



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Here's a little "blast from the past," taken from the lead line in **Wikipedia** - the online encyclopedia - under the heading, **Moral Majority**: *"The Moral Majority was a political organization of the United States (formed in 1976, by Jerry Falwell) which had an agenda of evangelical Christian-oriented political lobbying. It was dissolved in 1989."* Was the majority of America really "moral" for those 13 years? And, whatever the head-count, did those folks cease to be moral when the group disbanded?

The organization may have dissolved in 1989, but the sociological slice that it proposed to represent existed before Jerry Falwell gave it a name, and still existed after they closed their offices.

But, earlier this month, Jon Meacham, top-dog at **Newsweek**, plastered the obituary across the cover of his magazine: **"The End of Christian America."** He captures the essence of his argument in the lead-in: *"The percentage of self-identified Christians has fallen 10 points in the past two decades. How that statistic explains who we are now - and what, as a nation, we are about to become."*

Politics is a numbers game, and the game is played by lackeys in Brooks Brothers suits, in war rooms plastered with precinct maps and survey data. They know how to work



the crowd to make the majority come along for whatever ride they have agreed to back. If the Trinity College survey that provided the fuel for Meacham's fire is the scoreboard for the contest between the forces of evil and the forces of the Christian Faith, the Crusaders are still ahead, but the point spread has tightened-up in the last decade. Recent moves on a national front have the crowd on their feet and the underdogs on the move...

So, is it a political contest? Is the American convert to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus required to register in a particular political party, vote in a particular way... and measure success and failure based on popular opinion? If that's the measure of impact, we're on the run. Perez Hilton -- openly gay, famous for nothing, selected to be a judge of last week's Miss America pageant -- has decided that America is a place where the majority doesn't matter, anyway: if Miss California, Carrie Prejean, didn't agree with him

about the essence of marriage, she didn't deserve the right to exercise her free speech without great cost.

Numbers are funny things; they don't paint the real differences among the things being counted. When David was moving into position as the new King of Israel, the delegates from the 12 Tribes came together to affirm his leadership. The roster of armed forces from each tribe is listed in 1 Chronicles, with over 337,000 men listed who turned out to show their support. Spot one unique group from among them: *"These are the numbers of the men armed for battle who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul's kingdom over to him, as the Lord had said... men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do - 200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command... All these were fighting men who volunteered to serve in the ranks. They came to Hebron fully determined to make David king over all Israel. All the rest of the Israelites were also of one mind to make David king."*

The thousands were impressive, but there was a small grouping of 200 who were more valuable, man-for-man, than all the rest: the leaders who "understood the times and knew what Israel should do."

The political hacks are out to mobilize the thousands, to get their agendas advanced. I believe that the great need today is to find those few - leaders who represent the Kingdom - who "understand the times, and know what Christians should do." We're mobilizing those special forces for strategic action; *are you on that short list?*

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

Bob Shank

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