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## POLITICAL SIDE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

SERMON BY REV. J. R. OWEN OF BAPTIST CHURCH

Party Loyalty and Buying and Selling Votes are a Menace to Good Government.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God.—I. Cor., 10:31.

Christianity does not disqualify a man for good citizenship, but it increases many times his obligation to his country. Even the minister of the gospel owes his vote and his influence to his state. No good man who possesses the privilege of the franchise can stay away from the ballot box without committing a serious injury to his state.

I would call attention to a few dangerous evils that threaten the security of our government

1. Party Loyalty: What is a political party? Both "democratic" and "republican" are good words. They are associated with the noblest impulses that have ever stirred a nation. Are the two great political parties of today worthy of their names? Can a clean man think of his party with patriotism and pride? Of what are the political parties composed and what do they stand for? They are composed of all classes of men, from the best to the worst; a man never gets too mean to be a good democrat or a good republican. And they seem to exist for one purpose—each to beat the other. A Christian may be loyal to the principles on which his party was founded; he may be loyal to the good men in his party who may seek office, but I have never been able to understand how a clean man can pledge absolute loyalty to a party, as such, who can wink at honesty and spend money and whisky to destroy the self-respect and integrity of a man just to beat the other fellow.

2. The buying and selling of votes: This is a common practice and is looked upon as a virtue. Indeed this has come to be a test of a man's loyalty to his party, and the man who can do the most of it is lauded as a "special politician." Let us look at the man who sells his vote.

In the first place he sells his patriotism. His soul is not stirred by the stars and stripes; he cannot sing our old patriotic songs.

"Breathes there the man with soul so dead Who never to himself hath said This is my own, my native land! Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd, As home his foot-steps he hath turn'd, From wandering on a foreign strand!"

He sells his moral interest in his country. In practice he is opposed to churches, schools, good roads, good government. He is non-constructive along all moral lines. On the other hand he is usually the first man to support universal legislation.

Again he disregards the law he has been taught to violate. Only the boy who has been taught obedience honors and respects his father. The man who is allowed to violate law with impunity soon comes to disregard and defy the law.

3. What shall we say of the man who buys the vote?

He sins against the individual whose vote he buys. Many men who sell out might have been, if left alone, good and desirable citizens—others might have been made so by proper influences. Then the crime of their debasement and demoralization lies at the door of the politician or agent. It is unfair to take advantage of a man's poverty to destroy his honor and self respect and the man who does it is a

great foe of the man against whom he sins.

The man who buys votes is an enemy to true democracy. Hamilton has said that every true democrat and every true republican earnestly desires the elevation of the people to a higher plane of intellectual and moral life as well as their political emancipation. The man who seeks to debase the people whose support he courts is a traitor of no ordinary mien.

The man who buys votes sins with a high hand against his country. He destroys patriotism and breeds anarchy. He is the propagator of the worst plague that ever scourged civilization. Woe unto that man by whom the offense cometh! It were better for him that a mill stone were hanged about his neck and be cast into the depth of the sea.

It is unnecessary to speak of the dangerous tendency of this practice. Every true citizen knows that if unrestrained this practice must flood the country with rascals and debar good men from office. The man who has the greatest capacity for gathering funds and controlling elections, and he alone, would be eligible to office.

What is to be done? It is not my purpose to discuss legislation against such evils. But I want to call upon every teacher and every preacher and every good citizen for a combined effort to counteract this influence. Let the teacher inspire her boys with a recital of the glorious deeds of our fathers; teach them our patriotic songs, implant in every child's heart a love for the flag, for honesty and the God of nations, and the day will speedily come when the dishonest political party with its scheming partisans will be relegated to junk heaps of a forgotten past. Verily this will be doing things to the glory of God.

## JORDAN-WILKES WEDDING

A very pretty home wedding occurred at the residence of Prof. and Mrs. Carl Hoyt Trowbridge on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The bride was Miss Bessie Wilkes, a recent student of the Institute, and the groom, Mr. Herman Jordan, a well known resident of Brevard.

The house was beautifully decorated with roses and laurel. The bay-window in the parlor was banked with laurel, and against this a floral altar was similarly decorated with roses. An aisle of roses was formed through two rooms, through which the bride walked, unattended, to meet the groom, who stood with the Rev. Mr. Thompson under a marriage bell of roses within the altar.

Miss Maud Jacobs played as an opening piece the beautiful wedding march from "Lohengrin," and during the ceremony the dreamy strains of "Traumerei," closing with the inspiring march of Mendelssohn.

The ceremony was short, but impressive, after which the guests, who were personal friends of the bride and groom, pressed forward to present congratulations and good wishes.

Then all adjourned to the porch where refreshments were served. The bride, who blushing declared it was the first time she had ever done such a thing, cut the bride-cake, which proved to be a tremendous success, everybody voting it to be the best they had ever eaten. The other refreshments were equally delicious, and after a jolly time the happy couple left on the 4 p. m. train for Asheville, Knoxville and other points of interest. They will be away for several weeks, returning to make their home in Brevard.

A sprained ankle may as a rule be cured in from three to four days by applying Chamberlain's Liniment and observing the directions with each bottle. For sale by all dealers.

## GREATER PROSPERITY IN GREAT SOUTHEAST

ADDRESS BY PRES. FINLEY OF SOUTHERN RY.

Better Corn Grown in Southeast Than in Corn Belt; Pork Can Be Produced Cheaply.

President Finley, of the Southern Railway Company, who was one of the principal speakers at a banquet given by the Columbus Board of Trade Wednesday evening, May 29, spoke on "Co-operation for Southeastern Development."

He told of the great natural advantages enjoyed by the Southeastern states, quoted statistics showing the great progress that has been made in recent years, and emphasized the importance of co-operative work for promoting the agricultural and industrial development of the section and for making its opportunities better known. He said, in part:

"We have room in the Southeast for all of the industrious, enterprising, and otherwise desirable people who can be induced to come among us. We have a hearty welcome for them and opportunities in abundance for them to better their condition. One of the most desirable ways in which our population can be increased is by keeping our young men at home. We are constantly losing a certain proportion of our population to the West and to the North. In every community there are men who are always looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. They think that the great opportunities of life are to be found in some other locality than that in which they are living.

"In the United States, owing to the facts that the first settlements were along the Atlantic seaboard and that, until recently, there were great tracts of public lands open to settlement in the West, the idea has been traditional that the West is the land of opportunity. Horace Greeley did much to popularize this idea by his advice to go West and grow up with the country. Conditions have radically changed since Mr. Greeley gave his advice, and I believe that if the great editor were alive today he would say 'Go South, young man, and grow up with the country.' Our opportunities are at least as favorable as those in any other part of the United States, and one of the most important things we can do is to impress this fact upon our people. This will be doubly effective, for if we can bring everybody in the Southeast to a full realization of our advantages and to their enthusiastic exploitation, we shall have them spreading the knowledge throughout the entire country and in foreign lands. To accomplish this most effectively we should strive to make our development at home so marked and so progressive as to command attention and convince the restless spirits among us that it is to their best interest to stay here, and we should see to it that the facts as to our progress and opportunities are made known. Local organizations and local newspapers can be most helpful in this. In many cases effective personal work may be possible. If a Southeastern farmer has an idea that he can improve his condition by moving to the so-called 'corn belt' to grow corn, he should have the knowledge impressed upon him that the record corn crops of the world have not been grown in the 'corn belt,' but in the Southeast, and on land costing less per acre, and that corn grown in the Southeast has taken the prize for quality in competition with the most successful farmers of the 'corn belt' and other parts of the country. If he has an idea that he should go to Texas to raise cattle or to Kansas to raise hogs,

he should know that there is no part of the United States in which beef and pork can be produced more cheaply than in the Southeast and that the experts of the United States agricultural department who have studied the matter and conducted elaborate feeding experiments are of the opinion that an increasing proportion of the meat supply of the United States for home consumption and for export must come from our section."

In the line of industrial development, Mr. Finley urged the still further utilization of Southeastern raw materials in Southeastern factories and spoke of the opportunities for a wider diversification of manufacturing. After summarizing the co-operative development work being done by the Southern Railway Company in the territory traversed by its lines, Mr. Finley said:

"Our lines outside of the South have recently been greatly extended by the establishment of agencies of our freight and passenger traffic departments in the extreme West and Northwest and in Canada. Our purpose in this is to broaden our work and make its influence nationwide. These men are the extreme advance guard of the Southeast, thrown out far beyond the breastworks. They have been carefully selected for the particular work they have to do. Each one of them is a center of information about the territory traversed by our lines. It is their special business to disseminate this information and to build up travel and commerce between their localities and our section.

"Taking into account all of the advantages of the Southeast and the forces working for its development I do not believe, Mr. Toastmaster, that any section of the United States can look forward to a brighter future."

Mr. Finley spoke of some of the special advantages of Columbus and the surrounding territory, and said:

"Your city will always occupy a prominent place in the annals of the Southern Railway Company, for it was here, on March 2, 1874, that my distinguished predecessor in the office of the president of the company, was born. Samuel Spencer typified all that was best in the old South and the new. Brave and chivalrous, as a boy of sixteen, he responded to the call to arms and fought gallantly for his state and section. With the return of peace he resumed his interrupted studies and, upon their completion, devoted his tireless energy and his splendid ability to his chosen calling. He rose from the bottom to the top by sheer ability. Educated as an engineer and a builder, his work was always constructive, and in the end it was permitted to him to perform one of the most important works of his time for the advancement of his native state and the entire Southeast in the formation and welding together of the Southern Railway system. It is peculiarly fitting that we should pay a tribute to the memory of Samuel Spencer on this occasion for he stood pre-eminently for the spirit animating the Columbus Board of Trade—that of Southern Progress."

## BUCK FOREST ITEMS

Providence permitting, Rev. J. T. Anders will conduct his usual services at Laurel Creek the third Saturday and Sunday.

Misses Annie McGaha and Ada Stamey of Brevard were visitors at the home of the Misses Thomas last Saturday night and Sunday.

Oscar Ball of Pisgah Forest has recently been spending a few days with Mrs. W. M. Ball of Rock Bridge farm.

Miss Ada Robinson of the Blue Ridge section was visiting in this community last Monday.

Americus Heath of Carrs Hill was among the many visitors in this locality last Sunday.

PAT.

## TAFT AND ROOSEVELT IN DISGRACEFUL ROW

HAVE LOWERED DIGNITY OF THE OFFICE

President Taft First Man Who Ever Canvassed for Votes While in Office.

A statesman is a successful politician who is dead. That is the definition of a statesman that was given by the late Thomas B. Reed of Maine, who was one of the smartest men I ever knew in my life. While that may be true in a general sense, I want to say that there are a few statesmen in the national capital at this day who are not dead. I have talked not only with those statesmen, both republicans and democrats, but with politicians on both sides of the political fence, and they all express the same opinion that this fight in the republican party for the nomination for president between Taft and Roosevelt is the most pitiable, execrable and disgraceful exhibition that has ever been seen in American politics. They have all come to the conclusion, regardless of party, that neither one of these men can be elected to the presidency if they are nominated at Chicago.

While this conclusion is very gratifying to the democrats, it is correspondingly distasteful and worrying to the republicans. They are all hoping—that is the republicans—that a deadlock in the Chicago convention will ensue and that neither of them will be nominated and that a dark horse, without regard to any particular individual, may be the republican nominee, and thus cut the Gordian knot in the republican party controversy.

With all these conflicting opinions from the leaders in both parties to whom I have talked, I hesitate before the republican national convention to predict anything. However, it seems to me as an old fashioned politician and political writer and a looker on in Vienna, so to speak, that it makes no difference who carried the state of Ohio as to the final outcome of the campaign. My opinion is that if the Taft leaders and the members of the national republican committee have a sufficiently stronghold on their own delegates, that Mr. Taft probably will have enough votes on the first ballot to nominate him. If they have not that hold and the delegate revolt to Roosevelt, he may be the nominee on the first ballot. If the former condition should prevail in the convention and the Roosevelt leaders know that it is inevitable that Mr. Taft is going to be nominated, they will bolt the convention, hold a convention of their own and nominate Roosevelt on the plea that he has been swindled out of the nomination by the steam roller process of the present administration. It makes no difference, whatever, which end of the bag the republican party holds in the next campaign.

There is going to be a democratic victory and a democratic president in the white house after the 4th of next March. If there is not, then Thomas Jefferson's opinion of the people of this country who vote at the polls will have been declared a fallacy that the American electorate is not worthy of the ballot; that they do not understand republican institutions, are unfit to govern themselves and the sooner we have an empire the better off will be the people. I honestly believe that is Roosevelt's idea and that he understands the idiocy of a whole lot of people in this country because they continue to support him in the face of all of the infamous lies he told and all of the scoundling

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