

America: The Happy Hunting Ground?

By Bill Johnson



Several months before the election I felt moved to write to my extended family (not to be mistaken with my immediate family). I shared my heart, and mind with those younger and older.

I was thankful that the response to my three page letter was received kindly from the very few I heard from. At the same time, it was likely “a blip on the screen,” but received with grace.

The divided thought and political inclination of my family, I believe, mirrors national trends.

Most of us by now have seen the map of our country showing the red and blue areas.

The blue areas indicate that the east and west coasts and the larger metropolitan areas typically vote Democratic, whereas the rural areas vote Republican.

A nation divided: Hillary Clinton (roughly) won the popular vote with 63,600,00 and Donald Trump with 61,900,000, according to the latest ballot count at the time of this writing.

The electoral college vote, of course, resulted in a Donald Trump win with 306 to 232 for Hillary Clinton. (With Michigan still not officially called as of this writing.) Read our article on the electoral college on page 3.

It hurts me that there is similar division within my extended family; I wish that it

helped me to understand the great division across our great land. It doesn't though. And, believe me, I've been chewing on this for quite some time. Other strange things throw me as well.

Case in point: A local funeral director recently informed me that a popular song at funerals in our rural area is the 9 minute Ted Nugent ballad entitled, “Fred Bear.”

This is a godless song lionizing the “happy hunting ground” and the great spirit of the woods.

I was further surprised upon talking to my son-in-law, a pastor in Pennsylvania, who reinforced what the funeral director told me: songs like “Fred Bear” are requested quite often.

Heaven - Hell? Not a chance. They want “the happy hunting ground” and a make believe demi-god who “guide[s] our steps and our arrows home.”

Then this observation, too, struck me.

At our year end ADA board meeting, as we were discussing the election, one of our board members stated the following:

She had gone to a Donald Trump rally in Grand Rapids in the later days of Trump's campaign. Mike Pence was speaking and stated to a very large and enthusiastic crowd, “And if you elect Donald Trump for President, you can be sure he will nomi-

nate a pro-life candidate to the Supreme Court.” The audience applause was tepid and weak. However, when Pence stated, “Donald Trump will build a wall,” the audience rose up as one with strong, enthusiastic applause!

Security, as important as it is, was of far greater importance to the numbers than the sanctity of life.

There is a great battle going on for the heart and soul of America, make no mistake.

John Adams, signer of the Declaration of Independence and second President of the United States wrote in 1776, “*We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. . . . Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*”

America has become simply the “happy hunting ground” for many.

No God and no acknowledgement of a need for Him, no understanding of the magnificence of the Bible, or even of our nation's founding, but rather increasing incivility and hedonism.

No president can save us. No wall can save us. Fred Bear can't save us.

Only God can save us, let us make that our constant prayer.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

We must rise!

America: The Happy Hunting Ground?

It's quite important that you read the front page before wading into what follows - to make sense of what I mean by, "America: The Happy Hunting Ground?"

America has become more about fantasy, sport, playing, hunting, entertainment, etc. than it is about thanking and praising God in prayer, worship and repentance, crying out to God to heal our land. In short, millions of Americans advertently or inadvertently give little to no attention to their very Creator!

God help us. Indeed, we remain in serious trouble. Though God has given us a reprieve - are we even capable of seeing that?

I believe the answer is a resounding no!

If John Adams was correct, and, I believe he was, "Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

We will continue right where we left off: seemingly ignoring the fact that America was within an inch of losing the freedom which millions have bled and died for.

Our country would have been flooded with illegal immigrants as part of the liberal strategy; unvetted immigrants, SOME of them violent or even terrorists - people with an agenda to undermine and destroy.

Our courts, our military, our justice system, the CIA, the FBI, the IRS, the Pentagon, our educational system, our health coverage, etc. have all been undermined, degraded and become controlled by leftists made in the image of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Many, many evidences abound documenting this reality. If you attended our recent "The War is Real and the War is Now" conference, numerous examples were cited. [Videos of Frank Gaffney and Sandy Rios can now be found on our website at americandecency.org or order with the enclosed response card.]

Quoting Gary Bauer: *In the wake of [the] stunning election, Teresa Sullivan, the president of the University of Virginia, sent out a message to the campus urging calm and unity. She also quoted UVA's founder, Thomas Jefferson.*

Well, that was too much for some intolerant liberals. Nearly 500 faculty and students signed a letter of protest -- not against the election but "the inclusion of Jefferson quotations."

The time to laugh about this nonsense has long since passed. The left's assault on our history is not funny. It is why younger voters -- your children and grandchildren -- are increasingly hostile to conservatives, the Republican Party and even America.

Young Americans today have no idea about the evils of communism because their professors are too busy teaching about the evils of capitalism. They are learning not American history, but anti-American history.

This is why so few young people are proud to be Americans.

Abraham Lincoln stated it this way:

The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise -- with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country... We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope on earth.

Yet, more importantly, so few young people retain their Christian heritage and/or upbringing, largely because it was nonexistent in their training. It was not evidenced in the lives of their parents.

God has given us a reprieve. One wonders why. Many have regularly stated, "America is deserving of the wrath of God."

Yet, God has shocked the world. He has seemingly stayed His hand. Freedom which has marked this country since our founding remains intact, though make no mistake - yet embattled.

But what about those who come after us? Will American moms and dads haphazardly foster (advertently or inadvertently) godlessness - no Christ, no Bible, no Christian principles, just whatever seems right at any given moment, i.e. transgenderism, euthanasia, lawlessness, uncertainty, injustice?

How can America be great or good if its children - its families - aren't great or good?

J.C. Ryle wrote about the matter of our children stating that it is grace that we should desire for our children. He wrote: *Grace is a thousand times better for them than beauty, riches, honors, rank or high connections.*

Until they have grace we never know what they may do. They may make us weary of our life, and bring down our grey hairs with sorrow to the grave. When they are converted, and not until then, they are provided for, both for time and eternity. "A wise son makes a glad father." (Prov. 10:1.) Whatever we seek for our sons and daughters, let us first seek that they may have a place in the covenant, and a name in the book of life.

J.C. Ryle, From All Four Gospels

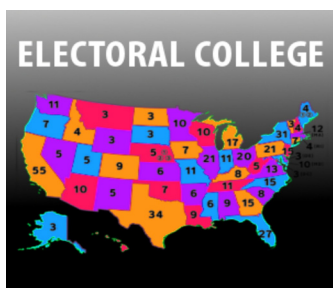
It is this which John Adams obviously alludes to: *Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.*

He will strive to gather out of the world a company of believers, who will be ready to meet the Lord in the day of His appearing. ... They are the true pillars of a Church, the true salt of the earth, the true light of the world. Happy is that Church, and happy is that nation, which has many such men (and women). J.C. Ryle, From All Four Gospels

"America is great because America is good. When America ceases to be good she will cease to be good," said French philosopher DeTouqueville so long ago. It was true then, it has never been truer.

The Electoral College Wins the Pennant

by Steve Huston



Imagine with me that you are a small boy at the World Series game surrounded by many grown men and taller boys. The bases are loaded and your favorite homerun hitter is up at bat. The tension is so thick that it's stifling. An electric excitement surges through you with a thunderous CRACK of the ball skyrocketing through the air in your direction. Jumping as high as you can, you feel insignificant and lose all hope of catching the ball even though it's coming right at you. What chance do you have against all these bigger boys grasping for the same prize? "I'll never measure up," fills your mind, when suddenly gravity loses its hold on you, as a greater force—your father—lifts you into the air. Now you have an equal opportunity to catch the envied orb as everyone else.

That's the purpose of the Electoral College; our Founding Fathers lifted the smaller states up, giving them an equal voice with those states that have a larger population. They balanced the needs of the low population states against the legitimate concerns of the high population states with the creation of the Electoral College.

Our Founding Fathers developed our Constitution within a Biblical framework, recognizing the sinfulness of man and what he might do with unrestrained power. Tyranny comes from the accumulation of power, so America was designed to divert and disperse power. **In other words, to protect us from a Federal dictatorship, they focused on the diversification of power, taking great pains to create a democratic republic instead of a straight out democracy.** They also, made it difficult to change the Constitution or allow any of the three branches to overtake the country dictatorially.

We should well research the historical facts

before trying to do away with or change our Constitution which has protected, served, and kept us stable for more than 200 years. This would include the Electoral College. Whenever the left wants to do away with part of our Constitution, you can be sure it will either limit or take away our rights and liberties.

They attempt to make certain parts of our Founding Father's plan seem archaic and obsolete for today. **They ignore the fact our Constitution's framers dealt with principles more than specifics.** For example, the Second Amendment has nothing to do with muskets versus assault rifles; it's about the right to bear arms, to defend oneself against governments and enemies foreign or domestic. Today's governments aren't going to come after us with muskets; our weapons should mirror theirs, as much as possible. **Stick to the principles; don't get sidetracked by false narratives.**

The same is true with the Electoral College. The principle is still needed today, the protection of every state's needs and representation for all the citizens of this great nation.

Our Founders recognized how history had proved God's view of man. Therefore, they feared the destructive passions of mob rule (direct democracy) and knew first-hand the tyrannical overreach of a king who is unresponsive to the will of the people. So they created the Electoral College which was neither fully democratic nor aristocratic. It's an ingenious system where the people and their government work hand in hand for the election of a president and the protection of the nation's citizenry as a whole.

If the President of the United States were to be elected by a simple majority vote, a majority of the United States would be left unheard and unrepresented. Only nine of the fifty states would be needed for a majority vote, leaving forty-one states without a voice. Only 18% of the states in our union would need to be catered to; they would decide who the president was for the other 82% of our nation and the tenor of the

policies which would be put in place.

Those who are running would only need to visit urban areas and promise to address their concerns, leaving the rural areas and their needs unvisited, unrepresented, and their general ideals of small government and traditional values ignored. Simply campaign the perimeter of the nation, embracing the larger cities, and crush your opponent.

We must keep in mind that although we are a nation, we are a nation which is made up of many states, each state having their own particular interests and needs. By giving each state a voice, our Founders made sure that the interests of the whole country would be addressed and met.

The arguments against the Electoral College are as old as the Electoral College itself. Our Founders discussed these things thoroughly, both in private and in public.

We've been given a great gift from our Founders, the Constitution and specifically the Electoral College. We would be wise to embrace our Constitution and return to its many safeguards rather than distancing ourselves from it, tossing it aside as antiquated or obsolete.

As Texas lawyer Tara Ross wrote:

"America's election systems have operated smoothly for more than 200 years because the Electoral College accomplishes its intended purposes. America's presidential election process preserves federalism, prevents chaos, grants definitive electoral outcomes, and prevents tyrannical or unreasonable rule. The Founding Fathers created a stable, well-planned, and carefully designed system—and it works."

Instead of grumbling, let this be a time for thanksgiving. Give thanks to God for His hand in the development of our Constitution and for guiding our Founding Fathers in wisdom to protect our land. They hit a home run with the Electoral College, winning the pennant...and our national stability for over 200 years.

The Best Reasons to Celebrate

by Chris Johnson



A few weeks before the presidential election, I thought ahead to my family's upcoming Thanksgiving celebration.

By God's grace, we're mostly on the same page ideologically: we're Christians and we're conservatives, and every year we typically go around the table expressing something we're thankful to God for.

To my own shame, I wondered if we might have a hard time being thankful on a Thanksgiving Day three weeks after the election – an election which, at that time, was considered by most to be a sure win for Hillary Clinton.

Now, the readers of this newsletter know the concerns surrounding Hillary Clinton, and specifically the threat to religious freedom which she posed. However, had Mrs. Clinton won, I would hope that we would all have thankful hearts that we are ever in God's good hands, fulfilling His good purpose.

We would have much to be thankful for no matter how the election had turned out, but here are a few things I am especially thankful for post 2016 election.

First of all, I'm obviously thankful that Hillary Clinton is not president. Enough ink has been spilled decrying the many scandals and the rampant corruption that surrounds this woman. Specifically, I am most thankful that her radical stance on abortion was (pun alert) trumped by the voters.

Secondly, I'm very thankful that our next president has solid Christians in his administration who will have direct influence on his decisions. President-elect Trump's lack of government experience may cause concern for some, but in its

own way, it may be a blessing for people of our ideological bent. Trump must rely on the advice of those close to him, and by naming Mike Pence as head of his transition team, he appears to be placing his trust in a staunch Christian and conservative. Trump also owes his presidency to the religious right, which gives me hope that we will have his ear throughout his administration.

Lastly, politically speaking, I am thankful for the number of times I've heard those people whose candidate won say, "we still need God." If this election has taught us anything, it's that many Americans have far too much faith in a president's power to save or destroy this nation. It was evident in the extreme supporters of both candidates, and I think if we're honest with ourselves, it's crept into the hearts of even the most cynical third-party voter. The election of a Christian sympathizer does not mean America, or the church in America, will be saved from all of its woes. We are in desperate need of repentance, and not just for the obvious sins committed by "others" like abortion and homosexuality, but for our own individual sins - including not being loving towards those "others." I am thankful that I am hearing Christians acknowledge this need for repentance and dependency on God, and I hope we keep hearing it, no matter what kind of president Trump turns out to be.

As a conservative who tends to vote Republican, I have much to be thankful for this year, but God's greatest blessings would be there regardless of who won the election.

No president can take away peace and hope that is rooted in the sovereignty of God.

It's more likely to be by coincidence than by design that the holiday season begins so soon after each election, but regardless, it gives a golden opportunity to shift our focus from politics to other things that matter at least as much.

Politics and the election have dominated the conversation for the past year and a half, at least. There have been debates and campaign speeches about what we need as a

nation and individually, but Thanksgiving is about gratitude to God for things we have. Tensions have run high, relationships have been bruised and broken, but Christmas is about unity under the kingship of Christ: peace on earth, good will from God towards man.

We've elected our next president, now let's celebrate the coming of the King.

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

Jeremiah 29:7

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Playing God

by Lisa Van Houten



A friend on Facebook recently posted a picture of her hand holding her mother's hand, with these words: ***"I love to study my mom's hands. These hands have provided loving care to me and my 5 siblings, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for over 60 years. Over time it has switched to us caring for her. I love you, Mom."***

Unless God brings healing, it seems as if God will soon be calling home this servant of His. Yet I have no doubt that every moment together during these days is treasured.

There is often suffering in death – the last battle before the final victory for believers. And for those who don't know Christ, the final opportunity to find salvation in the One who suffered death to pay the penalty for our sin. Suffering is a part of our earthly life and a tool ordained and used by God to refine us and draw us closer to Him.

In the Judeo-Christian ethic, life from beginning to natural end is a gift to be cherished and protected. Every person bears the imago Dei – the image of God. What an amazing thought: ***"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."*** Job 33:4

Yet there are millions in our culture who deny that truth – who strive to claim the authority which belongs to God. We saw that play out in the recent election where stark differences were displayed in party platforms and vice-presidential and presidential debates regarding the sanctity of life. While this year's election saw numbers of pro-life candidates elected, it also proved that the battle for life is far from over.

This was demonstrated as voters in Colorado overwhelming approved a

proposal legalizing euthanasia. Two-thirds of voters made Colorado the sixth state in the nation where physician-assisted suicide is legal. That statistic mirrors the national position as a 2015 Gallup poll found that 68 percent of Americans support physician-assisted suicide.

Suicide is always tragic and to involve physicians who pledge in the Hippocratic oath to "do no harm" is even more tragic. The modern Hippocratic Oath states in part: ***"I tread with care in matters of life and death. Above all, I must not play at God."*** As Ryan T. Anderson of the Heritage Foundation writes, *"Doctors ... are to eliminate illness and disease but never eliminate their patients. Not every medical means must be used. ... But in deciding that a treatment is useless, we must not decide that a patient is worthless. Physicians are always to care, never to kill."*

Yet "physician-assisted suicide" was not how the Colorado ballot proposal was described. Rather, it was titled on the ballot and in advertising with the innocuous name, the "End of Life Options" measure. Notice how language is twisted to make the taking of life sound benign. Abortion becomes "pro-choice" and suicide becomes "end of life options."

However, what is billed as an "option" can/will become compulsory. As opponents of the proposal warned, this law will make it "too easy for big healthcare companies and greedy heirs to financially exploit assisted suicide." That's already taking place in other states where physician-assisted suicide is legal, as insurance companies deny medical treatments - but cover the cost of suicide drugs. In Oregon, Medicaid has denied chemotherapy and other procedures, but told patients they would pay for their suicide. And in California where physician assisted suicide is also legal, 33 year-old Stephanie Parker, mother of 4 young children, was denied treatment by her insurance company, but was told they would cover the cost of drugs to put her to death – for a co-payment of just \$1.20. Stephanie has already outlived her doctor's prediction who told her she had only three years to live. That was four years

ago. And the chemotherapy which her doctors recommended, and her insurance company denied, could give her even more time with her family. As Stephanie said, "I just want to spend every last second with my kids."

How long before the "right" to die becomes the "duty" to die? In the tiny country of Belgium, since assisted suicide was legalized in 2002, the rates of euthanasia have dramatically risen every year. Last year, 2021 people were killed by assisted suicide in Belgium, a country of only 11 million. In the Netherlands where physician assisted suicide has been legal for years, lawmakers are now considering expanding that to those who aren't terminally ill, but feel as if they have "completed life". And now the Netherlands and Belgium even allow for the euthanasia of children.

And as Melody Wood And Ryan T. Anderson warn: ***"The poor, elderly, and mentally-ill are the ones most likely to die by physician-assisted suicide, and the safeguards intended to protect them have proved to be inadequate. Evidence from the Netherlands ... suggests that many instances of physician-assisted suicide there were non-voluntary. It is the marginalized who are most vulnerable to being pressured, tricked, or coerced into killing themselves."***

In God's design, each of us begins life dependent on our parents, and we often end life dependent on our children. From beginning of life to its natural, God-ordained end, this care we give one another teaches us of the intrinsic value of every person. Yet assisted suicide tells the weakest among us that their lives are a burden, that they have no worth. That they – and their family - would be better off if they were dead.

This month I'll continue my yearly tradition of watching the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life". If you've seen the film, I'm sure you remember the scene where a despondent George Bailey decides he and his family would be better off if he were dead, until the angel Clarence intervenes

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How Calvin College Lost Its Hold on the Bible

by Steve Huston



(Although speaking specifically of Calvin College, these are questions and issues that apply to many Christian colleges and individual Christians. Read carefully; think deeply on Christ, and purpose in your own heart to stand guard.)

“Man is now thinking out a Bible for himself; framing a religion in harmony with the development of liberal thought; constructing a worship on the principles of taste and culture; shaping a god to suit the expanding aspirations of the age. ... The extent of the mischief no one can calculate. A soul without faith, a church without faith, a nation without faith, a world without faith – what is to be their future? What is their present? When faith goes, all good things go. When unbelief comes in, all evil things follow.” — Horatius Bonar

Not only does Calvin College, indeed most of America, find itself standing on the edge of this dangerous precipice; but it’s also the beginning of an article published by Banner of Truth (BOT) in July 2015—“How Scotland Lost Its Hold on the Bible.” This 28 page BOT article spells out what happens when the precious treasure of God’s Word is compromised by the church’s desire to better fit in with the world, or when man lifts his word and his “wisdom” above the word and wisdom of God. May this article and BOT’s article serve as a **warning** to Calvin College and all who are tempted to raise the creature above the Creator.

The Free Church of Scotland, “the denomination which became the powerhouse for ideas which would reach all parts of the English-speaking world,” and Calvin College, named after reformer and theologian John Calvin, were both citadels in their own right—blessed by God for their attention to guarding the precious treasure of God’s Word. Yet both of them, having let down their guard for the sake

of acceptance by man and man’s wisdom, have forfeited (are forfeiting) their place of prominent influence in an ever-increasing secularization of a once God-focused church society. Instead of pointing to the wisdom of God and His holiness, they now point to the wisdom of man, calling good evil and evil good. They forget the fact that “the foolishness of God is wiser than men,” and the warning that “He (God) catches the wise in their own craftiness.”

We are deeply troubled with Calvin College’s LGBT policies and their entanglement with interfaith dialogue, to name only two—albeit important—issues, and how these things relate to what God SAYS about them. **We are concerned over their lackadaisical handling of Holy Scripture and their neglect to fulfill their duty to the students, community, and Bride of Jesus Christ, by refusing to guard the sacred authority of God’s Word.** It would seem that when the serpent asks, “Has God really said...,” their response is a scratching of their head, replying, “That’s a good question; has He said?” Rather, **the answer should be a resounding, “YES, God hath said, and we will hold the line here—for love of God and our fellow man. We can do NO OTHER.”**

When the strong worldly winds of adversity blow, our desire would be for Calvin, and every Christian, to be like the weather vane. The stronger the wind blows against it, the more steadily it points in the true direction. When the torrents assail, may we ever point decidedly to Christ and His atoning work of grace for this lost and dying world, of which we once were.

A Calvin College Chimes (student newspaper) recent headline read, “Wolterstorff affirms same-sex marriage.” This highly respected and well-educated man, having taught philosophy at Calvin College for 30 years before moving on to teach philosophy at Yale Divinity School, dismissed Biblical texts which condemn homosexuality, heralded the homosexual as the most vulnerable to being wronged in our society, and claimed that “listening has changed me.”

Oh that Nicholas Wolterstorff had listened to the loving words of Jesus, hearing the Shepherd’s direction, rather than listening to “*relatives, students and former students who were gay, as well as people in committed, same-sex relationships.*” Instead of listening “*to their agony, to their feelings of exclusion and oppression, to their longings, to their expressions of love....,*” **he’d have been better off listening to the wisdom of God, following after obedience and holiness, that he might offer a holy hope rather than a false ecclesiastical hope, based on man’s wisdom.** We do not go to society, the government, our friends, family, or some hobby group or school for the answers to any question. We are to go to the Word of God.

Some would say we are where we are today on this topic because of politics. NOT SO! We are where we are because Christians have become lazy in reading and studying the Scripture, pastors and professors have neglected to guard the precious treasure, and we have focused on loving the world, the things of this world, and acceptance from the world more than loving Christ and longing for His acceptance. The truth is suppressed instead of heralded and we have forgotten that the “foolishness of God” is still much wiser than the wisdom of man.

The “New Apologetic” (that which stole the Light from the Free Church of Scotland in the BOT article mentioned above) and the apologetics of this current, progressive theology are closely related. Both, pickaxe by penknife, chisel and cut away from the foundation of the authority of God’s Word. As one tears away at the foundations within the church, we also chisel away at our foundational relationship to society. We negate our influence and remove the only rightful authority belonging to us within our community—an authority which is based solely on the infallible, holy, Word of God!

Trading authority for acceptance, we are driven to ask, “*What has to be done to make the Bible acceptable to modern men and*

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How Calvin College Lost Its Hold on the Bible

by Steve Huston



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women? ... Much more than one doctrine (biblical inerrancy) needs to be laid aside. Leave out all that humbles man, take out the supernatural, suppress God's word on what sin deserves – do this, and the church and the world can live in peace." (BOT p. 13)

This is what Wolterstorff, Calvin College, and a host of other Christian colleges and churches have done. But beware; there are unfathomable dangers in this. "The process may be slow, yet disbelief in Scripture leads inevitably to disbelief in Christ himself" (BOT article p. 8).

Churches and Christian colleges will have much to answer for, as Moody Stuart warned: "The word of the Lord is pure, and out of this trial it will come forth in all its brightness as silver out of the furnace. But, meanwhile, an unutterable calamity may overtake us, for our children may lose the one treasure we were bound to bequeath them; and for long years they may wander 'through dry places seeking rest, and finding none', before they recover their hold of the word of life, and regain their footing on the rock of eternal truth." (BOT p. 10)

It doesn't matter if we are addressing the false narrative of interfaith dialogue, a bridge building movement, with other faiths, which neglects both Christian evangelism and the beautiful truth of the exclusivity of Christ; the narrative that the LGBT agenda is acceptable to our Creator, or any other narrative that changes "the truth of God into a lie, and worships and serves the creature more than the Creator;" we must recognize that God's Word stands authoritatively supreme in opposition to such doctrines and those who espouse them.

What should our Christian response be to this issue which Calvin College and so

many others raise?

First, we must recognize and "*draw a definite line between those who uphold the authority of all Scripture, and those who do not.*" (BOT p. 24) Taking heed to Martyn Lloyd-Jones' admonition: "There is a call today to separation. It is the only distinction in the Church which I recognize at all: those who submit to the Word of God, and its revelation, and its teaching, and those who do not." (BOT p. 24)

Secondly, we must recognize "the demonic dimension" knowing that "we need the supernatural to fight against the supernatural." In other words, we must pray. **Pray for these Christian institutions of higher learning, their students, churches, and all that claim the name of Jesus, that blindness would be removed and that they would accept the authority of Scripture.** Pray that Christians everywhere would accept and stand on the authority of God's Word.

Above all, we must arm ourselves with this precious treasure. **Purpose to know the Scriptures for yourself**—"study to show yourself approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." Decide, here and now, that Scripture will be your authority. Stand on it, by it, and for it. Rest in it, as Wesley did:

"I am a creature of a day, passing through life as an arrow through the air. I want to know one thing: the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach that way; for this very end he came down from heaven. He has written it down in a book! O give me that book! At any price, Give me the Book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be, 'a man of one book'." (BOT p. 26)

When one part of the Bible's authority is attacked, all of its authority is under attack. If Calvin and other colleges, any church, or any one of us, neglect the authority of Scripture, neglect to be an institution or person of "one book," we will have lost our hold on the BIBLE. God help us.

Check out the schools that you are affiliated with—not just their statements of faith, **but where they actually stand** in relation to what God says in His Word. Particularly look at their stances on the LGBT agenda and interfaith dialogue. Ours is to be a convictional Christianity, not a conditional Christianity. Stand firm, bringing light to presidents, principals, and professors/teachers, regardless of the age group of their students.

Playing God

by Lisa Van Houten



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in George's suicide attempt and shows him the preciousness of life.

Clarence: You didn't go through with it, did you?

George: Go through with what?

Clarence: Suicide.

Tollkeeper: It's against the law to commit suicide around here.

Clarence: Yeah, it's against the law where I come from, too.

Tollkeeper: Where do you come from?

Clarence: Heaven.

However, physician-assisted suicide is no longer against the law in six states and numerous countries. And based on the poll mentioned above, it probably won't be long before it spreads to your state. **God's word commands us to choose life, yet 68 percent of our fellow citizens would vote for death.** The persistent work of proliferators to change hearts and minds regarding abortion is also needed to change hearts and minds regarding euthanasia. We need to be "Clarences" to those around us and demonstrate not only the preciousness of life, but point to the One who conquered death.

Where's OUR Cocoa?

by Chris Johnson



Politics are fun, aren't they?

The thrill of the competition, the choosing of a champion, the pithy political pageants (or "debates," as some like to call them) – it's like American Idol with less talent and more, well, idols. That would be American Idol post Simon Cowell, of course. (Is the Commission on Presidential Debates accepting ideas for moderator next time around?)

This election, in particular, saw both parties billing their candidate as a savior from the atrocities their opponent was sure to commit. Thus – in spite of neither side (for the most part) actually liking their candidate – both sides were very passionate about this election.

We'll never know how Trump's most ardent and passionate supporters would have reacted to his loss in the 2016 presidential election, but man, oh man, is the progressive response - I struggle for words... It's something, isn't it?

I don't know about you, but there's a game that I haven't played much since the 2012 election which might be fun to give a moment to. It's called, "Let's Pretend the Other Side Said/Did This." Here's a few headlines reporting the progressive and Democrat reactions to the election, let's read them together and share an ironic snicker.

Colleges try to Comfort Students Upset by Trump Victory

Dozens of students at Cornell University gathered on a major campus thoroughfare for a "cry-in" to mourn the results of the 2016 presidential election Wednesday, with school staff providing tissues and hot chocolate. At Tufts University, arts and crafts were on offer. And the University of

Kansas reminded students via social media of the therapy dogs available.

U. of Michigan Gives Students Play-Doh, Coloring Books to Cope With Trump

...At Yale University, supposedly one of the most elite institutions of higher learning in the country, an anonymous professor has decided to let students skip their midterms...

MSU hosting events for students devastated by Trump win

Michigan State is one of at least two universities in Michigan dedicating staff and resources to help students and faculty deal with the outcome of the presidential election.

So, these are not events simply taking place on campus at these universities, they are school sponsored events. Who thinks these schools would be giving playdough and hot cocoa to Republicans had Hillary won? Nobody?

Let's keep going!

California Dreamin'? Many in Golden State Want to Secede From Trump's U.S.

After Donald Trump victory, Oregonians submit ballot proposal to secede from the union

"Oregonian values are no longer the values held by the rest of the United States," Trejbal said over the phone Thursday.

Those values? "Life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness," Trejbal said, "plus equality."

We haven't even talked about the Trump protests popping up in major cities around the country, and not always peacefully.

As easy as it is to make fun of these literally childish reactions (seriously, do these universities have craft closets where they keep the playdough?), the most disturbing thing is that these Clinton supporters are really and truly devastated and terrified by

her loss.

And that says an awful lot about several things.

First, it tells us that we've given way too much power to the executive branch of government. What liberals are anticipating right now is what conservatives have just been through for the past 8 years – the antithesis of our deepest held beliefs having virtually unbridled power to "fundamentally change" our way of life.

No one man should have all that POWER. There is no balance to the authority of executive orders, and that is not how the presidency was designed to be used.

Secondly and consequently, we place too much faith in our president. Every four years, if "our guy" gets in, we anticipate the things he can enact from the top down, yet in between are often too distracted to influence our society, "from the bottom up," in the Christians' case, for the glory of God.

Thirdly, MY GOODNESS, WE ARE SPOILED.

May Christians who supported Trump be gracious winners in this election.

The easy reaction is to simply mock all of this nonsense, and that's fine to a point, because it is nonsense. The more difficult and necessary reaction is to get to work convincing those who are terrified of the traditional values we voted for that their fears are misplaced.

Let conservative and Christian activists be active in the aftermath of this election, not just in pursuing legislation and rooting for the right Supreme Court judges, but in loving our neighbors as ourselves and building Christ's kingdom.