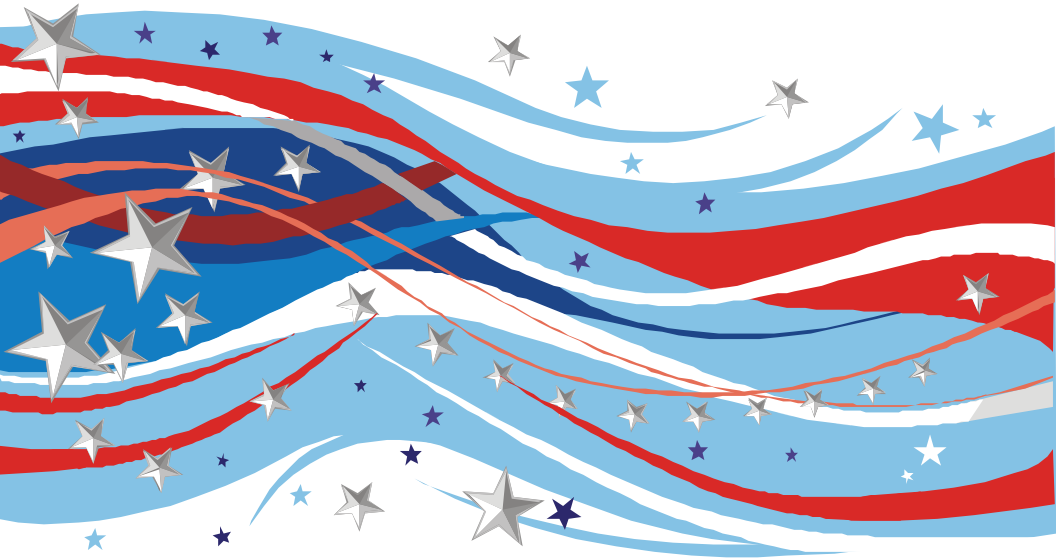


# Conservative *Vision*

**The proven path to personal  
and national prosperity.**

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Daniel W. Jarvis

# “What will I do with my life?”

The greatest blessing of American civilization is the freedom to consider that question without a king or bureaucrat involved in the answer. **The purpose of our lives can be defined in our own hearts, by our own faith, with our own ideals.** We can marry, have children, start businesses, save money, plant gardens, own guns, build homes, travel the world, worship God and even make mistakes – freely. Success, failure, adventure, boredom, victory, heartbreak, joy, sorrow, entertainment, education, and even faith – it is all ours to experience.

This is the essence of our Republic, a nation where no one man or woman is more important than the next. Ours is a nation that values each person’s natural right to speak, believe and act as they wish, so long as their actions do not harm the rights or property of others. Our Founders put it this way:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”*

It is upon this basis that our *Conservative Vision* rests: **free and responsible individuals following their dreams, without taskmasters.** Working together, or working alone. Spending, sharing, or saving without politicians overseeing their every move. They can produce much (and thus acquire much), or be content with little. They can invent, they can own, and they can give. They can try, they can fail, and they can try again.

To properly govern this free society, we select representatives who possess the skills and character to defend American values on our behalf. These representatives are called upon to lead, but not as lords—instead, as *servants*.

The greatest threat to liberty is not usually external (war, natural disaster, etc.), but rather, the internal struggle to insure that our servants (government officials) never become our masters. This can happen in different ways:

- ◆ Under *communism*, the government owns businesses and resources. The “State” answers the question, “What will I do with my life?” for each person, and rights vanish.
- ◆ Under *religious fundamentalism*, the government is run by leaders who force their faith on all citizens, persecuting those who disagree. Unbelievers have no rights.
- ◆ Under *socialism*, the government shapes your life through regulation, wealth redistribution and high tax rates. The ability of citizens to determine their own destiny is hindered by complicated laws and bureaucracy. Quietly, freedom is reduced and incentive to take action is diminished. Instead of asking, “What will I do with my life?” you end up waiting for others to take action for you.
- ◆ And of course, under *dictatorship*, life centers on a single individual. Only that tyrant may ask, “What will I do with my life?” Citizens go to jail, suffer and even die for disagreeing.

“Big Government” systems always fail in the long run because, simply, *they contradict human nature*. **They limit the freedom human beings were created to enjoy.** Our way is different...



# **Our conservative vision builds a foundation for lasting prosperity on freedom, not on government.**

Where some say, “Let’s fix problems by getting government involved,” we know that free enterprise and the innovation of individual citizens is the most effective way to solve problems. This doesn’t mean people are left alone without help – on the contrary. *We want to provide the best roadmap to prosperity available – occasionally that involves government assistance, but usually there is a better way.* Here’s our problem-solving game plan:

1. Can *you* solve it (or meet the need)?
2. If not, can your family or friends help solve it?
3. If not, can businesses or charities solve it?
4. If not, can your local government solve it?
5. If not, can your state government solve it?
6. If there is no other way, should the Constitution be amended to empower the federal government to get involved?

Rather than look to government first, we see it as the last and least effective option for genuinely helping our fellow citizens. If we jump past personal creativity, family, charity, and business, we forfeit the more cost-effective options to help people, options that also involve friendship, compassion and genuine accountability. *The best help you can get in hard times is the kind that comes from people who know and love you.*

The order in which you arrange these six questions determines whether you will live in freedom or in bondage; whether you will take responsibility for your life or whether you will wait for someone else to do the hard work for you. Today, many are tempted to jump directly to question six, assuming that government not only “could” solve a problem, but that it “should.”

*Should the government give college loans? Should it pay for health care? Should it fund retirement? Should it provide daycare? Should it guarantee daily necessities? Should it provide food for children?*

These are wonderful causes – but if we really want to meet these challenges, we *should* start with question #1 and work our way down from there. **We *should* help. But “we” starts with you!**

If citizens are led to believe that “someone else” will automatically pay for their personal expenses, inevitably some will take advantage of these systems, piling up public debts and fostering harmful dependency. Society loses its innovative edge and its wealth-building incentives. And, sadly, citizens lose their drive and their dignity. People worry that working hard might disqualify them from some government “benefit.” Attitudes start to change – from gratefulness and appreciation to wastefulness and a sense of bitter entitlement. The joy of life is lost.

So, here’s a better way: Unless the Constitution specifically directs the federal government to take action, then “we the people” must address the issue. ***The problem-solving in our society is best handled around the kitchen table, or at a church meeting, or by an entrepreneur.*** When government help is needed, local or state governments should meet the challenge. Each citizen has far more influence at the local level, so the system is more accountable and the solutions are more personalized. Only a few issues are big enough so as to require federal attention (like national defense, international trade, some regulations, etc).

In essence, problem-solving power should be kept away from “the top” where corruption and inefficiencies abound. The last line of the Bill of Rights guarantees freedom from overwhelming federal power. Our founders never wanted the government to become the “center” of our lives — **that’s the kind of thing they fought the American Revolution to escape!** They wanted to insure that Americans always had the freedom to ask and answer: “What will I do with my life?”

The greatest danger to our freedom today is that many people are falling for the false promises of government “care” and “security.”

## **Here are the threats to liberty we see:**

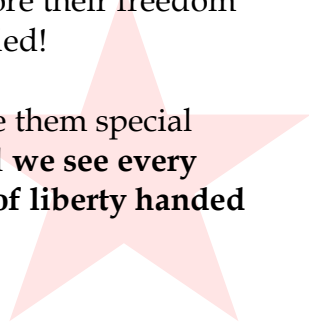
- Politicians keep proposing massive new government programs to solve problems — from bailouts to health reform to “stimulus” funding. These are tragically inferior to local solutions and have been totally ineffective (and expensive).
- Some politicians have been pitting Americans against each other based on the amount of money they make, or their ethnicity, etc. This tears at the fabric of freedom that has been so carefully woven in our nation, and it reverses the progress we’ve made in previous decades.
- America is hated by regimes and extremists across the world who hope to snuff out our notions of free speech, personal liberty, free market capitalism, and religious tolerance.
- Many Americans have lost interest in history and in learning about how “liberty and justice for all” is made possible by our Constitutional government. These essential truths aren’t being passed on effectively to younger generations.
- The debt, deficits and unpaid future obligations our government has accumulated will shipwreck our economy and devalue our dollars. In difficult times, some Americans will be tempted to look for more government help, and they may trade away even more liberty for empty political promises.

*But we could go a different direction, based on these principles:*

- Every human being has immense potential. Let's work to provide maximum freedom with minimum government interference or regulation. Some administration is needed, of course, but not nearly as much as we have today! We can put the power back in the hands of average people instead of bureaucrats and campaign donors.
- The job of political leaders is to protect our rights as outlined in the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Bill of Rights*. This is why conservatives are very interested in strong law enforcement and a powerful military.
- Problems should be solved as close to home as possible. The most important link in this chain is the family, which is why we connect family strength with national prosperity. *"The answer isn't in the White House – it's in your house."*
- The Founders got it right when they gave us a Constitutional, "limited" government, religious liberty and free enterprise. We respect and vigilantly protect each of these gifts.

This is why conservatives want to reduce the scope of federal programs. This is why when politicians offer "free" this or that, or "help" for so-and-so, we cringe. Just look at America's inner cities, where most of the government's "help" has been targeted for the last fifty years. Families are devastated, law and order has broken down, school systems are failing and children are trapped in poverty and dependence. It is the only life they know. Many are driven to substance abuse and crime, filled with emptiness and sorrow. Their ability to ask, "What will I do with my life?" has been seriously compromised. We wish to restore their freedom and opportunity. A conservative vision is needed!

We don't single out certain groups and promise them special treatment (rich, poor, urban, rural, etc.), instead **we see every American as an equal heir to the great legacy of liberty handed down to us by previous generations.**



# Our conservative vision opens the doors of opportunity and prosperity to any and all who are willing to enter.

We want everyone to enjoy the best life possible. This life begins in your own heart and in your own attitude. It begins when you determine to work hard, to produce as much as you can, to parent your children with excellence and to be a person of integrity. It begins when you educate yourself and then join with others in business ventures, charities or community groups to tackle big goals and dream big dreams.

This prosperous life, with all of its endless possibilities, best occurs when you have *maximum liberty*. It occurs when your government protects your rights instead of dictating your steps; when instead of envying what others have achieved, you join them in the pursuit of happiness. Then you can stand with the dignity of freedom, not bow under a yoke of slavery. The American Dream can be yours, and you can pass it on to your children.

**This is our conservative vision.** Do you share it?

Then join us . . . join us on Election Day, join us every day. Be a part of the story that is bigger than any one politician or policy — a vision that grows in each human heart and expands to fill the whole nation with liberty and justice for all.

Previous generations fought and died so that you can ask: *“What will I do with my life?”*

Today, let’s answer that question. Let’s fulfill our divine purpose and share the blessings of liberty with a world in desperate need of hope.



# Here are four things you can do to help strengthen America:

1. **Upgrade Your Character** – A productive, morally-excellent life is one of the greatest gifts you can give to our nation. In these uncertain times, we need a new birth of courage and integrity. We need a renewal of spiritual, moral and national character. Will you take a step in that direction today?
2. **Upgrade Your Wisdom** – Many of our early leaders were people of prayer who studied wisdom (like the book of Proverbs in the Bible) and trained their children in faith, history and ethics. Could you do that? Could you help rebuild a legacy of faith and knowledge for future generations?
3. **Upgrade Your Productivity** – A simple way to lift the economy around you is to ask, **“What goods or services could I provide to help people live better lives?”** Beginning with the skills you have, and adding creativity, risk-taking and hard work, you can help build material blessing for the nation and even riches for yourself. Then, you’ll have even more to share with those in need. Why not start right now?
4. **Upgrade Your Involvement** – “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” - Edmund Burke. Get involved in the political process — **vote, read, listen, share**. Serve as a volunteer. Start reading American history and studying the founding fathers. During election seasons, help those who share our conservative vision *win*.

*Forward this document to others.*

**Freedom is the best and only proven path to prosperity.  
Let’s extend its blessings to everyone, everywhere!**