

BIBLICAL IGNORANCE IN PUBLIC LIFE

By Bill Irby

The political season has been thrust upon us whether we want it or not. Primaries are being contested and the candidates are busy extolling their own virtues and their opponents' frailties. It would be amusing were it not for the significance of the endeavor.

I would be impressed if these folks would tell us what they really believe. An honest expression of their philosophy of life in concrete terms would be exceptionally enlightening. Some of them are afraid for us to know their actual agendas and others of them are just plain afraid. So I am not holding my breath waiting for such revelations.

Sadly, I fear that most folks in public life do a good job of revealing their ignorance of the Bible and its principles. I cringe when one of them starts to quote Scripture. It is even worse when they attempt interpretation and application. This is one area in which political liberals and conservatives have a common inability. See Hosea 4:6 for the long-term implications of such a condition.

But I am given to think that it could be better. I imagine a situation in which a candidate is asked, "What do you think about the Bible?" In my dreams I hear him (or her) say, "Well... I believe that *all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, instruction, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" The media would be dumbstruck at such a quotation of 2 Timothy 3:16-17, but many in the populace would be in a state of stunned appreciation.

When asked about marriage, wouldn't it be great to hear a candidate say, "Well... I believe what God said in Genesis 2:24 and what Jesus said in Matthew 19 and what Paul said in Ephesians 5." Once our brilliant newscasters found a Bible and looked up the passages they would likely participate in communal apoplexy.

I really don't expect any of the current crop of candidates to correctly quote or apply the Bible, even the openly religious ones. But I still think about it. As always, it is up to each individual Christian to read, study, and understand God's Word. Our society may not be remotely true to God's Will...but we can be (2 Timothy 2:15).