



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Four years ago, we responded to a question regarding voting during the presidential election. Here is the question and our response, revised in light of the upcoming 2020 election.

Q. America is facing bigger challenges than the issues presented in the first presidential debate. Violence has increased nearly 11% in the past year. Media-driven racial protests are at an all-time high. Political correctness often paints the harshest of realities a rose-colored hue. Large corporations are attacking the state of North Carolina because of its “bathroom bill”; and school districts throughout the country are grappling with the choice to accommodate the government’s gender inclusion guidelines, or face the consequences. In light of these challenges, are either of the presidential candidates equal to the task of setting America aright again?

A. After the first debate, it’s clear the candidates have very different views of what America should be like during the next four years. Each candidate’s (and each voter’s) ideals are shaped by their perception of truth. When the final ballot has been counted, it’s really a set of ideals which will win the election rather than a particular candidate.

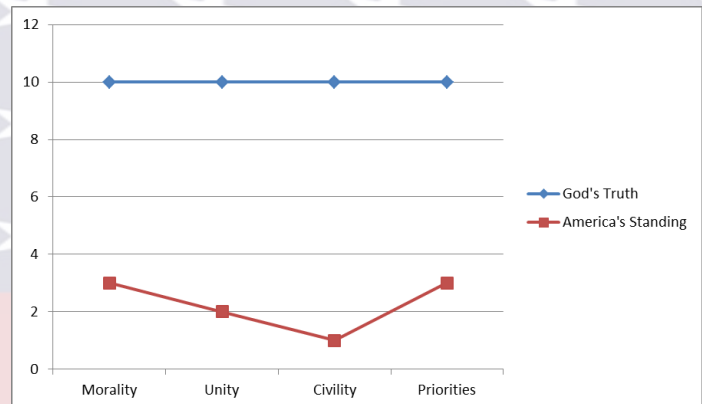
It is no surprise we are still challenged by issues which add to the difficulty of making the correct decision while exercising our right to vote.

That said, when we talk about setting America aright, we have to examine our ideals because each of us has a different perception of the right direction our country should be heading. Some may think America is heading in the right direction; others may think our nation is woefully off-course.

We live in a democracy, which means the majority rules. The real question we should be asking — regardless of our political affiliation — concerning the upcoming election, our presidential candidates, and our own voting choices, is how closely our ideals for America align with God’s truth. What does God have to say about the issues you mentioned, as well as abortion, immorality, gender, immigration, the treat-

ment of Israel, and human and religious rights? The closer America aligns with His standards in these areas, the more we will be “on track.”

If we put God’s truth as a blue line on a graph, and put America’s current position relative to God’s truth as a red line on the graph, it might look something like this.



(This illustration is obviously flawed: God’s truth cannot be measured qualitatively or quantitatively, but the graph correctly portrays it as the highest standard. Also, the graph is not intended to show America’s precise position relative to God’s truth, but to show how far we fall short.)

Much of a nation’s moral climate is influenced by its leaders, and national leaders will be held accountable for their leadership. Based on our defined standard of the “right” course for a nation, neither presidential candidate is qualified or capable of setting America aright.

The task is greater than any man or woman, regardless of their experience. But “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.” (Proverbs 21:1) Ultimately, the fate of our nation is in God’s hands.

While God is holding the reins and steering the ship of our nation, He has expectations for the citizens of America, and for American Christians . . . [Full Article](#)

It May Be Friday, But Sunday's Coming

Red Stevens died, leaving behind three married children and their extended families, a widowed-but-ever-hopeful daughter-in-law, and a spoiled grandson who hated him. The Stevens family had everything money could buy, but they all received the equivalent of a barrelful of dirt from Red's substantial inheritance.

All but Jason, that is. Unlike the other family members, the devil-may-care grandson received an assignment and a plane ticket. If he completed the task successfully, he would receive another, and the sequence would continue until he received what Red called, The Ultimate Gift.

Jason's pursuit of The Ultimate Gift drove him from living in a penthouse to sleeping on a park bench, from driving a hot rod to having no means of transportation but his two feet. As the golden threads of his life unraveled, he followed the frayed strands to the life-changing discovery of 12 gifts his money or social connections couldn't buy. Here they are:

1. The Gift of Work
2. The Gift of Money
3. The Gift of Friends
4. The Gift of Learning
5. The Gift of Problems
6. The Gift of Family
7. The Gift of Laughter
8. The Gift of Dreams
9. The Gift of Giving
10. The Gift of Gratitude
11. The Gift of a Day
12. The Gift of Love

In a year where it seems more went wrong than right, it may be difficult to find a reason for thanksgiving. Millions lost their jobs. Hundreds of thousands lost their lives. Our city streets filled with protesters after high-profile police killings. Chaos reigned freely in major cities as rioters looted and destroyed local businesses. Politicians dueled like swordfish fighting over a school of minnows. Americans also took opposing sides racially, socially, and culturally.

The year's losses are real, and it is important for us to acknowledge them. At the same time, there is treasure hidden in our trials. The hardships and setbacks can give us a greater appreciation for what we have — and what we have lost. They can also allow us to recognize the good in life's bittersweet moments. Everything that happens in life is not good, but God is good in everything that happens.

The Ultimate Example

Jesus knows loss better than anyone. It was a sad day when He died on the cross. The balances of Jus-

tice were tipped against Him as he was betrayed by a friend, falsely accused, beaten beyond recognition, sentenced to death to purchase a guilty criminal's freedom, and nailed to a cross.

Had we been at the crucifixion scene that day, we would have found no cause for thanksgiving. Only in hindsight can we see how Jesus' death on Friday gave way to His resurrection on Sunday. Looking back, we understand the suffering was necessary for us to experience The Ultimate Gift of eternal life through faith in Him. This is something for which we should give thanks.

For many of us, our immediate circumstances are as dark and ominous as Calvary's hill on that fateful Friday. Remember the God of Sundays is Lord over your Fridays. We can give thanks to Him in the darkness in hope of a new day dawning. This is what Thanksgiving is all about.

[Full Article](#)



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