

If The Foundations Are Destroyed What Can The Righteous Do?

November 19, 2020

Commentary written by Dr. James Dobson several days after the November 3rd election:

Dear Friends,

There is a heaviness within my spirit today on behalf of our beloved nation. I'm sure I share that sentiment with many of you. In a sense, Shirley and I are also grieving over the potential passing of an era, during which I believe God gave America a spiritual reprieve. President Donald Trump was partially responsible for this crucial change of trajectory.

He isn't a perfect man, and his relationship with the Lord is a very private matter. But he attempted during the first four years of his presidency to get acquainted with, to honor, and to learn from Christian leaders. He is very close to Rev. Franklin Graham, Dr. Robert Jeffress, Rev. Paula White, Dr. Jack Graham, former Governor Mike Huckabee, and at least 30 others, including myself. He once said while greeting us at a formal dinner, "This is your house. Welcome to it." He then led us on a tour upstairs in the private residence.

Donald Trump is the first president to celebrate the National Day of Prayer (NDP) in the Rose Garden, which he did all four years of his presidency. President George W. Bush also took the NDP very seriously and held formal services in the East Room of the White House during his eight years in office. Shirley served as chairperson of NDP, and spoke at each event. Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush also celebrated the National Day of Prayer during their terms in office. Neither Bill Clinton nor Barack Obama held NDP ceremonies at the White House.

Back to Donald Trump, he is the most pro-life president in American history. He is the only Chief Executive to have spoken at the March for Life, which is an annual remembrance of the millions of babies aborted since Roe v. Wade in 1973. One of Trump's most significant decisions has been the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to be an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. She never wavered on her pro-life beliefs even during her contentious confirmation hearings.

People who know the President best tell us he is one of the most hard-working and dedicated men ever to serve in the Oval Office. We saw that indefatigable nature during his final campaign, when he once held nine rallies in two days. He is also remarkably resilient. The media and his political opponents hammered him every day for four years. There was never a respite. President Trump arose every morning knowing he would be unfairly ridiculed and attacked from morning to night. This criticism began before he was elected and continued throughout his presidency. Nevertheless, he stood like a rock and his list of accomplishments could fill a book.

Yes, I admire Donald Trump. He is sometimes brash and aggressive. But as a New York entrepreneur and as a president under siege, he has had to be tough to deal with his challenges. But there is no doubt that he loves America and its people. Speaking personally, I will miss his presence on the national stage when he is no longer our President.

But by the way, we're told that 81 percent of evangelicals voted for Donald Trump this year, while only 14 percent voted for the Biden ticket. I think I know why.

I won't speculate on the voting controversy. If, however, American citizens have handed over the reins of power to the Biden/Harris ticket, it is important that we examine the platform on which they ran. Elections have consequences, as we know. The promises made in writing and on the campaign trail should disturb every conservative Christian. Let's look first at the sanctity of human life.

Mr. Biden has told us emphatically that he will bring an open season on the unborn child. This is what LifeNews wrote about him.

- he will force Americans to fund abortions during his first week in office
- he will implement abortion on demand nationwide without any limits
- he will force Americans to fund Planned Parenthood, the biggest abortion provider¹
- he will force Christians such as the Little Sisters of the Poor to fund abortions in [their] health insurance plans
- and he will stack the courts with pro-abortion judges who would keep abortions legal for decades to come

That should break the heart of every lover of God's children. We, as American citizens, will be complicit in the deaths of millions. How can Joe Biden say he wants to be president of ALL the American people? What does he have to say to the half of us who vigorously oppose abortion on demand, paid for by taxpayers through nine months of pregnancy and perhaps beyond, in America and, by inference, in nations around the world? If Donald Trump has been the pro-life President, Joe Biden will be the radical abortion president from his inauguration forward. If Biden does become president, I will do what I can to oppose his pro-death policies every day he is in office.

Biden's regime will also usher in other forms of moral depravity. For example, he recently suggested that kids as young as eight or ten years old should be able to undergo irreversible transexual transformation. That's what the man said! Kamala Harris, who may be our next vice president, said she wants this country to legalize all prostitution.⁴ What other moral outrage will come from this godless administration? Heaven only knows!

Joe Biden and the Democrats also support open borders. So much for the wall! That means that people around the world will be invited to enter this country legally and take up permanent residence within it. From the day of their arrival, they will be entitled to free welfare, free legal services, free medical care, free education, and who knows what else. Millions of people must be out there thinking, "How can I get to that promised land?"

We have also been told to expect trillions of dollars to be spent for the foolishness of the Green New Deal, with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez at the helm. That could bankrupt the nation. And can you imagine how Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will deal with hostile governments, including those in China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea? That is an international nightmare in the making.

The institution of the family will find no friends in the White House or in the halls of Congress. Taxes are likely to skyrocket for middle-class parents and others. We can also expect unprecedented assaults on religious liberty and churches could be stripped of Constitutional protection. Also at risk are our Bill of Rights, the Second Amendment, and other provisions within the U.S. Constitution. Democrats are talking about defunding the

police and even the military. Radical change is about to descend on the nation. America is about to be over-run by the most leftist regime in history.

If that sounds discouraging and hopeless, we have to remember Who is in charge here. I believe the Almighty has had His hand of protection on this land since the days of its founding fathers. Our ancestors cried out to Him at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Midway, and Normandy. I don't believe He has forsaken us now. So how do we explain the predicament that confronts us? I don't know. Millions of people have been praying about the outcome of this election because we knew it would have such profound moral and spiritual implications. But who can discern the mind of God?

I grappled with such matters in my book, *When God Doesn't Make Sense*. I wrote one morning after pacing back and forth in my study, "We must never forget that He is God. He is majestic and holy and sovereign. He is accountable to no one. He is not an errand boy who chases the assignments we dole out. He is not a genie who pops out of the bottle to satisfy our whims. He is not our servant—we are His. And our reason for existence is to glorify and honor Him . . . even when nothing makes sense. I then heard Him say, 'Trust Me.'"

And trust we shall. Still, we ask, "Why did this election come tantalizingly close to a victory for life and morality, only to end tragically?" Could it be because America has abandoned its moral convictions? I wrote in my general letter several months ago that our popular culture has become utterly wicked. If that is accurate, how could a nation murder 62 million babies, fresh from the hand of the Creator, without expecting judgment to fall upon them? Clearly, we stand guilty before Him.

If this explains the disaster that has now befallen this great nation, there is only one biblical response. It is repentance. It is for us to kneel humbly before our righteous and all-seeing God and beg for forgiveness, both corporately and individually. That alone will save us.

We may have lost this election battle when it comes to the policies that matter most to us. Yet, the culture war rages on, and the gospel message of Jesus Christ is our banner and greatest hope. This is why we do what we do at the Dobson Family Institute. Faith and family remain the mission, and our conviction has never been more ardent. We are ambassadors for Christ, and we still have work to do. Are you with us?

Let us pray:

Lord, this is my prayer for my nation. Forgive us for our profound sinfulness, our arrogance, our pride, and our hands that have shed innocent blood. Restore our marriages and our churches. Bring a spirit of renewal and revival across this land. And Lord, in Thy wrath, remember mercy.

Amen and Amen.

Psalm 11:1-7 ESV To the choirmaster. Of David.

**1 In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain,
2 for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart;
3 if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"**

"It was equally correct that the very foundations of law and justice were destroyed under Saul's unrighteous government: but what were all these things to the man whose trust was in God alone? He could brave the dangers, could escape the enemies, and defy the injustice which surrounded him. His answer to the question, 'What can the righteous do?' would be the counter-question, 'What cannot they do?'

When prayer engages God on our side, and when faith secures the fulfillment of the promise, what cause can there be for flight, however cruel and mighty our enemies? With a sling and a stone, David had smitten a giant before whom the whole hosts of Israel were trembling, and the Lord, who delivered him from the uncircumcised Philistine, could surely deliver him from King Saul and his myrmidons. There is no such word as 'impossibility' in the language of faith; that martial grace knows how to fight and conquer, but she knows not how to flee."

—Commentary by C.H. Spurgeon

Mayflower Compact

Signed November 21, 1620, on board ship at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, written and signed by 41 of the 101 male passengers of the Mayflower which included separatist Puritans, adventurers, and tradesmen. The Puritans were fleeing from religious persecution by King James I of England.

"IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience."

John Adams

2nd President of the United States

"In a July 7, 1775 letter to his wife Abigail, John Adams wrote:

"Cities may be rebuilt, and a people reduced to poverty, may acquire fresh property. But a constitution of government once changed from freedom, can never be restored. Liberty once lost is lost forever. When the

people once surrender their share in the legislature, and their right of defending the limitations upon the government, and of resisting every encroachment upon them, they can never regain it."

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net."

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

"The only foundation of a free Constitution is pure virtue, and if this cannot be inspired into our people in a greater measure than they have it now, they may change their rulers and the forms of government, but they will not obtain a lasting liberty. They will only exchange tyrants and tyrannies."

John Quincy Adams

Secretary of State, 6th President of the United States, son of John Adams, 2nd President of the United States, in a speech celebrating the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 1821

"From the time of the Declaration of Independence, the American people were bound by the laws of God and the laws of the gospel, which they all acknowledge as the rules of their conduct."

"The highest glory of the American revolution was this, that it tied together in one indissoluble bond, the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

"All must admit that the reception of the teachings of Christ results in the purest patriotism in the most scrupulous fidelity to public trust and the best type of citizenship."

John Jay

1st Justice of the Supreme Court, Vice-President (1816–21) and President (1821–27) of the American Bible Society, in a letter addressed to Pennsylvania House of Representatives member John Murray, dated October 12, 1816

"Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers. And it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

Andrew Jackson

7th President of the United States, in a letter written to A.J. Donelson on December 30, 1836, after the death of his wife

"That book [the Bible] sir, is the rock upon which our Republic rests."

Abraham Lincoln

16th President of the United States

"In regards to this great Book [the Bible] I have but to say it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are found portrayed in it."

Psalm 11:1-7 ESV To the choirmaster. Of David.

3 if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

4 The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.

5 The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.

6 Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

7 For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.