

Good News By Vic Dove

Don't Let Satan Win

But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind Me, Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of man."
Matthew 16:23

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we become new creatures in Christ and the Holy Spirit resides in us. However, our old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Holy Spirit wants. These two forces are constantly fighting each other and your choices are never free from this conflict. Let me put it this way; you were born with a hole in your soul that only God can fill and unless you turn to God and build a relationship with Him, you will keep trying to fill that hole with the wrong things.

Charles Spurgeon said, "If we are not seeking the Lord, the Devil is seeking us." Moreover, he gets us, when we lower our guard and become complacent. Satan is the author of confusion and lies and will remind us of past failures. He loves to make us feel incompetent, weak and defeated.

Do you feel defeated today? Each day, Satan tries his very best to get the best of us. He tries to win. He wants us to stumble and fall; never will he remind us of our victories or the good things in our lives. However, we must remember he is our enemy and we cannot let him prevail during our day.

When certain circumstances arise that test our spiritual character, we must stand firm in the holiness of God. Each day, I wake up and pray, "Lord, bind Satan from me today. I want You, Lord, to be pleased with me, and I want you to be the ultimate prevailer in my life."

May I encourage you this week to give all of your

struggles to the Lord. Do not let Satan get the best of you. Do not give up on anything that would cause Satan to rejoice at your defeat. When Satan says get mad, you get glad. When he says give up, you keep going. When he says stumble, stand firm in your faith in Jesus. When he tempts you to compromise, commit again to Jesus and His will for your life.

Isaiah 43:18-19 says "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old; Behold, I will do a new thing; now it spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a pathway in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

God is the creator of all things, and He will provide no matter what your storm may be or what problem you may be facing... no matter how deep the valley you may be in... He is still God... creator and sustainer of all.

Shoulder to Shoulder,

Bro. Vic



HISTORICALLY

current events through a historical lens

SPEAKING

Dr. James Finck, USAO History Professor

The Gilded Age

By James Finck, Ph. D.

For many, the Gilded Age (1877-1900) is the most boring part of political history. All the presidents were bearded white men from New York or Ohio who are hard to distinguish. In fact, it was just as hard to differentiate between Republicans and Democrats, being that neither really did very much.

Elections were always exciting as the contests were very close and because there was still no secret ballot, both parties did everything they could to influence voters including massive picnics with great deals of alcohol. Elections were such a celebration that voter turnout was around 80%. Once the secret ballot was instituted and politicians could no longer control the votes, voting rates dropped down into the 40s in the next century.

It's surprising how large voter turnout was in the Gilded Age considering the lack of differences between the two parties. Republicans remained the classic conservatives of positive government, which simply meant they just did a little more. If we look at the government's role based on the Preamble to the Constitution, then it has three jobs: ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense and promote the general Welfare. For domestic tranquility the main job the government did was use the army to break up strikes, really nothing else. For common defense, it did maintain a small army. But up to that point, America had never believed a democracy should maintain a standing army, that would only allow for tyranny. When an army was required, the people should filled its ranks. (Think Second Amendment.) America will not maintain a standing army until the Cold War (1947-1991). As for general welfare, the government promoted economic growth through tariffs, but that was very controversial. The government also sold cheap land in the West to bring in some income. There was no concept of any type of safety net, but the largest government expenditure was Union soldier pensions after the Civil War.

As for parties, Republicans looked closer to today's liberals than conservatives. They

were the party of big government; their constituency was comprised of businessmen because the party pushed for economic growth and protective tariffs to help American businesses. Black Americans, when they could vote, overwhelmingly voted Republican because it was the party of Lincoln and emancipation. Strong Protestants supported the party because they pushed for moral reforms like outlawing alcohol and gambling. Finally, Union soldiers voted Republican because of the pensions.

As for Democrats, they were the reverse and more closely resemble today's Republican Party. They believed the best form of government is one that governs the least. This philosophy drew support from white Southerners who wanted the least government interference possible. It also drew support from Northern immigrants in the cities. Most of these were Catholics who believed it was the Church's job to regulate morality, not the government.

The biggest issue for Democrats was that they were the party of white supremacy. This was not something they shied away from, but they openly supported segregation, Jim Crow laws and ending Reconstruction (the era between 1865 and 1877 where the government abolished slavery, reintegrated once-seceded states and rebuilding the South after the Civil War).

Even though elections were always close, Republicans dominated during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age. After Republican Ulysses S. Grant completed his presidency, another Republican, Rutherford B. Hayes, from Ohio, won in 1876. James Garfield, Republican from Ohio, was elected in 1880. Garfield was assassinated and was replaced by New York Republican Chester Arthur. A Democrat did win in 1884 with Grover Cleveland from New York, but Cleveland lost reelection in 1884 to Republican Benjamin Harrison from Ohio. In 1892, Cleveland came back and won making him the only two-term, nonconsecutive U.S. president. Finally Ohio Republican William McKinley won the presidency in 1896.

This last election of the Gilded Age was held in 1896. Officially part of the Gilded Age, it is my third favorite election and is a game-changer in American politics. In a Hail Mary attempt, Democrats completely changed their political ideology which guided them down the long road towards being the liberal party that they are today.

In the future, this series will resume with the 20th century and how the modern-day Republicans and Democrats came into being.

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Is a public official working for the citizens when...?

- official doesn't update government's website and keep current
- official commonly uses derogatory 'pet' names for anyone who does not hold identical views or anyone perceived as questioning or challenging
- official limits information available on a government's website
- official offers solution which isn't a full solution, just to appear 'helpful'
- official tells staff to ignore Open Records requests instead of responding to them, hoping that the person will not pursue the request
- official doesn't look for ways to be transparent, particularly with online information, limiting citizens right to know
- official calls citizen by name and labels a liar during public meeting?
- official tells citizens to take care of matters themselves, instead of enforcing ordinances?
- official creates community budget and minimizes board/council or citizens their right to know in advance and give input?
- official changes meetings to accommodate employee creating attendance problems for board/council and citizens.
- official constructs narrative for citizen by saying official held public meetings about which board/council never were informed.
- official pits people against each other to make one feel right and the other one wrong.
- official controls all the decision-making about everything including the responsibilities of a board/council.
- official claims truth is what's being said at the moment, instead of information in accordance with fact or reality
- official tells citizens to follow the law, but privately doesn't do it him/herself.