



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

I write this morning, surrounded by newspapers. I've already done a fair amount of web-surfing this morning. Journalists -- whether conventional, print-media dinosaurs or new-age digital hacks -- didn't have much off-time over the weekend. The House of Representatives worked into Sunday night doing their part to make history...

That's what the dominant headline is, this morning: "*historic*." Their clever Statue-of-Liberty play -- with words like "reconciliation" flying like frisbees at a 4th of July picnic -- created an opportunity for a slim simple majority to take the next steps in forcing a change in our nation's health care sector -- and, a change in the oversight power of the federal government -- that is now deemed "*historic*."

Historic: *significant in history; important in or affecting the course of history.* Synonyms: *important, significant, momentous, notable, famous, remarkable, extraordinary & celebrated.*



Let me put a little "Shank" on that definition. **Historic:** *marking a course-change in a continuum set in motion, in the past.* The "new" view of America is different than the "old" view of America. The old view put power - and, responsibility - in the hands of the individual. The new view puts power - and, responsibility - in the hands of the federal government. **Old view:** "*freedom to fail.*" **New view:** "*too big (or, small... or, sick... or, entitled) to fail.*" Is this, in fact, a "*historic*" moment? Time will tell. It was historic when the Berlin Wall was destroyed by people committed to freedom. It was also historic when Pearl Harbor was destroyed by an out-of-control government. Some historic moments aren't positive...

Reconciliation was used to bring about a historic course change, about 2000 years ago. It wasn't a *political* act, but -- rather -- a *spiritual* one: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

Reconciliation: *"the ending of conflict or renewing of a friendly relationship between disputing people or groups."* I doubt that there is much feeling of reconciliation on Capitol Hill today, but I know -- for sure -- that the sense of reconciliation is profound today, in heaven. The end of conflict between sinful mankind and the holy God was accomplished when Jesus died to settle the score.

So... I'll be affected -- for a while, down here -- by the history made by men and women in Congress, but I'll be affected -- for

eternity, here and heaven -- by the history made by the Father and the Son at Calvary. My "power" as a citizen is exercised every two years, in a polling booth (*and, I plan to use it!*).

But my "power" as Christ's Ambassador is exercised every day, in my personal interactions with people who now have the opportunity to be reconciled (*God calls them "lost"*)... and, the ones who have been appointed as reconcilers (*God calls them "saved"*).

My choice, today: *waste my time* talking about Washington... or, *redeem my time* talking about Heaven. *I'll take Door #2...*

Bob Shank

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