



# The Truth

## Aletheia Group weekly newsletter

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“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13-14)

“When it comes to Newt Gingrich’s claim to having changed his life, the question for all Christian voters is this: ‘Is the road to redemption through Christ open to all, or only of whom we approve?’” –Dave



First up front, let me say this is not an endorsement of Newt Gingrich. It is a critical analysis of a man who confesses to “having made mistakes” in his life and having need “to seek God’s forgiveness.”

Now that may not fit the evangelical mold of confession and redemption, and no doubt many evangelicals are put off by Newt’s conversion to Catholicism, but Who is the Judge?

The Bible does teach that we can know the disciples of Christ by the fruit they bear, and we should expect to see that. But are we able to decide who is truly redeemed and who is not?

Is a man’s past, even in the light of salvation and redemption, an automatic reason to disqualify someone from the highest office in the land? Of course if this person continues to lie about his or her past, such as [Mitt Romney](#), then we have great reason not to trust that person.

However, if a person claims they have been redeemed and have turned their life over to God, and there is fruit that bears witness to this conversion, is that person to be trusted?

Many a political prognosticator is predicting guarantee victory for Barack Obama if Newt wins the nomination. Others claim that for Romney, me among them, but I came to a realization this past weekend watching the debates. No one can predict the future. Regardless of who wins the GOP nomination, and assuming Obama runs for reelection, can anyone really predict the outcome?

To base our decision on whom we support as president solely on their electability is a fool’s errand in that we cannot know the future.

However, to choose the man or woman we believe best share our worldview and will stand on convictions rather than positions, then we can know that as a Christian citizen we did our duty to God and to our nation. John Quincy Adams’ words bear repeating:

*Duty is ours; the results are God’s.*

# FROM THE FOUNDERS



**Our Founders were not looking for perfection in a candidate; they knew all too well the fallen nature of man. However, they realized that with its system of checks and balances, our republican form of government could protect against the evils of mankind and still promote the brilliance of learned men.**

*“As there is a degree of depravity in mankind which requires a certain degree of circumspection and distrust, so there are other qualities in human nature which justify a certain portion of esteem and confidence. Republican government presupposes the existence of these qualities in a higher degree than any other form.”* Federalist Paper #55

What did our Founding Fathers expect from the executive branch, primarily the President?

First, they expect energy in the form of leadership. They knew that strong leadership would dissuade hostile nations from attacking a young America. They also expected a strong president to vigorously enforce the laws.

To have the opposite of this would be what Alexander Hamilton described in Federalist #70 as “a feeble executive”, which would lead to the supposition of “a feeble execution of the government.”

In last Saturday’s ABC Iowa Debate, a clear case of strong leadership versus a feeble executive was clearly illustrated. Newt Gingrich displayed a principled stand on Palestine and Mitt Romney gave a milquetoast explanation of seeking Israel’s approval before speaking out on Palestine.

The former Speaker showed leadership grounded in the truth while the former Governor displayed a propensity to determine the most popular approach to a complex problem.

Newt Gingrich is a flawed man; he’s already admitted as much. Mitt Romney has been proved to be a flawed leader and refuses to admit what is apparent to the clear-minded. Voters will have to determine whether or not Newt’s recent brilliance can overcome his past sins.

# FROM THE PULPIT

“You need to make it as clear as you possibly can that you deeply regret your past actions and that you do understand the anguish and suffering they caused others, including your former spouses,” Richard Land, public policy chief for the Southern Baptist Convention, wrote.

“The woman at the well was fortunate she encountered Jesus that day instead of some of our evangelical brethren,” wrote Jerry Falwell Jr., Liberty University president, in an apparent swipe at Land.

(Both quotes from CNN [article](#), “Newt Gingrich’s faith journey: How a thrice-married Catholic became an evangelical darling.”)

Let’s go back to the issue of the road to redemption. Is it open to all who truly repent? The Bible clearly says yes.

In Dr. Falwell Jr.’s reference to the woman at the well, would most Christian voters look upon such a dreg of society and see any redeeming qualities? Do we as Christians set standards for others that most of us could not live up to ourselves? Are we nothing more than Plankeye’s protesting the sins of those we determine to be less holy?

These questions are vital for us in that we are truly facing the most important election of my lifetime (I’ve voted since 1976). Will we values voters seek perfection where it is impossible to find and not required of our President?

While I will agree that each candidate has glaring flaws, of the six GOP candidates on the stage Saturday night, only Mitt Romney will never get my vote.

Bachmann, Gingrich, Paul, Perry, and Santorum each bring weaknesses that are not ideal for such a time as this, but I think we must be careful of how we judge them.

The next generation, the 25 - 40 year olds, are about 4 - 8 years away from being ready to take over the reins of power. Experience has been proven by the current rank amateur in the White House to be a much needed commodity. That being said, it is going to take a bridge to get us to that next generation.

Our job as values voters is who can best serve to be that bridge. Israel got King Saul before they had David and Solomon (both of whom were at times wicked as kings). Are we willing to work towards that, or will we allow the Babylonians to continue to raid us?

# TO THE STREETS

Can WE the People trust a man such a Newt Gingrich with all the baggage he brings with him? What should we consider about the former Speaker of the House when measuring his ability to serve in the highest office of the land?

1. What shapes Newt's worldview? Is it strictly historical, or does he also have a biblical foundation upon which to draw? What are the basis for his convictions?
2. Does Newt understand his constitutional responsibilities as President and will he, as Ron Paul rightly said, take seriously his oath of office?
3. Has Newt truly repented and turned over the proverbial new leaf?
4. Can we look back over the last 10 years of Newt's life and see a lifestyle of service to God, family, and country?
5. Will Newt fight judicial activism in the manner he claims he will do? Or is he just telling us values voters and constitutional traditionalists what our itching ears want to hear?

You are part of The Truth Patrol, and that means you are supposed to seek the aletheia truth through studying the Scriptures, our founding documents - the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. We need to read Newt's position papers, listen to his speeches, and watch his debate performances.

Of course this should be done for all the candidates, but the focus of this week's newsletter is can a man like Newt Gingrich be truly redeemed, truly repentant, and truly renewed? If yes, is Newt's conversion real?

Of course we can never know for sure, but through prayer, reflection, and not being in a hurry, I have faith in each of you that you will come to a principled decision. I can't imagine any more than that being expected of you or me.

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