

# ISSUES, ISSUES, ISSUES

By: Rev. K. Richard Helms.

In order to vote intelligently we, the people, must understand the foremost issues involved and then must be able to prioritize those issues in order to make a well reasoned choice. This is no different, and perhaps even more important, to us as Bible believing Christians. Unlike others, who are free to prioritize the issues according to personal preferences and current life events, we who are called by the Name of Christ must strive to square our priorities with those found in God's Word.

That said, I will now try to present the primary issues of this year's campaign and help to prioritize them according to their importance as set forth in the Word.

## 1. The Sanctity of Human Life.

This issue must be in the forefront for Bible believing Christians as it is for our Lord. God create humankind **in His very image** and gave us life. Because of that He treasures each life personally and has forbidden us to end that life except in those few instances that he has given His authority to "the state" to act on His behalf in doing justice.

America today stands guilty of the **national sin** of the "*shedding of innocent blood*" as we sacrifice millions of our children on the altar of the foreign God of "Choice". This is the same sin for which God turned the nation Israel over to their enemies sending them into exile in Babylon.

Just as during the time of the fallen kingdoms of Israel and Judah today in America the blood of the innocents cries out to God for justice. And, just like Israel and Judah, America will be given over to our enemies if we do not repent and stop this terrible sin. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every Christian to do all we can to stop this holocaust, if we do not, America cannot stand for much longer.

For a Christian it is a sin to knowingly vote for a pro-abortion (choice) candidate for any office, under any circumstances. Why? Because a vote for a supporter of this terrible sin is a fundamental affirmation of the sin and the Bible teaches clearly that the affirmation of sin is the same as commission of the sin ourselves.

Make no mistake, on this issue stands the very future of America and that is why it is number one as we prioritize the issues of this years election.

In summary, If we do not turn the tide of this slaughter, the rest will be irrelevant because there will be no America to worry about them. God will see to that in His justice.

## 2. Protecting Marriage and the Family.

It may surprise some folks to find that I list this as the second most important issue this year. After all, some ask, isn't this just a side issue? Isn't this just an issue of personal moral and social preference?

In fact, for a Bible believing Christian, this issue cannot be one of mere moral or social preference. This, like the **Sanctity of Human Life**, is in reality an issue of **national sin**, and scripture is clear that when there is "**sin in the camp**" (a nation), that nation cannot enjoy victory over their adversaries. Think about that in the context of today's war on terror. America faces what is probably the single most dangerous enemy in our entire

history and unless we “clean up the camp” spiritually by standing against the rampant sexual immorality, including our “Hell Bent” march towards same sex marriage, there is no way that God will bless our land.

In summary, if we, who are called by the Name of Christ, do not stand for righteousness on this issue, both by participation in the public political dialogue as well as in the voting booth, our enemies will be victorious and America as we know it will be no more. Again, all of the other issues will then become moot.

### **3. National Security and the War on Terror.**

**America is at WAR!** Hear that. This is not a battle against a group of nasty, even evil, criminals. This is not something that our law enforcement agencies, no matter how good, can deal with. This is a war against a diabolical enemy that wants to kill **all** Bible believing Christians and Jews. They want to kill us, not because of anything we have done to them, nor is it, as some say, out of jealousy for our lifestyle. This enemy wants to kill us because of our faith, simply because we are. Understand this, unlike America’s former enemies; this enemy’s goal is not just victory over America. This enemy’s goal is nothing short of religious genocide against all who will not submit to their evil; First and foremost Bible believing Christians and Jews.

Because this enemy will never be satisfied until we (Christians and Jews) are all dead, our goal cannot be their surrender or any kind of “truce”. Our goal must be total victory, the total extermination of this evil vermin together with the sources of propaganda that feed that evil. This quest is not for the weak of heart. The goal will not be achieved easily, nor will it be done quickly. The road will be difficult and it will be messy. Young American lives will be spent; there will be setbacks and yes, even defeats. Unlike other wars throughout our history this war will not last just a few years. It may in fact last a lifetime, even well into the next century, and there is no guarantee of victory. For America the stakes are indeed high but, (barring the Lord’s return) for Bible believing Christians and Jews our very lives hang in the balance. Therefore, regardless of how difficult, or how messy, or how long, America must persevere!

Understand also that America is the **only** nation that **can** fight this war. Not just because we are the primary target of this evil, but because we are the only nation with sufficient resources to win it. Because of this, America must never allow our prosecution of this war to be subordinated to the policies of appeasement that are so prevalent in the international community. Anything short of total and complete victory is unacceptable and those that would propose otherwise must be viewed as irrelevant. In the words of a great man, “we must stay the course, we must not waver, we must not faint.” The fate, indeed the very future, of the entire world rests with us.

In summary, it is in the foregoing context that we must examine this issue as well as the candidates’ plans for addressing it. Then we must vote accordingly. Our nation, our very lives may rest on the outcome.

### **4. The Economy and Jobs.**

Although you would not know if from much of the rhetoric we hear in the media, the American economy is in great shape. This, in spite of the early recession we were experiencing at the change of administrations, and in spite of the 911 terrorist attacks that by all historical measure should have crippled our economy, and in spite of multiple corporate scandals that bruised public confidence in America’s corporate leadership, and

last but far from least, in spite of the mainstream media's constant "talking down" the economy in their desperate effort to bring down President Bush.

What you will not hear in the mainstream media, except on **FOX News**, is that the national unemployment rate is well below the six percent (6%) historical benchmark and that our Gross National Product (GNP) is growing at a rate unequaled in the last twenty years. Individual productivity is at an all-time high and while we lost 2.5 million jobs as a result of the combined early recession and 911 attacks, we have regained 1.5 million of those jobs and it looks like the full 2.5 million will be regained in the next few months. Then, barring another disaster, the sky's the limit.

As I look at today's economy through my thirty-five plus years as a tax accountant I see several things. First, knowing that the events of the past few years should have devastated our economic stability I have to ask myself why we have not only survived, but are flourishing. The answer is easy for any that will take a fair look into it. President Bush is very economically savvy. After all he does hold an MBA from Harvard. He has used that savvy to launch extremely well structured and timed tax cuts while rallying the American people to the flag following the 911 terrorist attacks. From the practical perspective of an old time accountant, what President Bush has pulled off is just short of miraculous and he deserves another term for that if for nothing else.

Sadly, the incredible "Talking Down" of the economy by the Kerry campaign and their allies in the Bush hating media has slowed down much of the progress we should have made, effectively accomplishing much that the attacks could not.

The state of the economy is important for us as Christians because the more we prosper, the more we can give to the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom, first in our own families and then through our churches and missions.

In summary, our nation must continue the sound economic policies that the Bush administration has begun. The tax cuts, including the elimination of both the "death tax" and the "marriage penalty tax" must be made permanent. If Senator Kerry is successful in repealing many of these sound measures, as he has promised to do, while increasing personal income taxes to pay for his manifold promised new programs, it is very possible that our economy will not be able to bear the weight of his folly. Consider the foregoing when you vote this year.

## **5. Taxes**

Last but not least of the major issues this year is that all-time favorite, TAXES. I touched briefly on this issue in the section regarding the Economy and Jobs and the onerous effect increasing taxes would have on the economy. Now I'd like to give you a short history lesson and explain the affects of higher taxes on the national attitude/moral.

Back in the late '60s and on through the decade of the '70s, in the midst of the Democrats' (and liberal Republicans') "Great Society" policies, the top individual tax rates had risen to somewhere between fifty (50%) and seventy (70%) percent depending on where you lived. In fact there were some sets of circumstances that would actually create individual tax rates in excess of one hundred percent (100%) on the top dollars of a high income (excess of \$60M) individual's annual income. Think about that a minute. What incentive was there to get ahead, or to build/grow a small business when the government set a ceiling on how much you could earn. To make things worse if you were able to accumulate any wealth, the government would take it away when you died through the death taxes, at times even higher than the income taxes, driving many small businesses

into bankruptcy on the death of their founders. I remember getting phone calls back then from clients asking when they should arrange with their employers to go on unemployment or wanting to know when the tax bracket would jump so they could forgo overtime. Folks just didn't think it was worth working for 30¢ on the dollar, sometimes less, and our economy showed it.

The Democrats' (and liberal Republicans') had achieved their goal. The government now had control of virtually all income and was using it to fund America's great social experiments. They were a terrible failure and the results that the few conservatives around at the time had predicted proved true. Both worker and business morale were at an all-time low and the economy was dormant. Economic and business growth was nil, unemployment was at an all-time high and inflation rates went through the roof taking interest rates with them. America was on the verge of bankruptcy.

Then, the proverbial "last straw" as Jimmy Carter was elected President of the United States. The Carter administration's disastrous foreign policy fiascos brought about the fall of the Shah of Iran and the rise of Islamic extremists to power in Iran. (This, by the way, laid the foundations of the 9/11 attacks and our current war on terrorism. But that's for another column.) The great oil embargo was at its height and domestic gas and oil prices skyrocketed to all-time highs fueling inflation and collapsing the American economy.

Then, riding to America's rescue on his great white horse, came America's first great cowboy president, Ronald Wilson Reagan. President Reagan quickly reversed the Carter administration's failed foreign policy disasters breaking the oil embargo and ultimately winning the "Cold War" (another column here). He drastically slashed individual income tax rates ultimately freeing the economy from its decades-old bondage to our failed experiment with socialism. In spite of opposition from a still Democrat-controlled congress, President Reagan succeeded in implementing much of his pro-growth policies and the results were almost immediate. Inflation slowed and interest rates fell as the economy began to boom. A boom continuing through the decade of the '90s in spite of President Clinton's best efforts to bring down much of what had been accomplished. The very attitude of the American people changed, we were proud to be Americans again. People wanted to work again and times were good.

Today we stand on a precipice that could easily determine whether America repeats its mistakes of the past. As America's second great cowboy president, George W. Bush, rode into the Whitehouse on the back of what many Christians view, in light of subsequent events, as a miraculous Electoral College victory we were in the early stages of a recession due largely to the tax increases instituted during the previous administration. President Bush was quick to recognize the problem and was successful in instituting basic tax reductions at all levels. That, plus the Democrat-driven individual tax rebates (credit given where due) had just begun driving the recovery when the events of 9/11 befell America followed by war, corporate scandal and more war. Again, President Bush recognized the growing problems and instituted additional tax cuts for all Americans. Thanks to that foresight our economy is now nearing full recovery as it grows at a rate unequalled in the last 20 years.

Now we come to this year's elections and the choices before us. The differences between the candidates on this issue are more defined this year than in many prior elections. The outcomes are equally divergent.

President Bush has proven by his actions a near single-minded dedication to reducing individual income taxes for all taxpayers. All taxpayers, that's important. He rightly understands that by staying the course in this, not only will America's economy recover much sooner but the national deficit resulting from the inherited recession and the war

fighting will be more quickly eliminated through the resulting economic growth. While some twenty years ago this was arguably a new theory (which worked by the way), today, this is a time tested approach that has been proven by history. We can count on President Bush to stay the course here, as in our war on terror, because of his solid Christian character that takes the long view, keeps his eye on the finish line, and does not allow himself to be blown about by the winds of political rhetoric. In this, like all of his life, President Bush will do what he believes to be the right thing regardless of the consequences.

On the other side, contrast Senator Kerry who has promised to “roll back President Bush’s tax cuts” (read raise individual income tax rates) while he says that he will reduce taxes on the middle class, but then promises massive new programs that can only be financed by equally massive tax increases. The numbers simply don’t add up to the promises. But then who knows, as a master of the politically expedient quick fix his policy will change with the winds of the liberal electorate. Therein lays the problem. A short sighted, politically expedient approach here can not work and effectively keeps moving the finish line resulting in America not finishing the race.

In summary, I must reiterate that our nation must continue the sound economic policies that the Bush administration has begun. The tax cuts, including the elimination of both the “death tax” and the “marriage penalty tax” must be made permanent. If Senator Kerry is successful in repealing these sound measures, as he has promised to do, while increasing personal income taxes to pay for his manifold promised new programs, it is very possible that our economy will not be able to bear the weight of his folly. Again, consider the foregoing when you vote this year.