

Briarwood Presbyterian Church  
Election Forum Q & A  
By: Dr. Harry L. Reeder III  
November 7, 2012

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we can spend here. We are grateful to You O God our God, the Lord of the heavens and the earth. You are the God of glory. You are the One who is enthroned and who works all of His purposes through giving preeminence to Your Son Jesus, our King. You are the One who works in all the nations to bring forth the desire of the nations and the treasure of the nations, a people saved by grace for Christ for all eternity. Thank You for the nation where You have placed us. We acknowledge that the lines of life have fallen to us in a pleasant place but we have great concern so would You guide us as Your people, living in the Kingdom of God in a kingdom of this world, living in the City of God in the city of man. Help us to know how to live, love and serve You for Jesus' sake, Amen.

I'd like to start by laying out a perspective and then I'll open it up for any questions. I'll do my best to try and answer them. I decided to do this because this was a vision that came to me and I have been deluged with questions from people about our upcoming election so I thought it best to get this on record. This will not be a political analysis, designed to help the Republican Party as to how they can win the next election. I have nothing against the Republican Party but that's not my purpose. I recently had a wonderful conversation with Bill Armistead who is the chairman for the Republican Party in the state of Alabama and an elder in this church. I by no means think that I have any insight to help them (Bill and the Republican Party) at all.

My purpose is to do what I think you can do. C.S. Lewis and a number of others have acknowledged this and that is elections in a democratic society give you a window into the soul of that society. Today we say what is the world and life view of that society? What is its faith commitment? Usually when people vote you find this out. I tell people that if you want to know what people really believe check their pocketbook and their calendar. They might say they do this but what they do with their money and time really tells you what they really believe. I think the same thing is true in a nation. How a nation votes usually gives you an attempt to take a look at what it believes and how it believes.

I think that's not only true in elections in general but I think it is in this election in particular. I am most nervous because I am about to make some statements that if misconstrued or misrepresented would sound like what I'm saying is the Republican Party represents the Kingdom of God and how people vote for or against it shows their relationship in the Kingdom of God and that's not the case at all. I need you to think a little more nuanced and sophisticated than that and that's this. For better or for worse you really have two different visions of what the country should be and do and the role of government in this particular election.

There are two distinct visions. One says that it's the freedoms of man that have been given by God that the government is to protect and it does not give them. Secondly, the trust of a nation needs to be in God not in its government. That is one thing being

stated and the other is a view that ultimately state, the policies are such that it can rightly be said that the answer to life can be found in the government. This was very clear in the economic discussion. I have a hard time listening to those debates because I keep wanting to stand up and participate and you can't do that while watching it on TV.

It was stated "Mr. Romney your position doesn't add up. You have to raise taxes in order to balance your position." The reason why that was true was because on one side of the ledger was the view that the wealth of a nation is a pie to be redistributed by the government. The other side was give freedom and you make more pies. That is why it doesn't add up. You actually make bigger pies and more pies when you let people loose with freedom. So those were the two different views that were there in terms of economics, the role of government in economics, and the role of government in the affairs and lives of people. I think this election allowed that kind of look into what the society wants.

I think it's even fair to put a lot of weights on the vote because what you have is really an anomaly. Never before have you seen a situation where the economic condition of the country did not prevent the re-election of the one responsible for it at levels has always historically no one has ever been re-elected. In other words, you have unanswered questions on the deaths of ambassadors, the role of what the government did in the Libya situation, there is possible crony capitalism of government favoritism in the investment of money, eight percent unemployment, a GNP that is diminishing and there are all of those things. That's usually the death now but it wasn't. Why not?

Secondly you have an administration that has intentionally come out by policy to restructure marriage in terms of same sex marriage, restructure the role of government and economics, and redefine capitalism. Thirdly, there is the role of the government in the provision of health care where definitely a new view had been proposed. They had to have much opposition. Then there was the movement to the "right" to an abortion to a level in which any opposition to the restructuring and redefining of marriage for same sex marriage and abortion was now not a position that has been traditional that's understandable, but a position that is really governed by bigotry and must be ruled out of the public sphere. It must not be tolerated.

Significant sea change has taken place when our President decided he had evolved in his view of marriage and when he made the issue of abortion a political issue in terms of a "right" that takes into account no longer the discussion at all in terms of the life. In other words, when was the last time you heard in the last year "abortion is a right but let's keep them safe and rare"? It's a right and you no longer hear "safe and rare." Now personally I think that was an untenable position to begin with but at least they would nod their head toward not going gung ho after the destruction of the unborn life. Of course the rape and incest is always put forth and in reality, statistically that is less than one percent of abortions. Abortions are a matter of choice, convenience and discretion in our society.

So those things have been built into the election and one position holds fast to redefining marriage, the sanctity of life, who gives the rights in this country, the first liberty from the right of the free practice of religion to simply the right to worship and that is a big move. The Soviet Union had the freedom to worship but they didn't have freedom of religion. That is a bigger issue. That was the choice in our country at that time.

The electorate as they elect allows us to read into their world and life view that basically is within a nation. What is it that I would read as your pastor? You weigh it out anyway you want to for what it's worth which isn't much. What is very clear is that we live in a divided nation. I would agree with Mr. Lincoln that a nation divided cannot stand. So either one side will win the day or the nation will not stand. This is a divided nation. This isn't a matter of simple nuance of policy and how you negotiate things. These are two world and life views.

One life view that is being proposed is theism and the other is state-ism. They are two distinct world and life views. Both of them require faith. One is that there is a God in whom you trust. Number two is there is a state that you can trust. The state would be looked at as father, grandfather, healthcare provider, not only in emergencies but day to day life and sustenance. The state's role is to exist for my existence and if necessary the state's role is to take from others who have to give to me if I don't have it and it is up for negotiation as to how much from someone you take and how much of something you should give to me.

It is a divided nation and the division is really interesting. In the electoral vote it wasn't a hair breath but in the popular vote it was. In fact if I'm not mistaken up to this moment this is the third closest election in the history of our country. I was alive in the other one which was between Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy which was closer than this one. In one of them I was not alive and that was between James Garfield and Winfield Scott Hancock. That one was even closer but when you put it on a regional basis, the vote by county by county which is found on what they call an electoral heat map, it was very close. That will play into what I'll say in a moment.

The issues before us was a president who was the most radical on abortion, even partial birth abortion which is nothing more than infanticide. There was the attack on first liberties that is the free practice of religion through Obama-care as well as other policies. He is for same sex marriage, redistribution of wealth by state taxation policy and those were just some of the things that were promoted by policy in the last four years, even with the backdrop of eight percent unemployment, a diminishing GNP and a growing number of people who have actually given up on looking for work. With all that it didn't cost him a vote or at least it didn't cost him an election. Those positions were held to and it didn't cost.

Some maybe thinking that the economy was the driving issue. I would suggest that if that had been the driving issue then that would have been all the more reason that he wouldn't have won given the performance in the economy over the previous years. So there was no cost. In addition, in this election there were three states for the first time, not by courts or legislatures but by popular vote, vote in a drastic restructuring of marriage back to the pagan practices that our forbearers left as barbarians into undefined sexuality or freely defined sexuality and same sex marriage. Three states voted that in by popular vote as well as the legalization of the gateway drug marijuana which is now present in six states and two more being added this election. Up until now same sex marriage has always been opposed by liberal legislatures or by court action.

When you look at that demographic and see what was happening in the voters I think it's absolutely ridiculous not to look at say "What is actually being stated?" I think the Republican Party will have to look at this and decide what they're going to do. I really don't know what they will do so I won't even guess. I think the bigger issue is that

this is a church issue and I'd like to give you my reason why. It's not because I think the church should politic for any party but a world and life view that was expressed in this election is a matter of what people believe, where they are putting their trust, where their identity for life is found. That is basically what is being stated.

It's not just a matter of entitlement mentality. It is really an issue of where is your God. The writers of the Old Testament warned that God's people wanted a king like the other nations. So Samuel tells them "If you get a king like the other nations, here's what he will do and this is what it will cost you" which is exactly what happened within two kings for Israel by the time you get to Solomon. God told Samuel not to be upset about this for they are not rejecting you but Me. They had decided that the kings/state is where their trust is, like the other nations. They do not want this unique position. Please do not misunderstand me.

The United States of America is not the new Israel. It's not the replacement of Israel. I think it is a nation that has been drastically influenced by clear, Christian thinkers from its outset and it is a nation that has welcomed the church of Jesus Christ. Because of those two factors, the beneficial influence of the church and its thinkers and leaders who were salt and light, and because the church has been welcomed, I don't think America is exceptional, I think the exceptional Providence of God has blessed America. As a quasi historian I could give you example after example in war and in peace of that exceptional blessing of God's Providence.

You will not find in the Bible "I will promise to bless the United States of America." In other words, when you read the text quoted from all the time in II Chronicles 7:14 which says *[14] if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land,* and we say America do this, no, that's addressed to God's people. In the New Covenant that's His church but if His church would humble themselves and pray they would become a blessing wherever they dwell. They will bless the city. They will bring welfare to it as God blesses those who bless His people and blesses others through His people.

Having said that and trying to make it as clear as I possibly can, I do want to say that this has been a very unique country. I don't know of another country that said 'no' to monarchy meaning ruled by a man, 'no' to democracy meaning ruled by a mob, 'no' to oligarchy meaning ruled by the elite, and 'yes' to law meaning ruled by law. This is an amazing experiment. It came out of the influence of the Reformation. It one that has born unbelievable fruit throughout the ages in its imperfect existence, even taking it through the horrors of being delivered from man stealing, slavery as well as when greed attempts to take over capitalism. Those have been amazing blessings of God that have brought us through those situations. Because of that we are a nation of immigrants that have become Americans. We are really in an interesting place. You can't just look and say "Oh that's an American" because we've all come in different hues, colors, backgrounds and everything.

To be an American was a certain ideal. It was a certain notion. It was a certain idea of inalienable rights of life and liberty that God gives and the pursuit of happiness. It was a certain view of life. Therefore as this nation of immigrants developed, some out of unbelievably despicable practices of forced immigration like slavery as well as free immigration that took place from various parts of the country, it was always said that

America was a melting pot - *E pluribus unum*, translated out of many, one. We just had an election that went forward, based upon the strategy that we're not a melting pot.

America today is actually a smorgasbord. There are African American, European American, Asian Americans, and this American and that American, whereas before it was always let's get past this first generation and we're no longer an Irish American. We understand it will happen in the first generation but let's get by this. We're Americans and that was the big deal for everyone that came as an immigrant. "I want to be an American" not a hyphenated American. The reason we don't have the melting pot is because you have to have the heat of something that is bringing people together and we don't have that. Now we have identity politics and self interest politics and that was built into the strategy of this election and it proved to be true.

The only thing that united this smorgasbord was the promise of a new god. So with the moral death spiral in the culture, reverting back to the practices of paganism and the new god of state-ism, I believe our country now has a world life view of what I call a neo-paganism statist view of life. In other words, there is no god who ethically called me to a standard of life that I ought to live. There is only the creature to be worshipped and lived for, not the Creator. That's paganism and we are reverting back to its dissemination into the chaos of immorality so that what is good is called bad and what is bad is called good. Evil becomes good, light is darkness and darkness is light. I think that is where we are today.

It is my opinion that this election was a tipping point. It's not something we can't come back from because I'm going to tell you how I think we can come back. I'm going to fearfully say something and put my fears in the Lord and that is that I think there has been a tipping point that we must come back from. If the election had gone the other where from where I had wanted it to, it would have been for a respite which is all that I saw. I didn't see this as a big renewal election. I saw it as a hope for respite that would give us some room to do our work. As it didn't happen I actually had a great peace. I think after this election we're headed into one of two directions. The present moral policies, the rejection of ethical absolutes to govern morality, the self absorption and the call for the state to be my provider and god in life, will lead to the destruction of this county.

I think the only answer is the church. This isn't new for I've been preaching this for 14 years since I've been at Briarwood but I think we just need to see that we're at a tipping point right now and that's my heart. I wish all 4300 of Briarwood's members were here to hear this. I'm hoping this will translate thoughtfully to those who will hear or read this at another time. I believe the church is now hopefully going to serve the Lord with vibrancy and will be here at the death of a nation, very much like the church was in Rome, but in its vitality it spawned the Gospel throughout the world. Or in the death spiral of this nation, the church will be used to bring a Great Awakening for a re-birth of this nation.

I have chosen my words carefully. These are very Lincoln words from a very non-Lincoln ability person. I believe when Lincoln said the rebirth of the nation was necessary in the Gettysburg Address, what he hoped for, I don't think we had that rebirth, yet I think we had some blessings from it but I think we have to have one. The same thing that gave the birth to this nation which was the Great Awakening from 1730 to 1770, we have to have again. Notice how long that Great Awakening was and all of that,

that culminated in the birth of a nation. I think we have to have that Great Awakening again to have that rebirth in this nation. I think you can elect some very good, moral, competent leaders as President that will give respite and restrain the death spiral but it won't turn it around. There has to be a Great Awakening and so the church has to step up.

I think we need to do three things. One of these three things has five things attached to it. Number one is what the church is called to be and do in every nation where it finds itself which is a faithful presence of Christ and the Gospel. We need to be different. I don't think the answer to reaching the youth of our society and the un-churched is by redefining our message or even church. In other words, I don't think you un-church the church to get the un-churched to church. I think the church has to be the church and then go into the world to love the "un-churched" with an irrepressible, unstoppable, attractive love that manifests not an arrogant distinctiveness but a clear, Gospel, changed life in the life of God's people. There has to be a faithful presence of the Gospel in the lives of God's people as they reside in a nation.

Secondly, there needs to be faithful engagement. Let me tell you what you can't do. I have seriously considered going to New Zealand. I have considered a number of places but one I think that would be cowardice on my part. Two, I have too many forbearers who gave their lives for the uniqueness of what is here for me to walk away just because the going gets tough. So I have to have a faithful engagement. I will give some definitions of a faithful engagement but I think the church has to get engaged and that does not mean it becomes a political party. That does not mean it gets co-opted by any political party but it needs to be faithfully engaged in the welfare of the city and the nation with what God has given us the ability to do with the weapons of the Spirit.

Thirdly, there needs to be a faithful proclamation of the Gospel. Cultures don't change until people change. People don't change until they surrender to Christ and you surrender to Christ by faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word which means from the pulpits and when you leave church on Sunday you are living and sharing the Gospel with other people.

So now I want to attach those five things to those three directives. I am speaking to everyone at Briarwood here. First, there needs to be a conscious commitment to Gospel evangelism and discipleship. There are no short-cuts. Here is why I'm not over-despaired here. I think the election has clarified things for us and we see that this isn't just we need another political party to put up a good candidate. This is a world and life view situation. This is an issue of where people's hearts and souls are, who their god is and this ought to break our heart for them and what we need to do in relationship to that. That means we need to be committed to evangelism and discipleship. There won't be a Great Awakening without it. We need to share Christ with other people, winsomely, persuasively, attractively, prayerfully, compassionately, courageously and every possible adjective and adverb you can come up with. We have to govern the way we do it, except for arrogantly.

The second thing is we have to plant churches. I got permission from several of our leaders in the church before I could say this next one. We have to plant churches where this identity politics did, what I believe, its most horrific work in the minority communities and the cities. I'm afraid someone is going to take what I say here and misconstrue it into something I didn't like whoever voted Republican is a Christian or

wherever it's blue on that map people aren't Christians. I am not saying that! I am saying, in light of what was at stake in world and life view commitments that were seen here, it tells me that we need to get the One whom people can get and put their trust out there and He doesn't fall off the mantel and break His arms. The idols of this age including the state will never deliver but there is a Savior who is sufficient for everything as our Gospel Deliverer. We have to plant Gospel saturated, Christ exalting, Spirit led churches every place.

I would take that electoral map and I would say to our mission's pastor, "In national missions, there are the places we're going to plant our new churches." We had one this last national mission's conference. Ryan is up in Detroit and he is planting a church there. He was thrilled with his opening meeting of 60 people and I was thrilled for him. His heart is not only to plant that church but more churches. I don't think it's just simply plant churches in cities but we have to plant churches in cities for there is where you can reach where the minorities have clustered and where the youth can be found. There is where we can reach out to them and minister to them. I'm going to fearfully say the next thing too.

I'm really not interested in planting another "over the mountain" church. I'm not interested in planting a church somewhere on Hwy 280 to gather 150 people who can't get along somewhere else. I'm going to give my heart and soul that we're doing in Fairfield and to any other place our elders and deacons lead us. I am going to challenge the other churches in this area to do the same thing. Many of them are already there and some are already ahead of us. So that is what we need to do. I know this church has a legacy for world missions and I have given my heart for 14 years to maintain it, grow it and be committed to it. For this is a world missions church and I'm for it, I'll die for it and I'll plead for it but we have to see the importance of national missions.

I'm not trying to put a guilt trip on anyone. I want to kind of do an electoral map at Briarwood. Look at the attendance to our national mission's conference and look at the attendance at our world mission's conference. Would I like for people not to go to the world mission's conference? No, I'd like for people to go to both. I'm trying to say that we have a mission field here and you ought to have heard that in this electorate. The national mission field is a crucial one for church planting and evangelism. We have to go to the tough places, not just where there is low hanging fruit and you know you can get something up and running. We have to start producing the pastors who have a heart for those places. We have to start training them.

I believe our Fellow's program, sending missionaries to the marketplace is a step in the right direction. We ought to seriously think of how we apprentice church planters and revitalization pastors to go back into those dying churches in the cities and to go plant new churches in the cities. We need to make that an intentional part of the use of our resources here. I think that's how the Great Awakening will come. I think we need to support the development of the evangelist, people who know how to share the Gospel. I'm grateful for the privilege I have to participate in the Presbyterian evangelistic fellowship. I think that's just one good effort. There are others as well but I believe we have to do evangelism and discipleship, church planting and church revitalization and I would say to our pastoral leaders to go look at that heat map and wherever you see blue they will either be the coast or a city. It's not just merely to modify the Republican message to turn that to another color but we have to bring the Gospel message there.

That's really what's on my heart to do. Will that benefit America if there is such an Awakening? Absolutely and hopefully it would be a rebirth. I pray for that and I want the Kingdom of God to expand there. Never before has it become clearer to me that Gospel words must be joined with Gospel deeds of mercy, grace and ministry throughout all our ministries and that it will spread throughout our church planting in major cities. We need that model in place all over our nation. I don't know whether we'll be here in faithful presence, faithful engagement and faithful proclamation as the Lord brings this nation under His judgment hand and brings it to an end, even while the Kingdom extends or if with that faithful engagement and presence He might do the other thing I haven't mentioned yet.

That is as we do evangelism and discipleship, thoughtful strategic church planting and church revitalization in these areas where we can reach these people who need Christ, who are being told the state is their savior which it isn't, I believe that we have to bathe every piece of that even in our creativity of all these new ministries that we have upon our hearts, with prayer. Because unless the Lord opens eyes and ears it's just too easy to look to the state to be my father, my reproductive life provider, to write me a check, to give me something to get food, instead of to create and govern a place where I can be a creator of wealth and jobs for other people through the God given freedoms that He has given me and a God given heart that makes me see everything differently.

I want to be a little bit more controversial. I love Briarwood Christian School and I would give my life for her. I love the people in the home school co-ops and what they are doing but I think we need to take some time to think about Christian public school education. I know I just said a big gigantic ticket item but when the reformers turned Zurich, Geneva, Strasburg and Wittenberg around the church came alive through the reformers. Then they opened the school with two challenges. They trained the next generation of leaders for the church and then they opened up the school to the public. It's very much of what is happening and what we're trying to do with Restoration Academy. So it isn't that we haven't done this before. I don't think it's any one type of a Christian school but I think somewhere we have to get the people who don't have the means to get those children in school. I think that's what the reformers did and I think we have to consider that. I think school for covenant children should not pass away. I think they have a role and a place. I don't think it's an either or but I believe this notion of thinking, and this will require people who are a lot more thoughtful/insight than me and resources, but we need to explore the possibility of how we can multiply public Christian education and accessibility for people in order to establish and be a part of this new birth.

I think the church should be unleashed and move forward. I was recently with some pastors and the governor of Tennessee who asked us about these things. He worked us for three hours but he is an extraordinary man. I want to make another comment for those who think I'm giving up on politics. I'm not giving up on politics. I just think you need to understand the best move to use politics redemptively is local to state to federal and not up here to go down. Therefore I love our fellows program. I love what Gary Palmer is doing in trying to get Christian statesmen to run for office locally and statewide. I think that is absolutely crucial but having said that all I want to say in conclusion is our model.

This is the debate we had the other night on the church in Babylon. Are we the church in Babylon that is in a pagan society and do we take our cues from Isaiah and

Jeremiah talking to the church in Babylon or the church in Egypt or the New Testament church in Rome? Those are our models. I think that has something to say to us but I would suggest to you that we may be closer to Nehemiah. Again, not that America is Israel or Jerusalem but America has tasted the blessings of Christian influence and thinking and is now having been delivered from paganism, consciously going back to it. That's exactly what happened in Jerusalem. Remember when Nehemiah came? Even after he led them in a revival, he went away and in 13 years they were right back in it. I think the model to the prophets to Jerusalem may be something we need to take a look at and something that we think through and pray through.

I'll take some questions at this point.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

With all due respect let me say to a sacred saint of some conservatives, Glenn Beck, I think that is a caricature of Teddy Roosevelt that is not accurate. Teddy Roosevelt may have been one of your most consistently, thoughtful Christian whether you agree with his policies or not that has ever existed. Any man that teaches the fifth grade Sunday school class in his Presbyterian church of boys for 22 years that is sainthood for me right there. Read how he responds when he loses his mother and his wife on the same day or how he felt people's responsibilities as Christians in the state. He may have had too big of a role the government played at times but I think that was a political discussion not a spiritual one. I don't think he initiated it. I think the steamrolling happened under Woodrow Wilson. I think that's where the fire was lit and it hasn't stopped since. Now I think there are seeds of it all the way back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century when German radicalism migrated over here in the 1800s but I think it began to move under Woodrow Wilson.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

That's what I was saying about those cities on the map. I think we have to plant churches. For instance if Philadelphia or New York or Detroit where Ryan is, I would say in your model a Campus Outreach person ought to be right there with you and start identifying the campuses to get to. A young business leader that we could train ought to be in there to help reach into the business community because it's unbelievable what would happen with Christian business men thinking with church leadership along side of them. When we send people into these places it doesn't need to be one person to parachute in and boy we hope it works. We need to send a team in. You can't get much more gifted than the Apostle Paul but he never went by himself. If you go back and look at the reformers they didn't go alone either. There were teams that went in and then they brought in educators to help them in the school piece of it. I think we need to think when we're going to these places that we need to put teams there for a multi-faceted Gospel ministry.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

This person asked about the United States and Israel. I'm going to be very simple about this. I know you may disagree with me on this but this is not me as a pastor answering this. This is just me personally. If I was running for office I would have made a commitment. I reserve the right for surgical strikes and to protect our people otherwise there will be no war or quasi war of American troops without congressional approval. We will just get right back to the constitution. Secondly, I will not go to war if I can't turn to the American people and say "You all need to start making sacrifices or we're not sending these kids over there without you making sacrifices." Thirdly, I would not engage in nation building. I know a lot of conservatives would get rid of me. What we don't understand is America's democracy was successful because of the Great Awakening and you can't take this model and put it where you haven't got that kind of environment. You just can't do it. The only place I've seen it quasi successful is Japan because of the honor/shame culture that was already in place there and how that allowed it to happen. Plus, who was their god in Japan? The Emperor was their god and he got his arms broken. So the ability to make a move was a whole lot simpler. Now concerning Israel, I'd say you're an ally, a friend, a democracy and we're with you but I wouldn't go in and start doing nation building. Now please understand I'm not a president and that's not my pastoral position.

As a pastor I believe that when Jesus comes again there is going to be a Gospel movement among Jewish people. I do not identify the Jewish people simply with the state of Israel. I labor for that Gospel movement and long for that. I also believe Paul indicates that and promises that in terms of an insight in Romans 15.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

The question had to do with two senate seats being lost by the more conservative candidates, called tea party candidates and they were lost because they made seemingly injudicious, ridiculed, mocked statements about abortion and rape. They said they were against abortion and then asked about their stance on rape in which they responded that way to that side of it. The man in Missouri was ridiculed by so many believers that men like this just embarrass us. I wrote him and said I believe this man should have been coached and trained about how to communicate this in the public square. You can't act like you're standing in a pulpit preaching to a congregation. You are talking to a secular community. It's not should you not say but how do you say it but at least he is out there saying it instead of you sitting on the stands criticizing the guy out there on the playing field. The second man in Indiana shows a very revealing thing because he actually nuanced it pretty well but the media cherry picked his comments as if he was saying rape was the will of God for that woman. Certainly there is a way that, that needs to be discussed in the sovereign hand of God, etc. but what he was saying is here is rape and before we say rape is a reason for abortion, let's at least factor in that this is a God given life. The baby did not rape anybody. So how do we make a decision on this with a life that is there? The fact that his comment was dealt with the way it was I think he could have nuanced it a little bit better. When I'm interviewed I know there are certain things I have to say without taking a breath because I give a breath that's where they will break it

and I'll get in trouble when it gets quoted. When I look at the people who are a part of our Fellow's Ministry here in our church some of them will move into places like that and as part of them learning they need to know how to communicate in Babylon the message. How would a Daniel do it? How would a Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego do it? How would they know what to hold to and how to hold to it? The telling thing there is the notion which is back to the world and life view which is that a life is there by the will of God and that's ridiculous to the American mind today. That is nonsense. The success of the Darwinian atheistic view of life has won the day so you no longer hear as hurricanes and tornadoes as acts of God or lives as gifts of God. You don't hear that language anymore. That has disappeared from the world and life view. So I think you are right to differentiate between the two men. One man just needed to be a little bit more careful and the other man could have been more careful but the essence of what he said was misrepresented because what he said was not believed and was ridiculed.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

The question has to do with the President abandoning Israel. I do think that's an issue morally, spiritually and politically but as much as I care about that I want to say two things. Do not confuse Zionism with Israel. Remember when you're looking at Zionist policy you have Palestinians over there where you have brothers and sisters over there that are Christians. So we as Christians have to not just be whatever Israel says is right and that's what the Bible demands of us – No, that's not what the Bible demands of us but secondly I think the President's policies toward Israel are reflective of deeper issues that are policies here. Until these get confronted I don't think those are going to change much. My last statement will be three very simple statements that you do for your President when you leave here.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

The present attempted caliphate is the seventh time Islam has attempted to fulfill its mandate to occupy the earth. They got it, we don't. We're going after the world. Some Christians just want to hear a pick me up sermon on Sunday and they think this notion of us going into all the world to preach the Gospel is really not for them. They don't get it but the other problem is how you do it. You'll either bow to my god or I'll kill you. Our weapons are different. So I think they are on the move. The last time they were stopped was in Europe on September 11. September 11 wasn't an accident. That was the last time they were stopped and then eventually the dissemination of the Ottoman Empire would take place. I think that's going to continue. I think that is a real and probably prophetic fulfillment of the beast of the land in the book of Revelation, pulling together military, economic and religious power in opposition to the Kingdom of God. I'm talking about the caliphate movement of Islam in the Middle East and Southeast Asia which by the way is stronger in Southeast Asia even, in some ways. Our government may have to pick up its sword to meet their sword but we have the sword of the Spirit. We are going to go win them to Jesus. We are going to pray them into the Kingdom. We

are going to evangelize them and there are some great things happening that we don't hear about in Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan that Christians are doing in winning people to Christ.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

Every initiative has to be bathed, saturated, undergirded, over-girded and everything with protracted intercessory prayer. We have got to be prayerfully engaged. I think there are prayer gatherings we can call but really has to be something from our hearts where we're calling four, five, six, seven, etc people together to do it as well as times we're always gathering to pray together as a people. You have not because you ask not. The Lord has entwined His good providence with the intercessory prayers of His people. So my job is to pray.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

The question was on the earth issues, the green issues and how you handle the earth and what are Christians views on that. First of all our problem is when we hear the current environmental message we recoil because it's clearly pantheistic. I mean the earth is not my mother. It's not like my god and I don't exist for the earth. God built the earth for me to use for His glory so I think the Christian approach is one He told me to subdue the earth. That was a creation mandate. Two this is home. God made man in His image. He multiplied him and put everything together and then He put us in the home. I was raised in a home where if you didn't take care of the home you didn't want to meet mother that day. This is our home. God has given it to us. Let's take care of it. Let's take care of it for one another. So I think environmentalism for the Christian is not environmentalism but its stewardship. It is stewardship of the home that God has given to those whom He has made in His image and we as Christians ought to lead the way in thinking our way through that and not have to wait for an environmental protection agency to tell the business that we own to do the things in a way that takes care of the earth. We ought to be ahead of the curve and be the examples of it.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

I had just said we need to reach people in prison and I may be doing the Briarwood prison ministry. It probably won't cost you all a thing to send me there. I'll be self supporting. I understand that people have different convictions on this in terms of what it means to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. If I pay taxes that are intentionally set to fund a taking of a life then the state has to answer to that. All I have to do is pay my taxes and then they are responsible for it. I'm just not sure I can go there. I'm okay right now because up until now there has been some attempt whether it's deceitful or not to accommodate people of conscience so whatever money is going to agencies that do it, they're not allowed to use it for abortions. At least

that firewall has been put there. If that is removed then I have a serious conscience issue. I just can't see myself buying the coal to put in the engines of the trains that took the Jewish people to die at a concentration camp, even if the government made me do it. Some might think is that the same thing? Yes, the only difference is the Jewish people could at least scream. These babies can't. The real question is how do you see it? I see it as a life and I'll have a big conscience issue there. Right now I'm on the board of a seminary and we're about to take a vote to actually enter in to a class action suit with something like fifty Christian colleges and universities to challenge this and its requirements in terms of the free exercise of religion.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

One of the last tweets that went to my Facebook, before I went to bed on election night, was no matter how it comes out if you win show grace and dignity and if your candidate loses as a believer, you must not fear and you must not allow the anger of man which does not achieve the righteousness of God to dominate you. That does not mean you don't have anger against sin and you don't have anger in your heart about what's being done to a nation that so many gave so much for, but it's not the anger of man. Anger comes from having your objective in life blocked. So if you're thinking "God, this man was supposed to win and he didn't win" you then think "So now I have to trust in You knowing that You have a bigger objective." Haven't I been praying "God give us the leader You want us to have"? Go read the Bible here. God doesn't always give a David, a Hezekiah or a Josiah. He has multiple purposes. Could what I have said be somewhat true tonight and this actually becomes the churches not thinking any longer 'if we could just get the right man in the White House we'll be okay for the next four years'? Could this actually be the hand of God that calls us into the reality of how we're supposed to live, do and not play church but be what the church is called to be and do and see it in a way that has called us to act? Could that not be a Godly gift at that point if that leadership in place does that? I quote J.R.R. Tolkien all the time on this and I'm grateful to my son for introducing him to me years ago and that is God loves to take what we think are catastrophes and turn them into what he called eu-catastrophes. The greatest example is you don't get a bigger catastrophe than the Son of God being put to death on a cross. Eu means good but what a good catastrophe because there is how you were saved. What you may think as catastrophic you don't know what God is doing in His providence.

I wanted to bring a hymn but I forgot it and I will publish it. There's a great verse in it about what seems to be God's frowning providence is actually the sunshine of His grace. It's a great hymn in the Trinity hymnal and I'll get it to you.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

These questions and answers will be included unless powers beyond me determine they ought to be edited. I'm already online with the Manhattan Declaration on this one.

We've already put the shot across the bow that we're not going to participate in the positive acts of abortion and not that abortion is every positive.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

Righteous anger is when God's objectives are being opposed. The anger of man is when my objective are being opposed like when someone pulls in front of me on Hwy 280 and slow down. That's the anger of man, what I'm about to do next.

Question – (inaudible)

Answer:

His question had to do with what my first observation was on the electorate was. It is a house divided. Is there a "possibility" on the division of the country? All of the above are possibilities. I would not be surprised if you don't start hearing rumblings of that in various quarters. That would not be something I would move to but I would not be surprised. It could be that all that believe this will live here and those who don't will live there. I kind of like to have them close to me so I can win them to Jesus. I'm kind of in to that part of it right now. It has to do with a comfort level. I think keep them close and let me win them to the Lord. Secondly, the other problem is the last time we had this kind of division was in the 1830s to 1860s and it was so regionally clear. Here it's not that region. It's not like all in the cities can be in one and the rest of us in 'podunkville' will be in the other. I think that would be an obstacle to that kind of a movement which would be fine with me because I want to win people to Jesus. I'd like to see the rebirth of a nation with a Great Awakening.

Let me now ask you to do this. For the now elected President of the United States, I would like for you to pray for him. I'd like for you to pray that if he doesn't know the Lord that he would come to know the Lord and that if he does know the Lord that he would mature in the Lord. So that he would match his political philosophy with a profession of faith and it would be a consistency there. Secondly, pray for his family. Thirdly, pray for his safety. Fourthly pray that God would raise up people that would have his ear that could speak persuasively to him of the things that really matter for us. Those are the things I would ask that you pray for in this matter.

Two, I would say appropriately, thoughtfully, lovingly and with conviction that wherever there are policies that need to be opposed they would be opposed in a way that would honor Christ in your opposition. Is it Christian to speak to the government? Here is what Jesus said about Herod, "Go tell that fox." Jesus spoke to the government. I can speak to the government in a way that would be appropriate. Go read the three times in the book of Acts that Paul tried to evangelize and help his physical brothers, the Israelites, when he talked with Agrippa, Festus and Felix. When Paul gets in prison he writes for them to greet the household of Caesar. So they had already invaded Caesar's household with Gospel. I believe that we need to properly oppose. Here's a good gauge. When you finish what you do in opposition would you be able to look at the person you

oppose and share the Gospel with them? Now you know whether you did it the right way or not. It's not if you do it for you do it but how you did it.

Thirdly, please consider what I've said. Embrace the Lord's church which is His agency to win people to Christ and change things around it. Embrace her life and her ministry in evangelism, discipleship and in church planting, strategically thinking. We have insights so maybe we ought to start planting churches. Develop leaders from the church to go into the world. Do those ministries that open the door to the Gospel, those ministries of mercy and justice. We need to engage in those thoughtfully. That is not evangelism but it opens the door for evangelism. It affirms your evangelistic message.

Consider with me how Christians might either reclaim institutions of learning or create new institutions of learning that give a Christian world and life view, that do history, spelling, math, chemistry, microbiological ethics, etc. We want to be able to know how to think our way through those things, create the teachers for it and the people that go into business and do their business differently. It's that we become through discipleship, leadership multiplication and mobilization a factory that puts salt and light back into the culture again, in a way that our forbearers did it.

Let me say one more time, go look at the constellation of thinkers and the birth of this country and we had less than two million people. What you'll find was coming out of families, schools and churches. They even knew how to take those who weren't believers and co-op them, like a Thomas Jefferson or a Benjamin Franklin to make full use of their gifts. Those were some very effective people. Here are the families and God willing here is at least one church (Briarwood) and here's a world. Look at the young people we have influence over through the Fellows Ministry, Campus Outreach, Young Business Leaders and our Youth Barn with about 400 kids over there now. What would happen if they were trained to think Christianly and move into this society for Christ? That's my hope and prayer and it's a joy to serve the Lord with you people. I want to close in prayer.

Prayer:

Father, I thank you so much for my brothers and sisters. I thank You for their heart. Lord, we would not be discouraged for our God reigns. As I said before, we have the same President but we also have the same King and our King is not enthroned by votes. Our King is the One who places and disposes of governors and kings in this world. Our King is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. So we will serve Him. We will show honor and respect and we will pray as we have been instructed for those in authority over us. We will attempt to live with faithful presence, faithful engagement and faithful proclamation. We now have an idea of where we ought to be putting our resources – in church planting and church revitalization in this mission field of the United States and we now have some clarity as to the importance of our evangelism and discipleship. Father, we clearly have a wake-up call to send this army forward, the only army in the world that marches on its knees. So we will pray. Hear us O Lord and to You be all the glory. Be merciful to us O Lord. Why do the nations rage? The Lord is upon His throne, I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.