

To Turn the Tide, We Need to Change Both Hearts and Laws

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That’s because he understood that protecting our foundational American freedoms went hand in hand with our right to preach the gospel without restriction. As Bright said, “I truly believe we are fighting for the very survival of the gospel and of evangelism in America today.” (Remember that he died in 2003; already then, the assault on our liberties was very clear.)

Since 2011, the ADF has been directly involved in 15 major Supreme Court wins, most notably the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization in June 2022 that directly led to the overturning of Roe v. Wade. It doesn’t get any more significant than that!

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Other cases of note successfully litigated by the ADF before the Supreme Court include *303 Creative v. Elenis* (in 2023), a major victory for Christian freedom of conscience and expression; *Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski* (2021), on behalf of a Christian student who was blocked from openly proclaiming his faith on his college campus; and *March for Life Education and Defense Fund v. California* (2020), stating that employers should not be required to “provide their employees with abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization and contraception—regardless of their religious or moral convictions.”

Had these cases, among many others, been decided differently, our country would look much different than it does today.

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Why My Faith Won't Allow Me to Vote for a Particular Political Party: 3 Reasons

I am registered as neither a Republican nor a Democrat. In fact, I have no personal stake in the success of any political party. As a Christian and a minister of the gospel, my goal is to see heaven's values adopted and lived out by as many people and institutions as possible. Only then can we hope to be a

happy nation, for as George Washington declared in his first inaugural address,

“The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the external rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained.” (Hyatt, “Pilgrims and Patriots, 2nd Edition,” 174).

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Neither political party completely expresses my values, but one of them has turned so far away from the founding principles of this nation and the values I hold that I feel compelled to make a clear statement. The following are three reasons my faith will not allow me to vote for a Democrat.

Reason No. 1: Their Disdain for Bible-Believing Christians

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When the then-new Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, described himself as a “Bible-believing Christian,” Democrats came unhinged. MSNBC host Jen Psaki called him a “religious fundamentalist” and mocked his faith. The Daily Beast compared the Speaker to the “Taliban and the mullahs in Iran.” Hakeem Jeffries, the minority leader in the House, ripped into Johnson, calling him an “extreme, right-wing ideologue.” Others said he was “dangerous” and a “threat to democracy.”

Not a single Democratic leader, including Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, has separated themselves from these atrocious remarks by their colleagues. I must therefore assume that this is how they feel about the millions of Bible-believing Christians in our nation, including me.

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Election 2024: Should Pro-Life Leaders Urge Boycott?

Frank Anthony Pavone is a former Catholic priest and anti-abortion activist who was defrocked by the Vatican in 2022 for placing an aborted fetus on an altar. Pavone said abortion was the “single-most issue” in the 2004 George W. Bush and John Kerry presidential election. Few if any have matched his relentless 50-year battle to save unborn babies.

Pavone was asked last week about his reaction to a high-profile pro-life leader’s announcement of withholding support from Donald J. Trump in the fall election. He said though that position is “politically blind,” the moral position is that “no abortion can be justified.” He has also defined the Democrat Party as God-hating and America-hating.

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Does it make any sense under such circumstances for America’s prominent pro-life leaders to urge constituents to sit out this election? Leaders who do so, argues Pavone, are absolutely “clueless about how politics works.” The Nov. 5 presidential election is not only about Trump and his stance on abortion but between Trump and the most radically pro-abortion presidential ticket the U.S. has ever seen.

American Christendom pastors and spiritual leaders should likely be encouraging Christians to double down on their prayer lives regarding the election, along with asking God for mercy for the 65 million babies' merciless deaths in the American holocaust. Trump, seemingly, is but the bulwark against an increasingly hostile and caustic culture threatening to take the nation down into the abyss of corruption and degeneration.

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Pavone says the pro-life movement needs Trump to do just one thing: "get elected." Then he asks:

Has President Trump ever said that his appointment of hundreds of pro-life judges between 2017 and 2021 was a political blunder? Has he said reinstating the Mexico City Policy [thereby banning American taxpayer money from funding abortion] was a mistake?

Was depriving Planned Parenthood access to \$63M per year from Title X programs by Trump not enough? Has he ever said that it was a mistake to have the Office of Conscience and Religious Rights—that he established under HHS to protect doctors and nurses from being forced to participate in abortion—a mistake? Or to get the United States into the Geneva Consensus, an alliance of pro-life countries? He hasn't gone back on any of that, and he'll do that all again."

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This points to the importance of Christian legal work since, without it, not only could our essential rights and freedoms be removed, but we could be compelled by the government to say or do things contrary to our faith, resulting in loss of job, expulsion from colleges and universities, steep fines and even prison sentences if we refused to comply. Even worse, our children could be taken from us and put into state care (or into other homes) if we refused to act and speak as the government demanded.

All that being said, it is even more important that we seek to change hearts and minds as well as laws. Put another way, we must win in the court of public appeal as well in courthouses throughout the land. We must change the thinking of millions of Americans, lest the legislative victories of one generation get swallowed up with massive reversals in the next generation, if not even more quickly. What a terrible shame that would be.

Thinking back to the eradication of slavery in the 1700-1800s, how was it that William Wilberforce (1759-1833) and the

abolitionists in the United Kingdom and America succeeded in their mission? Slavery was a way of life, with national economies built on its very back. There was no way political leaders would even think of outlawing the practice, unless their own eyes could be opened to the horrors of slavery and, even more importantly, unless the eyes of the people could be opened.

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To give just one example of how deeply entrenched the slave trade was in British life, John Newton (1725-1807), author of the world-famous hymn "Amazing Grace," continued for a few years as the captain of a slave trading ship *after* his radical conversion experience. As he explained (to his shame) years later, "Custom, example, and interest had blinded my eyes. I did it ignorantly." In other words, this was the common practice of the day (custom); everyone he knew, including Christians, had no real problem with it (example); and it was profitable (interest).

That's why Wilberforce (who was a parliamentarian fighting on a governmental as well as popular level) and his colleagues launched graphic public relations campaigns, using the image of a chained Black man asking, "Am I not a man and a brother"?

They also utilized the testimonies of former slaves (and even former slave traders, like Newton), ultimately changing the law by changing public opinion. It was in that same spirit that President Abraham Lincoln allegedly said to Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896), author of the watershed novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!" (He was speaking, of course, of the Civil War.)

Whether the quote is true or not, it is a recognition of the

fact that Stowe's book was greatly used to change the thinking of millions of Americans. They came to realize that the African slave trade was downright evil. It had no business in our country at all.

That's why, to say it again, the changing of hearts must accompany the changing of laws. Otherwise, there will ultimately be resentment, anger and, finally, rebellion, leading to the reversal of the good laws we fought so hard to pass. The short-term gains will become long-term losses.

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(Excerpted and adapted from Michael L. Brown, "Turn the Tide: How to Ignite a Cultural Awakening" [Charisma House, 2024].)



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Top of the Week: Chris Reed Makes Statement Following MorningStar Resignation

Following are snippets of the top stories posted over the past week on . We encourage you to visit the links to read the stories in full.

Chris Reed Makes Statement Following MorningStar Resignation

Chris Reed released a statement in a newly uploaded video to YouTube about his resignation with MorningStar Ministries.

“Hello friends, family, just come to you tonight in response to regards to a couple of things. No. 1, there seemed to have been some confusion over my departure from MorningStar,” Reed says.

He continues: “My departure from MorningStar was what I said in the letter to the department heads and to the staff and volunteers, which was this: I said I did not want to be leading the ministry that would be in a case against four victims who were abused as children by a former volunteer of the ministry, who is a policeman as well.”

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Joyner’s Frustration Over Chris Reed’s Abrupt Resignation

After the surprise departure of Chris Reed from MorningStar Ministries last week, MorningStar’s founder, Rick Joyner, spoke to the congregation on Sunday, Sept. 1 about Reed’s resignation.

While Joyner says he was “shocked” but not “surprised,” he says it is the way that Chris left suddenly which he found most concerning.

“I did not feel that there was a shepherd’s heart revealed,” Joyner says. “A shepherd lays down their life for the sheep and certainly has regard for them. I didn’t feel like there was regard for me, for our board, any of this stuff that we had entrusted a lot to him. And I don’t think to just quit like that is what we ever need to do with anyone, with no notice.”

50 Things Everyone Should Stockpile for Chaotic Times

Are you getting prepared? Right now, millions of Americans are stockpiling food and supplies in anticipation of what they believe is coming. People are on edge due to the approaching election, the rapidly escalating war in the Middle East, the alarming natural disasters that we have been witnessing all around the world, and the potential for another great global pandemic.

In all my years, I have never seen more concern about the next 12 months as I am seeing at this moment. There is a growing consensus that major history changing events are about to happen, and there are lots and lots of people that want to be well prepared. In fact, Newsweek has reported that “doomsday prepping” has become a \$ billion industry.

These days, many local supermarkets carry emergency food right on their store shelves, and I think that is a great thing.

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Gunman Targets Greg Locke's Home in Shocking Attack

Pastor Greg Locke and his family were the targets of a gunman late on Tuesday night, Sept. 3.

Locke gave the update on Facebook to let people know that he and his family were safe and unharmed, by God's miraculous grace.

It's 2:00 a.m. and for the last three hours our home has been a full-blown crime scene. According to the security cam footage, we pulled into our driveway exactly ONE MINUTE after a madman unloaded an entire magazine of bullets from an automatic weapon into our house, garage and my truck. The sound on the video is truly horrific. Detectives will still be here for a good while tonight.

Kamala Harris Distorts Bible Verse for Political Gain

Vice President Kamala Harris managed to send a video greeting to a Christian conference quoting Scripture out of context about Jesus Christ, and then didn't even bother to mention His name.

In the message to the Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church taking place in Columbus, Ohio, last week, Harris said, "We are just 10 weeks out from the election, and I know you are already hard at work ... organizing souls to the polls, making sure your members are registered and ready to vote.

"Because as we all know, this is the most consequential election of our lifetime. We face a choice between two very different visions for the future of our nation," she added.

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7 Key Conversations Ahead of Election 2024

As the nation enters the 2024 election season, several key topics are shaping the discourse and influencing voters. These topics reflect the concerns, values and priorities of a diverse electorate, encompassing a wide range of issues pivotal to the future of the United States. Here are seven key conversations at the heart of election season 2024.

1. Religious Freedom

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Religious freedom remains a cornerstone issue for many voters, particularly evangelical Christians. The debate centers on ensuring that individuals and organizations can practice their faith without government interference. This topic includes concerns about laws and regulations that may compel religious institutions to act against their beliefs, such as mandates related to health care and education. Voters are scrutinizing candidates for their positions on protecting religious liberties and how they plan to address potential conflicts between religious convictions and public policy.

The issue has become increasingly complex in the face of modern cultural changes. For instance, the meeting of religious freedom with LGBTQ+ rights presents ongoing challenges. Faith-based organizations seek exemptions from laws that infringe on their faith doctrines, particularly in areas such as adoption services and employment practices. The political debate often hinges on finding a balance between protecting freedoms of faith and ensuring equal rights for all.

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2. Abortion and Pro-Life Advocacy

Abortion remains a polarizing issue in American politics, and it has significant implications for the 2024 presidential election. Pro-life advocates are pushing for stricter abortion regulations, while pro-choice supporters are fighting to protect access to abortion services. Candidates' position on

this issue will significantly influence their support base, particularly among Christian voters who view the sanctity of life as nonnegotiable.

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7 Key Conversations for Making Your Vote Count

As the nation enters the 2024 election season, there are several key topics that are shaping the discourse and influencing voters. These topics reflect the concerns, values and priorities of a diverse electorate, encompassing a wide range of issues that are pivotal to the future of the United States. Here are seven leading conversations at the heart of election season 2024.

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The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* shifted the battleground to the state level, making it a crucial topic for voters. The Supreme Court's decision has led to a patchwork of laws across the country. This decentralization has intensified the political battle, with states enacting laws that range from complete bans to full protections of abortion rights. The presidential candidates' stances on federal funding for abortion, support for state-level restrictions and potential federal legislation will be critical in shaping voter opinions.

3. Family and Traditional Values

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The definition and role of family and traditional values in society are central themes in the 2024 election. This topic encompasses issues such as same-sex marriage, gender identity and parental rights in education. Many voters are concerned about ongoing erosion of traditional family structures and values, and they seek candidates who will champion policies that uphold these principles. The debate extends to educational content, with parents advocating for greater control over what is taught in schools regarding sexuality and gender, history and science.

The discourse around family and traditional values often reflects broader cultural skirmishes. Policies related to transgender rights and comprehensive sex education in schools are contentious topics. Many conservative voters feel that traditional values are under attack and seek leaders who will defend these principles. Conversely, progressive voters advocate for policies that promote inclusivity and respect for diverse family structures.

4. Religious Persecution Worldwide

Religious persecution around the globe is a significant concern for many voters, particularly members of the global Christian community. There is a growing call for the U.S. government to take a more active role in combating religious persecution and supporting religious minorities in countries where they face oppression. Voters are looking to presidential candidates to articulate clear strategies for addressing international religious freedom and for supporting humanitarian efforts aimed at protecting persecuted religious groups.

American voters are increasingly aware of global issues, including the persecution of religious minorities. From Christians in the Middle East and Africa, to Uighur Muslims in China and the decades-long crisis in North Korea, religious

persecution is a pressing human rights issue. Voters want to know how presidential candidates plan to address these concerns, whether through diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions or humanitarian aid. Or all of the above. The candidates' commitment to religious freedom as a core element of foreign policy is under close scrutiny.

5. Health Care Reform

Health care reform is an enduring issue in American politics over tangents including accessibility, affordability and the role of government in health care. Voters are still concerned about rising health care costs, insurance coverage and quality of care. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified discussions around public health infrastructure and preparedness.

The health care debate encompasses a wide range of issues, including Medicare expansion, prescription drug prices and mental health services. Voters are looking for candidates who propose innovative solutions to these challenges. The impact of the Affordable Care Act, the future of Medicaid and the role of private insurance companies are all key points of the conversation. The candidates' viable plans for improving health care access and affordability will be crucial in gaining voter trust and support. Proposals for health care reform are under close scrutiny, with voters seeking comprehensive solutions that balance compassion with practicality.

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6. Economic Policies and Job

Creation

Voters vote their wallets, as the old line goes, and economic policies are timeless critical issues. The state of the economy, including inflation, tax policies and job opportunities, directly affects the daily lives of Americans in the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic's disruptions. Candidates' economic platforms are being evaluated for their potential to stimulate growth, create jobs, support small businesses and grow the economy. Voters are particularly interested in policies that address workforce development and economic vitality in an increasingly uncertain global market.

Are voters better off now than they were four years ago? The answer to that timeless question hinges on the economic landscape's varied and numerous factors, including technological advancements, globalization and how to efficiently and successfully incorporate environmental concerns. Voters are interested in candidates' plans for addressing these challenges through sustainable economic policies. Issues such as the minimum wage, corporate tax rates and policies driving robust free enterprise are pivotal. Each candidate's ability to present comprehensive strategies for economic growth that also address social and environmental considerations will be evaluated thoroughly.

7. National Security and Foreign Policy

National security and foreign policy remain paramount concerns for voters. Beginning with the wars in Ukraine and Israel, issues such as military strength, counter-terrorism strategies and international alliances are central to the debate. The geopolitical landscape is continually evolving, with new challenges arising from regions like the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe. Voters expect candidates to have a coherent

and effective foreign policy that addresses threats to national security, promotes peace and stability, and maintains the United States' leadership on the global stage.

In an increasingly interconnected world, national security and foreign policy are even more critical. Voters are concerned about threats from state and non-state actors, cybersecurity and the United States' role in global conflicts. The candidates' positions on military spending, alliances with NATO and other international bodies, and strategies for dealing with emerging powers like China and India are central to the national security debate. Voters will demand clear vision ensuring both domestic safety and international stability.

The Road Ahead

The 2024 election is set to be a defining moment for the United States, with voters deeply invested in the direction of the country. The diverse and complex issues that are at the forefront of voters' minds, from religious freedom to national security, encapsulating the breadth and depth of the fundamental values and concerns that shape everyday Americans' lives and are driving the conversations across the electoral landscape. As candidates campaign, deliver one more stump speech and present their platforms, voters will be keenly evaluating how their positions align with these critical issues.

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Derived from FrontLine books: "Make Your Vote Count" (2008) and "The Biblical Guide to Voting" (2012).

New MEV Spiritual Warfare Bible: Aid to Overcoming Darkness

Every hour we draw closer to the perfection of our faith, upon that great morning when Jesus' feet once again stand on the surface of the earth. And as each moment ticks by, the need to be fully nourished and fortified in God's spoken Word only builds toward the moment we meet God's living Word.

"The Modern English Version Spiritual Warfare Edition" of the Bible arrives for the fall of 2024 in a newly revised presentation with abundant practical wisdom for training as well as overcoming the spreading darkness in the world. Leading authors and ministry figures have contributed sermons and writings that sharpen this new MEV, including Isaiah Saldivar, Alexander Pagani, John Eckhardt, Jennifer LeClaire, Greg Locke and John Ramirez.

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Jesus Commissioned You to Cast Out Demons

"How to Cast Out Demons" by Isaiah Saldivar

Jesus gave three main commissions when it came to casting out demons.

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The first commission is in Matthew 10:5–8 when He calls His 12 apostles to cast out demons. Note that He did not ask them to do this; He told them to. Now, you might be thinking, “Isaiah, I’m not one of the 12 apostles. This doesn’t apply to me!” Let’s keep going.

The second commission is in Luke 10:17–20, where Jesus sends out the 72 disciples and they return saying: “Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.” These were not the 12 apostles. These were 72 disciples. You still might say, “But Isaiah, this doesn’t apply to me! I’m not one of the 72 disciples.” Let’s keep going.

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