



INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

OCTOBER 2018

THE CONNECTER

CONNECTING HEARTS OF PRAYER FOR
THE NATION TO GOD AND EACH OTHER!

An Appeal to the Church: Get Out and VOTE!



By James Dobson
President, Family Talk Radio

America and other Western nations have for decades been losing their God-given rights that define us as a free people. We are steadily being expected to think, speak, write, and act in a prescribed manner in conformity with what is now called “political correctness.” The mainstream media has become a tool to influence elections and spread this belief system. Sadly, the rights handed down to us by our forefathers more than 200 years ago are gradually being overridden, ignored, contradicted, or disregarded by the courts and legislatures. Alas, we are less free now than we were even five years ago.

As I hope you learned in school, although it is unlikely, the principles on which our freedom was built are spelled out in the first ten amendments to our Constitution. To paraphrase the First Amendment, it not only offers an ironclad guarantee that we will enjoy freedom of religion, but also promises freedom of speech, a free press, protects the rights of the people to assemble peacefully and to petition the government when citizens are aggrieved. These rights are fun-

damental for a liberated people.

The other nine amendments within the Bill of Rights enumerate additional assurances to the people that their government will have restricted authority over them. Alexander Hamilton wrote in Federalist Paper 84 that the Constitution tells Congress what limited powers it has to make law, and the Bill of Rights reiterates to Congress what powers it does not have to infringe on our rights.

Reflecting this affirmation, Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address that ours is a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” These assurances are precious to us today, and I thank God for the dedicated men who inspired and fought for them. We dare not let officious justices, judges, legislators, or politicians take even one of them away from us. But some liberals today are diligently trying to do just that. We must stop them, but how? Our rights are being trampled every day. **The only way to defend our liberties is at the ballot box.**

Unfortunately, more than half of Americans, including the majority of Christians,

Continued on Page 3

FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER

October 5, 2018

On the first Friday of the month, we encourage all to fast and pray for America using the prayer focuses below.

FALL ELECTIONS

Next month U.S. voters will again elect an entire House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate, many governors, and scores of local and state officials. Pray that godly pro-life candidates in your state and area be encouraged, supported, and find favor with the voters. Intercede that the Lord keep unqualified and immoral candidates from public office, and that He grant our nation spiritual leaders.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

We have sensed the Spirit doing a work of cleansing and shaking throughout the whole Church. Pray for your local pastor(s) and church leadership—for integrity, faithfulness, strength, courage, and effective, fruitful leadership rooted in Christ alone.

FAITH IN CHRIST

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (Col 2:9) Pray that the Holy Spirit will displace doubt and unbelief, and work spiritual clarification, understanding, and faith in Christ. Pray that the people in your area be granted grace to understand the supremacy of Christ.

To see God's purposes for America fulfilled through sustained prayer and Spirit-led obedience

OUR PAST? OUR PARTY? OR OUR PLATFORM?



By Wanda Alger
IFA Field Correspondent

What is it that determines our vote? Why do we follow particular political parties and candidates? Is it out of loyalty to our family and generational traditions? Is it based on our unique cultural context and the felt needs of those around us? Or, is it based upon a clear understanding of biblical standards as applied to various issues? Depending on our priorities, our vote may be determined more by our historical past or our favorite political party rather than the biblical values attached to either.

Tywana Pendleton Hampton is a sincere follower of Christ who only recently discovered that the political party she had been following her entire life did not support the biblical values she held dear. Due to family traditions, generational mindsets, and a lack of awareness of the issues, she blindly supported candidates who opposed her biblical convictions. Her story might inspire others to consider the urgency in rightly understanding the issues at hand and how the Word of God must be foundational to our voting practices.

Hampton, pictured center, grew up in central Virginia and earned a B.A. in Sociology in the early 1980s. During her college years she served as a chaplain in

her sorority and later began her professional career at the State Department as an administrative assistant. Hampton grew up in a family that voted Democrat and was a life-long Democrat. It was always believed that this party was the most supportive of the black community and there wasn't much thought or priority given to specific issues.

During the 2008 presidential election, Hampton got the first hint that something might be amiss in her voting record. A well-respected woman in her prayer circle at



Tywana Pendleton Hampton

church challenged the group by saying, "I know you all want to vote for Mr. Obama, because he'll be the first black president, but we as Christians really track more closely with the Republican platform."

Hampton was surprised at the statement from this well-respected woman in her community but didn't change her mind. She voted for President Obama in 2008 and again in 2012, though by then she was growing increasingly uncomfort-

able with how she was voting. She found herself asking more questions and talked with her friend at church about her Christian values and how they aligned with the different political parties. Through these conversations and researching the issues and platforms of each party, Hampton discovered that her own conservative views and biblical convictions were not being upheld by the party she supported.

Hampton is pro-life and values religious liberty. She also believes in the biblical standard for marriage. The more she studied Scripture and reflected on her past, the more she understood that her priorities had been misplaced. She knew she couldn't align herself with a party that opposed the very biblical values she stood for. After years of following a system out of loyalty to her past and her family's party, she chose to follow the platform that most aligned with the Word of God.

When asked how her Christian family could align with a party opposed to some of the very biblical values they embraced, Hampton said her family was more focused on their cultural history than the specific issues. Though she was raised in a home that taught godly principles, they would still vote for candidates who believed otherwise. Hampton eventually realized that she had violated her own conscience in the past because of the cultural bias. "I was raised conservative. If my parents had voted the way they were,

Continued on Page 3, Column 2

AN APPEAL TO THE CHURCH— GET OUT AND VOTE!

Continued from Page 1

don't even bother to vote. Shame on them all! Don't they know that tyranny for us and our children is only one generation, or even one election, away? We must vote, vote, vote to elect leaders who will defend what has been purchased with the blood of patriots who died to protect our liberty. We owe it to the memory of their sacrifice to preserve what they did for us. We must not fritter it away on our watch! If any politician tells you he will "fundamentally change" this nation, what he means is that he plans to undermine our Constitution and take away our heritage of freedom. Run from him or her!

In my lifetime, I have witnessed the steady erosion of the principles that made this country great. I am excited to end with some encouraging news. For the first time since the courts began to run things in the 1960s, the judiciary is changing dramatically. It is true! Some good things are starting to happen.

Family Talk, under its new name, James Dobson Family Institute, is working hard to defend righteousness and family values on the home front. We will continue to speak for those of you who agree. Please join us as we do. Ours can be a lonely vigil unless defenders of the Constitution, and particularly conservative Christians, stand shoulder to shoulder with us in this struggle. We and other conservative organizations are winning in the public square. This is no time to go wobbly.

This is an excerpt, used with permission by Dr. James Dobson. Read the full letter, including a helpful historical analysis, here: <https://bit.ly/2oFXL7W>.



OUR PAST? OUR PARTY? OR OUR PLATFORM?

Continued from Page 2

they would have voted conservative. They vote against their conscience, and they always have. It makes me so sad." Hampton grieves for those who are blinded by their past cultural perspectives and unable to uphold the biblical standards for righteousness in their votes. The Lord convicted her of this when she realized, "They're more concerned with their skin than their sin."

Hampton believes that many sincere followers of Christ are in the same predicament she was in. Regardless of a person's cultural background or family traditions, she believes Christians must rightly understand what the Word of God teaches about the various issues and support parties and candidates who align most closely with those beliefs and values.

Since her wake-up call, Hampton has become a champion of voter intelligence. The Lord opened doors for her to get involved in the election process, both in the 2016 presidential election and in the 2017 gubernatorial race. In hopes of educating believers in seeing the issues through Scripture, she and some of her friends recently produced a wonderful brochure as a resource for voter awareness (www.godsballot.org).

"What inspired my brochure was my desire to educate Christians about the importance

of knowing what they are affirming when they cast their vote. . . . Many just do not understand political platforms. When the Lord opened my eyes to how I was voting against Christian principles, I wanted to make sure that all Christians would understand what is at stake before casting their votes."

As we prepare for the upcoming mid-term elections, may we be rightly informed of the issues and thoroughly equipped with the word of truth in order to vote God's values.

GLORIFYING GOD THROUGH ELECTIONS

To order this IFA voter
guide, call 800-USA-PRAY
(872-7729).



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Issues for Prayer

PRAY FOR GODLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Father, we ask that those who are running for office would do so in the fear of the Lord. We pray that they would consider carefully what they do, realizing they are not making decisions unto men, but will ultimately answer to You. May they judge carefully, free from injustice, partiality, and bribery. Thank You for the abundant good things You have stored up for them and for protecting them from human intrigue and accusing tongues. We ask that they would continually seek refuge in You alone. We pray that the fear of the Lord in their lives would cause them to shine as a light to the world, drawing others to the Truth. (2 Chr 19:5-7; Ps 31:19-20; Mt 5:14-16) (PRL)

PRAY FOR A FAIR ELECTORAL PROCESS

Lord Jesus, we pray that those involved in the electoral process would not be drawn into evil or take part in evil deeds. We pray that integrity and uprightness would guide them and that any who are unfaithful would be exposed for their duplicity. Father, You declare that those who walk righteously and speak what is right, who reject gain from extortion and keep their hands from accepting bribes will dwell on the heights in righteousness and will find their needs supplied by You. May they do what is right in Your eyes, Lord. (Ps 141:4; Prv 11:3; Is 33:15-16; 2 Cor 8:21) (PRL)

PRAY FOR LEADERS WITH A SERVANT HEART

Father, we pray for integrity to rule in the heart of each one who is in office and who is running for office. Uphold them by Your Presence. May their eyes be fixed on You, keeping a clear conscience and giving careful thought to their steps. We pray that they would run their races as God's servants, called to do good for the people they serve, free from selfish ambition and personal gain. We pray they would handle their finances with integrity and owe no man anything, as they respect and honor the laws of the land. (Ps 41:11-12; Prv 4:25-27) (PRL)

PRAY FOR VOTING THAT HONORS GOD

Lord Jesus, we pray for all believers to honor Your Word through their voting. Remind us of Scriptures as we go to the polls so that we will uphold Your standard of righteousness in this election. May we vote for leaders who will honor the laws of this land put forth in the Constitution. (PRL)

Events

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM October 7, 2018

Annual worldwide day of prayer for the peace of Jerusalem. More information at www.daytopray.com.

DARE 2 SHARE LIVE October 13, 2018

Event for teens hoping to spark a church-wide movement for the cause of Christ. Pray daily at 10:13 a.m. and/or p.m. for the event and for teens. www.dare2sharelive.org.

GET OUT AND PRAY

MOBILIZING LOCAL PRAYER FOR THE NATION



This new tool is designed to equip the Body of Christ to pray for God-fearing candidates to be elected.

Get Out and Pray is the place to:

- Find and pray for candidates and elected officials in your local district
- Discover and engage with others in your area who are praying for the nation
- Identify and adopt a street in your district for which you have a heart to pray
- Join thousands who are praying 24/7 for America and our leaders

Go to IFAPray.org/get-out-and-pray to use this governmental prayer tool.

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

PO Box 915, Purcellville, Virginia 20134
IFAPray.org
800-USA-PRAY (872-7729)

Join believers in praying for our elected officials at PrayforAmericasLeaders.com • IFAPray.org



FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL

Please plan on setting these important 30 minutes aside to join with hundreds across the U.S. in praying for America, its leaders, and its citizens on **October 5, 2018 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. (ET)**

Call: (712) 432-0075 Access Code: 1412452#

Publication index: PRL=Prayer Guide for Electing Righteous Leaders, available at IFAPray.org.

To place orders with Intercessors for America, call (812) 814-9690 or visit IFAresources.com.