



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Election Preview – Part 1

Guest(s): Gary Bauer

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- Dr. James Dobson: Welcome everyone to Family Talk. It's a ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute, supported by listeners just like you. I'm Dr. James Dobson, and I'm thrilled that you've joined us.
- Roger Marsh: Well, welcome to Family Talk, the broadcast division of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, and you know, we are about a month away from Election Day 2026. Now, you may not be aware that Election Day is coming up because it's a midterm election. It's not a presidential election. But this could turn out to be one of the most consequential elections in American history. Joining me for a conversation about why this election is so important is our own Gary Bauer, our special secret weapon when it comes to all things Capitol Hill. Gary Bauer is the senior vice president of public policy and culture here at the Dr. James Dobson Policy and Culture Center. He's the host of the Defending Faith, Family, and Freedom podcast, which you can get on Apple, Spotify, OnePlace, and also at drjamesdobson.org. Gary Bauer, welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. This is going to be a lively conversation about a very important topic, isn't it?
- Gary Bauer: Well, Roger, it's always great to be with you, and what a great way to start our conversation. This is an extraordinary moment that we're heading into here with the election. And it's happening, you know, on the 250th birthday of the founding of America, where, you know, there's the old story, which has been repeated many times, although I don't think they teach it in school anymore, where some lady is hanging outside Constitution Hall, and Ben Franklin comes out, and she asks him, what did you give us? And he says, a republic, if you can keep it. And that question and that statement is as valid today, maybe even more valid today than it was when he spoke it. This really is, Roger, an extraordinarily important election. And there's the rub, right? Because so many just normal people, I don't think, understand that and I'm afraid that many of our fellow believers don't understand it. You know, you and I kind of marinate in this stuff. And at JDFI, we're kind of a reflection of Dr. Dobson and all that he did over the years. And of course, he always cared about elections. And it used to drive him nuts, as you know, Roger.
- Roger Marsh: Mhmm. Yes.
- Gary Bauer: When we would get a post-mortem and they would say, and only 28% of Bible-believing Christians showed up to vote. And he just couldn't understand why

that was the case. But there's a lot of reasons for it. But man, oh man, we cannot be at home in November on this election because there are things happening this year that have never happened in America before.

Roger Marsh: You know, it's amazing when you say that, Gary, because I think about what has happened to the electorate over the past, say, 25, 26 years. Talk about why election integrity this time around is of utmost importance.

Gary Bauer: Well, as you know, Roger, there's been so much... how to put this, odd things happening in our elections in the last 10 years or so. And we've had a number of investigations that show there were real efforts, some of them I think illegal, obviously, to make elections come out in a way that's detrimental, not only to somebody like President Trump, but detrimental to those of us that want America to remain a country that's built on the idea of ordered liberty under God.

Roger Marsh: Amen.

Gary Bauer: That our freedom doesn't come from some elected official or from a bureaucrat. Our liberty comes directly from God. We're made in His image. That's what our founders thought. They put it in our Declaration of Independence. And we want our elections to result in people being elected that share that basic fundamental idea of America. And as we all know, there are forces that have been unleashed in our country that want to rip America away from that. They want a totally secular society. And there's not only a lot of Americans, unfortunately, that believe this, but they're heavily represented in the media and academia and a lot of the places that really matter. And so what you said so succinctly, we see time and time again, the media not being a deliverer of the news, not informing, but attempting to tilt the playing field one way or another so that they get the outcomes that they want. Now, we see it when they'll say something about a conservative, they'll call us a Christian fascist or they'll label people nazis or bigots or whatever it just that goes on all the time.

The other thing I notice a lot and it's because I'm here in Washington, D.C., there are all sorts of things happening that the media just doesn't tell the American people about. And they're the kind of things that if they were the other way around, it would be everywhere. Let me just give you one quick example of this.

Roger Marsh: Yeah.

Gary Bauer: The other day there was a hearing on Capitol Hill of a number of parents that had children that were killed by illegal immigrants in the United States, either intentionally or in a traffic accident. So your teenage son or daughter ends up being run over by an illegal alien, and now a person that shouldn't even be in the country has resulted in you losing the love of your life. So there was this hearing, and a number of those parents were there. And it was shocking to me that the Democrats in the hearing, I'm not trying to be openly partisan about

this, I'm just saying what happened in this hearing. They spent the hearing complaining that there was a hearing, upset that they were being all, why are we dealing with this again? And finally, one of the mothers in the hearing looked up at the Democrats and said, you know, what we're requesting isn't that big of a request. We're just asking you to care about our children as much as you do about illegal aliens. I mean, we're Americans. We elect you. Can't you figure out a way to care for us?

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Gary Bauer: And you could have heard a pin drop in the room. And I saw this on a, you know, somebody sent it to me from the hearing room, they were, you know, filming it all on their phone. And when I went home that night, I said to my wife, Carol, oh my gosh, this is going to be a big story everywhere. It was on Fox.

Roger Marsh: That was it.

Gary Bauer: It did not get one second. But this is the kind of story the media looks for, right? You want that story, somebody challenging power, speaking truth to power. That's what it was, but it didn't fit a narrative. It didn't fit the narrative that would be helpful to the secular left in the upcoming election. So I hope that Christians realize. And that Americans generally realize it's not only that you're getting twisted news, important news is being kept from you. And that's what makes these elections, I think, so close, Roger. Because I think if the elections were just about what the views are of one side and what the views are of the other side, the kind of elections we had when Reagan ran twice, I think our side would be winning elections in landslides.

Roger Marsh: Yeah.

Gary Bauer: Instead, the views of a lot of these secular leftists, Marxists even, are not being fully described to the American people.

Roger Marsh: Gary Bauer is the senior vice president of public policy and culture here at the Dobson Policy and Culture Center. And on today's edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, I'm Roger Marsh. Gary and I are having a conversation about why the upcoming election is so important, why it's so critical. And we encourage you to go to drjamesdobson.org. You can follow Gary's Defending Faith, Family, and Freedom podcast there and also get his weekly blogs where he's writing about the types of stories that he's talking about here that we're discussing. Because, Gary, you're right. I mean, this isn't an our side versus their side. It's a truth versus error side. And the fact that the media has become so complicit and just flat out lying to the American people about what the real issues are.

I mean, I'll give you a case in point and love to get your response on this. There is a candidate who's running for Senate in the great state of Texas named James Talarico. And he has been interviewed twice now during his campaign by late

night talk show hosts. And you and I both know there's a thing called equal time, equal access if you are a political candidate.

Gary Bauer: Yes.

Roger Marsh: If a commercial radio station, for example, wants to run advertising for the Yes on Proposition 1 campaign and the No on Proposition 1 campaign says we would like to buy time to run our side too. The station, by law, has to take that advertising. Or they take none of it. And I've worked for media outlets that have done both. One said, we're not taking any of it because... I don't know, because they didn't want any money, because there's a lot of campaign cash. But sometimes the message from the "other side" is so damaging to your side, you'd rather not get into it. But both times this guy was interviewed, then they said, well, Donald Trump shut us down and wouldn't let us air the broadcast. Well, that's not true. What's true is if you did a 20-minute interview with James Talarico, who's running from Texas, you have to do a 20-minute interview with Ken Paxton, his opponent. And the media outlets didn't want to do it.

But Gary, it's breathtaking, the amount of Americans who don't understand equal access, who don't, they'll just go to YouTube and watch the thing and go, oh my goodness, this guy is just so smart. And even Christians are falling for this now. Talk about why it's so important for us. I understand the world to not get it. I mean, I don't expect the world to understand biblical issues. But for people who are professing Christians, it really is shocking our level of ignorance when it comes to this type of thing.

Gary Bauer: It is, Roger. And I, you know, I mean, we're called biblically to have discernment, you know, to be as wise as serpents. And you would think with everything that we've been misled about over, particularly in recent years, that we would be a little bit more skeptical about some of the things big media is telling us. And the example you give of Talarico, I'm amazed that he is competitive in Texas. I mean, this is a guy, you know, we didn't coordinate this before we started, but I keep at my desk some of the quotes of some of these people because it reminds me of what we're dealing with. Talarico has said, "I always think of myself as a Christian who hates Christianity." He said that "God is non-binary." Now, listen to this one. This is kind of like the equivalent of a frontal lobotomy. "Our trans community needs abortion care, too."

Roger Marsh: Yeah. What? I was a C and D student in science in high school and college. And even I can figure out that that doesn't make any sense.

Gary Bauer: Yeah. And, you know, the border issue is a huge issue. I wonder sometimes, have people already forgotten that under the previous president, I think the most likely number, we don't know for sure because the previous president wasn't keeping track, but we believe 15 million people walked into America that shouldn't be here. And you can see in the news, obviously, how difficult it's been to get people out. But even after 15 million people came in, Mr. Talarico said, our southern border should be like our front porch. There should be a giant

welcome mat out front. Now, Christians, if any people, ought to understand there's nothing Christian or empathetic about bringing millions of people into your country and then making all of the American taxpayers pay for those people, for their education.

Roger Marsh: Exactly.

Gary Bauer: With food stamps, with health care. So there's nothing Christian about that. You can welcome people into your own home and take on that burden yourself if you want, but you shouldn't feel as a Christian that the Christian thing to do is to have open borders and force your neighbor with his tax money to pay for all the people that you want to bring in. So there's a lot of confusion about that sort of thing that we would hope Christians would know better about. The polling shows that Talarico is a couple points ahead. And we're only a few weeks away from the election. There's no way he could win that election if Christians in Texas get out to vote. If they get out to vote in the normal levels you would hope and expect, because we know the left's going to do that. We know the radical gay rights movement's going to turn out 100% of their vote. The radical abortion on demand movement, that vote comes out 100% in every election. Why in the world as Christians would we think, well, as long as I show up every four years for the presidential race, I'm okay.

You know, Roger, I've talked about this a number of times, and I like it. I don't know if my analysis, I don't know if anybody else does it, but I try to remind people that if you were born in America or you came here legally, you got an incredible gift from God. God knew where we were going to be born. It was not a surprise to God when I popped out of my mother's womb in Newport, Kentucky. So, you know, that birth of me could have happened in Nigeria or in North Korea or in communist China where the very act of worshiping God can get you thrown into jail or where, like in Nigeria, when you go to church every Sunday, you know it might be the last thing you and your family does on this planet because radical Islam is on the march in Nigeria and churches regularly get blown up in that country.

Roger Marsh: True.

Gary Bauer: There's a civil war of sorts going. So if God gave us this incredible gift to be in this country built on ordered liberty under God, don't we have an obligation, a responsibility to take care of that gift? So if somebody gave you a car and you didn't take care of the car, you would be an ingrate. I mean, you were given a free car, you know? Well, we were given this great country. We have an obligation to take care of it and make sure that our children and grandchildren enjoy the same blessing that we have enjoyed. And, you know, this 250th birthday and all the speeches I've been given, I keep trying to remind people of that. This isn't like a sideshow. This is the country we have. And the question that was asked of Ben Franklin is a question that every generation has to answer again. Because Ronald Reagan used to do this in his speeches.

Liberty, it's not a given. It's got to be one in every generation. And now it's up to us. And very specifically, it's up to us this November to exercise this fundamental right that we've all been given to vote for elected officials. And it's particularly important this year because we have actual Marxists, they're calling themselves socialists, but they're Marxists. They're godless, they're radical secularists. We're going to have a bunch of them in the new Congress because they ran in areas where they got the nomination and they're in districts that overwhelmingly always elect Democrats. But we may have a lot more of them in states like Michigan and even Texas and Pennsylvania and Ohio unless Christians turn out to vote this November.

Roger Marsh: When you see what's happened in the Democrat Party, I think it is worth noting that if a Christian who favors conservative biblical values sits on the sidelines. And historically, I mean, Gary, we're not here to kind of beat up our own, but the reality is Christians are more likely to stay home on election day than get involved on election day. We do run the risk of the Democrat Party has been taken over in many key areas by the so-called Democratic Socialists. I mean, as evidenced by the fact that we recently just celebrated the 25th or commemorated 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with the Democratic Socialist mayor of New York heading up the celebrations in the Big Apple there. I mean, could you or I ever have imagined something as audacious as that happening 25 years ago, and yet this is the world we're living in right now?

Gary Bauer: No, you know, what's happening in New York is a perfect example, Roger. I mean, and he got elected. He's, you know, he's been very open about it. He's a serious Muslim. He said, I take my faith seriously. I follow Sharia. Somebody pointed out to me, he's what's called a twelver. And I thought, a what? A twelver. So even I didn't know what that meant. What it's a reference to is that he's a Shia Muslim and he comes from the branch of the Shia Muslims that believes the 12th Imam will appear on the earth. They believe it's going to happen sooner rather than later. And we will know him because the first thing he will do is slaughter all the Christians and Jews.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Gary Bauer: Yeah, now that's not a minor point, right? I mean, if a Christian was running for office, and, you know, in fact, when Christians run for office, the reporters will sometimes say, do you actually believe the world was created in seven days? Do you think an ark was able to put two of every animal, you know these questions, and if you say, well, I believe my Bible, oh my goodness, then you're a crazy person. Well, nobody that I have been able to find, no reporter has asked him, Mayor, you belong to a Shia sect that believes that the 12th Imam will come soon and that you have an obligation to hurry his arrival, but it also believes that when he comes, he'll kill all the Christians and Jews. Do you renounce that or do you believe that's what's going to happen? Now, that would be an interesting and informative question for the mayor to answer, but he was elected and he was elected by a coalition of Muslim votes. I believe the Muslim population of New York City is twice what it was on 9/11.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Gary Bauer: And also a coalition of that vote and very radical leftists with advanced degrees, many of them young. Interestingly, he didn't do as well among other minorities, but there were enough Muslims and enough highly educated leftists in New York City to elect him. And he's doing a lot of things that I think if we see it spread across America, every American will regret not voting. You mentioned he presided over the 9/11 25th anniversary. He did that after 100,000 people signed a petition urging him not to come to that ceremony because he has said so many odd things about 9/11 and has suggested that the most important thing after 9/11 and the most horrifying thing that happened after 9/11 was the backlash against Muslims.

Well, my goodness, I think history will record that unlike what probably would have happened in a lot of other countries, there really wasn't that much of a backlash against Muslims. We're actually pretty good people as Americans. And we didn't hold every Muslim responsible for what these radicals did on 9/11.

Roger Marsh: Of course not.

Gary Bauer: So, you know, and it reminds me, I remember a few years ago calling one of the presidential elections the 9/11 election. And I wonder maybe if that fits this year, too, because it is the 25th, was the 25th anniversary. And there were Christians, you know, on those planes on 9/11. Particularly very notably the one that ended up coming down in the field in Pennsylvania. And that happened because Christians on that plane, along with other just Americans of all kinds of backgrounds, first of all, disagreed about what was going on and about what the right thing to do was. Some of them felt that they ought to go back to their seats and sit down. Others said, no, I just talked to my wife or my husband, and we're at war. Two other planes, three other planes have already been used as weapons. We've got to get control of this plane. So they did something incredibly American. They voted, Roger.

Roger Marsh: Yes.

Gary Bauer: So I've tried to picture what that must have looked like. "Well, everybody that thinks we should go back to our seats and sit down, raise your hand. Everybody that thinks we ought to fight back, raise your hand." And the people that believed they should fight back won that vote. One of the passengers, Todd Beamer, tried again to call home, and his call was diverted to an operator at United Airlines because the government at that point was monitoring the calls. And he asked that operator if she would be willing to pray with him. And they prayed the Lord's Prayer together. And there's a tape of that that was preserved. You can hear other passengers praying in the background with her and Todd Beamer. And then you hear a commotion, and he says to her, "I have to go now. We're getting ready to make our move."

And then, as we know, he led people running down the aisle into the teeth of men armed with box cutters. And the yell that you could hear was, "let's roll." And then there's screaming and yelling. And that battle lasted quite a few minutes. And it ended with them not getting control of the plane. But they stopped the plane from getting to its target. I was reminded a few weeks ago that when that plane crashed into the field of Pennsylvania, it was upside down. And it was going 400 miles an hour.

Roger Marsh: Wow.

Gary Bauer: It completely disintegrated in that field. There's a memorial there today. So, look, if our fellow Americans could fight back when their lives literally, and they were saving other people's lives. They knew they were going to lose their lives. If they could vote on that plane and then fight. We're not being asked to fight our way to the polling place. We're just asked to pray our way to the polling place and then do the right thing and vote for people that will defend faith, family, and freedom.

Roger Marsh: Amen to that, Gary. What a riveting story and what a powerful reminder of why it's so important for us as Christians to vote come election day and so many people are voting early. If you are registered to vote by mail and where you are listening to us now, we encourage you to get that vote in and make sure it counts. Also, check out a resource we have for you at drjamesdobson.org. It's a special e-book that we actually created for the 2024 election, but it's perfect for where we are right now. It's called *Voting in the Church, Why Christians Engage the Public Square*. And you can find out how to get that download quickly and easily when you go to drjamesdobson.org.

Well, Gary, the time has flown by. We're going to need another program to keep on talking about why it's so important for Christians to vote in election 2026. Can you join us again next time when we can continue this discussion?

Gary Bauer: I would love to do that, Roger. This is so important. And look, if Christians don't participate, one day we may wake up in a country where we're not allowed to participate.

Roger Marsh: Amen. Amen to that. And by the way, if you want more information about the e-book or how to support the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, you can call a member of our constituent care team. That number is 877-732-6825 or visit us online, as I mentioned, at drjamesdobson.org. For all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family, Institute. I'm Roger Marsh for Gary Bauer. Thanks so much for listening today. Be sure to join us again next time right here for the next edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

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