

STOREHOUSE ADVISOR

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WHAT NOW? RETHINKING THE PRO-LIFE AGENDA

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." - Matthew 6:21

With the loss of much-needed pro-life votes in Congress, the election of a President sworn to a radical abortion agenda, and the ever liberal judicial system, could God be sending a message to His people?

Could the recent turn of events be God's way of returning our focus to Him? I, for one, have believed that the abortion issue, and others like it, was a political problem and that its solution would ultimately be political. Since the elections, however, I have been asking, "What now? What can I do to influence our nation to embrace a culture of life?"

I found the answer in God's word - abortion and all the other problems facing our nation are spiritual problems, matters of the heart that will only be resolved when Christians genuinely commit to liv-

ing a Godly life.

II Chronicles tells us that our national sin will only be forgiven and healed when we, not unbelievers, humble ourselves, pray to and seek God, and turn from our own sin.

"IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SINS AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

1 Peter 1:15, says, "But just as He Who called you is holy, so be holy in *all* you do."

Granted, most Christians aren't killing babies or en-

gaged in the porn industry, but what about the more subtle nuances of these industries, and others like them? How might we be encouraging their assault on Christian values in America?

If this sin problem emanates from the heart and Jesus has told us, "*Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also,*" shouldn't we make every effort to align our financial affairs with His values?

For instance, would God want to profit from the abortion or porn industries? Would He own a casino or nightclub? Why, then, do we invest in these industries?

In fact, most Christians would probably be surprised to learn the extent to which their investments are supporting such anti-Christian activity.

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Stephen R. Arnold
Financial Advisor

STARBUCKS: WHAT WOULD JESUS BREW?

A variety of reports suggest that Starbucks Coffee is supporting a number of decidedly anti-Christian initiatives through the sale of their products. And in some cases, it's as plain as the logo on their cup.

In the company's "The Way I See It" campaign, Starbucks placed quotes from notable figures on their cups. Specifically, there were at



least two cups that should give Christians reason to re-consider where they grab their next Double Latte'.

LA Times Columnist Joel Stein, is quoted on cup #230 in the series, "*Heaven is overrated... Maybe blue skies and soft music were enough to keep people in line in the 17th century, but Heaven has to step it up a bit.*"

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THE FINANCIAL MELTDOWN: A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

Noone needs explain the current state of our world financial markets. And, for the near term, the news is likely to remain bleak. Many are now questioning how they should respond to this reality.

Of course, as Christians, we should always turn to God's word for counsel. In fact, the Bible gives us a perfect blueprint for surviving and thriving in these perilous times.

Paul said in Philippians 4:11-12, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." If we adhere to the following biblically-based principles of stewardship, then we too can experience the kind of contentment Paul was describing.

- 1. Have the right motivation.** As Christians, we should see ourselves as stewards or managers of God's resources. We shouldn't invest simply to build bigger barns and store more earthly treasure (Luke 12:18-21). We are called to increase our wealth so we can exhibit richness toward God by blessing others.
- 2. Manage assets based on biblical truth.** As Christians, we are to live within our means, spend less than we make (Prov 21:20), become debt-free (Prov 22:7), and use years of plenty to prepare for years of famine (Ecc 11:2) – just as Joseph did for Pharaoh. Our investments should reflect our beliefs. Profits gained from sin – abortion, pornography, gambling, etc. – are detested by God (Deut 23:18) and bring destruction on our house (Prov 15:27). Most importantly, we must commit to biblical giving (Prov 3:9).
- 3. Have specific plans and avoid distractions.** Proverbs 21:5 says, "The plans of the diligent lead to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes to poverty." Plans should reflect personal goals, an appropriate level of risk and an appreciation for current realities. Decisions should be marked by deliberate thought and purpose. Proverbs 15:22 says, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed."
- 4. Have the correct perspective on time.** Having an eternal perspective (Matt 6:19-21), rather than one focused on today's circumstances (Matt 6:34), gives Christians the strength to face economic uncertainty without living in constant anxiety (Matt 6:27-33).
- 5. Have realistic expectations.** The Bible tells us that greed is a trap that leads to "ruin and destruction" (1 Tim 6:9-10). A correct attitude toward earthly treasures will insure God's blessing on our lives, but exhibiting greed will bring about His judgment (Prov 28:20).
- 6. Place your confidence in God alone.** As Christians, we are not to live as ones without hope (1 Thes 4:13). Instead, we should rest in the promises of our covenant-keeping Father. God has promised us that He will meet all our needs, in proportion to "His glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19).

IS YOUR MONEY MAKING A KILLING?

"AND DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE UNFRUITFUL DEEDS OF DARKNESS, BUT INSTEAD EVEN EXPOSE THEM."

-EPHESIANS 5:11

Unfortunately, abortion is alive and well on Wall Street. And, many pro-life investors are unwittingly making a killing from the killing business.

Planned Parenthood and other women's rights groups have been extremely successful in a campaign to draw support from America's corporations.

Wall Street support for abortion comes in a variety of formats. Some companies, such as Pediatrix, are direct participants in the abortion business.

Some, such as Stericycle, indirectly provide critical services needed by the industry. Stericycle contracts with PP clinics to dispose of aborted babies.

Danco Labs, and similar companies, manufacture abortion inducing drugs. Yet others, like Starbucks, are more subtle, providing financial support through corporate giving.

So, you ask, "What's a pro-life investor to do?" In short, the same thing liberal investors have been doing for years -

participate in a Values-Based Investing (VBI) program.

Until recently, VBI funds have been dominated by socially-liberal causes. Now, however, conservative-minded investors can take advantage of this concept.

Many Christian financial advisors now have tools to screen companies and mutual funds that contradict biblical values.

For information on Biblically-Responsible Investing, contact Storehouse Advisory Group.

THE BLACKLIST...

is a listing of companies and organizations whose products, activities or policies have been determined to be supportive of abortion or euthanasia. This list has been compiled based on information obtained from the websites of Life Decisions International and The Timothy Plan.

Are any of these companies in your portfolio of stocks, or are they being held in your mutual funds, retirement plans or variable annuities? If so, call Storehouse Advisory Group for a complimentary, no obligation portfolio screening. Just call (865) 850-6529 and mention *The Storehouse Advisor* newsletter.

This issue's Blacklist 

STARBUCKS: WWJBREW?

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Yet another of the cups in the series (#43) features a quote from author Armistead Maupin which reads, *"My only regret about being gay is that I repressed it for so long...Don't make that mistake yourself...Life's too damn short."*

Erin Curry, of the Baptist Press, reported that Starbucks is a frequent sponsor of "gay pride" events all over the country. In some cases, Starbucks has even sponsored events where registered pedophiles were allowed to volunteer for children's programs.

On another front, the Starbucks Foundation has given many questionable grants to anti-Christian causes.

One such grant went to a Junior High Gay-Straight Alliance for promotion of the gay lifestyle. Another went to the Tri-City Health Clinic in Fremont, CA, which boasts on its website that no parent or guardian consent is required to receive their services.

Among TCHC's services are emergency contraception, free condoms, STD testing, and "The Edge" – a Lesbian, Gay,

Bi-Sexual, Transgender (LGBT) "safe space" for both adults and youth.

Another of the questionable grants was issued to the Questioning Youth Center in suburban Chicago. QYC's website explains that their purpose is to provide programs for 14-21 year olds who identify themselves as LGBT, or who are questioning their sexuality.

But perhaps the most devastating indictment against Starbucks comes from the website of Planned Parenthood. On it, America's largest abortion provider boasts of Starbucks' participation in the PPFA matching gifts campaign.

Through this program, Starbucks' employees are encouraged to financially support Planned Parenthood and other liberal-minded groups. When they do, Starbucks agrees to match their contributions.

Starbucks claims that this program is available for "most" charitable organizations. One can't help but wonder if Starbucks would extend it to include an organization that promotes a pro-life agenda.

These are just a few examples of Starbucks' blatant assault on Christian values. So, as you reach for your next cup of Starbucks coffee, ask yourself, *"What would Jesus brew?"*

WHAT NOW? - RETHINKING THE PRO-LIFE AGENDA

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Proverbs 15:27 says, *"He who profits illicitly troubles his own house."* In 1 Corinthians 15:33, Paul said, *"Evil companionships corrupt good morals."* In Matthew 6:21, Christ warned that, *"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

For Christians, these scriptures should serve as a litmus test for our financial decisions.

Secondary to our personal obedience, another element of a re-focused pro-life strategy

demands that we learn from the enemy's successes.

Someone recently asked me why so many corporations give to Planned Parenthood and other anti-Christian causes. In short, the answer is pressure.

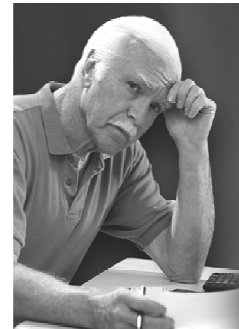
Fundraising and other forms of support for the abortion and homosexual

lobby has come largely through the systematic blackmail of corporate America.

One homosexual advocate recently wrote that 463 of the nation's Fortune 500 compa-

nies provide some form of material support to the gay community. Friends, the enemy is keeping tabs and we should be too.

The radical left has accomplished this by patiently pursuing an aggressive agenda of product boycotts and shareholder activism - the later through a little-known concept known as Values-Based Investing (VBI) .



Fortunately, VBI, which has long been the almost exclusive domain of the left, is now available for those with more conservative values.

The moral decline of America will only be reversed when Christians begin taking the message of II Chronicles 7:14 to heart.

The measure of success in the fight against abortion, and the other evils facing our nation, will be determined, not by politicians, but by the extent to which Christians are willing to be inconvenienced.

"EVIL
COMPANIONSHIPS
CORRUPT GOOD
MORALS."
- 1 COR. 15:33

The BLACKLIST	AARP	Johnson & Johnson	Nationwide Insurance	Starbucks Coffee
	Aetna Insurance	Susan G Komen	Nike	Time Warner (AOL)
	Chevron (Texaco)	March of Dimes	Prudential Financial	Wachovia
	Dallas Cowboys	Marriott Hotels	Radisson Hotels	Walt Disney
	Ebay (Paypal)	Midas Car Care	Rotary Clubs	Wells Fargo



ABOUT STOREHOUSE ADVISORY GROUP...

Storehouse Advisory Group is a full-service financial planning practice founded on Biblical principles of stewardship and faith.

Through a ministry-based approach to planning, we assist clients by utilizing a disciplined planning process, cutting edge solutions, unparalleled service and an understanding that your financial plan should reflect your personal beliefs concerning your faith, your family and your finances.

We believe no Christian should ever be asked to leave their values at the door when it comes to financial planning and investing.

Wouldn't you like to experience the *Storehouse difference*?

"But remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

-Deut. 8:18



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