

It's Time for Christians to Get Out the Vote

by Jerry Falwell

Daily media stories are full of doom and gloom for Republicans. If we are to believe these election accounts, the GOP is in an out-of-control downward spiral that cannot be fixed before the November 7 elections. I don't claim to be an election authority, but I've been around a long time and I have learned that the polls and the pundits aren't always right. And I think the pollsters may be off target in terms of this election. My primary reason for believing this is based in my relationship with the so-called "religious right," or the old Moral Majority.

I don't believe the polls accurately depict the preparedness of the conservative Christian community to vote. Sure, I think the recent Foley scandal and other government indignities have discouraged some, but when you get down to brass tacks, these controversies don't alter our core values. Christians continue to want to elect those candidates that best reflect their biblical values and support the issues that have defined our movement since we swept Ronald Reagan into the Oval Office in 1980. Our values have not changed. As Gary Bauer, chairman of the Campaign for Working Families, says, "The right to life and traditional marriage are not wedge issues, they are winning issues. Values issues are not distractions from the business of governing. They are central to the survival of our republic. If Christians were a little complacent about the approaching elections, I believe this week's New Jersey Supreme Court ruling, that the state must tender rights of marriage to homosexual couples, has rejuvenated our constituency. This ruling is a striking reminder that many of our nation's jurists have jumped on the politically-correct bandwagon and are attempting to force their will on the people. We simply must elect lawmakers—whether Democrat or Republican—who seek to protect traditional marriage and the unborn. Our laws must not be determined based on social whims. I read with interest this week that Sen. Hillary Clinton said that her outlook on homosexual marriage "has certainly evolved." This gives Mrs. Clinton, who has previously said that she does not support same-sex marriage, a political out. She can simply "evolve" into what she needs to be in order to recruit the voters she thinks she needs. "Oops! I evolved." When one's core values are swinging in the wind, they're certainly not worth a whole lot. I don't believe the conservative Christian community—whose core values are deeply rooted in the Bible—are ready to allow fickle politicians to determine that traditional marriage is suddenly obsolete. So that brings us to the November elections and the key question of the day: Will the "values voters" show up at the polls? It is imperative that we do. I am urging Christians across this nation to study the candidates and the issues and then go to the polls to vote for those men and women that best reflect our values. This election is far from over, even though many pundits want us to believe it is. Let's get out and vote. In the seven states where there are marriage protection amendments on the ballots—Arizona, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin—I urge Christians to make their voices heard. Pastors, this Sunday, encourage all of your parishioners to be at the polls on November 7 to accomplish their Christian responsibility. Let's prove that the "religious right" continues to be a very significant voting bloc.