

Salt and Light

Bringing political and moral clarity into the fog of political correctness!

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Pastor's Perspective

Hey Everyone!

Welcome to the new feature for "Salt and Light." I have asked my pastor, Dr. Dennis Brunet to help shed some light on very contemporary and somewhat controversial issues. We will be exploring why evangelicals take the stands they do. Stay tuned!

Also, if you haven't got yours yet, you're going to want to get a copy of my book, "Understanding Evangelicals: A Guide to Jesusland." Just hit the link on the lower righthand column and it will take you to Amazon.

What a Candidate Looks Like

S&L NOTE: This is actually the end of our first interview with Dr. Dennis Brunet, Senior Pastor of Midway Baptist Church in Gulf Breeze, Florida. Brother Dennis, as he prefers to be called, along with his doctorate, has a law degree and has studied US history extensively. The preceding parts of the interview will come later.

S&L: What would a strong candidate for president look like for you?

Brother Dennis: A strong candidate would be one who would come and lay out his understanding of what the presidency is all about (long pause)...it would be so refreshing. But he can only do it if it was true; if he was genuine. Okay, it's going to sound a bit Pollyanna, but he would look and say (speaking as a candidate):

"I'm not promising you everything. Life comes from hard work; not from handouts. We are going to teach our people how to work again. My job as President is to secure the borders of this country. Illegal is not a sick bird; it's a crime. We wish ill on no one, but those who are illegal in our country are criminals. And I can promise you that we are able, even if it is 12 million, to deal with it, and get ourselves back situated. And we're not going to reward those who did wrong."

You see, a great Christian fundamental belief is that right is blessed, error is punished; repentance brings mercy, okay? So, don't kill everybody; deal with them and fix things! To be able to come and say (again, as a candidate):

"I understand I am not a world politician; I am the President of the United States of America and this nation is my priority. I come..."

Obviously, you see, he doesn't even have to say he's against abortion. You know what I would love for him to say?

... I'm against killing babies."

HOT DOG! I don't believe in killing babies! I would love for him to come and to speak honestly. He doesn't have to hit me a list of "do's" and "don'ts" on my Christian's checklist; he doesn't. Would I feel comfortable if

he were a Southern Baptist? Every President we've had as a Southern Baptist was a loser! No, that's not necessary. I would love for him to speak of his love for Christ and of his desire for all men to live a blessed life because of the blessings of the Lord. Do I believe a man can be elected in America that would do that? I do, I honestly do! But he's got to be a man, he's got to be able to look and to love and to stand without apology, in that refreshing way. Stop looking like a deer in the headlights...oh what am I going to say at this moment? Speak graciously!

I would love for him to be a bit grim, I don't mean a Grim Reaper, I mean, I would like for him to have a wit, but I don't want him to look stylish. I want him to look a bit chiseled out of granite. But what a wonderful wit and a comfortableness of being able to say; *"Let me tell you how the cow ate the cabbage on this."* But always in a gracious way!

So, if I could, now you know I'm talking about the substance of a man, a great genuine, Christian man. Can our political process bring through the ranks such a man, with our two-party system today, without God's intervention? I don't think so! I could be wrong; because the road of moving up is so fraught with compromise. Too many people are around trying to tell them what is the right way to say something. And in the midst of counselors is safety, but too many...you know, it's a problem.

S&L: The problem is most don't have counselors, they have consultants.

Bro Dennis: So does that make any sense to you?

S&L: It makes great sense, because I just want somebody to speak the truth, because everyone knows what it is, whether you want to admit it or not, everybody knows what the truth is. And what is the biggest complaint about politicians? They're all liars; they're all telling us what we want to hear!

Bro Dennis: When Bush's ratings skyrocketed, it wasn't because, now I'm going to make a contention, it wasn't because everybody rallied around 9/11; okay? We could have done that without rallying around the President. It was because that was the one time in his presidency when he just shot it straight! He did! Man, it was, it was like John Wayne talking. He wasn't an animal; man he just spoke! And I still believe that type of clarity speaks across boundaries.

And I'll tell you this because I'm not; cause if you're going to take anything I say, please understand this. I'm not saying when I find the perfect man who makes no mistakes; I'm voting for him for President. Okay? I'm not saying that; I'm not even saying that every decision he's ever made had to be right. Only God could write 10 Commandments and never change them. We're not like that!

But a guy who says it and lays it on the line, and I dare say if President Bush would have kept the course and would have kept talking to the people straight. But he did himself in and this will be another talk we can have. But you see I don't believe that it was the Iraqi War that lost the election; just my personal belief, I don't believe that's what undermined him. I think the biggest part that came through...remember what I said? That deep seated in Christianity is the sense that right is blessed and wrong is punished; when he (Bush) came out and he positioned himself on the wrong side of securing the borders, he was done...he was done.

Because whether folks at the moment could articulate, it was a fundamental incongruity, that suddenly now, this is illegal, but it's not punished, and it's not viewed as wrong in that context? And then suddenly...who are you... who are you?

Next posting we will look at Brother Dennis' comments on some of the GOP contenders.

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