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ONE NATION UNDER *WHOM?*

by Linleigh J. Roberts



"The Lord was standing by a
vertical wall, with a plumb line
in His hand." Amos 7:7

One Nation Under Whom?

When you enter the polling booth and are confronted with that long list of names on the ballot form - many of whom you know nothing about and others are nothing more than a familiar name - how do you choose? Who are all these people? For what do they stand? Of course, they all have one thing in common - they hope to be elected to public office at a local, state or national level! But, will they keep their campaign promises? Can they be trusted with public responsibilities and funds? Do they have ulterior motives and a personal agenda? Will they work honestly for the good of the people? Are they capable and efficient? Are they people of morality and integrity? Are they the kind of people you would entrust with your family and your bank account?

Unfortunately, many elected to public office these days are those:

- who have the ability to use smooth words but say nothing,
- who make extravagant claims which they know they cannot keep,
- who display the most charisma and personal charm, and
- who have plenty of money (or know how to get it!) and have, therefore, a highly organized and well publicized campaign.

These criteria do not qualify a person to manage his own life, let alone represent others!

Before you cast your vote:

Listen carefully to those claims:

When a candidate for public office claims that he/she is the best qualified, the most experienced, the most capable, and the only one with workable policies, beware. When people make extravagant claims and estimate themselves to be greater and better than others, we need no

further proof that they lack self-knowledge. (It would be refreshing to hear a candidate acknowledge his limitations and admit that an opponent has some strengths and worthwhile qualifications!)

*"Many a man proclaims his own loyalty,
But who can find a trustworthy man?"*

Proverbs 20:6

*"Like clouds and wind without rain
is a man who boasts of his gifts freely."*

Proverbs 25:14

Those who boast of personal abilities and accomplishments are afflicted with "I" trouble - don't expect them to see things clearly or from the right perspective! Don't expect any person with an inflated opinion of himself to have your interests in view - especially if he promises you more than he can deliver!

What about his religion?

In American politics, at least, candidates are quick to declare that they will not allow their personal religious beliefs to influence their political decisions. Such claims give the impression that the person will be fair-minded and impartial. Of course there are many people (including politicians) who belong to a particular religion or denomination, but whose lives do not reflect the teaching or moral standards of that religion. Under those circumstances, the claim might be sincere and valid. In reality, however, such claims are, at best, misleading. While one might belong to a particular church, his real religion consists in what he believes and the values he holds. In other words, a person might be a member of a Presbyterian church, for instance, but be a secular humanist by conviction. His real religion is not Presbyterianism, but secular humanism. The personal convictions of the U.S. president, for example, influ-

ence his choice of nominees to the Supreme Court. If he has conservative convictions, he will nominate conservative judges; if he is liberal, he will nominate liberal candidates. In either case, the choices are not impartial or without personal bias. The claim, therefore, that religion will not influence politics is without substance. Of course one's convictions influence his decisions - any claim to the contrary reveals that the person is either, ignorant, naïve, or deceitful.

"As a man thinks within himself, so is he."

Proverbs 23:7

In commenting on a recent political speech, a reporter said, "Watch what he does, not what he says." A man's behavior will always reflect his belief.

What about his private life?

The personal lives of those who run for public office are sure to come under the scrutiny and inquisition of ruthless reporters these days. Their incessant probing has brought to light moral improprieties and questionable ethical behavior. Is the private life of a political candidate any concern of the public? Does the private life of a leader have any bearing on his qualification for public office? In commenting on the private life of a candidate recently, a reporter said, "Do we expect higher standards of our leaders than we set for ourselves? Or, have we reached the place where we must get our politicians from the monastery?" His question implies, of course, that the entire nation has the morality of alley cats and that nothing better can be expected of leaders. Such irresponsible comments on national news programs undoubtedly continue to influence public opinion, lower expectations, and diminish standards. Regardless, the moral integrity and ethical behavior must not be ignored or dismissed as irrelevant.

When a political leader cannot keep his personal bank account in order, how can he be trusted with the finances of a nation? If a man has been unfaithful to his marriage vows, will he take the oath of office seriously? If a candidate has been morally irresponsible and has forfeited his integrity as a husband and father, can he be trusted with the welfare of the people? If a man has broken the law of the land, who can trust him to uphold law and order? When the test of life has been failed at the basic and foundational level, by what standard can he be considered as fit for public office? With greater responsibilities and bigger temptations in public office, a candidate must prove himself a man of morality and integrity before presenting himself as a candidate at any level of government.

Before you support any candidate, learn the facts. Evaluate each one, not on the basis of extravagant claims and empty promises, but on principles of integrity, truth, justice, and righteousness - found only in the Moral Law of God.

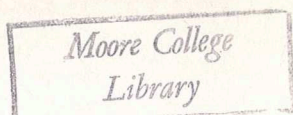
When you vote, you should vote only for those candidates to whom you would be willing to trust your spouse, your children, your bank account, your business, and your future - whether you realize it or not, that is exactly what you do when you cast your ballot.

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

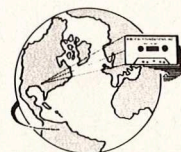
Luke 12:48

*"It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness;
For the throne is established by righteousness."*

Proverbs 16:12



For further information, contact:



"IF THE FOUNDATIONS BE DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?" PSALM 11:3

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