# Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** Midterm Election Reaction – 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 ministry of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. I'm Roger Marsh, and today we are doing a little bit of damage assessment, quality control, trying to see what our new world looks like after the, well, they call it a tsunami, a tectonic shift, whatever you want to call it, that happened on November the 3rd, 2026, as there was a blue tsunami that came through and basically made everyone stand up and take notice. Gary Bauer is here in studio with us today. Gary, of course, our senior vice president of public policy here at the Dobson Policy and Culture Center. He's also the host of the "Defending Faith, Family, and Freedom" podcast and blogs very weekly and regularly at drjamesdobson.org. Gary, you're looking well considering what we've been through the past couple of weeks. Welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Gary Bauer: Thank you. I'm heavily sedated. That's probably the only reason that I'm looking well. What a time it has been and we're still kind of looking through the wreckage. Roger, I know how busy you are, and there's all kinds of things I'm doing. But when we get together like this to do a show, you try to prepare for the show, right? You want to talk about all the facts and all the things that matter. I don't know about you. Did this thought cross your mind? I was trying to imagine what Dr. Dobson would sound like today giving a reporter overview on the election. And I think he would be very frustrated and very puzzled. And we're going to dig into this, but, I mean, obviously, the pro-abortionists and the LGBT, the alphabet people, they show up in big big numbers. What would you expect, right? But our people didn't show up. And I'm sorry, Roger, I've been praying about it. I'm trying to come up with something I can embrace that will stop me from being really angry that my fellow members of the body of Christ didn't think this was important enough to be part of it.

Roger Marsh: Well, Gary, we've seen this pattern so many times before, and I remember that day in mid-November, we were just about two years ago from where we are right now, when you and Dr. Dobson went into the studio after the presidential election, and there was a heavy sigh of relief that had been, you know, exhaled because of the outcome nationally. But then there was the warning that both you and Doctor had, which was we can't be complacent. We can't sit back and

just expect that everything is going to settle back into normal. And I think one of the things that we did see, I mean, first and foremost, I'm glad you brought this up as the first point. We can analyze demographic results. We can analyze different parts of the country to see what might have happened where. But at the end of the day, with the numbers that you have in front of you, and we're going to dive into here, the fact that the evangelical church didn't show up, and the Christians who did show up were more upset with Republican policies than seemingly thinking that the Democrat policies were all that bad. I mean, we could spend days just talking about those two facets right now. Take us through the church numbers first, though, because they are gruesome.

Gary Bauer: Do I have to, Roger? Can't we just say, yeah, it was bad, but no, we do have to. Okay, well, let's start with the most obvious one. A core conservative voting bloc are white self-described conservatives. Now, in the world we live in, let me just quickly add that the only reason I'm saying white self-identified evangelicals is that black evangelicals, God bless them, and it goes back to the civil rights movement and other things, but they continue to vote for, you know, not everybody, we're doing generalizations here, but they tend to vote for more liberal candidates because the sort of social gospel, you know, where our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ told us to help the poor and feed the hungry and, you know, clothe the homeless, give them homes and so forth. And the social gospel on the Left has taken crisis teachings about what we as Christians are supposed to do to help the less fortunate. And they've, they've morphed that into Jesus would want us to empower the federal government to take somebody else's belongings and give them to the poor, the indigent and so forth. So because of that, the black community in America trends very strongly toward liberal democrats. So on the conservative side, white evangelical Christians reading the same gospel have been… I don't want to say they're republicans but I think more and more all the way back to Ronald Reagan's time, they've been more and more inclined toward the message that has made its home in the Republican Party. And Ronald Reagan kind of started it, you know, faith, family, and freedom, all of those things, pro-life, et cetera, et cetera. Well, that evangelical voting bloc election after election makes up 25% of the entire electorate. I mean, that's huge. This year, it only made up 17% of the electorate. And if you actually do the math on that, that means there were somewhere between 8 and 10 million fewer conservative votes. just because of that drop-off of white evangelicals going to the polls.

Roger Marsh: Isn't that heartbreaking? I mean, when you think about it, and it's a real fact. I mean, you know people, I know people. I was just having a conversation with a couple who are dear friends of ours, very, very patriotic. He's a veteran, whatever. And they were talking about how difficult it was for them to kind of gin up the support saying, okay, we've got to go vote because it looked either hopeless or it looked like the candidates that were on the ballot. I mean, I know we're here in my state of Texas. It was a difficult decision for a lot of people because James Talarico had so much support from people who heard his pandering to the Christian community where he'd say just enough Christianese to mask the socialistic tendencies that he does have. I mean, anyone with any

discernment could see what he was doing. But then he's running against Ken Paxton, who's a guy who committed adultery and is marrying his mistress and divorcing his wife. And it was very, very public and nasty. And a lot of people said, well, wait, so who are we choosing between? And I can understand why some people said, I'm going to sit this out. But Gary, I know you and I are very passionate about the fact that if you don't vote at all, then you really can't complain. We have to at least say, okay, if these are the choices, I liken it to which fast food truck stop joint are you going to eat at on the way driving from point A to point B? No, it isn't perfect, but you got to eat something. I mean, someone is going to make that decision for you if you don't make it. And by not voting, you're letting the other side make the decision for you.

Gary Bauer: Yeah, you're absolutely right, Roger. And look, I mean, if I had a dollar for every time I've heard somebody say, I will not vote for the lesser of two evils, I would be a wealthy man. And I don't want to be a smart aleck about this, but our faith teaches us that all men are fallen. That's why we had to have the perfect lamb of Jesus Christ to be the sacrifice to wash us of our sins. So in every election, you're voting for two sinners. And the entire electorate is made up of sinners. So when you say, I'm not going to vote because I don't want to vote for the lesser of two evils, then you allow people that want to abort babies and redefine marriage and introduce your little six and seven-year-olds to LGBTQ ideology. You're letting them decide how America is going to be governed.

Now, Ken Paxton, I'm aware of all the character issues and so forth. But then I can't help but think of David, right? David, I mean, we know all the things that the biblical character David did. I mean, some of the stuff you read it is like right out of today's headlines if you compare David to some politicians today. But God said David was the apple of His eye. Let me put it this way, so by not voting for Paxton because of his falls, you have in fact sent somebody to Washington, D.C. that is going to make it more likely that we abort more babies, that the family comes under greater attack, that religious liberty will be more in danger, and that it will be very unlikely in these next two years that Donald Trump will be able to appoint even one more federal judge to any level of the courts that is a conservative. Because the Democrat Senate will not confirm any of them. So it's really short-sighted, and it's not being, what's the phrase, wise as serpents. And I guess I would, you know, I know we've got a bunch to cover here, but I would also say, Roger, you know, I'm mad at the flock, but the sheep perish without the shepherd. And I know we'll talk about this a little bit. The number of pastors and priests that continue to say, just keep that politics stuff away from my church. That's not what we deal with. When we know that deep moral issues are being taken away from us and they're being redefined as political issues. So whether an unborn child is made in the image of God and is a little human being who should be protected, or whether what's in the womb is no more morally significant than your appendix. And if your appendix gives you trouble, you get rid of it, right? That's being settled in the political arena, even though the answer to the question and the pondering of the question is a deep moral question that we all need to deal with. So now it would be bad enough if evangelicals did not turn out. But then when you go to a broader definition of

just voters that describe themselves as Protestants. They make up 43 percent of the electorate. And except this year, they dropped to 38 percent of the electorate. So they dropped by a whole five points. And they, in addition to that drop in numbers, they were less likely to vote for conservative candidates than they were just two years ago.

Again, a real head scratcher. Let me mention one more thing because I can tell you're ready to – you feel as strongly as I do, Roger. I'm the political guy and we spent all these years with Dr. Dobson and we know how upset he would be. There's another group in the electorate and two other groups in the electorate and they are growing in numbers. The one is what is referred to by the pollsters as the nones, not N-U-N-S, but N-O-N-E-S. And they are agnostics, atheists, people that say, I don't really think about that religion stuff. Or, yeah, I'm probably a Christian, but I don't go to church or read the Bible. And so they get put into the nones category. The number of people that describe themselves that way, each election is getting bigger and bigger. And they turned out in record numbers. And not surprising, 78% of them voted for pro-Marxist, pro-Islamist, anti-Israel candidates. I mean, my goodness, folks, our country was built on that second paragraph in the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, endowed by their creator.” That's the God of the Bible. “And we are endowed by him with certain unalienable rights, among these the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Can we actually even be America if we get to the point? where the majority of voters don't believe there's a God? I mean, the whole country was built on the idea that there is a God, it's the God of the Bible, and He's the source of our rights. So this, I just, I really feel like I'm out of words. I've run out of words, but the amount of things to be outraged about keep growing.

Roger Marsh: Yeah, and it's interesting, Gary, as we're talking with Gary Bauer today here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, a couple weeks after the election here, and we're doing our postmortems and trying to figure out exactly what happened because, obviously, you don't want to cry over spilled milk. I mean, obviously, this is way more important than spilled milk. But the idea that I think a lot of evangelicals woke up on November the 4th and said, what the heck happened to my country? This was a good litmus test for finding out exactly what did happen. And Gary, you mentioned something earlier that really spoke to my pastor's heart about the fact that the number of people either who are currently serving in ministry or have seminary training who are now serving in the House and in the Senate, it's a very large percentage, and the overwhelming majority of them are progressive Democrats. And this is something that's just, it's mind-boggling to me when you see, is it Adam Harrison in Kansas, did I get his name right, or Talarico who was a seminarian in Texas, and you see other pastors and you think about Raphael Warnock in Georgia, who is still pastoring his church while he's serving in the U.S. Senate. I haven't seen anything other than the rhetoric of the Sermon on the Mount. Right. And the Matthew 25 and I was naked and you gave me clothes and I was hungry and you gave me food. That all plays very, very well. And especially the gentleman in Kansas is a very gifted orator. However, you know, who else was a rather silver-tongued devil, if

you will, was the enemy in the garden saying, did God really say you can't eat the fruit? So I think that this is where the church is at a crossroads where there's a roadblock that says, I didn't want to vote because I didn't like the candidates. But there also seemed to be a big groundswell of people saying, yeah, I'm tired of Republican rhetoric and these guys sound like Jesus, so I'm going to vote for them. Talk about why that is such a dangerous shift in American culture, but it's very, very real.

Gary Bauer: It just hit me that a few minutes ago, I said that there were two groups that showed up in big numbers, and one of them was these nones, N-O-N-E-S.

Roger Marsh: The none of the above, yes.

Gary Bauer: Right. But the other big group was Muslim Americans. And their voting, believe it or not, folks, 80% to 90% of eligible Muslim Americans in this country showed up and voted. The figure for Christians is in a good election, about 50%. And you can already see where there's concentrations of Muslim Americans in places like Dearborn, Michigan. Without having a majority at all, they're winning all the elections. And so, some of these cities in Michigan now, the entire police department and that police chief and the mayor and the city councils are all Muslim. And they're beginning to observe the Muslim holidays in those churches while they don't observe the Christian holidays or in those cities. So, folks, come on. I mean, I can't be the only one noticing this. So we had those two things.

Now, on the important point that we were talking about, Roger, when we interpreted the Sermon on the Mount and Matthew 25 in the way that the Left is interpreting it, you are making the gospel of Jesus Christ identical to Das Kapital or the Karl Marx's and communist theory. If what the gospel of Jesus Christ means is that powerful government should look at a population and decide which people are making too much money and take it away from them and redistribute it to other people that the government decides are more deserving of it, you have now voted to live in a communist country. And when a government can become that popular to do that, you end up losing your freedom. Somebody said and this is a pretty radical thing. I'm not suggesting this, but somebody has said what history teaches is you can vote in socialism or communism, but you usually can only shoot your way out of socialism and communism. That is, once you've empowered that kind of philosophy, it doesn't give up power easily. I mean, people don't need to, if that's what the gospel means, why go to church? I mean, you can just go to the Unitarian Church where, you know, they're praying to whom it may concern, and the sermons sound like they're reading the platform of the Democrat Party. We're told not to covet other people's belongings or wives or whatever, but that Marxist message is a message of coveting. Oh, look how well that person's doing. And if he's doing well, that must be why I'm doing so poorly. So I want to punish him and take his money and give it to me. And I'm going to vote for people that does that. Does that sound like something Jesus Christ would do? So I think there's a lot of fuzzy church, a lot of fuzzy thinking. in the churches, and we're paying a

terrible price for it. Now, there were some places around the country where moderate-sounding candidates running on the Democrat Party ticket did win, and in some cases, they probably are more moderate than the typical Democrat senator or congressman. When they come to Washington in January and they're sworn in, they will empower with their votes people like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and El-Sayed, the first Muslim senator to be elected to the United States Senate. They're going to empower those people to have tremendous influence. in our government, and in many cases lead the House and Senate. And my friends, that is going to be to the detriment of your family, of your children, and of our future. This is the most, we have just elected the most pro-abortion Congress in the history of the United States. We have just elected the Congress with the largest number of Muslims in it in the history of the United States.

Roger Marsh: Well, Gary, so much that we have discussed and it's been a little bit on the downside, but there are some good results that came out of election day, but we've run out of time today. So we're going to have to save them for our next broadcast. Can you join us again next time to look at some of the silver linings that came out of the election?

Gary Bauer: Absolutely, Roger. We can't give people just the dark news. There's plenty we can also celebrate.

Roger Marsh: Today's conversation with Gary Bauer certainly gave us plenty to think about. The midterm elections have raised some serious questions about the direction of our country, the role of the church, and the responsibility Christians have to remain engaged in the issues that affect our families and communities. As Gary reminded us, even when the results are disappointing, we cannot afford to become discouraged or disengaged. If you missed any part of today's conversation here on Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, or if you'd like to share it with a friend who needs similar encouragement, remember you can listen again at drjamesdobson.org.

And remember, the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute depends on the prayers and faithful financial support of listeners just like you. Your generosity allows us to continue bringing biblical truth, encouragement, and practical guidance to families all across America. Would you consider partnering with us today? You can give a gift online through our secure website at drjamesdobson.org. If it's easier, just use those initials, jdfi.org. They'll take you to the exact same place. You can also give a gift over the phone. Call a member of our constituent care team at 877-732-6825. Or you can write to us. Our ministry mailing address is the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, P.O. Box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado, the zip code 80949. Once again, our ministry mailing address is the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, or just use those initials JDFI for short. P.O. Box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado, the zip code 80949.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh, and on behalf of all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, thanks so much for joining us today. Be sure to tune in again next time right here as Gary Bauer returns to discuss some more

encouraging developments from the 2026 midterm election. It's coming up right here on the next edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.

Dr. James Dobson: Sometimes, you know, it seems that those we love the most, we treat the worst.

Roger Marsh: Here's today's Dr. Dobson Minute with Dr. James Dobson.

Dr. James Dobson: Mark Hatfield, a longtime senator from Oregon and also the father of four kids, says his wife brought him up short once by saying, “I just wish you were as patient with your children as you are with your constituents.” Somehow, we're all guilty from time to time of what I call split vision, treating certain people with unending forbearance and giving every benefit of the doubt while heaping instant contempt on others under our own roof. Isn't it time to cut one another a little slack at home? If, in fact, we love our spouses, our children, and parents as much as we proclaim on every greeting card, one way to show it is to give them at least as many smiles and kind words as we bestow on our casual acquaintances.

Roger Marsh: For more information, visit drdobsonminute.org.

Hello, friends. Roger Marsh here. In today's rapidly changing world, the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute remains committed to our founding mission to preserve and promote the institution of family and the biblical principles on which it is based. Thanks to your prayers and faithful support, we're reaching millions through our daily Family Talk broadcasts, online resources, and policy initiatives. As President Reagan wisely said, freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction, and that's why we are working tirelessly to uphold faith, strengthen families and protect our God-given freedoms. Thank you for standing with us in this mission. Together, we're making a difference for generations to come.