

“A Few Observations”

I offer few observations following the recent elections and especially the approval of Proposition 139, which enshrines in Arizona’s Constitution the right to abortion up to fetal viability.

First, while most citizens voted for Donald Trump, a greater majority voted in favor of Proposition 139. I’m trying to make sense of a Republican party that previously was coupled with the pro-life movement. It seems clear to me that they are no longer tied together.

Second, the approval of Proposition 139 reveals the condition of the soul of this great state. In the Old Testament, the children of Israel rebelled against the Lord and built high altars to Baal, burning their sons in the fire. The Lord clearly declares, “I did not command or decree” (Jer. 19:5). We have rebelled.

Third, Christians must not give up. Just as the Lord commanded the exiles to work for the welfare of Babylon, so the church must continue to declare the gospel of Christ and minister to her neighbors. “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Christians, find a pregnancy center near you and support them. Be ready to receive into your church family strangers who repent because of the Lord’s kindness, knowing “such were some of you” (1 Cor. 6:11).

On Friday, December 25, 1863, 57-year-old widowed Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, father of six, wrote a poem as he sat at the bedside of his severely wounded son, Charley, and heard church bells. Longfellow reflected on the dissonance between what he observed and what he heard. He observed the casualties of war and the great pain of loss as he heard the bells

ringing and the choirs singing, “Peace on earth, good will to men” (Luke 2:14). So, he took to pen and wrote, “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”, and, at one point, noting that dissonance, *“And in despair I bowed my head; “There is no peace on earth,” I said; “For hate is strong, And mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”*

Indeed, hate is strong and mocks the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. But the Son of God has ascended as king over all nations. Christ is king and no power of the state can break the bonds of the sovereign Lord who has been given authority over heaven and earth. They mock, Christ laughs. So, Christian, worship, pray, and sing. Courageously join the angel’s chorus, singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.” We sing loudly and we love unfailingly.

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