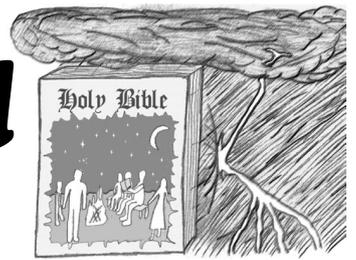


# Shelter in the Word

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
You are my refuge and shield: I have put my hope in your Word. —Psalm 91:1; 119:114*



Vol. 5, No. 3

Helping you become self-sufficient in the Word—for a lasting relationship with the Almighty

Sept-Oct 2002

## Solving a Nation's Problems: A Job for Bible Believers

*By Norman Edwards*

The reward God frequently promises to believers is rulership:

Matt 19:28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel".

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Obd 1:21 Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau, And the kingdom shall be the LORD's (NKJV).

There is no doubt that living by the Word of God and spreading that Word to others is the Christian's highest priority. But a Christian also works: he takes care of his family and his possessions, and he abides by the laws of his land. People with the knowledge, wisdom and spirit of God ought to know how to make good laws—better than anyone else.

Jesus spoke against the corrupt government of his day, saying:

Matt 23:4 They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

5 Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long;

6 they love the place of honor at

banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues;

7 they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi'....

28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

If Jesus were writing of our leaders today, he might have something very similar to say: "They pass laws that restrict the common people, but they leave loopholes for themselves. All of their speeches and appearances are skillfully planned by 'image counselors' to look good before men—but they have little substance. They love their limousines and fancy buildings, and to be called "president this" and "the honorable that". They have a great public image, but if one could see their true lives, they are liars and they are evil.

Yet year after year, Christian voters go to the polls to "vote for the lesser of two evils"—the Democrat or the Republican that is "not as bad as the other". Human government is never perfect, and no candidate represents a perfect follower of God. There may be a time to vote for one leader that simply seems to have "less wrong" than the other. But we

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23 The Distractions of the World

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Please share it with someone.

must realize that over the decades the “lesser of the two evils” available in many American elections has become considerably less “lesser” and a lot more “evil”. In other words, the difference between the two major candidates has become less and less, and the overall evil of both has become more and more.

## What Are the Issues? What Is Right to Do?

Each Christian ought to ask: “**How much do I complain about bad government, and how long has it been since I have written down the problems of my nation, and then gone to the Bible to look for solutions to them?**”

This is not about forcing everyone to become a Christian and obey the Bible, but about Christians knowing what the Bible says on governing subjects so they can make wise decisions and encourage others to do the same. The laws God gave to the Israelites were binding open them, because “they responded with one voice, ‘Everything the LORD has said we will do’” (Ex 24:3). Neither those who formed the United States of America, nor those who passed laws today have agreed to obey the laws of the Bible. They/we have agreed to uphold the Federal and State Constitutions and all of the lawfully established laws subservient to them. Nevertheless, the laws in the Bible are wise and just, designed by the very Creator of the universe. The Founding Fathers recognized this and used some of those laws. Our Constitution has been used as a model by many other nations. Christians, today can and should work to make our nation’s laws follow God’s laws. Other nations will respect this:

Deut 4:5 See, I [Moses] have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may

follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it.

6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”

For decades, other nations actually did say “Surely this great nation—the USA—is a wise and understanding people.” But today, very few do. They say that this is a corrupt nation that exports violence and pornography, that it exploits other nations, and that it does not keep its word. While the USA still does much good, the bad is far too present.

Many Christians may spend hours making lists and keeping track of sports teams, or of people coming to a party or going on a vacation together. Is not it good to spend at least as much time thinking about improving the nation’s future for everyone?

While in the process of making such a list myself, I discovered the platform of a political party that agreed so closely with my biblical understanding that I decided simply to use their platform—adding comments when I thought necessary. One does not need to claim to be a “Christian” in order to join this party, nearly everyone in it does. It **does not** seek to make Christianity a mandatory “state religion”, but to implement good laws, one at a time, that every honest person can are wise and good for our nation.

Is there any chance that a Constitution Party leader would ever become elected and make a difference? Some local leaders have already been elected. If each person who “doesn’t vote because it won’t do any good” would vote for a Constitution Party candidate, the most massive change ever would occur. Everyone needs to realize that there was a time when neither the Democrat nor Republican Parties existed.

**Shelter in the Word** is designed to help people become self-sufficient in their Bible study, so that they may be able to serve the Almighty Creator, and receive salvation through His Son. *Shelter* is not affiliated with any denomination, and teaches that eternal life is available to **individuals** who live by the Bible, regardless of their belonging to a church organization.

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*Shelter in the Word* staff: Bill Buckman, Norm & Marleen Edwards, Missi Lara, David Meidinger, Jon D. Pike, Christine Yoos

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**Church Bible Teaching Ministry**  
**PO Box 107 • Perry, Michigan 48872-0107**  
**517-625-7480, Fax: 517-625-7481, info@cbtm.info**

**Australia:** Dale Heslin; 9 Alice Jackson Crescent; Gilmore, ACT 2905  
e-mail: dale@pcug.org.au

**Canada:** C. Zimmerman, 268 Pennswood Wy SE, Calgary, AB T2A 4T3

**Philippines:** Cesar Lumbuan; 2298 Florida St.; Balagtas, Pandacan; Manila  
e-mail: maxen@skyinet.net

**U.K.:** Jenny Whiteman; 2 Warren Rd; Narborough, Leicester, LE9 5DR  
e-mail 100623.734@compuserve.com

Parties come and go. And right now, both the Democrat and Republican parties are in the “old age” stage of self-serving decadence. It would make sense for the two to merge—and it is time for the voters to purge—to move on to parties that actually represent the voters and legitimate varied ideas of how the country might be run.

This writer hopes that believers from all countries will read over these issues and think about what God would want—what approach would be ultimately best for everyone. If we “love our neighbor as ourselves”, we ought to be able to think about what is best for him. With that, we present the platform of the Constitution Party (known as the *American Independent Party* or *U.S. Taxpayer’s Party* in some states) with comments. This platform and other information is available from:

**Constitution Party**, 23 North Lime St.  
Lancaster, PA, 17602; 800-283-8647  
717-390-1993; fax: 717-390-1996  
e-mail: [info@constitutionparty.org](mailto:info@constitutionparty.org)  
web: [www.constitutionparty.org](http://www.constitutionparty.org).

Below, the Constitution Party platform is indented and is in “sans serif” type like this.

Our comments are in slightly wider paragraphs and in this “serif” type.

## Constitution Party Platform

### **Preamble**

We, the members of the Constitution Party, gratefully acknowledge the blessing of the Lord God as Creator, Preserver and Ruler of the Universe and of this Nation. We solemnly declare that the foundation of our political position and moving principle of our political activity is our full submission and unshakable faith in our Savior and Redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ. We hereby appeal to Him for mercy, aid, comfort, guidance and the protection of His Divine Providence as we work to restore and preserve this Nation as a government of the People, by the People, and for the People. The U.S. Constitution established a Republic under God, rather than a democracy.

Our Republic is a nation governed by a Constitution that is rooted in Biblical law, administered by representatives who are Constitutionally elected by the citizens.

Many politicians find it convenient to claim to be “Christians”. But their Christianity rarely effects the legislation they support or the things they do. While the above type of acknowledgement of God by leaders was common in the early years of our nation,

it would be most unlikely with the major parties today.

In a Republic governed by Constitutional law rooted in Biblical law, all Life, Liberty and Property are protected because law rules.

We affirm the principles of inherent individual rights upon which these United States of America were founded:

- That each individual is endowed by his Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are the rights to Life, Liberty, Property and the Pursuit of the individual’s personal interest;
- That the freedom to own, use, exchange, control, protect, and freely dispose of Property is a natural, necessary and inseparable extension of the individual’s unalienable rights;
- That the legitimate function of government is to secure these rights through the preservation of domestic tranquility, the maintenance of a strong national defense, and the promotion of equal justice for all;
- That history makes clear that left unchecked, it is the nature of government to usurp the liberty of its citizens and eventually become a major violator of the people’s rights; and
- That, therefore, it is essential to bind government with the chains of the Constitution and carefully divide and jealously limit government powers to those assigned by the consent of the governed.

The Constitution Party calls on all who love Liberty and value their inherent rights to join with us in the pursuit of these goals and in the restoration of these founding principles. We speak for Americans: hardworking, productive, taxpaying men and women who constitute the backbone and the heart of the American Republic and its economy.

These are the producers; these are the ones who should be “first considered and always remembered.” It is on their backs that government is carried, and it is out of their pockets that government is financed. Without them and without the product of their skills and their labors, there would be no source to fund the legitimate functions of government nor would there be charity to support the private institutions helping those in need.

No nation can survive if it fails to honorably address the problems which concern these citizens. To these productive but generally forgotten Americans, we offer this platform. It responds to their desires; it is the voice that speaks of them and for them, as does that of no other political party.

God gave everyone a similar amount of private

property (Num 26:55). People were responsible to work their own land, and prosper or suffer because of it (Prov 12:24) Local governments were formed to judge cases brought to them (Deut 16:18-20). But there was no massive central or local government planning people's lives or telling them what to do.

### **Sanctity of Life**

The pre-born child, whose life begins at fertilization, is a human being created in God's image. The first duty of the law is to prevent the shedding of innocent blood. It is, therefore, the duty of all civil governments to secure and to safeguard the lives of the pre-born.

To that end, the Constitution of the United States was ordained and established for "ourselves and our posterity." Under no circumstances may the federal government fund or otherwise support any state or local government or any organization or entity, foreign or domestic, which advocates, encourages or participates in the practice of abortion. We also oppose the distribution and use of all abortifacients.

As to matters of rape and incest, it is unconscionable to take the life of an innocent child for the crimes of his father.

In addition, Article IV of the Constitution guarantees to each state a republican form of government. In a republic, the taking of innocent life, including the life of the pre-born, may not be declared lawful by any institution of state or local government—legislative, judicial or executive. The right to life should not be made dependent upon a vote of a majority of any legislative body.

Moreover, this right should never depend upon a majority of justices on any court, including the United States Supreme Court. Therefore, although a Supreme Court opinion is binding on the parties to the controversy as to the particulars of the case, it is not a political rule for the nation. Roe v Wade is illegitimate, contrary to the law of the nation's Charter and Constitution. It must be resisted by all civil government officials, federal, state, and local, and by all branches of the government—legislative, executive, and judicial.

In office, we shall only appoint to the federal judiciary, and to other positions of federal authority, qualified individuals who publicly acknowledge and commit themselves to the legal personhood of the pre-born child. In addition, we will do all that is within our power to encourage federal, state, and local government officials to protect the sanctity of the life of the pre-born through legislation, executive action, and judicial enforcement of the law of the land.

In addition, we condemn the misuse of anti-racketeering and other federal laws against pro-life demonstrators, and strongly urge the repeal of the RICO and FACE Acts as unconstitutional expansions of federal power into areas reserved to the states by the Tenth Amendment.

Finally, we also oppose all government "legalization" of euthanasia, infanticide and suicide.

The Bible teaches in numerous places that people do not have the right to take the lives of others—except in self-defense, judicial-type situations where a crime has been established by "two or three witnesses", when a man-slayer refuses to flee to a "city of refuge" or in wars that God commands. But the death penalty was commanded for a person who willingly takes another's life (Num 35:30-31). Exodus 21:22-23 shows that an unborn baby is considered to be a "life". Simple logic shows that everyone who is alive today would be dead if their mother had successfully aborted them.

### **AIDS**

The first duty of civil government is to protect innocent human life. AIDS and HIV is a contagious disease which is dangerous to public health. It should not be treated as a civil rights issue. Under no circumstances should the federal government continue to subsidize activities which have the effect of encouraging perverted or promiscuous sexual conduct. Criminal penalties should apply to those whose willful acts of omission or commission place members of the public at risk of contracting AIDS or HIV.

Governments should not attempt to deliver people from the effects of their own dangerous life style. Government money to find a cure for AIDS and help its victims makes no more sense that government money to develop cars that can be safely driven by drunk drivers and then for subsidizing drunks who crash. While it is true that a few people get aids from blood transfusions or other non-sexual contact, the overwhelming majority get if from what the Bible defines as sexual sins and if those sins were stopped, the few incidental contractions of AIDS would disappear also.

The Bible teaches the death penalty for homosexual sex acts, adultery and bestiality—when there are two or three witnesses to it. (Lev 20:10; 23:13,15; Deut 17:6; 22-27). These things cause a lot of suffering for many people, but for thousands of years, governments have failed to accept and enforce these laws. During the last century, many governments have actually encouraged these unbiblical sex acts through "sex education" and promotion of condoms for "safe sex" practices. Government programs fre-

quently claim that condoms are 95% effective in reducing sexually transmissible diseases (STDs), but more realistic studies show that they are between 0% (yes, zero) and 90% effective, depending upon which of the fifty STDs one is talking about. (See *Epidemic: How Teen Sex is Killing our Kids* by Meg Meeker, M.D. ISBN 0-89526-143-X). The many thousands of deaths and millions of illnesses caused by STDs have taken a much greater toll on our population than implementing God's laws on sex. Our governments—including those of us who have not voted against them—are squarely to blame.

But some might ask, would not hundreds of thousands of people be executed if there were a death penalty for homosexual sex acts, adultery and bestiality? The answer is, "no". The Bible does not teach that there should be a "police force" going around looking for people involved in illicit sex. But these laws would shut down the sex entertainment industry—performing these acts before cameras & camera-people would be asking for a death sentence and most people would not do it. People would still continue to practice these kinds of sex, but it would be in private—very private. The number of people prosecuted for unbiblical sex acts would probably be quite low—maybe similar to the numbers who are now prosecuted for murder. Those few would serve as a warning to others, and most people would grow up seeking a good marriage as the place to enjoy sex, rather than the sex-whenever-you-can-find-it approach popularized in the media today.

Even though the death penalty seems incredibly harsh to the western mind, such a penalty should **never be prescribed unless there were at least two witnesses willing to come forth and testify** (Deut 17:6). Also, the biblical penalty for false witnesses must also be employed: when a witness is found testifying falsely in a trial, whatever penalty would have happened to the accused if convicted is applied to the witness (Deut 19:16-19). So someone who witnesses falsely in a death-penalty case would himself be subject to the death penalty. Without all of these other biblical provisions for witnesses, the death penalty for sexual offenses would be unjust. (Also, as stated at the beginning, none of these Biblical punishments should be applied until the people of the land have agreed to make these the law of the land.)

As an illustration of why the laws of witnesses are needed, a woman was caught in the act of adultery and brought forth but **Jesus did not condemn her to death, saying, "go and sin no more"** Why? There were no individuals who stepped forward and identified themselves as witnesses; the man was not present either. The man may well have been a power-

ful rich man or a friend of the leaders—but God commands that no partiality be shown in justice (Lev 19:15). It would have been wrong to stone the women and let the man go.

Today there are literally millions of words of government laws and policies both encouraging and discouraging various sexual acts. Sex with minors, child pornography, incest, child abuse and prostitution are illegal in many places. Thousands of undercover police and social workers are involved in trying to catch the people involved with these things. But millions of children are educated in equally perverse sex acts in government schools—and government resources are used to defend the "rights" of people to have illicit sex in ways which the government approves. How much simpler and better is it for the government to get out of all this mess, and prosecute the few big issues that are clearly witnessed beyond all doubt.

### **Bring Government Back Home**

The closer civil government is to the people, the more responsible, responsive, and accountable it is likely to be. The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution makes clear that the federal government has only those powers which are explicitly delegated to it. All other powers are reserved to the states and to the people. We pledge to be faithful to this Constitutional requirement and to work methodically to restore to the states and to the people their rightful control over legislative, judicial, executive, and regulatory functions which are not Constitutionally delegated to the federal government.

We stand opposed to regionalization or grouping of governments at any level, which results in removal of decision-making powers from the scrutiny of the people.

God told His people to form local governments (Deut 16:18-20). He told them that they should not ask for a king (strong central government) and that a King would tax and persecute them if they did want one (1Sam 8). Today, big government and big business has replaced God as the provider and protector in the lives of many people—in violation of the first commandment:

Ex 20:2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

### **Character and Moral Conduct**

Public respect and esteem toward public officials has fallen to a shameful level. The Constitution Party finds that the cause of this national state

of disgrace is the deterioration of personal character among government leaders, exacerbated by the lack of public outcry against immoral conduct by public office holders. Our party leaders and public officials must display exemplary qualities of honesty, integrity, reliability, moral uprightness, fidelity, prudence, temperance, justice, fortitude, self-restraint, courage, kindness, and compassion. If they cannot be trusted in private life, neither can they be trusted in public life.

It is imperative the members and nominated candidates representing the Constitution Party and its state affiliates recognize the importance of demonstrating good character in their own lives.

There are over 100 references to rule by elders in the Bible. These were men and women that had been known by many for a long time. Church elders were to be recruited from those with a known, proven track record (1Tim 3, Titus 1). The biggest problem with nearly all human leadership is that leaders tend to make decisions that benefit themselves and their friends, rather than doing what is right for everyone. Knowing the right thing to do is less of a problem—if a leader does not know, he can always listen to a variety of advisers and choose what is best.

Prov 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan (NKJV).

Political candidates go to great effort to plaster the TV and other media with a “good image”. Many claimed “independent political analysts” are still paid to write favorable reports about popular candidates. Few Americans are willing to really look for people who know their candidates and find out what kind of person they are. Nearly every major election, some diligent reporter will write a story showing the untrue statements or unfulfilled campaign promises that each candidate has made. But how many people read those and say, “I would rather vote for an ‘unknown’ than someone who is a proven liar.” Furthermore, even when politicians are caught doing great evil, many voters are still willing to accept them if the media reports that they are “doing a good job.”

### **Congressional Reform**

The Congress of the United States has become an overpaid, overstaffed, self-serving institution. It confiscates taxpayer funds to finance exorbitant and unconstitutionally determined salaries, pensions, and perks. Most members of Congress have become more accountable to the Washington establishment than to the people in their home districts. Both houses of Congress are all too often un-

responsive and irresponsible, arrogantly placing themselves above the very laws they enact, and beyond the control of the citizens they have sworn to represent and serve.

We seek to:

- Abolish Congressional pensions.
- Abolish federal pay for members of Congress, and restore provisions for per diem allowances.

The Bible does not provide a tax means for the civil government, but God warned that a king (strong central government) would tax them heavily (1Sam 8:11-17). The nation of ancient Israel was divided into two kingdoms over the issues of taxes (1Kngs 12). Older, successful individuals (“elders at the gate”) served in the local governments. The Levites and priests were partly supported by the tithe (a tenth of the produce of the land), but they had their own land as well. Their duty was largely religious, associated with the temple and offerings, but they also served as judges at times. The Bible did not prescribe a penalty for non-payment of tithes, but simply pronounced a blessing on those who would pay them (Mal 3:10). Even kings were commanded never to consider themselves better than their subjects or “above the law”:

Deut 17:19:...and he [the king] is to read it [the book of the law] all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees

20 and **not consider himself better than his brothers** and turn from the law to the right or to the left....

It is time for the American people to renew effective supervision of their public servants, to restore right standards and to take back the government. Congress must once again be accountable to the people and obedient to the Constitution, repealing all laws that delegate legislative powers to regulatory agencies, bureaucracies, private organizations, the Federal Reserve Board, international agencies, the President, and the judiciary.

The U.S. Constitution, as originally framed in Article I, Section 3, provided for U.S. Senators to be elected by state legislators. This provided the states direct representation in the legislative branch so as to deter the usurpation of powers that are Constitutionally reserved to the states or to the people.

The Seventeenth Amendment (providing for direct, popular election of U.S. Senators) took away from state governments their Constitutional role of indirect participation in the federal legislative process.

If we are to see a return to the states those powers, programs, and sources of revenue that the federal government has unconstitutionally taken away, then it is also vital that we repeal the Seventeenth Amendment and return to state legislatures the function of electing the U.S. Senate. In so doing, this would return the U.S. Senate to being a body that represents the legislatures of the several states on the federal level and, thus, a tremendously vital part of the designed checks and balances of power that our Constitution originally provided.

The principle of people **personally** knowing the character of their leaders is expressed throughout the Bible (Deut 1:13; Num 11:16; Acts 6:3; 1Tim 3; Titus 1). It is very difficult for any significant percentage of the voters in a large state to personally know the character of their senator. At least the Representatives in the House represent a smaller area and it is more likely that they will be known. But representatives to State legislatures represent a much smaller group of people and are often well known by those who vote for them. Similarly, these state representatives should be able to elect men who are personally known to them to be the USA senators. With today's system of direct election of senators, almost everyone is voting based upon impressions from carefully planned TV exposure, **not firsthand knowledge** of the character of the senator.

We support legislation to prohibit the attachment of unrelated riders to bills. Any amendments must fit within the scope and object of the original bill.

The reason that this long-time awful practice has continued is because of unjust congressman. How many times has a bill for essential services passed with numerous riders for a statue of this senator in his home state, a million dollars to study soap operas in a favorite university, etc? The only reason this practice is allowed is because most congressmen hope to use it themselves now and then to pass legislation that would be rejected if it had to stand on its own.

John 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

We support legislation to require that the Congressional Record contain an accurate record of proceedings. Members of Congress are not to be permitted to rewrite the speeches delivered during the course of debates, or other remarks offered from the floors of their respective houses; nor may any additional materials be inserted in the Record, except those referred to in the speaker's presentation and for which space is reserved.

Jer 8:8 How can you say, "We are wise, And the law of the LORD is with us?" Look, the false pen of the scribe certainly works falsehood.

### **Constitutional Convention**

We affirm the original text of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We affirm that the nation's Charter, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution contain the foundational law of the federal union. We condemn, therefore, all legislative, executive, and judicial action that departs from the texts and intent of the Charter and the Constitution and their original meaning.

We oppose any attempt to call for a Constitutional convention, for any purpose whatsoever, because it cannot be limited to any single issue, and such convention could seriously erode our Constitutionally protected unalienable rights.

A Constitutional convention could possibly make our government even better than it is. But there is so much work that needs to be done now to remove corrupt leaders and eliminate unconstitutional laws that a Constitutional convention would make little sense before those goals are accomplished.

### **Cost of Big Government**

The only legitimate purpose of civil government is to safeguard the God-given rights of its citizens; namely, life, liberty, and property. Only those duties, functions, and programs specifically assigned to the federal government by the Constitution should be funded. We call upon Congress and the President to stop all federal expenditures which are not specifically authorized by the U. S. Constitution, and to restore to the states those powers, programs, and sources of revenue that the federal government has usurped.

We call upon the President to use his Constitutional veto power to stop irresponsible and unconstitutional appropriations, and use his Constitutional authority to refuse to spend any money appropriated by Congress for unconstitutional programs or in excess of Constitutionally imposed tax revenue.

We call for the systematic reduction of the federal debt through, but not limited to, the elimination of further borrowing and the elimination of unconstitutional programs and agencies.

We reject the misleading use of the terms surplus and balanced budget as long as public debt remains. We oppose dishonest accounting practices such as "off-budget items" used to hide unconstitutional spending practices. Until the Social Security and Medicare functions are privatized, we call for an

end to the raiding of their funds.

We call for the abolition of the Civil Service system, which is perceived to confer on government employees a "property right" regarding their jobs.

There is no doubt that big government has become an idol in the place of God to many people (Ex 20:1-6). People look to and praise the government for their welfare, protection and health. It takes the credit that really belongs to the hard-working people who pay taxes. To reduce the size of government, Christians must learn to trust God, to work hard, and to help those in need, rather than to rely upon government.

Deut 15:7 If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,

8 but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

Individuals are usually quite good at determining if a neighbor is really needy or just lazy and asking for a handout. They will try to do the job with as little assistance as possible. Government agencies are often easily fooled, and sometimes motivated to spend as much money as possible so that they will get as much as possible the next year.

### **Crime**

Crime, in most cases, is to be dealt with by state and local governments. To the degree that the federal government, in its legislation, in its judicial actions, in its regulations, and in its Executive Branch activities, interferes with the ability of the people in their communities to apprehend, judge, and penalize accused lawbreakers, it bears responsibility for the climate of crime, which has grown more destructive with each passing year.

We favor the right of states and localities to execute criminals convicted of capital crimes and to require restitution for the victims of criminals. Federal involvement in state and local criminal justice processes should be limited to that which is Constitutionally required.

All who are accused of crimes, petty to capital, shall have a trial by jury upon request, and the jury shall be fully informed of its right to nullify the law.

The Bible teaches that judgments, including those deserving of death, should be made locally, except for very difficult cases, which can be sent to a centralized judges (Deut 17:5-12). One obvious prob-

lem with this is that the leadership of some towns may all be powerful long-time friends and have so much control over people that can use their local justice system to have an enemy unjustly executed. This is indeed awful, but it is at least possible for honest people to recognize the evil situation and move out. However, such corruption is even **more likely** to happen at a national level where nearly all of the people being tried are completely unknown to the jury and everyone in the court. Furthermore, when national governments become corrupt, there is often no where for anyone to hide, as they control the passports and access to the borders.

People paying for damage they caused or thieves restoring two to five times the amount they stole from their victims are biblical solutions (Ex 22:1,4). Payment should be the preferred method of dealing with most crimes. **The Bible never recommends imprisonment as a punishment.** Imprisonment puts many criminals together where they frequently learn more about crime, rather than how to live justly. Also, prisons are frequently run in a corrupt manner, which further discourages individuals from trying to become law-abiding. Inmates often work long hours in unreasonable conditions for almost no pay. Prisons usually neither show love toward inmates nor help them learn real-world skills.

What if a person has no money to pay for the damage they caused another? Article 13 of the Constitution allows for involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime—the use of prisons is based upon this law. The Bible teaching is to completely privatizing involuntary servitude—to award a convicted criminal's service to the victim of a crime when he has no money to restore what he stole or damaged (Ex 22:3). A criminal is much less likely to be abused under this system than he is in a State or Federal prison—many of which no longer allow the press to take photos of the deplorable conditions inside. **The term of any such involuntary servitude should last less than seven years** (Ex 21:2). Life or multi-decade imprisonments (or servitude) should be classified as "cruel punishment" as they keep men and women alive, but deny them the chance to repent and do something meaningful with their life.

### **Defense**

It is a primary obligation of the federal government to provide for the common defense, and to be vigilant regarding potential threats, prospective capabilities, and perceived intentions of potential enemies.

We oppose unilateral disarmament and dismemberment of America's defense infrastructure. That which is hastily torn down will not be easily rebuilt.

In order to protect our territory, our armed forces, and our citizenry, we should immediately give notice of our withdrawal from the Nixon-Brezhnev Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which restricts full development and deployment of a strategic defense system. We call for the deployment of a fully operational, space-based defense system as soon as possible.

We condemn the Presidential assumption of authority to deploy American troops into combat without the consent of Congress.

Under no circumstances would we commit U.S. forces to serve under any foreign flag or command. We are opposed to any New World Order, and we flatly reject U.S. participation in any New World Army.

The goal of U.S. security policy is to defend the national security interests of the United States.

We should be the friend of liberty everywhere, but the guarantor and provisioner of ours alone.

We call for the maintenance of a strong, state-of-the-art military on land, sea, in the air, and in space. We urge the executive and legislative branches to continue to provide for the modernization of our armed forces, in keeping with advancing technologies and a constantly changing world situation.

We believe that all defense expenditures should be directly related to the protection of our nation, and that every item of expenditure must be carefully reviewed to eliminate foreign aid, waste, fraud, theft, inefficiency, and excess profits from all defense contracts and military expenditures.

We reject the policies and practices that permit women to train for or participate in combat. Because of the radical feminization of the military over the past two decades, it must be recognized that these "advances" undermine the integrity and morale of our military organizations by dual qualification standards and forced integration.

We support the restoration of "well regulated militia[s]" at the state and/or community levels.

Under no circumstances should we unilaterally surrender our military base rights in Panama. The sovereign right of the United States to the United States territory of the Canal Zone has been jeopardized by treaties between the United States and Panama. Inasmuch as the United States bought both the sovereignty and the grant ownership of the ten-mile-wide Canal Zone, we propose that the government of the United States maintain and protect its sovereign right and exclusive jurisdiction of the Canal Zone in perpetuity, and renegotiate

the treaties with Panama by which the ownership of the canal was surrendered to Panama.

God advised against relying on treaties with other nations for military protection (Ex 23:32-33; 34:12; Deut 7:2; Jdgs 2:2; 2Ki 18:21; Isa 30:2; Isa 31:1-3). If we were all following God, local militias would be enough to defend the country:

Lev 26:8 Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

However, since each person in our nation does not trust God, then we probably need a national army. The Constitution party statements about avoiding wars that do not concern us is absolutely right. Nations and armies in the Bible that engaged in unnecessary wars were frequently destroyed in them. When it is necessary to fight another nation, God said that we should not destroy the long-term resources of the nation so that the people may live after the war is over (Deut 20:19-20).

### **Drug Abuse**

The Constitution Party will uphold the right of states and localities to restrict access to drugs and to enforce such restrictions in appropriate cases with application of the death penalty. We support legislation to stop the flow of illegal drugs into the United States from foreign sources. As a matter of self-defense, retaliatory policies including embargoes, sanctions, and tariffs, should be considered.

At the same time, we will take care to prevent violations of the Constitutional and civil rights of American citizens. Searches without probable cause and seizures without due process must be prohibited, and the presumption of innocence must be preserved.

All of the crimes in the Bible for which a punishment is given have a victim, either a person or God. God was the "victim" in the worshipping of false Gods, breaking of the Sabbath, etc. There are Bible admonitions against dishonoring parents, coveting, overeating, drunkenness, laziness, anger and all kinds of other personal problems. But there is no command for **governments** to punish anyone for any of these things—the punishment comes about automatically as an effect of the sin. Now if a person damages property because they are drunk, angry or taking drugs, they are still as responsible for restoring it as if they were sober.

Most of today's drug laws and enforcement are totally ineffective in preventing people from obtaining "illegal" drugs. The financing of organized crime and the numerous petty crimes associated with over-

priced illegal drugs cause far more damage to innocent people than the use of the drugs themselves. When drugs are completely illegal to begin with, there is no justice in their sale; many drugs are mislabeled, resulting in needless disasters and deaths. People who are depressed and thinking about taking drugs almost ask for help for fear of being reported to the police. The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution showed that problems with alcohol became much worse when it was made illegal and was repealed by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment. Many prescription drugs are actually much more expensive than they need to be because competing drugs, many of which have been successfully used for years in other countries, are still classified as “illegal drugs” in the United States and are therefore little used in the USA.

It is bad for people to destroy their lives with drugs—but more people destroy their lives by overeating, and fortunately, the government has not taken to prosecuting people for being overweight. The best way to help drug addicts (and those who are overweight) is to show that God loves them and has a purpose for them—not to jail them and further convince them that life is bad and required escape. Legalizing most drugs (or allowing states and localities to legalize them) will greatly reduce the huge amount of drug related crime—benefiting everybody. This writer partly disagrees with the Constitution Party platform on this point, but still feels that the Constitution Party’s approach is better than what we have now.

We agree that American’s rights have been greatly reduced by laws that were passed to stop drug traffic and that those rights must no longer be violated. Gun control, unconstitutional searches and seizures, currency reporting requirements and other rights violations have all been implemented in the name of “fighting drugs”; these things have taken away American freedoms, but not stopped widespread use of drugs.

### **Education**

All teaching is related to basic assumptions about God and man. Education as a whole, therefore, cannot be separated from religious faith. The law of our Creator assigns the authority and responsibility of educating children to their parents. Education should be free from all federal government subsidies, including vouchers, tax incentives, and loans, except with respect to veterans.

Because the federal government has absolutely no jurisdiction concerning the education of our children, the United States Department of Education should be abolished; all federal legislation related to education should be repealed, including but not lim-

ited to "Goals 2000," "Outcomes-Based Education," "School-to-Work," "Success by Six," and other similar programs. No federal laws subsidizing or regulating the education of children should be enacted. Under no circumstances should the federal government be involved in national teacher certification, educational curricula, textbook selection, learning standards, comprehensive sex education, psychological and psychiatric research testing programs, and personnel.

Because control over education is now being relegated to departments other than the Department of Education, we clarify that no federal agency, department, board, or other entity may exercise jurisdiction over any aspect of children’s upbringing. Education, training, and discipline of children are properly placed in the domain of their parents.

We support the unimpeded right of parents to provide for the education of their children in the manner they deem best, including home, private or religious.

So that no parents need defy the law by refusing to send their children to schools of which they disapprove, compulsory attendance laws should be repealed.

This is biblically sound and just common sense. Many studies show that children grow up best in loving families with two parents. Many children who grow up in institutions wish that they had been in a family. Almost no children who grow up in a family wish they had grown up in an institution. Parents who love their children, however imperfect, still do better than any government program. Parents and local communities must control education. Yes, wealthy communities will have better education than poor communities—but it is still that way even after 40 years of the governments trying to give an equal education to all children. The main thing that the federal government succeeded in was lowering the standards for nearly everyone. Wealthy people who care simply send their children to private schools.

Deut 6:6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

### **Election Reform**

The Constitution Party seeks the restoration of an electoral process, which is controlled at the state and local level and is beyond manipulation by federal judges and bureaucrats. The federal gov-

ernment has unconstitutionally and unwisely pre-empted control in matters of district boundaries, electoral procedures, and campaign activities.

The Voting Rights Act should be repealed. The Federal Election Campaign Act, including its 1974 amendments, and the Federal Election Commission should be abolished.

Each citizen should have the right to seek public office in accordance with the qualifications set forth in federal and state constitutions. Additional restrictions and obligations governing candidate eligibility and campaign procedures burden unconstitutionally the fairness and accountability of our political system.

In order to avoid election fraud, we urge an end to electronic or mechanical voting processes and a return to the manual counting process overseen by, and accountable to, voters resident in each precinct where the votes are cast.

Prov 11:1 The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

If we are going to choose our leaders by voting, it is important that the method of weighing—counting—the votes be accurate. In *The Red Monarch* by Yuri Krotkov, Joseph Stalin is quoted as saying “It does not matter who votes that counts; it is who counts the votes.” The current system of “secure” computerized voting machines is placing all of our trust in the few people responsible for programming them. No matter how many times the machines are tested, it would still be possible to program them to always work correctly, except on election day when they would bias the results according to some evil person’s plan. The Constitution party’s plan to go back to the old system of supervised manual counting would be much better. Local counting might still occasionally be dishonest, but it would only be in small instances, rather than giving a few voting machine designers the ability to compromise the elections nationwide.

Another approach to fair elections would be **“open computerization”, rather than the present “secure computerization”—which essentially means “secret computerization”**. Existing precincts would use the same means as present to determine who is a qualified voter and make sure that each voter only votes once. At the polling place, the voters would then fill out a machine-readable form indicating their votes, scan it by computer, and then be given two copies of a printed receipt showing their votes. The voter would be responsible for checking the receipts to be sure that they reflect their voting intentions—eliminating the problems of half-marked

or half-punched cards. If the receipts are not what the voter intended, they would be destroyed on the spot and the person would vote again. The receipts would each be identified by precinct and then by a single-use random number—different on each receipt within a precinct. The voter’s name would never be put into the computer and would not appear on the receipts, thus preserving the “secret ballot”.

The voter would retain one copy of the receipt as a record. The other copy would be deposited in a secure box at the polling place, to be used only in the event of a computer failure or for an election fraud investigation. After the polls close, a file of all the votes from every precinct would be posted on the Internet—on local web sites. All voter records would be combined into a database for the entire election. Each voter could use any Internet computer to compare the numbers on his/her receipt with the public database **to be sure that their vote was accurately maintained**. Also, any Internet computer could be used to perform its own count of all the votes. If any precinct seems to have suspicious numbers (too many votes for the precinct), then a “recount” could be requested. The local election authorities, observed by outsiders, would open the box of “second copies” of receipts and compare them to what was posted on the Internet for that precinct. The number of receipts in the box could be compared to the count of people who actually voted in that election.

The key to this method is that the paper receipts, verified by the voters, are the ultimate authority on how each person voted, and the computers are relied upon only to generate the random numbers and to transmit the data. Each voter is in the position to verify that their own vote was properly handled and to count all the votes themselves if they so desire.

### **Electoral College**

Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution states, in part: "Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress: but no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector." This established our Electoral College.

Although the Constitution does not require the states to adhere to any specific manner in electing these electors or how they cast their votes, it suggests, by its wording, that prominent individuals from each congressional district, and from the state at large, would be elected or appointed as electors that represent that district. Under this arrangement, a voter would vote for three individuals, one to rep-

resent his district and two "at large" representatives to represent his state. These electors, in turn, would then carefully and deliberately select the candidate for president. Under this system each congressional district could, in essence, select a different candidate. The candidate with the most electors nationwide would become the next president.

This was the general procedure used until the 1830's, at which time all the states, except for South Carolina, changed to a "general ticket."

The "general ticket" system is still in use today. Inherently, it causes corruption by the inequitable transfer of power from congressional districts to the states and large cities at the expense of rural communities. Similarly, power can be shifted inequitably to minorities and special interest groups.

The Constitution Party, therefore, proposes legislation to eliminate the "general ticket" system and return to the procedure intended by the Framers.

This Constitution Party's plan here is better than the system presently in place. The "open computerization" system would facilitate this—the exact number of votes that each elector was responsible to represent could be calculated by anyone with Internet access.

### **Energy**

We call attention to the continuing need of the United States for a sufficient supply of energy to sustain the nation's standard of living and its agricultural, business, national security, and industrial activities.

Private property rights should be respected, and the federal government should not interfere with the development of potential energy sources, including natural gas, hydroelectric power, solar energy, wind generators, and nuclear energy.

We also encourage the use of coal, shale, and oil sands for the production of power, and the conversion of coal, shale, and agricultural products to synthetic fuels.

We oppose any increase in federal fuel taxes. Federal fuel tax revenue should be used exclusively for the maintenance of federal highways.

Ex 20:15 "You shall not steal.

For decades, there has been a large surplus of money in the highway repair funds, but Congress has refused to spend it for its intended purpose and used it for other things. Yet virtually no officials promise to fix this thievery, either while they are running for office or after they are elected.

Governments never should have been involved in rural electrification and they should phase out of it now. Stringing power poles for many miles to service

a few farms is neither cost efficient nor energy efficient. Small-scale wind, water, and fossil fuel generators were being developed and becoming cost effective years ago before rural electrification programs began. Today, the alternate energy technology is much better and cheaper than running miles of ugly utility poles. This tends to make farmers totally independent of big business and governments, but that is exactly what God intended—for most people to live off of the land that He gave them.

### **Environment**

It is our responsibility to be prudent, productive, and efficient stewards of God's natural resources. In that role, we are commanded to be fruitful and multiply, and to replenish the earth and develop it (e.g., to turn deserts into farms and wastelands into groves). This requires a proper and continuing dynamic balance between development and conservation, between use and preservation.

In keeping with this requirement, we wholeheartedly support realistic efforts to preserve the environment and reduce pollution—air, water, and land. We reject, however, the argument that this objective ought to be pursued by costly governmental interference, accompanied by multitudes of regulations and the heavy hand of arrogant bureaucrats spurred on by irresponsible pressure groups.

The Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution limits the federal power of eminent domain solely to the purchase of private property at fair market value for public use, such as military reservations and government office buildings—not for public ownership, such as urban renewal, environmental protection, or historic preservation. Under no circumstances may the federal government take private property without just compensation by means of rules and regulations, which preclude or substantially reduce the productive use of the property.

We call for a return to the states and to the people all lands which are held by the federal government without authorization by the Constitution. We also call for repeal of federal wetlands legislation and the federal Endangered Species Act. Moreover, we oppose any attempt to designate private or public property as United Nations World Heritage sites or Biosphere reserves. We call for an end to United States participation in UN programs such as UNESCO, Man and the Biosphere, and the UN Council on Sustainable Development. We oppose environmental treaties and conventions such as the Biodiversity Treaty, the Convention on Climate Control, and Agenda 21, which destroy our sovereignty and right to private property.

This approach is exactly what we need. Too many people look to the environment and environmental organizations as if they were God. They make the foolish mistake of thinking that if we only sign these treaties and cooperate with environmental organizations that we will have a wonderful environment for the future. The truth of the matter is that many environmental organizations are seeking political control now and promising environmental improvements later. God made it the job of each person to take care of the land in which they live (Gen 2:15). He also stated that if a man lets his animals or a fire get out of control, that he is responsible to make restitution to his neighbor for damages (Ex 22:5-6). Similarly, if a person or a business pollutes their neighbor's land, the air above it, or the water beneath it, they are responsible for making restitution. It is not the job of the government to provide extensive environmental regulation and interference, but to provide honest and efficient courts so that people damaged by environmental problems (even if it is one person) can sue (without spending their life savings) and be compensated by those who damage the environment (even if it is a large company).

### **Executive Orders**

We oppose the use of Presidential executive orders that make law or otherwise usurp the Constitutional authority and responsibilities of the legislative and judicial branches. This Constitutionally subversive practice must be stopped by Congress. All unconstitutional executive orders must be repealed.

By allowing these executive orders, congress is clearly giving up the legislative power that the Constitution gave to them. But how many congressmen ever bring this issue into their campaign? Like many of the other problems listed herein, it seems that most congressmen put up with this unconstitutionality because they occasionally hope that issues important to them can be made into "law" via executive order—with no public debate and with no congressional vote as to see who was and was not in favor it.

Prv 26:27 If a man digs a pit, he will fall into it; if a man rolls a stone, it will roll back on him.

### **Family**

The law of our Creator defines marriage as the union between one man and one woman. The marriage covenant is the foundation of the family. We affirm, therefore, that no government may authorize or define marriage or family relations contrary to what God has instituted. Parents have the fundamental right and responsibility to nurture, educate, and discipline their children. Assumption of

any of these responsibilities by any governmental agency usurps the role of the parents.

This is correct beyond all doubt. The money spent by an average family raising a child is much less than the cost of a child raised in government programs. Yet the success rate of the family is much higher. Most people would be amazed to know that our secular government child-care agencies actually solicit churches to encourage their families to take on foster children—because religious people with a commitment to and love for human life do a much better job than people who are simply raising children for the money. The government would be much better off to simply get out of the picture and let churches and their members take care of needy children.

### **Federal Aid**

The Constitution assigns all powers not delegated to the federal government to the states or the people.

Federal "aid" not authorized by the Constitution is not only illegal; it is immoral.

We call upon the states, therefore, to decline to accept all monies from the federal government for any purpose not specifically and clearly articulated in the Constitution, and reject all federal mandates and regulations which are unconstitutional, thus restoring the intended balance of power between the states and their creation, the U.S. Government.

This is how our government is supposed to work. If politicians do not like the constitution, they should be honest enough to admit it.

### **Foreign Policy**

The only Constitutional purpose and basis of foreign policy is to serve the best interests of the U.S., not to police the world. We pledge our allegiance to the American Republic. We say "No!" to any so-called New World Order or to any one-world government. Not one whit of American autonomy may be given up to any international organization or group of nations.

We oppose entangling foreign alliances. NATO no longer serves a defensive purpose and the U.S. must withdraw from it.

The Constitution Party opposes any alliance or participation in any treaty or agreement that compromises our independence as a nation, or that subverts our Constitution by improperly committing us to participation in foreign conflicts or intervention in foreign wars.

All treaties must be subordinate to the Constitution, since the Constitution is the only instrument which empowers and limits the federal government.

The United States must not enter into agreements that would have an adverse impact on the security and safety of this nation.

The Constitution Party calls on the United States to withdraw from the United Nations and to require the U.N. to move out of the United States.

The United States must withdraw from all international monetary and financial institutions and agencies, e.g., the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, WTO, NAFTA, GATT, etc.

Under no circumstances shall any international power or agency levy a tax on American citizens.

Ever since World War II, the United States has provided military and non-military aid to over 100 nations. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been poured down that bottomless pit—with little evident benefit to the safety and security of the American people. Not only have we given aid to our "friends," but even to "neutrals," by means of which aid we hoped to buy their "friendship." Finally, we are now committing ourselves to send the taxpayers' dollars to those who have been our enemies for years. This must stop!

Congress and the President have a duty to provide for the defense of this country, but the American people have no similar duty to provide for the defense of any foreign nation. Further, the U.S. Government has no Constitutional authority to tax the American people to provide aid of any kind to foreign governments.

The Constitution Party, therefore, will terminate all programs of foreign aid, whether military or non-military, to any foreign government or to any international organization, including the United Nations, the IMF, the World Bank, and other similar institutions.

The United States should recognize Taiwan (Free China) as a sovereign nation. We should also withdraw recognition of Communist China, which is a murderous and tyrannical regime enslaving the Chinese people.

Ancient Israel made a lot of payments to the nations of Egypt, Assyria and Babylon—but it never made lasting friendships with those nations. The protection of God for being a righteous and honest nation is far better than anything achieved by giving money to a nation. Much foreign aid does not end up helping the people it is supposed to help, but essentially amounts to bribing of high-level foreign officials.

Ex 23:8 Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the righteous.

## **Gambling**

Gambling promotes an increase in crime, destruction of family values, and a decline in the moral fiber of our country. We are opposed to government sponsorship, involvement in, or promotion of gambling, such as lotteries, or subsidization of native American casinos in the name of economic development. We call for the repeal of federal legislation that usurps state and local authority regarding authorization and regulation of tribal casinos in the states.

Prov 13:11 Wealth hastily gotten will dwindle, but he who gathers little by little will increase it.

Gambling produces absolutely nothing of value, but simply redistributes wealth based partly upon skill and partly upon random chance. Because everyone involved in gambling—players and proprietors—are attempting to "get something for nothing", corruption and cheating is rampant. While the government has no right to stop people from gambling at home, it should **never** be involved in gambling itself. Current lotteries essentially amount to a tax on the desperate and uninformed poor people:

Deut 24:14 Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns.

## **Gun Control**

The right to bear arms is inherent in the right of self defense, defense of the family, and defense against tyranny, conferred on the individual and the community by our Creator to safeguard life, liberty, and property, as well as to help preserve the independence of the nation.

The right to keep and bear arms is guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution; it may not properly be infringed upon or denied.

The Constitution Party upholds the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms. We oppose attempts to prohibit ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens, and stand against all laws which would require the registration of guns or ammunition.

We emphasize that when guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have them. In such circumstances, the peaceful citizen's protection against the criminal would be seriously jeopardized.

From the time that Abraham rescued Lot (Gen 14:10-20), to David defeating Goliath (1Sam 17) to the men who rebuilt the temple while armed to fight off enemies (Neh 4:16-18), God's people have been armed with the weapons of the day. When Israel was not following God, the Philistines were better able to

keep them in subjection through an arms-control program—not allowing them to make weapons (1Sam 13:19). If a woman is being sexually forced, she is required to scream for help (Deut 22:24), and others must come to help her. Help is of little value if attackers are better armed than the law-abiding people.

### **Health Care and Government**

The Constitution Party opposes the governmentalization and bureaucratization of American medicine. Government regulation and subsidy constitutes a threat to both the quality and availability of patient-oriented health care and treatment.

Hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers should be accountable to patients—not to politicians, insurance bureaucrats, or HMO Administrators.

If the supply of medical care is controlled by the federal government, then officers of that government will determine which demand is satisfied. The result will be the rationing of services, higher costs, poorer results—and the power of life and death transferred from caring physicians to unaccountable political overseers.

We denounce any civil government entity using age or any other personal characteristic to: preclude people and insurance firms from freely contracting for medical coverage; conscript such people into socialized medicine, e.g., Medicare; or prohibit these people from using insurance payments and/or their own money to obtain medical services in addition to, or to augment the quality of, those services prescribed by the program.

We applaud proposals for employee-controlled "family coverage" health insurance plans based on cash value life insurance principles.

The federal government has no Constitutional provision to regulate or restrict the freedom of the people to have access to medical care, supplies or treatments. We advocate, therefore, the elimination of the federal Food and Drug Administration, as it has been the federal agency primarily responsible for prohibiting beneficial products, treatments, and technologies here in the United States that are freely available in much of the rest of the civilized world.

We affirm freedom of choice of practitioner and treatment for all citizens for their health care.

We support the right of patients to seek redress of their grievances through the courts against insurers and/or HMO's.

Ex 15:26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay

attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

People easily become mixed up and look to governments to provide healing instead of God. Governments, in summary, collect money, keep some and give some back according to some complex set of rules. When money is administered in a mass manner like this, the government frequently ends up paying for numerous "standard procedures" that are not really necessary, but then also often does **not** pay for less common procedures that may be the only thing that will save a particular patient's life.

Most sickness is the result of sins—sins of the sick individual and sins of others. Governments ought not to bail out the sick individual from his own sins so that he can learn his lesson. Governments should provide inexpensive, just courts so that a person can easily sue the offending party when they are sick due to someone else's sins (pollution, unsafe working conditions, etc.).

### **Immigration**

We affirm the integrity of the international borders of the United States and the Constitutional authority and right of the federal government to guard and to protect those borders, including the regulation of the numbers and of the qualifications of immigrants into the country.

Each year some 972,000 legal immigrants and hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens enter the United States. These immigrants — including illegal aliens — have been made eligible for various kinds of public assistance, including housing, education, Social Security, and legal services. This unconstitutional drain on the federal Treasury is having a severe and adverse impact on our economy, increasing the cost of government at federal, state, and local levels, adding to the tax burden, and stressing the fabric of society. The mass importation of people with low standards of living threatens the wage structure of the American worker and the labor balance in our country.

We favor a moratorium on immigration to the United States, except in individual hardship cases or in other individual special circumstances, until the availability of all federal subsidies and assistance be discontinued.

We also insist that every individual group and/or private agency which requests the admission of an immigrant to the U.S., on whatever basis, be required to commit legally to provide housing and sustenance for such immigrants, bear full responsi-

bility for the economic independence of the immigrants, and post appropriate bonds to seal such covenants.

The Constitution Party demands that the federal government restore immigration policies based on the practice that potential immigrants will be disqualified from admission to the U.S. if, on the grounds of health, criminality, morals, or financial dependence, they would impose an improper burden on the United States, any state, or any citizen of the United States.

We oppose the provision of welfare subsidies and other taxpayer-supported benefits to illegal aliens, and reject the practice of bestowing U.S. citizenship on children born to illegal alien parents while in this country.

We oppose any extension of amnesty to illegal aliens.

We oppose bilingual ballots. We insist that those who wish to take part in the electoral process and governance of this nation be required to read and comprehend basic English as a precondition of citizenship. We support English as the official language for all governmental business by the United States.

Again, the Constitution Party's plan seems sound and much better than what we have today. However, it must also be acknowledged that hard-working immigrants have been a great blessing to our country throughout the years. God taught ancient Israel to let others live among them as long as they accepted the true God and did not practice other religions. The people of the USA would do well to recognize that the nation is founded on the Bible and to only allow immigrants who have Bible-based religions. This would greatly reduce the entry of terrorists from other religions. It does not violate the first amendment as it protects the religious freedom of USA citizens, but does not set immigration policy.

### **The Judiciary**

The United States Constitution does not provide for lifetime appointment of federal judges, but only for a term of office during good behavior. We support Congressional enforcement of the Constitutional rule of good behavior. Furthermore, Congress must exert the power it possesses to prohibit all federal courts from hearing cases which Congress deems to be outside federal jurisdiction pursuant to Article III, § 2 of the Constitution.

Fair and efficient court systems are the main job of governments, according to the Bible, but they are rarely ever campaign issues and most voters pay little attention to judges that are on their ballots. Our Founding Fathers believed it was important for an

individual to be able to represent him or herself in court and run for the position of judge. Today, lawyers in the BAR associations have a stranglehold on our justice systems and too often act for their own benefit rather than for their clients or for justice.

### **Money and Banking**

Money functions as both a medium of exchange and a symbol of a nation's morality.

The Founding Fathers established a system of "coin" money that was designed to prohibit the "improper and wicked" manipulation of the nation's medium of exchange while guaranteeing the power of the citizens' earnings.

The federal government has departed from the principle of "coin" money as defined by the U.S. Constitution and the Mint Act of 1792 and has granted unconstitutional control of the nation's monetary and banking system to the private Federal Reserve System.

These violations now threaten the economic stability and survival of our country's republican form of government.

The Constitution Party demands the reform of the monetary and banking system and calls for:

1. Restoring the nation's official medium of exchange to be compliant with the U.S. Constitution and the Mint Act of 1792.
2. Establishing a new American dollar:
  - a. That is a coinable commodity money;
  - b. That weighs one Troy ounce of .999 fine silver or its equivalent in gold;
  - c. That is 100% backed and redeemable in specie; and
  - d. That its value is determined by the free market.
3. Prohibiting all fractional reserve banking.
4. Repealing the Federal Reserve Act and reforming the current Federal Reserve banks into clearing houses only.

These are all very wonderful and necessary steps. God says:

Deut 25:15 You must have accurate and honest weights and measures, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

The Hebrew word for "money" in the Bible is the same as the word for "silver" (*keceph*). This clearly shows that silver was considered the form of money that was in use. The weights mentioned in the above verse were used to weigh the silver. Today, we have "dishonest money"—the government and the Federal Reserve manipulate the value of the dollar to their own advantage.

## **National Security Act**

In the name of national security, the National Security Act (NSA) is used by the federal government as a shroud to prevent the American people and our elected officials from knowing how much and where our tax dollars are spent for covert operations around the world. The NSA prevents the release of Executive Orders and Presidential Decision Directives (e.g., PDD 25) to the American people and our elected officials. Many of these are used to curb justice in the name of national security. Further, operations under this act may threaten our own national sovereignty.

Because we will never have a free nation while the government can hide behind the NSA, we call for the repeal of the National Security Act.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, about five times as many people were killed by their own governments as were killed in all wars (see *Death by Government* by R.J. Rummel; New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 1994; [www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/note1.htm#fig](http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/note1.htm#fig) and [www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/dbg.fig1.8.gif](http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/dbg.fig1.8.gif)). When a nation is at war, people often have the options to fight and defend themselves, to surrender and cooperate with the victor or flee to a sympathetic nation and start from scratch. When a nation persecutes a certain group of its own people, there is often no place to go. Many within that nation will think the persecuted group are "criminals" and not want to help them. Others will see the persecution is evil, but will be afraid to help. Outsiders usually do not want to meddle with the internal affairs of another nation.

This writer believes there is more danger in the USA from errant government agencies persecuting citizens than there is from outside enemies. (An article of many pages would be required to demonstrate this.) These problems are not new. God was so unhappy with King Manasseh of Judah for wrongly killing his own people that He eventually sent the nation into captivity, away from his "presence":

2Kng 24:3 Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD's command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done,

4 including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive.

## **New World Order**

### **(One World Government)**

We say "No!" to the so-called New World Order; and "Yes!" to the national sovereignty of the

United States of America.

The Constitution Party opposes any alliance or participation in any treaty or agreement which compromises our independence as a nation, or which subverts our Constitution by improperly committing us to participation in foreign conflicts or intervention in foreign wars.

We join with other American patriots to oppose the surrender of American liberty and autonomy to any form of world government or any organization which works toward that end.

We call upon the president and Congress to terminate the membership of the United States in the United Nations and its subsidiary and affiliated organizations.

All treaties must be subordinate to the Constitution because the Constitution is the only instrument which empowers and limits the federal government.

No treaties (even if signed by the president or one of his agents on behalf of the United States) lacking the Constitutionally required two-thirds concurrence of the Senate may be implemented, in whole or part, by Congressional act, Executive Order, or bureaucratic regulation(s).

The Framers assumed, as a matter of course, that treaties would be subordinate. In fact, the stated reason for the particular wording of the Constitution concerning treaties was to make sure pre-existing treaties, including post-Revolutionary peace treaties concluded after the Articles of Confederation, would remain valid.

Thomas Jefferson, addressing the question directly, had this to say: "...surely the President and Senate cannot do by treaty what the whole government is interdicted from doing in any way."

We have already cited the scriptures where God warned his people not to rely on treaties with other nations. The history of an effort to build a human one-world government centered around the Tower of Babel (same name as "Babylon") is recorded and condemned in the Bible (Gen 11). The last book of the Bible, Revelation, also contains a story of a one-world trading empire called Babylon (Rev 14-18). Of this empire, the Bible says:

Ref 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues."

## **Personal and Private Property Security**

We affirm the Fourth Amendment right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, pa-

pers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, including general and unwarranted electronic surveillance, national computer databases, and national identification cards. We also reaffirm that civil governments must be strictly limited in their powers to intrude upon the persons and private property of individual citizens, in particular, that no place be searched and no thing be seized, except upon proof of probable cause that a crime has been committed and the proper judicial warrant issued.

We further reaffirm the common-law rule that protects the people from any search or seizure whatsoever when that search or seizure violates the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

We deplore and oppose vigorously legislation and executive action that deprive the people of their Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights under claims of necessity to "combat terrorism" or to "protect national security."

We deplore and oppose vigorously legislation and executive action expanding asset forfeiture laws which enable the confiscation of the private property of citizens who have not, by their criminal action, forfeited their property right to the asset subject to forfeiture.

We support privacy legislation that prohibits private parties from discriminating against individuals who refuse to disclose or obtain a Social Security number. We also call for legislation prohibiting all governmental entities from requiring the use of the Social Security number except for Social Security transactions. Additionally, we call for the repeal of all laws, regulations, and statutes that require the use of the Social Security number for any purpose other than Social Security transactions.

It is amazing that this point is primarily about recovering the freedom that was common less than 100 years ago. God taught that property was privately owned; even a king did not have the right to take one's land away (2Sam 24:18-24; 1Kngs 21:1-4). God did not even want King David to number the men of war in his own country—these were God's people, not the King's private army (2Sam 24:1-3). Again, the final book of the Bible warns of a future evil economic system whereby some kind of number is needed to be able to buy and sell:

Rev 13:16 He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead,

17 so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name

of the beast or the number of his name.

18 This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

### **Religious Freedom**

Article I of the Bill of Rights reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Our Constitution grants no authority to the federal government either to grant or deny the religious expressions of the people in any place. Both the First and Tenth Amendments forbid such tyranny.

We call upon all branches of government to cease their attacks on the religious liberties of the people.

We assert that any form of taxation on churches and other religious organizations is a direct and dangerous step toward state control of the church. Such intrusion is prohibited by the Constitution and must be halted.

We assert that private organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, can determine their own membership, volunteers, and employment based on their oaths and creeds.

To this day, it is not necessary for churches to be incorporated or to apply for IRS tax exempt status. But numerous federal and state agency workers do not even seem to know this, making many processes slow and difficult for free churches. Churches should stop incorporating and applying for "tax exempt status" and governments at all levels should refuse to incorporate them, and should recognize their status of being separate from the state.

What should be done about those who practice non-biblical religions in the USA? God told the ancient Israelites to drive out or execute such people. But it is also important to realize that God also commanded Israel to keep their promises, and God said HE would bless one "who keeps his oath even when it hurts" (Pslm 15:4). When the Israelites were fooled into making a treaty with the Gibeonites (Josh 10), God punished Israel for later breaking it (2Sam 21:1). Since the United States Constitution promised freedom of religions to everyone, we should not go back on the promise that we made. Millions of non-Christians have come here for that freedom and they do not have anywhere to "go back to" any more.

Christians, who are still the majority in America, should do such a good job of living the Christian life that others will want to be Christians, also. Non-Christian religions should not be punished by the

state, but nor should it be given preferential treatment over any Christian religion. (Today, some public schools will allow any religious book to be read, except the Bible. Some government buildings can be rented by any religious group, except Christian.)

### **Social Security**

The Social Security trust should not be a "rainy day" fund which politicians can pirate, or from which they can borrow to cover their errors and pay for their excesses.

The Constitution Party supports legislation to require that the federal government meet its obligations to protect Social Security funds as a trust which can be used only to fulfill its obligations to those who have contributed to the system.

Additionally, we believe an individual who has contributed to Social Security be allowed to withdraw contributed funds and transfer them to an IRA or similar investment under his control.

The Constitution grants no authority to the federal government to require working citizens to participate in Social Security. Individual citizens should have the right to choose between private retirement and pension programs, either at their place of employment or independently. We support the right of those entering the labor market to elect to participate in private plans as an alternative to the federal Social Security program.

We call for the removal of earning limitations on persons aged 62 and over, so that they may earn any amount of additional income without placing their Social Security benefits at risk.

We urge the repeal of those provisions of the Social Security system which penalize those born during the "notch years" between 1917 and 1926, and argue that such persons be placed on the same benefit schedules as all other beneficiaries.

God places the responsibility for taking care of people clearly on their own families:

1Tim 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

When governments forcibly tax people, and then provide for the needy from the taxation, people's respect is turned toward the government, not toward those who are actually doing the work. Nevertheless, the government has collected social security money from numerous people, and should make it available to pay them back as soon as possible. Individuals and families must learn to take care of themselves and to trust God, not to rely on "the government".

Beyond that, the present social security system

is an example of the utter hypocrisy that our congressional leaders. Most Americans pay 14% of their income into the social security system for their entire working lives. But those on social security typically only receive \$6000 to \$24,000 per year. By contrast, congressmen do not pay **nothing** toward social security, but receive their full salary until they die, which is over \$100,000 per year absolutely free.

### **State Sovereignty**

Our federal republic was created by joint action of the several states. It has been gradually perverted into a socialist machine for federal control in the domestic affairs of the states.

The federal government has no authority to mandate policies relating to state education, natural resources, transportation, private business, housing, health care, ad infinitum.

The Constitution Party calls for the federal government to divest itself of operations not authorized by the Constitution. We call upon Congress to extract the federal government from enterprises which compete with private free enterprise.

#### **Statehood**

We oppose any effort to confer statehood on the District of Columbia or any representation in Congress comparable to that of an independent state in the federal union.

We oppose efforts to confer statehood upon the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or upon territories owned or under the protection of the United States.

While 50 states each with their own laws on certain issues can make interstate business much more difficult, the difficulties are worth it. The lack of centralization allows different methods to be tried, and allows the other 49 states to learn from the mistakes of one state. States that greatly mismanage their resources and people will learn a lesson when these problems cause many people to leave the state.

### **Tariffs and Trade**

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution states that Congress shall have the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations," and "to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing" copyright and patent protection for authors and inventors.

Congress may not abdicate or transfer to others these Constitutional powers. We oppose, therefore, the unconstitutional transfer of authority over U.S. trade policy from Congress to agencies, domestic or foreign, which improperly exercise policy-setting functions with respect to U.S. trade policy, and the unconstitutional transfer of authority over copyright and patent policy from Congress to

agencies, domestic and foreign.

We favor the abolition of the Office of Special Trade Representative, and insist on the withdrawal of the United States from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and all other agreements wherein bureaucracies, institutions or individuals, other than the Congress of the United States, improperly assume responsibility for establishing policies which directly affect the economic well-being of every American citizen. We also favor more vigorous efforts to protect the copyright and patent rights of their owners in both domestic and foreign markets.

As indicated in Article I, Section 8: duties, imposts, and excises are legitimate revenue-raising measures on which the United States government may properly rely. As Abraham Lincoln pointed out, the legitimate costs of the federal government can be borne either by taxes on American citizens and businesses or by tariffs on foreign companies and products. The latter is preferable to the former.

Similarly, we oppose all international trade agreements which have the effect of diminishing America's economic self-sufficiency and of exporting jobs, the loss of which will impoverish American families, undermine American communities, and diminish America's capacity for economic self-reliance.

We see our country and its workers as more than bargaining chips for multinational corporations and international banks in their ill-conceived and evil New World Order.

The defense of the American nation and the preservation of its economic integrity are essential to the defense of the liberty and prosperity of every American citizen.

We will insist on strict federal criminal penalties for any officer of the United States government, or spouse thereof, who subsequently hires himself or herself out to represent any foreign government or other entity, public or private, with respect to influencing either public opinion or public policy on matters affecting U.S. trade with any such governments or other entities.

The indebtedness of the American government has contributed dangerously to making our economy more vulnerable to foreign takeover and manipulation. Particularly in the area of national security, foreign interests have thus been abetted in gaining access to America's high-tech secrets under the guise of commercial enterprise. We propose that technology transfers which compromise national security be made illegal, and urge that all vio-

lators be prosecuted.

We reject the concept of Most Favored Nation status, especially insofar as it has been used to curry favor with regimes whose domestic and international policies are abhorrent to decent people everywhere, and are in fundamental conflict with the vital interests of the United States of America.

The United States government should establish the firm policy that U.S. or multinational businesses investing abroad do so at their own risk. There is no obligation by our Government to protect those businesses with the lives of our service personnel, or the taxes of our citizens.

Many people are unaware of the continual movement of thousands of wealthy people between positions in our government, consultant positions working for foreign governments and jobs in large, often multi-national corporations. A government employee, who helped to solidify a contract with defense contractor "X", may then be hired at a huge salary by defense contractor "X" as a "thank you" for the contract. Then they may go on to work as a consultant for foreign countries that are also buying the same weapons system. Later, he may go back to the US Department of Defense to help procure a contract for a new weapons system that is better than the previous one that "everybody has now". And the cycle continues, with the defense contractors and the individuals taking millions from all the governments. In many cases, it is multinational corporations and these employees that work for multiple governments that are the most in favor of one world government, and least in favor of a strong USA.

The Bible teaches that foreigners should never be placed in charge of a government (Deut 17:15). The Constitution Party's plan to outlaw public servants from working for foreign governments is in keeping for this principle. Any public servant who takes a job with a foreign country or accepts money for his campaigns from foreign sources should be barred from holding public office in the future. Furthermore, it should be a crime for members of secret societies (Bilderbergs, Masons, Skull and Bones, etc.) to hold public office. What good is it for a person to swear to uphold the Constitution when he or she may have more deeply held commitments to some other group? There is nothing wrong with public servants being members of many clubs and organizations—but not ones with secret agendas, meetings and control over their members.

### **Taxes**

The Constitution, in Article I, Section 8, gives Congress the power "to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and

provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States."

In Article I, Section 9, the original document made clear that "no Capitation, or other direct Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census of Enumeration herein before directed to be taken." It is moreover established that "No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State."

Since 1913, our Constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property have been abridged and diminished by the assumption of direct taxing authority on each of us by the federal government.

We will propose legislation to abolish the Internal Revenue Service, and will veto any authorization, appropriation, or continuing resolution which contains any funding whatsoever for that illicit and unconstitutional agency. We are opposed to the flat-rate tax proposals that are being promoted as an improvement to the current tax system. The Sixteenth Amendment does not provide authority for an unapportioned direct tax.

Moreover, it is our intention to replace entirely the current tax system of the U.S. government (including income taxes, Social Security taxes, estate taxes, and inheritance taxes).

To the degree that tariffs on foreign products are insufficient to cover the legitimate Constitutional costs of the federal government, we will offer an apportioned "state-rate tax" in which the responsibility for covering the cost of unmet obligations will be divided among the several states in accordance with their proportion of the total population of the United States, excluding the District of Columbia. Thus, if a state contains 10 percent of the nation's citizens, it will be responsible for assuming payment of 10 percent of the annual deficit.

The effect of this "state-rate tax" will be to encourage politicians to argue for less, rather than more, federal spending, and less state spending as well.

We endorse ratification of the Liberty Amendment, which would repeal the Sixteenth Amendment.

The working people of our nation would be amazingly wealthy without so many taxes. The more locally a tax is collected, the better it will be watched and the more efficiently it will be spent. Obviously, the transition between ending the income tax and beginning to tax foreign trade will have to be made slowly so large numbers of people do not find themselves out of a job all at once. Hopefully, provision will be made to help nations that are utterly reliant on essential goods from the USA.

### **Veterans**

The Constitution Party appreciates the con-

tributions of our servicemen and veterans to the preservation of American freedom. We shall continue to recognize their contributions to the national welfare by providing equitable pay and benefits to our men and women on active duty, and generous health, education, and other benefits to veterans.

We vigorously resist the attempt by any government agency to nullify or reduce earned benefits to veterans and their survivors, including but not limited to, compensation, pensions, education, and health care.

Numerous people have pointed out that families who lost a member in the Twin Towers Destruction are going to receive an average of \$1,185,000 each. Whereas those whose spouse died in military service (having the courage to put their life on the line to defend their country) receive a death benefit of \$7,750 plus \$10,000 per year until they remarry, and \$2532 per year for each child until they turn 18. This is way less, even if one has five children and lives another 50 years.

### **Wage and Price Control**

We deny that civil government has the authority to set wages and prices; so doing is inconsistent with principles of individual liberty and the free market.

The Bible mentions specific prices for certain items, but these seem to be the result of a long-term stable economy, not of some kind of government price fixing (Deut 2:28). In numerous other places, the Bible specifically clearly shows that individuals came to an agreement on prices (Gen 23:16; 29:18; 31:41; 34:12; etc.)

### **Welfare**

God, who endows us with life, liberty, property, and the right to pursue happiness, also exhorts individuals to care for the needy, the sick, the homeless, the aged, and those who are otherwise unable to care for themselves.

America's welfare crisis is a government-induced crisis. Government social and cultural policies have undermined the work ethic, even as the government's economic and regulatory policies have undermined the ability of our citizens to obtain work.

Charity, and provision of welfare to those in need, is not a Constitutional responsibility of the federal government. Under no circumstances should the taxpayers of the United States be obligated, under penalty of law through forced taxation, to assume the cost of providing welfare for other citizens. Neither should taxpayers be indentured to subsidize welfare for persons who enter the United States illegally.

The message of Christian charity is funda-

mentally at odds with the concept of welfare maintenance as a right. In many cases, welfare provisions by the Federal government are not only misdirected, but morally destructive. It is the intended purpose of civil government to safeguard life, liberty and property—not to redistribute wealth. Such redistribution is contrary to the Biblical command against theft.

We encourage individuals and families to fulfill their personal responsibility to help those in need through tithes, offerings, and other acts of charity.

The nation's churches and synagogues should manifest their faith by operating effective programs to assist those who are in need.

The Biblical commands for individuals, rather than government, to help the poor were covered in the "Cost of Big Government" section. Christ and His

Apostles continually helped the poor and taught them at the same time.

## Conclusion

The primary purpose of government is to provide justice when citizens come into conflict with each other, and to provide services to citizens, such as roads and coined money that citizens cannot effectively provide for themselves. Christians, with whatever governing power they have (voting, writing letters, working with groups) ought to work toward Godly solutions. If just one of their solutions is accepted, then the world is a better place because of it. Even if none are accepted, at least those implementing ungodly solutions will have been warned. 

# “Men’s Hearts Failing Them for Fear”

*By Tommy Willia*

Luke 21:25 “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken” (NKJV).

If we put the above Scripture together with many others that talk about the end of the age, we will see that the time ahead will be like no other. Mankind is about to enter the wildest ride in history.

After Sept 11, the number of people going to professional counselors increased dramatically in some areas of the country. Just think of that, and then think of what God says will happen during the end time, and you will see the fear that will come upon many.

Just the affairs of everyday life have many people on edge; they are crippled emotionally by fears that things won't work out. And it will only get worse as many of the things that people put confidence in come tumbling down as the twin towers did on Sept 11.

Many of the things people put their trust in will fall. Our paycheck will not pull us through; and many matters of government programs such as Social Security have some experts voicing

their concerns that it will not last either. And we will need to learn to deal with the fear that many will get into as these matters come upon us.

This old world is getting ready to be shaken as it has never been shaken before. Everything that is not grounded on Jesus Christ can be shaken. This is why we cannot stress enough the need to get our foundation down in Jesus Christ. As you get grounded in Jesus Christ you won't collapse when the fabric of society does; and you won't collapse if the Church organizations continue to collapse, because your trust will be in God.

In the world there will be trials and tribulation; but God tells us we can rest in His peace in a troubled world if we will seek Him as we should: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27). God will teach us to relax in His peace amid the chaos of the times.

But like a hamster on a treadmill, too often we squander our time with fear and worry. We go through “mental gymnastics”, saying, “What if that happens”, or “what if this happens.” And we make ourselves miserable.

No matter how bad the chaos gets in the world, we need to keep in mind what God promises us in 1 Corinthians 10:13, that He won't al-

low us to go through more than we can handle. That's a comfort that will help us deal with our fears.

1Pet 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy (NKJV).

The "fiery trial" is a point of refinement.

In relating to the end time the book of Daniel says: " And he said, go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified and made white, and tried...." (Dan 12:9-10). And the trying of our faith is more precious than gold. We must hold fast in these trials; Fear can cause us to get out of focus with it all.

Many things will come along that can cause fear in our lives; and we need to take the steps that God says to take in order to deal with the fear. In Ps 34:4, David says, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears". Here we see that David had fears

like we all do, but he took action to do something about them. We need to do the same. As we seek God out diligently, He will distill the fears and have us walk in His peace.

Just think of the disciples who ran in fear when Jesus was arrested. The Scriptures say they all forsook Him and fled. Then just fifty days later, men who had acted like cowards went on to astound the world with courage, because now the One who bled and died for us was in them to produce. And that's what is important for us to understand, that we need the ability of God inside us to deal with the fear.

When Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free; this includes freedom from fear. But many Christians relate to truth as being only the doctrines and fail to see that it is a Person. Freedom from fear lies in the Living Liberator.

As we get to know Jesus Christ and how much He cares for us, and how much we can depend on Him, He will deliver us from the fears that often paralyze us; and we will learn to relax in His peace. "For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Tim 1:7). 

# The Distractions of the World

*By Tommy Willis*

God tells us to come out of the world. Common sense tells us that we have to remain here physically. But the way that God takes us out of the world while we are in it is through the mind; the mind of Christ is instilled in us (Phil 2:5). And through the mentality of Jesus Christ we are delivered from the ways and attitudes of the world.

The world will continue to mold us into its way if we allow it. But it's through building up our personal relationship with Jesus Christ that we become free from its distractions. We have to live, work, play, and someday die in this world. But with enough contact with God, He will take us out of it to rest in Him.

Modern technologies can be fine tools to use, and in many ways

they have made our lives easier. But many boast of being able to drive, talk on the phone, eat and work all at the same time. Does this really give us better lives? Are we becoming happier and wiser people because of these advancements? Not from what the studies show. What's more important than how fast we are going, is where we are going, because we can be busy with the things of the world, but lazy in seeking God.

With the Internet and other technologies, we are seeing an information explosion that boggles the mind. We now have cell phones, TV, faxes, Internet, and e-mail which can be fine tools that God will allow us to use. But we need to be aware that it can all become a major distraction if we let it. How many times have we

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Serve God</b>  <b>Serve Family</b>  <b>Serve Others</b>  <b>Serve Ourselves</b></p> <p>God uses each of us differently, some may serve in one particular area more than others. "Serving others" and "entertainment" often take us "into the world", but we should not get the two mixed up. Directly helping the needy or helping to make a better government may not be distractions, but much entertainment is.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">— NSE</p>
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as Christians allowed the TV to distract us from our prayer life? I know I have drifted into this trap many times. And I have to pray and guard against it.

The Internet can be a wonderful outlet, but we often see brethren spending huge amounts of time chatting on line, and only a fraction of that time in prayer with our Father and Jesus Christ—then we see it can become a distraction to following God if we allow it. So we have to keep it all in balance, and make sure that we are not allowing these things to distract us.

Many give in to what they have been told is the ‘good life,’ what they feel “success” is. They get caught up in the ‘work and spend’ cycle, and get captivated by erroneous expectations of what they think will give them peace. But in the long run the result is an empty life, one that may be filled with material possessions, but can be bankrupt spiritually.

God knows our needs. And we should make sure that we are seeking Him first, then our needs will be filled (Mt 6:33). But if we don’t apply this Scripture and put it into action, then our needs are not going to be filled as they should. Many of the things we seek might not be wrong in themselves, but they often take up too much of our time, time that could be better spent seeking out God.

We are often molded by the life we are confronted with in the world; and we can become increasingly worldly if we don’t have God there to deal with the flesh through the crucifying power of the

Holy Spirit. This is why Paul said, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal 6:14).

There is no other answer than the above Scriptural principle, because the flesh—no matter how good in appearance—will react in the nature of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21). And only as the cross holds self at bay will we be free from the world and self; this is what Paul meant with the above Scripture in Galatians 6:14. And as self is held in place of death, then God can produce the fruit of the Spirit in us (Gal 5:22-24).

The more I study and learn from God, the more I see what a price we pay for not taking the time to reflect as we should. We live in a society that has many distractions, and discourages too much reflection. We are taught a certain amount of education to fit us for a job in the marketplace, but not much of an education on how to live.

Our gifts are often drowned in the materialistic struggles that we spend so much time seeking. Our frantic struggle to acquire ‘more’ leaves us with little time to ask—is this what I really want? And the whole process becomes one of major distraction to following God.

Some excellent instruction concerning distractions is found in Luke 21:34-36, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Years ago, after I had been in the Church a few years, I asked myself, how could that day come on Christians unaware with all that the Bible says will happen? Right after I asked myself this question, I had allowed a lot of distractions to come in my mind that week, and it had been a week of chaos. Then God helped me realize—have a week like I just had, and you could easily be caught unaware!

Don’t let the busy rushing schedule of the world take you away from God. The cares of this life can destroy us if we let it. Slow down; and make sure you are not neglecting your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Ask Him to take you by the hand and lead you through the Scriptures so that you will get to know Him. Sit and talk with Him. Spend time getting to know Him. As we seek Him diligently, He will settle us and give us His peace to handle the distractions of the world. 

## Share Your Shelter

Our Savior never argued or tried to force someone to believe in Him. We should not do that either. But if *Shelter in the Word* has helped you, you can share it with others who might be interested in it or helped by it. One of these methods might work for you.

1. Talk to them about what you have learned and encourage them to study the Bible themselves.
2. Copy your *Shelter* and give it to them (almost any office or copy store will do this for \$1 to \$2).
3. Give them your *Shelter* (we will send you a replacement issue if you write or call).
4. Copy just this page or write down the address or phone so they can ask to receive their own copies.

To get *Shelter in the Word* or other literature, contact:

**Church Bible Teaching Ministry**

**PO Box 107; Perry Michigan, 48872-0107**

**Tel: 517-625-7480; E-mail: info@cbtm.info**