



The Family Room

By: Dr. Roy Don Whitehead

I Voted on a Computer

It has been the greatest civics lesson for the American public in my lifetime. I refer, of course, to the aftermath of the 2000 presidential election. We have learned more about the election process, the electoral college and the branches of government than most of us ever learned in school.

I found the post election to be much more exciting than the campaign. Though I did vote for one candidate over the other, I did not find either particularly exciting. I generally avoided campaign ads, the debates and other reminders that the election was coming. I have found it impossible, however, to ignore the developments of these weeks following the election.

What happened in Florida with those ballots could never happen in Kentucky. Why? Because our system of voting is so much further advanced than theirs. Who would believe that those wealthy Floridians were using paper ballots while we poor Hillbillies were voting on computers?

It is true that in Palaski County I cast my ballot on a touch-screen computer while those folks in Palm Beach County, Florida were punching holes in paper. Punching paper sounds like an activity for preschoolers and is certainly no way to elect a president. A friend of mine who is knowledgeable about such things told me that Kentucky leads the nation in election law and election technology. It is

nice to be out in front on something so important.

I fully expect CNN or one of the other networks to drop by my home any day now to interview me about the election. Why? Because they have already interviewed almost everyone else in the country! Aunt Martha's third cousin by marriage who was once married to the nephew of a man who once worked in the Broward County courthouse has been interviewed. You and I are probably the only two people in the country who have not yet shared our comments with some talk show host. One of us must be next.

What did these news talk shows do before all this happened? What did they talk about? As best I can tell, they are spending 18 hours a day discussing, cussing and re-discussing the post election developments. For them the election dispute has been a gift from heaven. Rush Limbaugh sounds simply ecstatic.

Perhaps it is my cynicism, but I firmly believe that, if the shoe were on the other foot, the parties would be saying exactly the opposite of what they are saying now. If Gore was

leading, the Democrats would be trying to stop the hand counts, and the Republicans would be arguing that "each vote must be counted." Ah, politics.

I have not enjoyed the talk shows. What I did enjoy was the sheer theater of the hand-counting of the ballots. To me this was the most exciting part of the whole enterprise. It was democracy in action at its most basic level. Here we had local elected officials making decisions that would ultimately decide who would be president. It does not get much better than that.

I admit that the dialogue during these countings left something to be desired. "Bush vote, Gore vote and no vote" was about all that was heard, but the suspense made up for any lack of dialogue. The presidency was hanging in the balance and these ordinary folks were just doing their jobs. I was proud to be an American.

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"WHAT IS WRITTEN"

In Paul Romans 1:4-16 it says, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Let us notice these 3 I am that Paul speaks about this passage.

Paul said "I am indebted." Paul felt a debt of obligation to all people. A debt of gratitude no doubt was in his heart "For the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead." 2 Cor 5:14

Paul said "I am ready." Paul was eager, willing, ready to go to Rome to preach the gospel. He said, "So, as much as in me is," that is, he was ready to give a 100% effort to preach the gospel. He knew it was God's power to save men and women from sin. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38 Let us learn from Paul's example, 1 Cor 11:1, "The ye followers of me, even as I follow Christ."

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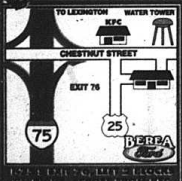
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