for Searching the site below the Menu Bar. Icons at the top of each Essay enable you to turn it into a PFD or to mail or print it. There is provision for your comments. Please do me the courtesy of using your real name if you do comment.

My indispensable partner in setting all of this up is Norm Gosselin, webmaster and son-in-law! We welcome suggestions for improvements. We do this as a serious Ministry for Christ (Pro Rege) and appreciate your prayers. We hope you will recommend the site to others. Thanks for visiting!!

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 18:23

WHO I AM

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION -

I am Calvin Fox, ordained as a Baptist Minister of the Gospel, according to the usage of the Baptist General Conference, in 1961. Retired from the Pastorate, I am now a lay-theologian in the Reformed, Covenant and Neo-Calvinist Tradition. (The Principles of Neo-calvinism are outlined below the photo.) We are also now confirmed Anglicans, having come to appreciate Liturgical, Eucharistic Worship. My formal education was at the University of Connecticut and Lincoln Christian Seminary.

Our 45 years of Ministry has included Pastoring full time and part time in a variety of churches, from urban to suburban to rural. We have been blessed in ministry to college students, as well as in Evangelism and church planting in several States. I have also had many years experience working in Social Services both in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Retired, my wife and I live in Springfield Massachusetts.

I share a vision seen by Abraham Kuyper. However, I would amend what he wrote to read, "One desire is the ruling passion of my life. One high motive has acted like a spur upon my mind and soul. God's holy ordinances [Law] must be established again in the home, in the school and in the public and civic lives of Believers for the good of the Nation; to carve as it were into the conscience of all Christians the ordinances [Law] of the Lord, to which the Bible and Creation bear witness, until the Church thus pays homage again to God in our Nation."

Posted by Cal in Personal Journal at 16:40

NEO-CALVINISM

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF NEO-CALVINISM

Creation, Fall and Redemption: What God Formed, Sin Deformed and Grace shall Reform

God's Creation is good. It has been radically corrupted by the Fall. Redemption includes restoration of that Creation in Christ

Rejection of Dualism. Dualism is common in much Christian thinking. The most notable dualism is between Nature and Grace. Neo-Calvinists maintain that Grace restores Nature (and that the Church, as Salt and Light, is meant to transform Culture)

Jesus is Lord over all of Creation. Jesus' lordship extends through every area and aspect of life-it is not restricted to the sphere of church or of personal piety.

All of life is to be Redeemed- Reformed. The work of Jesus on the cross was intended to defeat Evil in all areas of life. The resurrection of Jesus is meant to lead to the renewal of all life for both individuals and Society.

Cultural Mandate Genesis 1:26-28 is the mandate from God to Humanity to care for and cultivate all of Creation, including Culture and Civilization, to God's glory

The Role of Law. Law is more than the Decalogue. It is the Torah (Five Books of Moses) and begins with the creation ordinances (Norms) established by God as His will for the living of life in all Spheres

Sphere Sovereignty. The Spheres are God-given Institutions (Marriage, Family, Faith Community (Church), Civil Government and Civic Community). Each of these Institutions has boundaries that mark off its sphere of responsibility and influence. All are responsible to God. In relation to each other, they are autonomous (sovereign), but cooperative.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 16:34

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

BEWARE THE BEAST!!

REVELATION 13 ESV-

1 I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. 2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon [Satan] gave his power and his throne and great authority. 3 One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. 4 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast [the State], and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

5 And the beast ... was allowed to exercise authority... . 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven [the Church Triumphant]. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation [world-wide Totalitarian Government], 8 and all ... will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. [italics added]

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 17:45

IT IS NOT THE SIZE, IT IS THE POWER OF THE STATE WE NEED TO FEAR

Many Evangelicals simply do not get it. The Bible warns repeatedly about Government assuming the place and power of God over their lives- the lives of all citizens. Ever increasing State power and control is a great danger to our Faith, our Freedom, our lives. **BEWARE**

"The centralization of power is one of the most profound factors in American public life. Conservatives and libertarians find it a dangerous tendency, while liberal statist applaud it. The elevation of power decreases the importance of the individual, reduces the importance of competition from the public sphere (states and municipalities face real competitive pressures with one another, while the federal government has no peer) and diminishes the sphere of personal liberty. But it also has a practical electoral effect, as everyone watching the election returns come in last night could see. In swing state after swing state, blue mushroom clouds erupted over red counties as big city political machines turned in their votes. A single metropolitan area of great size can outweigh all the remaining votes of the state, given that not even the reddest outlying county will vote 100 percent Republican."

"The cities don't vote 100 percent Democrat either, but the level of organization that churns out their votes is quietly awesome. All those anecdotal reports of Republican enthusiasm in 2012 were real enough, but overall turnout was much better for Democrats. The urban factor is not unbeatable, but it's very helpful. Those political organizations have very old and deep roots; there is coordination with labor unions, which by definition tend to be very well organized; and people who live in big cities have a certain willingness to accept large-scale government that can be quite different from the rural and suburban mindsets.

"There are also the business realities and economies of scale to consider. Centralization of operations can be a great asset to nationwide business endeavors. Big operations produce cost efficiency that leads to competitive advantage. Buying or producing in volume and selling at a discount is great business model, and modern communications technology has made it more attractive than ever – look at the rise of Internet super-retailers like Amazon.com. Big companies must have headquarters, and those headquarters are not often located in sparsely populated rural areas. Those forces have been at work throughout the industrial era. Looking further ahead, increased fuel costs and greater reliance on public transportation – very much parts of the "transformation" planned for America – will only make location in close proximity to big urban areas more important for Big Business concerns.

"On the national scale, population concentrations have a certain gravitational effect on elections. You've seen all those maps with a sea of big, sparsely populated red states assembled into a losing coalition around denser blue states. That's the nature of the electoral system, and the Electoral College actually brings a greater, and welcome, level of political significance to the smaller states.

"But some of those Big Blue states are also in very bad financial shape – Illinois and California leap to mind. They're even worse off than the federal government is. And for all the talk of leaving basket-case state governments to fend for themselves without bailouts, we all know that's not going to happen, especially not now. Redistribution and the socialization of loss are the operational principles of the New Normal, and they most certainly will be applied to huge, fiscally insolvent treasure troves of highly organized voters.

"That's how inescapable, centralized, redistributive government works. A lot of people end up paying for things they had

no control over, their fates determined by entities in which they had no representation. It's likely that a few crisis points will be reached during President Obama's second term, and we'll have some rather spectacular demonstrations."
<http://www.humanevents.com/2012/11/07/the-central-issue/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:36

PRINCIPLES OF CONSERVATISM

The Sharon Statement is the founding statement of principles of the Young Americans for Freedom. Its reference to Communism is dated, but this continues to be a good summary of Conservative Principles. "Written by M. Stanton Evans and adopted on September 11, 1960, the statement is named for the location of the inaugural meeting of Young Americans for Freedom, held at William F. Buckley, Jr.'s estate in Sharon, Connecticut."

"IN THIS TIME of moral and political crisis, it is the responsibility of the youth of America to affirm certain eternal truths. WE, as young conservatives, believe:

THAT foremost among the transcendent values is the individual's use of his God-given free will, whence derives his right to be free from the restrictions of arbitrary force;

THAT liberty is indivisible, and that political freedom cannot long exist without economic freedom;

THAT the purpose of government is to protect those freedoms through the preservation of internal order, the provision of national defense, and the administration of justice;

THAT when government ventures beyond these rightful functions, it accumulates power, which tends to diminish order and liberty;

THAT the Constitution of the United States is the best arrangement yet devised for empowering government to fulfill its proper role, while restraining it from the concentration and abuse of power;

THAT the genius of the Constitution - the division of powers - is summed up in the clause that reserves primacy to the several states, or to the people in those spheres not specifically delegated to the Federal government;

THAT the market economy, allocating resources by the free play of supply and demand, is the single economic system compatible with the requirements of personal freedom and constitutional government, and that it is at the same time the most productive supplier of human needs;

THAT when government interferes with the work of the market economy, it tends to reduce the moral and physical strength of the nation, that when it takes from one to bestow on another, it diminishes the incentive of the first, the integrity of the second, and the moral autonomy of both;

THAT we will be free only so long as the national sovereignty of the United States is secure; that history shows periods of freedom are rare, and can exist only when free citizens concertedly defend their rights against all enemies...

THAT the forces of international Communism are, at present, the greatest single threat to these liberties;

THAT the United States should stress victory over, rather than coexistence with this menace; and

THAT American foreign policy must be judged by this criterion: 'does it serve the just interests of the United States?' "

Source: Wikipedia

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 15:34

VALUE and SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

OK, what can I do? Apparently, the Presidential voting was heavily influenced by young, non-white, low income, less educated women [granted a statistical abstraction with lots of exceptions]. None of these descriptors identify me. So what can an old white educated man like me do to reach, educate, change such a demographic group? [Yes, I believe they need "changing".]

The strategy is to focus on the mid-terms Elections and the next Presidential Election [Paul Ryan?]. Who is in the best position to educate the young (school age) women and men- and to prepare them to vote next time? School Teachers! The work they do (the ministry they have) is The Key to transforming the Nation politically. [Do not fool yourself in thinking that what happens in every class room is not political or, for that matter, objective or neutral when it comes to beliefs and values, especially in English, Social Studies, Humanities and the Arts]

When I say Teachers I include home and private schoolers -all important, but lets face it, most children attend Public School. This makes the key to The Key to changing young minds, Public School Teachers. We must value them, treat them with much greater respect (including pay) and pray for them regularly and work to improve public education itself, the System (mostly by community involvement and legislation).

What can I do at my age and stage? Mostly, encourage those who have the vocation of Teaching!

PS- I have not forgotten the importance also of parents nor of the important influence of Pastors and Sunday School teachers. That is another Essay!

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 10:33

NOTHING HAS CHANGED

"The United States held elections last night, and nothing changed. Barack Obama remains president. The Democrats remain in control of the Senate with a non-filibuster-proof majority. The Republicans remain in control of the House of Representatives.

"The national political dynamic has resulted in an extended immobilization of the government. With the House -- a body where party discipline is the norm -- under Republican control, passing legislation will be difficult and require compromise. Since the Senate is in Democratic hands, the probability of it overriding any unilateral administrative actions is small. Nevertheless, Obama does not have enough congressional support for dramatic new initiatives, and getting appointments through the Senate that Republicans oppose will be difficult.

"There is a quote often attributed to Thomas Jefferson: "That government is best which governs the least because its people discipline themselves." I am not sure that the current political climate is what was meant by the people disciplining themselves, but it is clear that the people have imposed profound limits on this government. Its ability to continue what is already being done has not been curbed, but its ability to do much that is new has been blocked."

Read the full article here-

<http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/elections-gridlock-and-foreign-policy?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:30

Monday, November 5, 2012

WHY WE MUST KEEP THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

The Boston Globe recently ran a favorable review of two books about the Constitution- ridiculing those of us who believe in seeking the original meaning of the foundational Law of our Nation. Many media columnists lately have written against the Electoral College using the same ridicule and a lot of sarcasm. Surveys show most Americans would like to get rid of it, which desire shall rise to a crescendo if the current Election ends with the popular vote winner losing to the Electoral college winner! Mark Shields' column in our local paper last week has this title: "U.S. democracy stumbles at gate of Electoral College". He calls the College "a historical mistake" and "absolutely anti-democratic". Please read my entire Essay here- <http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:15

Sunday, November 4, 2012

JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES WHAT IS RIGHT

Tomorrow is Election Day and this is the Gospel Reading today! These are the words of Jesus-
49 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'
Some of the area main-line (ie Liberal) churches are holding a community Service tomorrow to pray for unity in America!

54 He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. 55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Some see Hurricane Sandy as a sign of Global Warming and chide the rest of us for not being aware. How about seeing signs everywhere of National Decline? 57 'And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?

This Election there are many issues on the table which concern all of us- employment, immigration, the Afghan War and the Middle East, Trade, Oil, Housing, Abortion, Gay Marriage, Health Care- just to name a few!.. But underneath them all as well as underlining all Offices to be voted on, the Election pits two fundamentally different approaches to Government against each other. To me this is determinative over all else. Which of these two approaches each of us judges to be right shall ultimately determine which candidates we shall chose on Election Day and the Future of America and how all the specific issues shall be addressed. Both approaches (actually, Ideologies) have the same Vision of a Nation of Peace and Prosperity with Economic and Social Justice for all. The very crucial difference is in how this Vision can be accomplished.

We are a seriously divided People. Writing in broad, general but fundamental terms, many (half?) Americans see this Vision as the ultimate Goal of Government, starting from the Federal level. The three primary external authorities for this position do not include the Constitution but are a liberal reading of the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble of the Federal Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The Constitution itself is read in light of these Sources. The major Model for this Vision is FDR's "New Deal", as well as the speeches of JFK, Lyndon Johnson and the civil rights and anti-poverty programs of their proposed "Great Society". People of this persuasion truly believe Government is fundamentally benign (they trust it) as well as absolutely essential to fulfill the Vision on all levels.

Many other Americans are convinced that the Constitution alone is the fundamental Law of the Land and a traditional, conservative (mostly pre-mid 20th Century) reading of it must prevail in its application. This group is convinced that the Federal Government is essential to carry out only those certain, limited duties enumerated in the Constitution. These do not include a mandate to build a Nation of Economic and Social Justice equally for all. The Government is not benign and can not be trusted. This group has an historic fear of Tyranny and Oppression by Government and its Rulers in all its forms. Therefore they constantly advocate for the Constitutional limitations of the Federal Government's powers. They insist it must be constantly held accountable to the Law. Their primary, foremost concern is for Liberty for all. That is the first and most important of all Human Rights. The Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Federal Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address are not part of that Law. Indeed these Documents must be understood according to a conservative, Originalist interpretation of what is the Law. The latter also applies to understanding post-Civil War Amendments to the Constitution. This second group's Vision of a Nation of Economic and Social Justice equally for all is just as strong as that of the first group (above) but it is grounded in, depends on, the every citizen's individual, personal responsibility. The Vision can only be truly achieved, not by Federal Government from the top down but from the bottom up by the people themselves- by the proper functioning of marriages, families, churches, local communities and private enterprise. The primary function of the State is to preserve and protect the political, economic and social freedoms in which the latter can happen. In no way is the State on any level to usurp or replace marriages, families, churches, local communities and private enterprise. The State must respect and protect the sovereignty of each of these Spheres and then, next, the sovereignty of each of the 50 States.

It should be obvious that the first group described above is dominant in the Democratic Party and President Obama. The second group is very influential in the Republic Party and therefore supports Gov Romney. As Jesus said in Luke 12:57 "... judge for yourselves what is right."

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 17:58