I prefer the Bible's instruction that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Indeed, it is the fear of men which is the height of folly, a kind of fear which has led all too many of our political leaders to depart from the right path.

Many people are attracted to politics for all the wrong reasons, and those reasons tempt all of us --- the love of glory, the exercise of power, the pleasure of public esteem, the satisfactions of competition for high stakes, and more.

Of course, these are not the only attractions. Even the worst of us gain a sense of reward from worthwhile service and accomplishment for the benefit of others.

But, when you think about it, there is really only one sound, overriding purpose for political participation, and that is to fulfill our Biblically mandated office to be elders in the gates, even as we are mindful that civil government represents only one area of governance within God's Kingdom.

Politics is an important zone, but not the only zone for Godly governance.

Indeed, the most important unit of governance in America is not university government, or workplace government, or labor union government, or even civil government, but it is family government.

Parents are responsible for the nurture and admonition of their children. They establish a law system within their home whose standards of justice and lessons taught (by instruction and example) make a lifelong impression on each of those who dwell therein, as do the family's ministerial activities with respect to health, welfare, property, transportation, and external relations.

And the best way to strengthen families is to let them keep the money they earn, so that at least one parent may always remain at home, and so that the temptation to turn over our children to non-family child-care providers, be they governmental or private, is much diminished.

Let us instruct those whom we place in political office to promise America's families that unconstitutional Federal programs will be eliminated, so that those families will get to keep <u>all</u> of the money they earn, paying Federal taxes only by means of excises and tariffs on products whose purchase is discretionary, and not obligatory.

This outcome will be facilitated by removing the Federal government from control of resources, facilities, and lands which are beyond its Constitutional authority to provide for a Federal city and for certain other areas, control of which is incident to the defense of the nation.