

Election will affect America's churches

by Randy Bright <http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=1145#more-1145>

The election of Barack Obama to the presidency is going to have a profound impact on this nation, and especially on our churches.

Though the stock market crash has been largely attributed to the home mortgage crisis, some believe that it really happened because when wealthy people realized that Obama was probably going to win, they pulled their funds out of the market. Now, only days after Obama's election, the stock market is in free fall again.

The election also produced two groups of people. The first group, the fifty-two percent majority who voted for Obama, see an Obama administration as the solution to the country's economic and social woes. They will prop up the economy for a while, at least until Obama's policies begin to fail, forcing an even more profound impact on the economy.

The second group, the other forty eight percent, will be the ones who will begin planning for what looks to be, perhaps, one of the biggest economic slumps this nation has ever seen.

I believe that Obama's policies will indeed push this country over the edge economically, yet I do not feel the same apprehension I felt back in the early eighties during the last big recession. The reasons are simple.

First and foremost, God is in control. If we believe that this is in His plan, then we must trust that He is going to take care of His own people. If you are a Christian and don't tithe, now would be a good time to start. I believe that God is going to provide for those who do.

Second, this will be an extraordinary time for Christians and the church to stand out in this country, and to the world. In a world of chaos, Christians can be at peace even if they experience real persecution in this country for the first time.

Third, this will be a time when the church will be forced to do more to help others than ever before. This country will eventually go broke, financially and spiritually, under a socialist or Marxist system of government. Socialism has always been a failure wherever it has been tried, but the difference between America and other countries is that the other countries did not have a strong church present.

Though I am an optimist that God will prevail, I am also a realist. Christians and the church have a lot of work to do to help this country get back to its Christian-Judeo roots and to its rightful constitutional form of government.

The most important thing that we as Christians can do is to do everything we can to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that means becoming bolder about our faith and more committed to supporting our churches and its ministries.

But there are other things that we can do as well. We can't affect policies until we become the policy makers, and that means running for public office or serving in places of government where we can have an influence on how and what is done.

We also need to seek out and support those people who are spiritually and intellectually qualified to serve in public office, and we need to support those kinds of people who are already in office.

And for those people who are already in public office, we need to make it known that we are going to hold them accountable, and we need to be willing to usher those who aren't accountable out of office.

If you have read my column for any length of time, you know that the church is already under assault from many directions. Issues such as New Urbanism, eminent domain, the failure for courts to uphold the Religious Land Use Act and simple apathy have all had a serious impact on the church's ability to grow, but an Obama administration will foster even more problems. We need to find solutions to protect our nation's churches, and we need to anticipate future threats in order to stop them before they start.

If we do have a large financial crash, and frankly I don't know see how it can be avoided under Obama, it will be a great time for churches to build. Prices will be lower and the jobs that construction projects provide will be a blessing to people who need the work and an opportunity to lead them to Christ.

My hope is that a crash doesn't happen, but my hope also is that if it does, the Christians of this nation will be like the Israelites in the land of Egypt. As the people of Egypt suffered horribly under the plagues, the Israelites weren't touched by them. I hope that the Christians of this nation will be the ones who are untouched. What a powerful testimony that would be.

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