The Election of our Lifetime

By Tim LaHaye

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November 6, 1984, will be the most important election in our lifetime. Before dismissing such a statement as election year hysteria, please here me out. The late Dr. Francis Schaeffer said at an Indianapolis seminar in 1979 that "if we do not have a conservative turn in the elections of 1980, I fear we may not have free elections in 1984."

Schaeffer's prediction was based on the powerful influence the secular humanist thinkers of liberalism were having on our courts, government, schools and media. Schaeffer was one of the first to warn us that the '80s would be the decade when our religious rights would be in jeopardy. (Who would have dreamed in 1980 that seven fathers would spend 91 days in jail for wanting to send their children to a Christian school — in America?)

In 1980 we had an amazing conservative turn in the elections, not only sweeping into office the most conservative President in 50 years but also voting in 11 conservative senators with him. Some have attributed that conservative turn to the fact that millions of Christians became active for the first time — registering to vote and informing themselves on the voting records of the candidates in their state. And for the first time, thousands of pastors became involved in getting their congregations out to the polls. More Christians voted in 1980 than at any previous time in American history.

A Gift from Above

Personally I believe our Heavenly Father looked down and saw our plight. He saw thousands of us working diligently to awaken His sleeping church to its political responsibilities, and He gave us four more years to perpetuate religious freedom.

These four years are up on November 6! Will God give us another four years? That all depends on whether we can register the 15 million to 17 million unregistered Christians and inform the 45 million who are committed to moral values and get them all out to vote on Election Day.

We Christians constitute the largest minority group in this country — 69 million, according to the Gallup Poll. We can easily make the difference in this coming election — *if* we vote. That doesn't mean we must favor any one political party; instead, we need to vote for morality. That is, when informed of a candidate's voting record on moral issues, we vote for candidates who oppose abortion, homosexuality, pornography, euthanasia, etc., and who favor school prayer, equal rights for Christian students to use the classrooms after school, and religious freedom unrestricted by government intrusion.

Return to Apathy?

The question is, will enough of our 45 million Christians go to the polls in November to repeat what we accomplished four years ago — or will they sit back and let liberal activists register more liberal voters and undo in 1984 what we did in 1980? If they do, I think Schaeffer's ominous warning of 1979 will be fulfilled. For if the liberals regain control of the Senate and White House in the coming election (they still control the House of Representatives), it will be all over for free elections by 1988. Oh, we may vote in 1988, but it will be no contest, for by then the liberals will have curtailed our access to the minds of the American people.

Let me explain that. For years liberals have had a monopolistic control of the media, both print and electronic. They control the television networks so that there are virtually no conservative newscasters, producers or writers on regular programming — news or otherwise. They also control most of the 5,000 secular radio stations, daily print press, weekly magazines and even the two national wire services. In short, all news information is fed to the American people with a liberal bias. That is why the American people who consider themselves conservative (75 to 80 percent), have voted for liberal politicians for 50 years.

In 1980 that changed. Conservatives did two end runs around the media to reach the minds of the American people. On one side we got to them through the "electric church," or Christian radio and television. Preachers, programmers, station owners and managers, announcers and others reached enough Christians with the truth about the candidates and motivated about five million new Christian voters to go to the polls. That made the difference on Election Day. On the other side, conservatives reached the people by direct mail. Only conservatives can successfully reach millions of people with their message by bulk mail and be assured that enough will respond with money to pay for the mailing, educating millions in the process.

If the Liberals Win

If liberals regain federal control in 1984, I predict they will do two things: curtail the electric church and restrict bulk mail. In the process they will effectively cut us off from the minds of the American people. If that happens, barring a miracle of God, I believe it will be all over for freedom before 1988.

We need to keep conservatives in control for three reasons: (1) By the 1990s, technology will provide us other avenues to the minds of the American people so that we can compete with the liberal media in the war of ideas. (2) We are probably on the verge of a national moral revival, and with the perpetuation of freedom we could export it all over the world. (3) A strong and free America is the launching pad for Christian missions to the peoples of this whole world.

One overlooked factor that makes this election so crucial is the Supreme Court. Five of its members are 75 years of age or older. All voted for abortion in 1973 and three are currently in ill health. The next President will probably appoint more Supreme Court justices than any President since George Washington appointed them all.

The philosophy of those appointments will have a profound influence on the moral values of America's future. If they are selected by a liberal President who has a low view of human life — that is, that man is an evolved animal, responsible to no one but his fellow man — then abortion on demand, euthanasia, pornography and permissiveness will continue to be legally acceptable.

If however, conservatives are appointed to this august body, these immoral acts will probably be declared illegal. Their decisions alone will affect the moral climate of this country far into the 21st century.

So what do we conclude from all this? Simply that every Christian put forth every effort possible — to get every one of those 15 million unregistered Christians to register, become informed on the candidates and get out to vote on November 6. The country we help save will be our own!

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