The Center for Racial Equity and Justice
Repent – Reform – Refocus

"No African Americans take to the streets in protest to demand Whites to love us more. We demand a behavior change!" Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.

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August 2026 Newsletter

They Didn't Yell the N-Word. They Rewrote the Constitution Instead

Jeff Thomas

Samuel Alito and John Roberts spent decades inside the Justice Department working to gut the Voting Rights Act. Then they ascended to the Supreme Court and finished the job. This is not coincidence. This is a plan — and it is working.

By Jeff Thomas | Black Source Media | Sunday, May 2026

TL;DR — The Short Version

Black America has spent generations watching for the obvious racist. The one who yells the slur, burns the cross, waves the flag. Meanwhile, two men in suits spent forty years inside the United States government systematically dismantling the legal protections that made Black voting power possible. On April 29, 2026, they finished. The question now is whether Black America will build a response as patient, as persistent, and as organized as the plan that just succeeded against us.

When Black people look for racism, they often look for the obvious version. The yelled slur. The burning cross. The flag with the stars and bars. The act so brazen it cannot be denied. But the most effective racism in America has never been the obvious kind. The most effective racism in America looks like a man in a suit with a briefcase and a very long memory. It looks like patience. It looks like strategy. It looks like two men who spent their careers building the legal framework to undo what the Civil Rights movement built — and then waited for the

moment to use it. That moment came on April 29, 2026. And they did not waste it.

John Roberts: The 26-Year-Old Who Never Forgot What He Was Sent to Do

In 1981, John Roberts was 26 years old and brand new to the Reagan Justice Department. He took a job as special assistant to Attorney General William French Smith. Almost immediately, he was handed one of the most important assignments of the early Reagan era: develop the administration's arguments against the proposed 1982 amendment to the Voting Rights Act.

The amendment, pushed by a bipartisan coalition in Congress, would have strengthened Section 2 by making it easier to prove voting discrimination without having to show explicit intent. Civil rights lawyers needed to show discriminatory effect — that a policy produced discriminatory outcomes — rather than proving a racist motive in the mind of the official who designed it.

Roberts opposed this. Furthermore, he opposed it with his whole being. His memos from that period, housed in the National Archives, show a young man who was not simply following orders. He was leading the charge. He drafted op-ed articles for the Attorney General. He wrote talking points warning that the amendment would create what he called "a quota system for electoral politics." In one 1982 memo, he called the Voting Rights Act "the most intrusive interference imaginable by federal courts into state and local processes."

In the end, Roberts lost that fight. Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 1982 and strengthened Section 2 despite his best efforts. However, Roberts did not abandon the mission. He simply waited.

John Roberts — 45 Years of Work Against the Voting Rights Act

1981 Joins Reagan Justice Department at 26. Assigned to build legal arguments against strengthening Section 2 of the VRA.

1982 Congress reauthorizes and strengthens the VRA over his objections. Roberts's arguments fail — but his mission does not change.

2005 Confirmed as Chief Justice of the United States. The man who tried to gut the VRA at 26 now leads the court that oversees it.

2013 Writes the majority opinion in Shelby County v. Holder, gutting Section 5 of the VRA — the preclearance requirement that stopped discriminatory voting laws before they took effect.

2021 Joins the majority in Brnovich v. DNC, further weakening Section 2 protections for minority voters.

2026 Joins the 6-3 majority in Louisiana v. Callais. Section 2 is rendered, in Justice Kagan's

words, “all but a dead letter.” The project that began in 1981 is complete.

“They didn’t burn anything down. They filed briefs, wrote memos, and waited for a seat on the Court. That is how you permanently change the law in America. And they knew it before we did.”

— Jeff Thomas, Black Source Media

Samuel Alito: The Man Who Was Never Going to Let the Voting Rights Act Stand

Samuel Alito’s opposition to the Voting Rights Act goes even deeper than Roberts’s. Roberts came to his position through ideology and career ambition. Alito’s opposition appears almost personal.

As a teenager, Alito watched the Supreme Court hand down the reapportionment decisions of the 1960s — the rulings that established the one person, one vote standard. He disagreed with them. His father, who ran the Office of Legislative Services in New Jersey, was forced to redraw legislative maps to equalize districts as a result. Young Sam Alito saw federal courts telling states how to draw their political maps and decided, before he had a law degree, that this was wrong.

He later said that experience was one of the things that drove him into the law. In other words, the mission that culminated in Louisiana v. Callais did not begin in a law school classroom or a Justice Department office. It began in a New Jersey teenager’s living room, watching his father comply with a court order that Alito believed was illegitimate.

Moreover, Alito has been consistent about this his entire career. As a Justice Department lawyer, as a federal appeals court judge, and as a Supreme Court justice, he has argued for one position: the federal government has no business telling states how to structure their voting systems unless there is explicit, provable, intentional racial discrimination. Effect is not enough. Outcome is not enough. You must prove that an official sat down and deliberately decided to harm Black voters.

As a practical matter, that standard is nearly impossible to meet. And Alito knows it.

Samuel Alito — A Lifetime of VRA Skepticism

1960s As a teenager, disagrees with Supreme Court reapportionment decisions. Says this experience drove him into the law. His lifelong opposition to federal voting oversight begins here.

1980s Serves as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Reagan Justice Department. Works alongside Roberts on limiting VRA enforcement.

1990-2006 Serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Builds the legal record that will define his Supreme Court jurisprudence.

2006 Confirmed as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The 26-year project to place VRA opponents on the Court reaches a tipping point.

2021 Writes the majority opinion in Brnovich v. DNC, significantly narrowing Section 2 VRA claims.

2026 Writes the majority opinion in Louisiana v. Callais. Declares Section 2 requires proof of intentional discrimination. Justice Kagan says he has made the VRA "all but a dead letter."

How They Used Louisiana to Finish What They Started in 1981

Louisiana v. Callais was not an accident. It was not a case that happened to reach the Supreme Court. It was a vehicle — chosen, shaped, and delivered to a court that had spent decades preparing to receive it.

For years, conservative legal organizations have been searching for the right case to bring Section 2 before a Supreme Court that now had the votes to gut it. Louisiana provided the perfect facts. A state with a documented history of voting discrimination. A congressional map drawn under federal court order to include two majority-Black districts. And a Republican-controlled legislature ready to challenge that order the moment the Court gave it permission.

Therefore, when Alito wrote the majority opinion declaring that Section 2 requires proof of intentional discrimination, he was not announcing a new legal theory. He was implementing the argument that he and Roberts had been developing since the early 1980s. The words were different. The briefs were different. However, the mission was identical to the one Roberts took on as a 26-year-old lawyer in Reagan's Justice Department.

Furthermore, the consequences arrived within hours. Tennessee split Memphis. Louisiana moved to eliminate New Orleans' congressional seat. Other Southern states began calculating their own maps. A 45-year project reached its operational phase in a single week.

"Never underestimate the power of motivated, patient, strategic racism. The men who did this never lost a night of sleep over it. They called it constitutional law. It was always something else."

— Jeff Thomas, Black Source Media

The Dangerous Moment We Are In Right Now

Here is what makes this particular moment so volatile. The Callais ruling did not land in a stable country. It landed in a country that is economically angry and politically unstable in ways that make the next two years genuinely unpredictable.

Gas prices are high. Groceries cost more than they did two years ago. Wages are stagnant for

the people who can least afford stagnation. Inflation has proven more persistent than the administration promised it would be. Moreover, the tariff policies of 2025 have added costs throughout the supply chain that working families absorb daily without relief.

Here is the irony of that economic reality: if the economy were thriving, a significant portion of moderate voters might tolerate the rollback of Black voting rights as an abstract constitutional debate. When the economy is failing, people who feel economically squeezed are far more likely to be in the streets about everything. The redistricting fight does not happen in a political vacuum. It happens alongside the economic anger that is building pressure across the country heading into the November 2026 midterms.

The right to vote — and the right to have that vote count — is what is at stake. Photo: Black Source Media

The ICE Factor: Why Taking to the Streets Carries a Different Risk for Black Americans

What Is Happening in the Streets Right Now

On January 7, 2026, ICE agent Jonathan Ross shot and killed Renee Nicole Good, a 37-year-old mother of three children, in her vehicle in Minneapolis. The Hennepin County Medical Examiner ruled it a homicide. The Department of Justice has declined to open a civil rights investigation.

Less than two weeks later, Border Patrol agents shot and killed Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old ICU nurse, also in Minneapolis. Video evidence contradicted the government's claim of self-defense. Federal agents blocked bystanders from rendering aid.

According to the Wall Street Journal, at least 13 instances of immigration officers firing into civilian vehicles have occurred since July 2025. At least five of the people shot were U.S. citizens. As of May 2026, at least 34 people have been shot by immigration agents since January 20, 2025, resulting in nine deaths. The DOJ's Civil Rights Division has investigated none of the ICE agents involved. Instead it opened an investigation into Good's widow.

That context matters enormously for what happens next. When Black Americans look at the Callais ruling and the redistricting tsunami that followed, the natural response is protest. It has always been protest. It was protest that produced the Voting Rights Act in the first place — the marches, the beatings on the Edmund Pettus

Bridge, the bodies that broke something open in the national conscience.

However, protest in 2026 does not happen in the same environment as protest in 1965. It happens in an environment where federal agents are firing into civilian vehicles. Where a 37-year-old mother is shot dead in her car and the government investigates her widow instead of the agent who killed her. Where 60 percent of Americans believe ICE uses excessive force, and that belief has produced exactly zero accountability.

In this environment, Black Americans who take to the streets to demand their voting rights face a federal enforcement apparatus that has demonstrated it will use lethal force with limited consequences and no investigation. That is not a reason to remain silent. But it is a reason to be clear-eyed about what we are up against.

What the Countervailing Team Must Look Like

The plan that gutted the Voting Rights Act took 45 years to execute. It required patient, persistent, organized people who understood that the law is not fixed — it is a document that gets rewritten by whoever holds the pen. Roberts and Alito held the pen on April 29, 2026. The question now is who holds it next.

Black America needs a countervailing team that matches the strategy that just succeeded against us. Not just protesters in the street, though that matters. Not just lawyers filing emergency motions, though that matters too. What is needed is a generation of people who decide, as Roberts decided at 26, that the law can be reshaped — and who commit the next forty years of their careers to reshaping it.

That means law schools. It means federal clerkships. It means running for judgeships, for state attorney general, for state legislature. It means building the legal infrastructure that can bring the right cases to a future court with different votes. It means understanding that the battle over the Voting Rights Act will not be settled in our lifetime by a single ruling or a single election. It will be settled by whoever is still standing and still organized two decades from now.

Furthermore, the 2026 midterms are the immediate battlefield. The economy is the weapon. **Every voter who opens a grocery bill, fills a gas tank, and cannot make rent is a voter who is already angry.** The question is whether that anger translates into turnout and representation — or whether the maps being drawn right now make turnout irrelevant before anyone votes.

Roberts and Alito were patient. They were persistent. They were organized. They played a long game and they won it.

The only way to undo what they did is to play an even longer one.

Start now.

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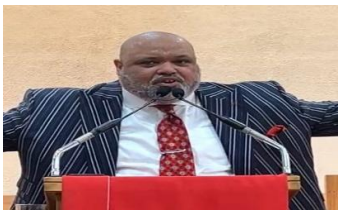

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NOTHING IS TOO SMALL!!!

Project 2030: Why Racial Equity and Justice Communities Should Pay Attention Now

PROJECT 2030

Rev George Gilbert, Jr.

Across the country, major policy proposals aimed at restructuring how government operates are emerging under banners like “Project 2030.” While specific details vary by document and publisher, these efforts often share a common theme: ***they seek to change federal priorities, staffing, enforcement, and public service delivery in ways that can significantly affect people who are already most harmed by inequity—particularly Black communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color, as well as people living in poverty.***

For the Center for Racial Equity and Justice, the question is not simply whether such proposals are “effective” or “efficient.” The question is: Who benefits, who is harmed, and whose rights are protected?

What “Project 2030” Typically Tries to Do:

1. Reshape civil service and workforce rules (including hiring, protections, and oversight)

2. Redirect funding priorities and reduce or eliminate programs tied to education, health, housing, and civil rights enforcement

3. Weaken regulatory guardrails that protect public health, workers, and tenants

4. Limit the reach of civil rights enforcement or reduce accountability mechanisms

5. Increase executive control over agency decision-making, sometimes narrowing transparency and public input

These structural changes matter because racial inequity is not only the result of “bad outcomes”—it is produced by systems. When systems change, outcomes often change too, and not always in the direction communities expect.

Why This Is a Racial Equity Issue (Not Just a Political One)?

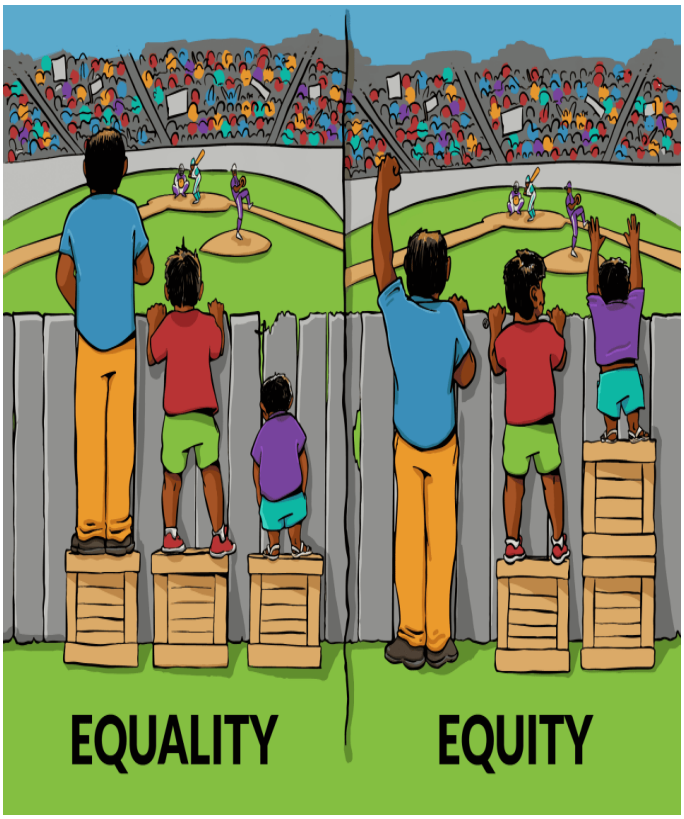
Policies that look “administrative” on paper can have direct racial impacts in practice. Here’s how:

1) Fewer protections can mean fewer remedies. When oversight, compliance, and enforcement weaken, discrimination and harmful practices can go longer without correction—especially in communities where access to legal support is already limited.

2) Cuts to public services hit communities unevenly. Education, health, housing, and child and family supports are foundations of opportunity. If resources are reduced or targeted away from high-need communities, the burden falls hardest on those already facing systemic barriers.

3) Workforce changes can weaken institutional accountability. When protections for public employees are narrowed or politicized, it can reduce the independence needed to carry out laws fairly—particularly for civil rights, environmental protections, and labor standards.

4) Deregulation can intensify health and environmental harms. Communities of color are more likely to be located near pollution sources. Weakening environmental enforcement can compound asthma, lead exposure, water contamination risks, and other harms.



What We're Watching Closely

As proposals labeled under "Project 2030" circulate, we recommend our community and partners focus on these key areas:

-Civil rights enforcement: What enforcement powers are affected? What timelines and accountability mechanisms change?

-Program funding: Which agencies and services are most likely to be reduced, privatized, or eliminated?

-Rulemaking and transparency: Will public comment, reporting requirements, or independent oversight be narrowed?

-Immigration and community safety policies: Are enforcement powers expanded without adequate rights protections and guardrails?

-Voting, participation, and public input: Are there changes that reduce access to decision-making processes?

What Communities Can Do Right Now:

-Stay informed (and verify sources)

-Track the specific language of the proposals being circulated.

-Look for official releases, documented policy drafts, or credible summaries—not just headlines.

-Tell decision-makers exactly what's at stake

Use clear messages:

1. How a given policy change affects safety, health, education, housing, or civil rights
2. Who is likely to be harmed

3. What safeguards are necessary to protect rights and prevent discrimination

4. Build coalitions across issues

5. Racial equity is connected to many policy domains. Convene community partners working on:

    a. tenant protections and housing stability
    b. workers' rights and labor standards
    c. environmental justice and public health
    d. voting rights, civil liberties, and due process
6. Center community voices
    a. Ensure impacted residents—especially those historically marginalized—are part of the messaging, testimony, and leadership, not just "consulted" late in the process.
    b. A Clear Principle: Equity Must Be a Design Feature
    c. Proposals labeled "Project 2030" may be framed as governance reforms. But reforms are never neutral. They reflect value choices—about whose rights are prioritized, what harms are acceptable, and which communities are treated as expendable.

The Center for Racial Equity and Justice will continue advocating for:

- strong civil rights protections
- robust public services and investment in communities
- transparent, accountable governance

- and policies designed with racial equity as a baseline requirement, not an afterthought.

FREE RIDE TO THE MARCH!!

Center for Racial Equity and Justice Newsletter Demanding Accountability:

The Tragic Loss and Unanswered Questions of Nolan Xavier Wells

Rev. Gilbert, and The Center for Racial Equity and Justice extends our deepest, most heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of Nolan Xavier Wells. At just 18 years old, Nolan was a celebrated scholar, an elite athlete ready to embark on his college football career, and a beloved son. His bright future was cut agonizingly short, leaving a profound void in the hearts of all who knew him. We stand in absolute solidarity with his grieving family as they navigate an unimaginable loss while fighting for the truth.

The Timeline of a Tragedy

- **July 4, 2026**: Nolan traveled with a group of friends to Horn Island, off the Mississippi Gulf Coast, for a

holiday gathering. Later that day, a distress call was made from the island, but newly reviewed GPS and boat data confirm Nolan was not on the vessel when it occurred.

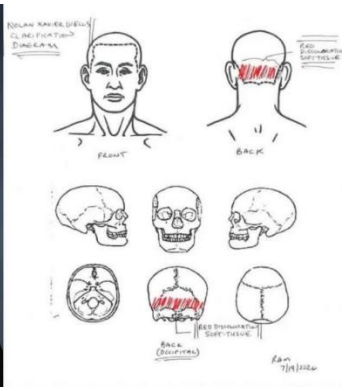
- **July 6, 2026**: Following an agonizing two-day search, Nolan's body was recovered from the water near Horn Island.

Contradictions, Alleged Cover-Ups, and the Dynamics of Power

Nolan was a highly skilled, powerful swimmer, making the narrative of an accidental drowning immediately suspect to those who knew him best. Suspicion deepened when Nolan's cell phone was returned to his family by individuals who were on the boat with him, prompting serious concerns that critical text messages and data may have been intentionally deleted before the device could be handed to authorities.

The immediate circle of individuals on that boat have faced heavy scrutiny from the public and civil rights advocates. Allegations of changing stories and a coordinated cover-up have fueled widespread conspiracy theories regarding systemic protection. On the Mississippi Gulf Coast, as in many parts of our nation, the distribution of influence and resources often dictates whose stories are believed and whose lives are fiercely protected. The slow rollout of official information has led many to question whether institutional power and social privilege are being leveraged to shield the individuals on that boat from rigorous interrogation and accountability.

The Path Forward and a Call for Justice



While the official state autopsy remains unreleased pending a grand jury presentation, a private autopsy commissioned by the Wells family reveals a stark truth: Nolan's cause and manner of death are officially "undetermined," and unexplained red discoloration was found on the back of his head. National civil rights attorney Ben Crump, representing the Wells family, recently announced that the family is ready for a joint forensic inspection of Nolan's phone. This digital evidence is vital to reconstructing his final moments.

We refuse to let Nolan Xavier Wells become another forgotten statistic or another case swept under the rug by the powerful. We call upon the District Attorney's office and federal investigators to conduct a completely transparent, exhaustive investigation untainted by local influence. We demand that every individual on that boat be held accountable for their actions and their statements. Justice for Nolan means uncovering the absolute truth, dismantling

any protective shields of privilege, and ensuring that his family receives the answers and peace they rightfully deserve.

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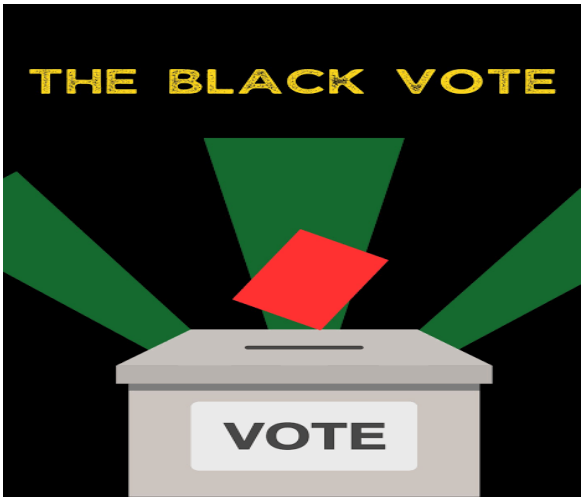
How to Pick High-character, Compassionate Candidates in the Coming Election



GOOD NEWS IN BAD TIMES

Equipping faith and civic leaders to educate and advocate for struggling communities.

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
President, Skinner Leadership Institute

We are less than 100 days away from early voting and Election Day on November 3rd.

With only about 3 months to prepare and organize our communities to vote, we are sharing preaching and teaching tools you can easily use and edit to fit your style. It is our responsibility to preach and teach the facts now, prepare for what's to come, ensure our congregants are prepared this

Fall, and review what we can expect if we are successful in high voter turnout. Pastors cannot tell congregants whom to vote for. But you should provide biblical guidance on how to pick good leaders or candidates from Jesus's teaching.

"You can know them by their fruit, that is, the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit." Matthew 7:16 -19 (NLT)

This verse means that a person's inner character and true intentions are shown by their outward actions and behavior, just as a tree's identity is shown by the kind of fruit it bears. Jesus used this simple rule of nature to teach people how to spot honest teachers from dishonest ones.

Actions reveal truth: Words can sound nice, but a person's real habits and choices show who they truly are inside.

Nature cannot hide: A sharp thornbush cannot grow sweet grapes; a person with a bad heart cannot continuously produce good and honest deeds.

Spotting false guides: Jesus used this example to warn people about fake leaders who look harmless on the outside but have track records of harming vulnerable populations that society treats as outcasts.

To apply this scripture to selecting good leaders for the 2026 election, look past campaign promises and focus entirely on their documented record of actions and public service. Just as a tree automatically produces fruit matching its true nature, a candidate's past behavior reveals whether they genuinely care about communities in need.

1.

-Inspect the "Fruit" (Look at the Candidates' Past Actions) Track record over rhetoric: Review how they voted on past bills affecting low-income areas rather than listening to what they promise to do next.

-Community presence: Look for candidates who actively visited, listened to, and served vulnerable neighborhoods years before election season.

-Consistency: Check if their private business practices, past careers, or volunteer history align with the public image they present today.

2.

-Beware of the "Thornbushes" (Warning Signs)

-Exploitative behavior: Avoid leaders who use impoverished communities as

temporary photo opportunities but offer no long-term support.

-Dividing communities: Watch out for rhetoric that creates hostility, pits neighborhoods against each other, or relies on blame rather than solutions.

-Self-serving motives: Be skeptical of candidates whose primary "fruits" are personal financial gain, accumulation of power, or wealthy corporate backing at the expense of local community needs.

-Proven bad faith: Be aware of candidates who have taken positions that limit the right to vote or make it harder for vulnerable populations to vote, such as the elderly, disabled, those with language challenges, or those with immigrant backgrounds.

3.

Practical Steps to Evaluate Candidates

-Read non-partisan guides: Use neutral platforms to view unfiltered voting records and see who funds each candidate's campaign. https://guides.vote/about/

-Talk to local organizers: Ask trusted local charity leaders, food bank coordinators, and community advocates which candidates have actually helped.

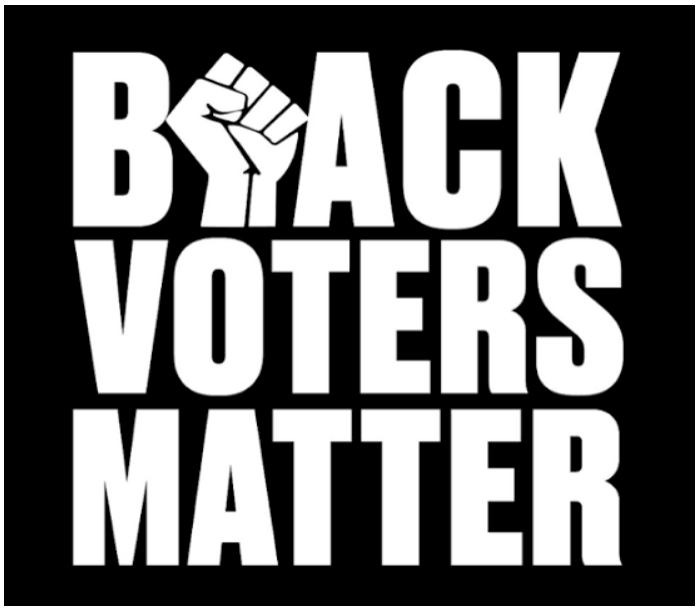
-Follow the money: Examine a candidate's donor list to see whether their financial alliances align with or conflict with the needs of everyday citizens. https://www.opensecrets.org

Suggested Practical Applications:

Assign a team of church members to research each person on the ballot in your area and share with the congregation. IRS allows clergy to share candidates' positions on issues with their congregation.

Sources: “Preaching Politics from the Pulpit”, Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. www.pewforum.org -IRS Publication 1828, Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations 3 (Rev. September 2006) [hereinafter “Pub. 18, " IRS.gov].

Visit turnoutsunday.com and download the Voter Protection Toolkit for IRS GUIDELINES FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT (Under Voter Education).



A Message from our Executive Director:

"Is There a Heaven for a Gangster?"

Luke 23:39-43

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." 40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise"

"Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Opening Illustration

A young man sat in prison serving a lengthy sentence. Tattoos covered his body. His record included violence, drug dealing, and gang activity. One day a chaplain asked him, "Do you think God could save somebody like you?"

The man laughed and replied, "Preacher, if God is saving people like me, heaven is going to be crowded."

Many people believe heaven is reserved for perfect people. They think God only uses gentle, polished, church-going saints. But when we open the Bible, we discover that some of God's greatest servants…

The question is not, "Have you been tough?"…

The question is, "Have you been transformed?"…

Context

The Bible is not a collection of perfect people. The Bible is the story of a perfect God using imperfect people.

Moses had a temper…

Peter carried a sword…

Paul hunted down Christians…

Yet God took their rough edges and turned them into instruments of His glory.

The gospel teaches that grace is your record, bigger than your reputation, and bigger than your regrets.

God doesn't excuses sin, but He constantly redeems the sinners.

Point I: **God Can Use a Fighter**

Moses: From Murderer to Deliverer

Text: Exodus 2:11-12

Moses saw an Egyptian abusing a Hebrew and killed him. Before Moses ever held the

staff of God, he had blood on his hands. Before he led Israel out of Egypt, he had to flee Egypt as a fugitive.

Hermeneutical Transfer

Many men are carrying the guilt of past mistakes. Some have fought battles physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Some have anger issues. Some have broken relationships. Some have scars from decisions they wish they could undo. But God did not throw Moses away because of his past. God transformed what was once uncontrolled aggression into holy courage. The same passion that caused Moses to fight for a Hebrew slave became the passion that confronted Pharaoh.

Principle

God does not waste your strength; He redirects it…

Point II: God Can Use a Protector

Peter: From Sword Carrier to Soul Winner

Text: John 18:10

When soldiers came for Jesus, Peter pulled out a sword and cut off Malchus' ear. Peter wasn't looking for a discussion. Peter was ready for a fight. His loyalty was genuine, but his methods were misguided. Yet Jesus did not discard Peter. After the resurrection, Jesus restored him. And later in Acts 2 Peter preached and 3,000 souls were saved.

Hermeneutical Transfer

Many fathers know what it means to protect their family. You work long hours. You sacrifice. You stand between your family and danger. Sometimes that protective instinct can become anger, control, or pride. But God wants fathers to move from being merely protectors of their homes to spiritual leaders of their homes. The greatest weapon a father carries is not in his hand—it's his faith…

Principle

God can transform a man who swings a sword into a man who saves souls…

Point III: God Can Use a Persecutor

Paul: From Hunter to Apostle

Text: Acts 9:1-6

Paul wasn't merely against Christians. He hunted them. He imprisoned them. He approved of Stephen's death. If anyone seemed beyond redemption, it was Saul. Yet on the Damascus Road Jesus stopped him. The man who once tried to destroy the church became its greatest missionary.

Hermeneutical Transfer

Some men have a past they hope nobody discovers. Some have made decisions that still haunt them. Some believe they have gone too far. But God's grace reaches farther than your failures. Your worst chapter does not have to be your final chapter. Paul teaches us that God can take a man who was headed in one direction and completely change his destination.

Principle

Your history may explain you, but it does not have to define you…

Closing Illustration - The Pit Bull Story

There was a man who rescued abused pit bulls. People were afraid of these dogs because of their reputation. Society had already decided what they were: dangerous, violent, unpredictable. But the trainer said something powerful. He said, *"I've learned there are no bad dogs… only dogs that have never had the right owner."*

The same dog people feared became loyal, disciplined, protective, and loving once placed under the right authority. A lot of men have been judged by their past. Some grew up in violent neighborhoods. Some learned survival before they learned love. Some learned how to fight before they learned how to pray. But when Jesus becomes Lord of your life, He can take what the world called dangerous and make it disciplined.

It's amazing what happens when the right Master takes control.

Close

The real question isn't: "Is there a heaven for a gangster?"

The Bible already answered that question when Jesus looked at a dying thief on the cross and said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." The question is: Have you surrendered your life to the One who can change you?

Moses had a past.

Peter had a temper.

Paul had a record.

The thief had a cross.

Yet all of them found grace.

Because heaven is not filled with perfect people. Heaven is filled with redeemed people.

And if God can save Moses,
if God can restore Peter,
if God can transform Paul,
then He can save anybody sitting in this church today.

Your past may be rough, but God's grace is greater. Your record may be long, but God's mercy is longer. Your mistakes may be many, but God's forgiveness is more.

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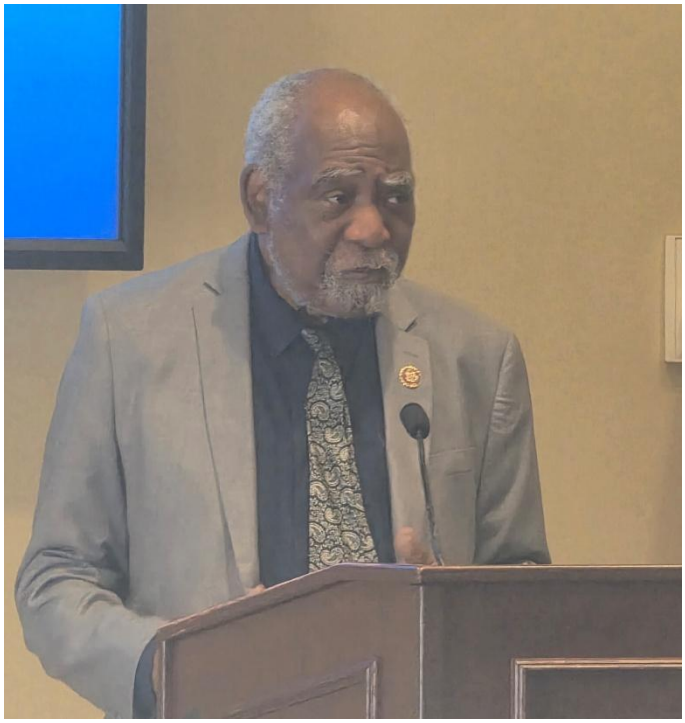
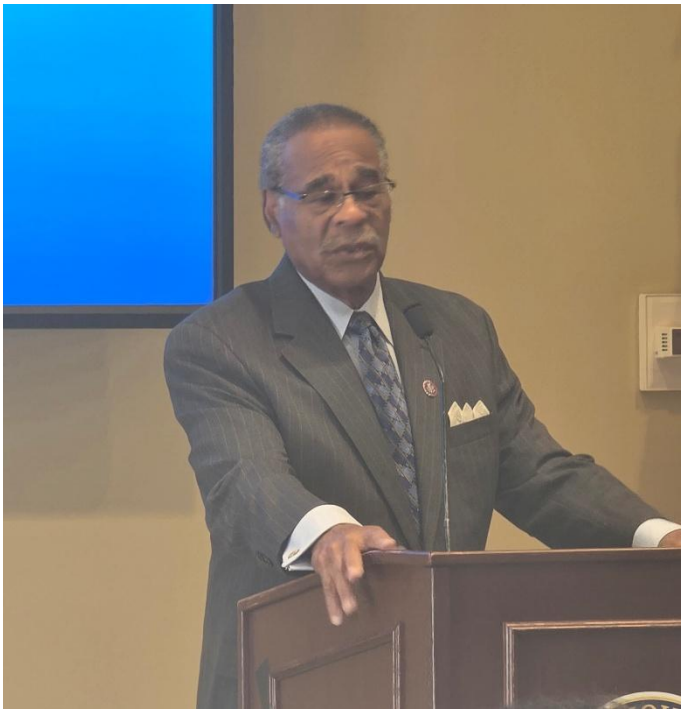
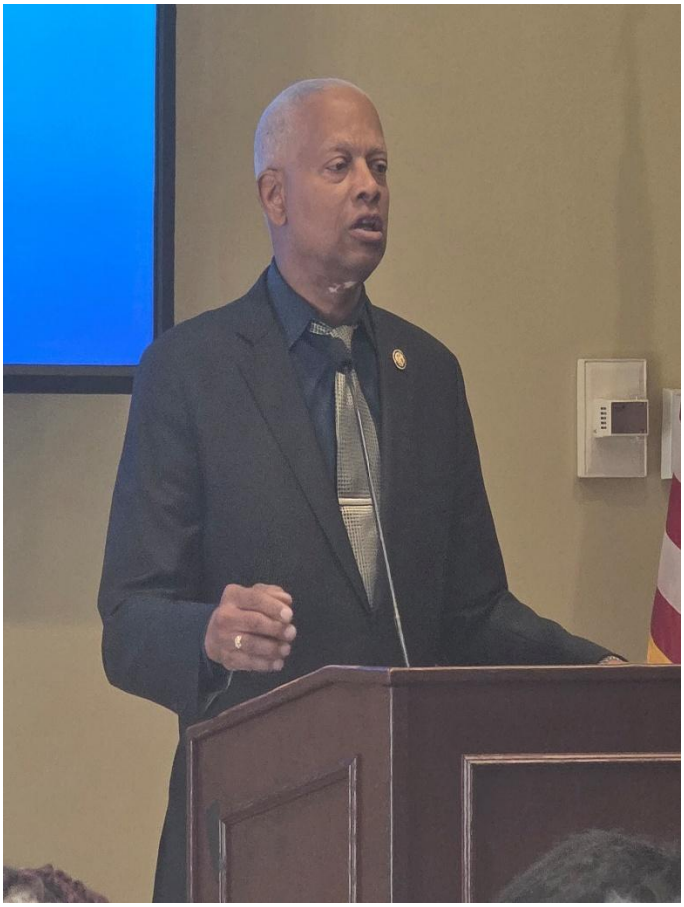
Al Green
Texas



U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES





THANK YOU!!!