

— The Upcoming Presidential Election —

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Distinguishing Between Two Undistinguished Candidates

Only the most ignorant, naive, or hopelessly partisan Americans would consider either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton to be an ideal candidate for president of the United States. Both are seriously flawed in terms of their character and their temperament. So why support either one of them? Very simply, there are several factors to consider.

First, barring any unforeseen circumstance, one or the other of these candidates will be the next president. In other words, they're all we have. There are no other viable options. Second, and very simply, given the realities of human nature and human institutions, the number one guiding principle in politics is this: **Politics is mostly about damage control, and it often comes down to which candidate will do the least damage.** Rarely do we have the

those Christians who consider themselves too principled to vote for either that there is absolutely nothing wrong with voting for a flawed candidate if he would do more good than his opponent. In fact, it would be immoral *not* to vote for him.

On that basis, there are five key issues to consider regarding the upcoming election:

(1) The Supreme Court. Those who know how our system of government works – or rather, how it *should* work – also understand exactly what is at stake in this election. There is a vast difference between Clinton's judicial philosophy and the kind of



privilege to vote for someone who is truly outstanding.

Having conceded that point, the inability to distinguish between these two candidates, or the decision not to vote at all, is the failure to think and act like a thoughtful, responsible and mature citizen. Neither is a paradigm of moral probity. But this election should be about issues, not personalities, and on that basis there are considerable differences between them. Furthermore, I would remind

judges that Trump has indicated that he will nominate. By their nature, liberal activist judges have little respect for the rule of law and the original intent of the Constitution. The next president may appoint two or three justices to the Court, which could set the moral course of this nation for decades to come.

(2) National security. This includes the right of national sovereignty, protecting the territorial

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The Areopagus Calendar

Upcoming Seminars

How Should We NOW Live?

The Challenges and Opportunities of Living in 'Post-Christian' America

A seminar in cultural apologetics that focuses on the current state of American culture and how Christians can live faithfully and responsibly in the midst of a society that is increasingly hostile toward Christian beliefs and values.

Tuesdays, Aug. 16 - Nov. 15
7:00 PM

Perimeter Church
Uptown Auditorium

— and —

Wednesdays, Jan. 17 - Nov. 16
7:00 PM

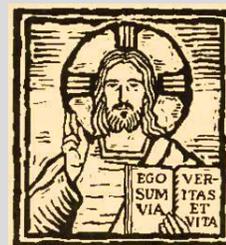
Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 108

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Christianity Thru the Centuries: Medieval Christianity And the Crusades

An ongoing study by Dr. Jeffrey Breshears that explores the major people, issues, and events in Christian history. This course includes the dissenting church in the Middle Ages, the life and works of Thomas Aquinas and Francis of Assisi, and the causes and legacy of the Crusades.

Sundays – 11:15 AM
Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 270



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(Continued)

integrity of our nation, supporting law enforcement, and rebuilding our armed forces. There is no greater threat to national security and the rule of law than the push for open borders, sanctuary cities, and blanket amnesty for illegal immigrants.

(3) Economic recovery. The modern Democratic Party is in effect a socialist party, although few (other than Bernie Sanders) admit it. When it comes to the realities of economics, ideological socialists are incapable of enacting measures that boost productivity and job-creation. This makes it highly unlikely that Mrs. Clinton will implement policies and programs that will stimulate economic growth and recovery. Furthermore, the further expansion of the socialist welfare state will only increase the wild and irresponsible deficit spending of recent decades and further inflate our nearly \$20 trillion national debt.

(4) Moral sanity. Although Mr. Trump has some obvious character flaws, he at least supports some common-sense moral positions that only the most degenerate ideological fanatics would oppose. For example, while Trump has “evolved” on the pro-life position, Hillary Clinton has not yet reached the Neanderthal stage of moral development. As one of the abortion industry’s most strident cheerleaders, she even supports partial-birth abortion, a brutal and ghastly measure that is tantamount to infanticide. We can be assured that if a candidate is confused and conflicted on this fundamental human rights issue – the right to life – he/she cannot possibly be trusted to make wise and prudent decisions on any other moral and ethical issue, whether it be same-sex “marriage,” gender-

neutral restrooms, a transgender military, or any other proposal that liberals are apt to push in the future.

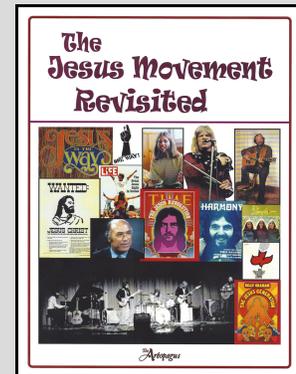
(5) Religious liberty. Following the passage of ObamaCare in 2010, the Obama administration announced that church-run institutions must provide access to abortifacients in health insurance plans for their employees. As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops charged, the Obama administration poses the greatest threat to religious liberty in American history. Since then, the situation has only gotten worse. The administration aggressively promotes the gay rights agenda over religious freedom, which the administration now redefines disingenuously as “freedom of worship” (i.e., the right to practice one’s faith within the confines of one’s church, so long as it is kept private and out of public life). For her part, Hillary Clinton has been clear that she will continue to push this radical agenda if elected president. Like Obama, she opposes RFRA (the Religious Freedom Restoration Act) and endorses the most invasive threat to religious freedom yet proposed, the so-called “Equality Act.”

To say the least, neither Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton is an ideal candidate, and I understand why many people dislike them both. However, there are substantive differences between the two. Due to his mercurial temperament, one can’t be sure what Trump will do if elected. On the other hand, we know exactly what to expect from Clinton, and the prospects should alarm all Christians who value the rule of law, national sovereignty and security, prudent economic policies, moral sanity, and religious liberty.

The Areopagus Calendar

Upcoming Forums

**The Late Great
Jesus Movement:
A Retrospective**



The inspiring story, the music, and the legacy of one of the most unique and creative revivals in American history

*A special presentation by
Dr. Jeffrey Breshears
with
Eric Smith and
Dr. Richard Howe*

Saturday, July 23
5:30 - 8:30
Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 108

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Upcoming Fall Forums

Our Areopagus Forum schedule for this fall is as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 15
Thursday, Oct. 20
Thursday, Nov. 17

The theme for our Fall Forum Series will be the current state of American society and culture in keeping with our Fall Seminar, “How Should We NOW Live? The Challenges and Opportunities of Living in ‘Post-Christian’ America.”
— Topics and speakers to follow —