

SPECIAL EDITION



(A RADICAL ELECTION ???)



Voting Radically

—every day

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1 Corinthians 15: 33 KJV

The main conduit of change within modern society today, is the media. Television, for example, has changed not only our ability to see the world about us but also how we view technology, itself. Two centuries ago the family gathered around the dinner table and warmed itself by the fire of the hearth (fire-place) yet today, we may gather around a flat screen TV

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While our last edition dealt with spiritual election, this one looks at a more temporal, and earthy, concern within our body politic. For this election cycle will come and go. Politicians make promises (try to fulfill them) and fail. Yet the pattern of good and evil, continues to progress towards global government and the ultimate fulfillment of prophecy (from Heaven’s point of view). How may we, within a world that is obviously changing, and very definitely flowing in the direction of the biblical pattern of prophecy, best invest our time and lives?

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May we have an impact—on our homes, communities, and our very country that is lasting, secure . . . and even eternal? Such goals and aspirations are breached only by fools, and those who truly know God. Fools: because they disregard the seriousness of the changes taking place, all around them. These rush pell-mell over the edge.

The godly: because their very existence is defined by the God who is unknown to all others who live lives that say unto others, “There is no God.”

So, how may we best invest our time, while “voting” with our lives? We will examine two radical perspectives in our investigation: the first one personal in a passing review of a book which has presented a serious challenge to American Christians: David Platt’s *RADICAL . . .* —Then we consider the political—considering the *Angry Majority*.

For while some tout “change” as a virtue in itself: true Christians promote change that is *everlasting*.

Be blessed in Jesus.

(Continued from page 1) **Voting Radically . . .**

or, individually—sit in front of the Internet, or play with our cell phones. Communicating with friends and neighbors has been revolutionized by technologies that now connect us with the wider world around us.

Each of these media is driven, of course, by money: this being the means by which we “vote” for the applications, or display information that most pleases and (perhaps) challenges us in our daily living. Within a world that has shifted from the agrarian farming environment of founding fathers (and even biblical times) into an industrialized world that has now made horses and buggies mere relics of the past—our fast paced world has truly entered the era that the prophet Daniel envisioned: a world where people “run to and fro and knowledge [is] increase[d]” (Daniel 12:4). The increased ability to view and interact with the wider world about us, now fits very comfortably into the quickening pace of the twenty-first century man and woman who seems continually “on the go.” We “vote” for media and applications that fulfill our needs, today, and the winners are those technologies (displays, programming . . .) that seem most fulfilling to the person who (in old fashioned terminology) always seems to be “in a hurry.”

We feed money into this treadmill, and then seek to keep up with its pace.

Yet within this new experience of a what many consider a “faster” (and more “progressive”) pace, moderns have often found ways to stimulate their lives with a few “goodies”—sexually explicit innuendos, of sorts, that add “spice to life.” Arcane, and outdated ways of viewing the world as may be found in the Pennsylvania Dutch country, for example, are now simply considered out of touch for the (post) modern man. In this sense, modern Christian ministries, are sometimes tempted to hop onto the treadmill, and to run alongside, in order to gain a foothold (or viability, we think) in order to become “relevant.” When parishioners get caught up in acquiring a few of those “goodies” for themselves, there is also the tendency is to look the other way: to play the game, and to “fit in.”

If the Scriptures seem to get in the way: get a newer translation.

If it seems that we have offended the God who is there (but who moderns increasingly seek to ignore)—even to the point of nature seeming to rebel: we may simply get onto the Green bandwagon. “The sky is falling, Chicken Little” we think, and the world is either cooling (in the 70’s) . . . or warming (a current trendy belief). We will dutifully ignore any concept of judgment or accountability, and assure our fellow comrades on the treadmill that God will save everyone: shrugging, when calamity falls, while answering life with a profound “I dunno!”

If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.
Amos 3:6,7

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Our watchmen on the wall (“gate keepers”) simply “dunno.” Perish the thought that any of them might admonish us to stop pulling the ring for one more of those “goodies” on one end of the tread mill, or on the next turn of the merry-go-round.

These thoughts come to me while reviewing criticism made by prominent Evangelicals of David Platt’s (excellent) first book, *RADICAL: TAKING BACK YOUR FAITH FROM THE AMERICAN DREAM*. This book (which I highly recommend, especially to “up and outers” who may feel disheartened by the treadmill) challenges the reader, in no uncertain terms, to open up the Bible and to take literally Christ’s challenge to the rich young ruler to sell all that

he has and give to the poor (Lk. 10:21). His practical application of this teaching, along with that of his congregation, is actually not so radical as it may at first appear, for there is no mass redistribution of wealth (as in Acts 2 – 4) but rather a sober reassessment of what each can do without, so that they may more readily get out the gospel: downsizing from a million dollar home, to one less luxurious, for example—while utilizing “vacation time” to go on mission trips.

Although I loved the book and heartily recommend it, the intent of this discussion is not to tout the merits of Bro. Platt’s book. It is to bring into question a religious organization and Christian fellowship of believers who would not *jump* at the opportunity for American Evangelicals to get more excited about our faith. One

brother, in criticizing the book, implies that it is “legalistic,” and that helping people in third world countries is not enough, unless also addressing their political condition, as well.[§]

Hello!?!? ’Just as we have done, perhaps, within these United States?

Or, perhaps, our brotherly critic considers it acceptable to live comfortably within a country that is on the verge of taking a step which (to my knowledge) is unprecedented in the history of the human race: granting *marital status* to practicing homosexuals. But, of course, that is something that does not interrupt the treadmill. “It’s the economy stupid!” —and even Christians may now measure the worth of a nation, not by the character of its populace, but by the number of toys and trinkets it consumes on the next go-round. M. De-Toqueville, please stop turning in your grave(!).

Yes, I am excited about what Bro. Platt and his congregation are doing: not because I intend to do the same (I purposely moved to my present location, so that I may support ministry as I feel the Lord wills it) but because it is obvious that such Christians, who so value the sending forth of the gospel, will also have their treasure (and hearts) in the right place. We, within the Christian (largely Protestant) West have so sanitized the gospel of its practical “saltiness” and fire, that we have effectively nullified our influence and ability to make a difference for good, within our country and world.

Consider what has happened to Evangelical America. We, through the proclamation of the gospel, now tell people that after they say a prayer of repentance and profess acceptance of Christ as Lord—have effectively done all that is necessary to please God. (Bear with me, a moment, there is reason for these comments.) So long as a person then follows a few basic tenets: no drinking (perhaps) or drugging, *maybe* living a sexually pure life style and *possibly* avoiding gambling and the horses—they may then consider themselves a believer in good standing. You may go home and “coast into Heaven” from there.

It is true that Christ clearly warns that we need to

be “born again” (John 3:3-16) for the man to whom He spoke (Nicodemus) was a Jew who assumed that since he was born among the chosen people, and was among the religious elite, he could then rest secure in the assumption that he was living a life that was pleasing to God. It is true, as well, that *every* man and woman must make a decision for his/herself (even if

“baptized” as an infant, into a similar religious community). For as Jesus said, when noting the calamity involving a tower falling over and killing several locals, “Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:2-5). —Yet it is obvious that such is not *all* that Christ demands of His followers—any more than a parent simply expects for their new born child to forever eat, drink, and expel the remains into a diaper. A five year old,

crawling around in diapers, has a problem!!

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The new birth (like our first one) is a gift. We can no more earn this privilege than when our parents first gave us life. Life, itself, is a gift. More so, when dealing with *eternal life*. It is a gift that God, Himself, alone can give. Faith in Christ, then, is our first imperative. We *must* be born again.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ “

John 3: 6, 7

If we merely live “a good life” but fail to surrender the control of our lives to Christ (acknowledging Him as Lord)—we have effectively co-opted God. We have said, with Adam and Eve who ate of the forbidden fruit, “We *will* be as gods. And we will do it all without You, God. —We’ll see You later . . . in our *own* Paradise.” (Genesis 3). This was similar to the issue presented to the Jews, when Christ came the first time: They had taken the Law of Moses, and assumed that *it* made them righteous. This *is* “legalism.”

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Take heed that no man deceive you.

Matthew 24:4

Foolproof ???

THE "ANGRY MAJORITY"

"Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd. . ."

Zechariah 11:15

Those familiar with recent political history (1979-87) may recall the incidence of the "Moral Majority": an evangelical Christian experiment in civil activism that sought to rejuvenate American politics. The very use of its name by a conservative minister whose official view was that "all have sinned and fallen short" of God's glory (Rom. 3:23) was, unfortunately, an exercise in political correctness on the conservative side.

Yet if the Moral Majority was an exercise in hypocrisy, recent frustration within the now popular "Tea Party" movement may portend an extreme that not only seems foolhardy, but also dangerous—for this nation was not founded by a society of merely "angry" Americans, but of Christian men and women carefully counting the cost of going it on their own: separating from the security and oversight of a mother country (Great Britain). There was a very careful, and thoughtful debate (in the Federalist Papers) over just what sort of government should be formed in place of the monarchy they hoped to replace with an orderly and responsive government of the people under God.

The wonder of the American Experiment, which was the envy of the industrialized world, and hope for those who still dream of living within an orderly and free society (after being trapped within totalitarian regimes) is now hanging on the ropes, nervous and delirious. Like a young prodigal who has been raised from rags to

riches, and now knows not what to do with his new found wealth—squandering his resources on drugs and women—our young nation (not even three centuries old) now experiments with concepts and ideas that would horrify our forefathers, as many embrace those idols that have spawned the very governments, and living conditions, from which many have hoped to escape.

Having escaped (obvious) slavery, we now find ourselves enslaved by our own lusts. Having avoided Communism, we return to the college laboratories to discover new Frankensteins made in a similar image (National Socialism). And when noticing that even Nature, itself, seems in rebellion (as if to warn us) we turn to fantastic green religious systems, presenting new weather vanes for our neighbors (and politicians) to govern the winds of change by.

Regular readers of the UPLOOK, are well aware of the fact that these articles most often deal with the exploration of one of the most explosive areas of the Bible: Bible prophecy—and that our exploration has identified not only specific trends within our present world (the NWO, the US in prophecy, Islamic trends, Israel & middle eastern politics, immoral trends, etc. etc.)¹ but also an impending judgment—for our world . . . and nation.

Yet, having uncovered such explosive trends, it should not surprise the reader that these beliefs are not more widely embraced. For who needs another gloom and doom preacher in the hour of trial? In fact, like it or not . . .

People *are* just plain angry, today: as the Republican candidate for NY state governor, Carl Paladino, stated in his victory speech over career politician Rick Lazio— “If we’ve learned anything tonight, it’s that New Yorkers are as mad as hell and we’re not going to take it any more!”² His bombastic style, and devil-may-care approach to campaigning has electrified an otherwise apathetic (or frightened) constituency, while giving liberals much to hoot about. Couple this with the general trend, among conservatives, towards a wild flailing against the tide—and one starts to hear alarm bells in the corridors of prophecy. Yet the zanier the claims, or promises, the more popular the politician, at present. Consider the NYS gubernatorial ballot: one former (video) madam, as well as colorful political parties with names like “the Rent is 2 Damn High” and the “Anti-Prohibition Party” -*Ibid.* same web site.

Popular, or not, such shenanigans tend to disturb us in the night, and leave us with indigestion unless thoroughly familiar with the endgame. For faith not only affords a fear of God (to avoid evil) but urges us to embrace His deliverance, in the end. The important thing to understand, at our present juncture in history, is that a key player (the nefarious Antichrist) is about to come on the scene . . . and the United States electorate appears only too happy to let down its guard and allow this blasphemous scheme to come about, with nary an alarm being sounded. Blasphemous? Did I say something about blasphemy?

Yes, blasphemy. Look for it to come around the corner, with increasing ferocity. And this is the very thing that should prompt concern, regarding what is now arising within American Politics. For it now appears that, having been blessed for so long by the God of Heaven within this free and abundant land—we are now awakening to the fact that our present Administration is obviously engaging in Socialist and Islamic pursuits (both denied, of course, in politically correct statements).

—Thus causing some to think that *anything* is better than what we now have.

Wrong.

There are dictatorships and Secret Police (of which we are not too far removed, with our present excuses from the Dept. of Homeland Security) as

well as new forms of government (for us) and experience that the Scriptures describe as being *outright* blasphemous, at the end of the Age (Revelation 13:1). For when leaders are in power, and have large institutions of government at their disposal . . . they may become desperate, making use of tools we Americans have seldom seen utilized: class struggle, for example, in which one group is purposely pitted against another, so that neither has enough energy to resist the leadership (also known as “divide and conquer”). This, also, is a judgment of God (note that, within the following text, “Egypt” will symbolize the world system (1 Cor. 10:1-6a)).

“I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; Everyone will fight against his brother, And everyone against his neighbor, City against city, kingdom against kingdom.

The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel, . . .”

Isaiah 19:2,3

Yet, it is the final leadership of blasphemy that should most concern us. For this is the society into which we, ourselves, have been unconsciously sliding. First, with ever more careless Christian mores (Romans 2:24, 25) and finally through the everyday “slip of the tongue” –(even in pulpits) in which careless and course speech may let loose (as I’ve heard of one case, from a reliable source, that has even shocked young teens).

But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:3,4

The excuse that, “I’m just being real.” Or, “That’s just the way I am,” is of no import. Certainly, I do not advise that such excuses be made around the writer, for while in the Service (US Navy) the Lord brought the following text to my attention.

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.

James 1:26 [emphasis added]

Why is it that many no longer care about what the Bible says, any more? One simple answer: Many sim-

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ply do not take the Lord seriously (lacking the fear God – Rev. 14:6,7). So long as others “certify” our experience: Whether through official channels, or from the pulpit: agreeing with us, that we are reasonable, and good religiousists—we care nothing for what the Bible says: Everyone agrees; we are “practicing Christians!”

Nonsense. The Scripture says clearly, my friend, that you are then deceiving *yourself*. To which the earlier admonition, concerning course speech agrees, adding:

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Ephesians 5:5-7

The falling away has already begun (1 Thes. 2:1-3)! Just as Hitler could not have risen to power, with his rabid anti-Semitic ravings—unless the same poison were already present in the hearts of his audience—so, too, the careless speech now present within many “respectable” circles will soon make it possible for the very Antichrist to arise (Rev. 13:5,6) . . . Without protest from a largely “Christian” environment.

It is not surprising, therefore, that most have also failed to pick up on the (prophetic) significance of the homosexual movement as well. For, as the church has often drifted behind her paramour in sexual sins (James 4:4) so too, this one last error will make it all the easier to breach the final test of faith, by accepting

the Mark of the beast. . . .

Yet why, exactly, is such loose speech (and activity) so pervasive in our assemblies today? Quite simply because of a refusal to obey the latter part of the apostle’s warning. For we *want* to be part of that crowd (Eph. 5:7, quoted above).

“No I don’t,” you say.

Yes, we do. And to this, I must plead guilty, myself. For I recently found myself watching a video in which the main character blatantly used foul language—and it hardly made me flinch. So that I must also confess my sin to the reader right here: I also must repent, and correct

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this tendency to “sit in the counsel of the ungodly” with the careless viewing of video material—so that, I too, may be all the more *blessed*.

Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Nor stands in the path of sinners,

Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of wa-

ter,

Psalm 1:1-3

Next stop: the rise of political figures who blatantly, and without apology, use foul language and careless speech: eventually *blaming God in public* for society’s woes. Ultimately, this ire will “somehow” find its final focus in the arena to which Hitler first sought solution, by eliminating of the Jews.

It is then, that the nations of the world will find themselves on the “wrong side of the line” when the Lord answers the “angry majority” with His returning.

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,...

Zechariah 14:1-4
[emphasis added]

This is perfectly consistent with how the angels told the disciples Christ will return in Acts, chapter one, verses 10-13.

Let us repent, now, so that we may find ourselves *on God’s side* at His returning!

Amen.

†

(Continued from page 3)
—*VOTING RADICALLY* . . .

When Protestants protest living in “legalism” we are pointing to the fact that Jesus took us beyond the ceremonial righteousness set up in the Law, by Moses (with the 10 commandments, etc.). For such “Law” can not give Life, any

To use a social metaphor:
This is a vampire, springing from his casket . . . to live in the Light.

more than keeping civil law will prevent you from dying one day. Keeping civil law keeps you out of jail. Keeping the Law of Moses kept lawlessness out of Jewish society. The moral aspect of that Law (aspects that apply to any society) are *still* valid for Christian living within any society—for the practice of truly loving one’s neighbor is what actually fulfils the Law (Romans 13:10). *God’s* purpose in the Law, is to *convert* us (Ps. 19:7). Convert us to what (Who)? Jesus Christ. This is the Gospel (good news) that offers us more than mere civil community: it gives us life *everlasting*. For when a person accepts the atonement paid for on the Cross,

by faith—they become indwelt by God Himself (the Holy Spirit of God lives within them). This is a *very big deal*.

if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Yet this new life also predicates a change of values: a change of life style and purpose—demanding that the Christian believer now see life, not from the perspective of the “treadmill,” but from Heaven’s perspective. To utilize a social metaphor: This is a vampire, springing from his casket of the Night—to dare to live in the Light. The old life, in his flesh, has died. The new Life, from Heaven, has come.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors; not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Even more daring: the believer is now in fellowship with the Living God.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you re-

. . . This is a very big deal.

*ceived the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." **
Romans 8: 11-15

* “Daddy!”

This is how we are to affect, and change, our society: not by dabbling in the “goodies” of the treadmill, or playing with those who prefer to rest in their coffins, of the Night—but by living as free men and women in the Light of God’s fellowship: free from the filth and perversion of the society about us.

And we “vote” with our dollars, as well: in the videos that we purchase and venues that we frequent. We make a statement to the world about us, in the things that we gladly deny ourselves of, to remain free of the treadmill (and dark coffins)—by being children of the Light. Such children will never feel uncomfortable with brothers who give all they can to assist a neighbor. We celebrate with them: and consider how we may also give—and give even more, to bring glory to the One who has given us Life Forevermore.

Marantha Ministries

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What Must I Do?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."
Acts 16:31

How?

... If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9,10

In Other Words

Acknowledge : your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

Accept: His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

Confess: your acceptance of His lordship over you.

Live for Him with your new life.

For the scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed."

Romans 10:11

ENDNOTES;

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¹ Those interested in coverage of these prophetic issues (and others) may wish to get a copy of my book "KEYS TO THE APOCALYPSE . . ." (available @ THEUPLOOK.com)

²Talking point blog spot, at <<http://tpmde.talkingpointsmemo.com/2010/09/paladino-my-win-shows-new-yorkers-are-mad-as-hell-and-were-not-going-to-take-it-anymore.php>> accessed 10-18-10

³See the review in (Christian) WORLD magazine by Anthony Bradley @ <<http://online.worldmag.com/2010/05/12/if-platts-radical-was-radical/>> . Note that the issue here is not the theological basis of this book, but (as the reviewer points out) "to press the claims of Christ wherever the devil is working." (his own words).