

Brain Massage®: Show No. 570— Cruz Suspends Campaign—What Does It Mean? And, Where Do His Supporters Go From Here?

Jerry Scheidbach

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Segment.01 Hello. I'm Jerry Scheidbach, pastor of the Lighthouse, and your brain masseur—get ready for your brain massage.

Cruz suspended his campaign. Why, and what does it mean? And then, in the next segment, where do we go from here?

A suspension is not the same thing as dropping out. In fact, the FEC (Federal Elections Commission) does not officially recognize a suspension. The candidate is still a candidate until they declare they are not. In a suspension, they keep their delegates and remain on the ballot. But of course, the MSM along with all Trump supporters are crowing about the knock out blow that sent Cruz to the mat—haha. And, of course, they have counted him out. Yet Cruz has asked his 43 million Cruz Crew members to stay tuned for his "latest updates."

Here is his statement: "Dear Cruz Crew, thank you for your sacrifice, commitment, and loyalty. We will be in touch in the days ahead. Please continue to be a part of this movement and keep the app installed to receive the latest updates." However, his public statement certainly did sound like this was not a temporary suspension, but a withdrawal from the campaign.

I know that dreams do not die quick deaths—they die slowly, and often agonizingly—and any hope I hold is not because I'm in denial, as you'll see in the next segment—but I wonder what pushed Cruz to suspend his campaign.

Losing Indiana was significant—but Indiana only widened Trump's delegate lead by 51 delegates—

Perhaps it had more to do with what the Indiana loss meant to Cruz's hopes in California. The California GOP leadership has

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pragmatitus disease—not an uncommon disorder among politically active people. (haha).

Here is the deal—a huge amount of campaign money was promised to go to Cruz if he won Indiana—his loss in Indiana meant all that support is going to Trump. See what I mean? Pragmatitus. Or, perhaps it's better to call it corporate Party politics.

So my question is did Cruz suspend after Indiana because he felt that losing Indiana all but certified his loss in California? Because Indiana's 51 or 54 delegates cannot be the reason but the 172 delegates in California, well ...

Assuming the final strategy was to stop Trump from getting the 1,237 delegates he needs in order to win the nomination in the first round of votes at the Convention, thus freeing up delegates to vote for him in a second or third round of votes, here is what I think the Cruz team was looking at.

Trump had 1,047 delegates coming out of Indiana, Cruz had 565. There are only 520 delegates still available. That means even if Cruz got them all, he would still be short about 188 delegates of what is needed to take the nomination in the first vote, whereas, all Trump needs right now is 190 of the 520 remaining delegates. To stop Trump, Cruz would have to get at least 331 of the 520 remaining delegates.

There are 9 state primaries remaining. Five of these are blue states, two are Purple and two are Red. And even though we are talking about a GOP primary where presumably the conservatives of these states would be voting, there is a tendency for the GOP in blue and even in Purple states to vote pragmatically rather than ideologically (And you see, the problem with pragmatism is it's

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arrogant assumption that it can lean on its own limited understanding and create a rationalization justifying acting contrary to their principles, and even contrary to the LORD.)

Most blue state GOP leaders give away about 25 - 50% or more of their conservative ideology up front in every election believing it's the only way they can hope to win. So, to them, accepting Trump's liberal inclination is easy, they are well practiced at compromising their convictions. GOPers believe they must get liberals to like them in order to win. So they keep dissing conservatives and courting liberals—increasingly alienating their base and leading us to where we are today!

From Cruz' perspective, it certainly does seem reasonable to assume that with the boku-bucks promised to assist Trump in California he will likely take the lion's share of delegates in California, and he would very likely pick up enough from the remaining States to win the 1,237 delegates he needs to take the nomination going into the Convention. It's reasonable, but not certain.

Cruz could do well in CA even without the GOP big donor money that is going to support Trump.

Personally, I think it is a mistake to suspend before California—Cruz has quite a lot of support here. If for no other reason, Cruz ought to stay active in order to allow California conservatives a chance to make a clear statement to the GOPers leading the RNC in this state.

Now, there are also a good number of conspiracy voters in my State: those whose vote is informed by suspicions involving various conspiracy theories. And some of these are my friends, whom I love dearly and respect — I just don't get the guilt by

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association thing, and I refuse to allow my vote to be informed by unproved suspicions over against what no one needs any proof for, the obvious negatives of Trump over against the obvious positives of a Christian, Constitutional, Conservative in the White House.

And I don't that there is any reasonable suspicion that Cruz is not all three of these things—a Christian, a Constitutionalist, and a Conservative.

What I don't get about the conspiracy theory voters is why they are not suspicious of a guy who has operated within the corrupt crony capitalist system his entire life, who has boasted about his unfaithfulness to his wives, who acts like a juvenile when he loses, is vindictive, and hateful, and whose knowledge of the Constitution is about as extensive as his knowledge of string theory, or quantum physics—and you say, you don't need to know quantum physics to be president—and I say, you must be a Trump supporter, only a Trump supporter would so totally miss the point!

Anyway, you know that I've said all along how amazed I am that Cruz made it as far as he did.

You've also heard me say that at the end of the day, it will come out that from the beginning it's always been about stopping Cruz — Trump does not scare these GOPers or the Liberals — but a CHRISTIAN, CONSTITUTIONAL, CONSERVATIVE does.

So they are all very happy to have, they hope, ended any chance for a Christian, Constitutional, conservative to be elected, now or ever—

Interesting, is it not, that Kasich suspended his campaign immediately after Cruz suspended his. Hmmm? What is that about?

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I don't know if Kasich actually intended to be used to syphon delegates away from Cruz, but I am convinced that the money that kept him in the race had that in mind. In other words, I think Kasich's money dropped him as soon as Cruz suspended forcing Kasich to suspend. That's my conspiracy theory. (haha!)

Look, as my listeners know, at first I considered it a long shot that Cruz could be elected, but I felt strongly that if there was ever a time we could hope for a Christian, Constitutional, conservative to get the White House, it would be in the current political environment. Many times I've said it's a miracle Cruz has gotten as far as he did—and this might seem a bit strange at first, but even in light of his suspension, I'm actually very grateful for the Cruz campaign and I do not regret my support in prayers and finances and my endorsement and other personal efforts to support him—I continue to believe he is the best man for the job, and that Trump is a nationalist-socialist a la Heir Hitler.

But I do think Cruz should have stayed active at least until Trump actually topped the threshold of 1237 delegates. Many of us in California at least feel let down now that we've been seriously compromised in our efforts to regain some integrity for the conservative movement here.

Okay, let's look at how the California primary works. Then, in the next segment, I'll offer some spiritual insight into all of this.

There are a total of 172 delegates — this breaks down as follows: 3 delegates per Congressional district, there are 53 Congressional districts, so that amounts to 159 delegates. There are an additional 10 "at large" delegates—and these are given to the candidate who wins statewide. Then there are three pre-determined delegates—that is, these are delegates automatically appointed to the

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Convention and they include the GOP State Chair, together with one national committee woman and one national committee man. We'll let you know when Gov. Brown succeeds at getting the GOPers here to add a national committee transgender, a national committee bi, a national committee undecided—well, you get the idea. (Just making a joke here, I'm all-good with having a national committeewoman and national committeeman.)

Anyway, that adds up to 172 delegates total.

Now, how are the delegates assigned to a candidate?

The ten "at large" delegates, as I mentioned, are automatically committed to the candidate that wins the State—that is, whoever gets the most votes State-wide.

All California delegates are pledged—except the three pre-determined delegates. I don't know whether these three are free to vote as they see fit, but the rest of the delegates are chosen by the candidate who won them, and they must pledge their vote to that candidate.

People get confused about what it means that California is a winner-take-all state. Actually, it's winner take all in "each district." So in fact, there are 53 elections to win in California, and each district awards the same number of delegates—3.

Hopefully, this helps you understand the California GOP primary and gives you some insight into what Cruz was looking at when he decided to suspend his campaign.

It seems to me if Cruz had any hope of stopping Trump, he would stay active—

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Why stop before Trump actually achieved the 1,237 needed to win? Doesn't doing so concede the nomination to Trump prematurely?

And he suspended his campaign, he did not end it; now maybe that is because of the time it takes to settle up the finances and so on, and his call to his Crew to watch for further updates might be because he hopes to organize his 43 million Cruz Crew supporters into a force to be reckoned with when he takes his fight for Conservatism back to the Senate—and by the way, that's where the focus for the conservative movement will turn. And that would be true even if Cruz won, by the way.

But even with all of this in mind, still, it makes me wonder why would Cruz throw in the towel before the last round?

Does it have something to do with Trump dragging his father into the dirt—suggesting that his father fraternized with Lee Harvey Oswald and implicated him in the assassination of JFK?

I know this did push Cruz over the top—he struck back at Trump very hard for this outrageous innuendo against his father, who by all accounts has established a reputation for being a godly, honest, and sincere Christian pastor for many decades—but many of Trump's followers are conspiracy theory activists. I've been wondering how many of Trump's supporters are from among the conspiracy voters that I hear from quite a bit—which is one reason I'm doing a series offering a biblical perspective on conspiracy theories; not because I hope it will make a difference in this election, it comes way too late to make any difference in this election—but I've noticed a lot of Trump's followers are from among the Alex Jones crowd—I'll be discussing him more in my series—and I'll say again, I used to really like this guy, but I got

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tired of running down his stories only to find that about 80% of so many of them were exaggeration and sensationalism—

It's not hard for me to see Cruz as seeing any reasonable chance of winning dropped below the horizon and did not want to drag his family through any more Trump dumps—this latest is the nearest thing Trump has done to provoke Cruz to stoop to Trump's low-brow level than anything else he has done so far—We can hope that he intends to restart his campaign and I hope he does so before the California primary, but that does not seem likely.

One thing for sure, it would take a miracle of biblical proportions for Cruz to get the nomination. I believe in miracles! But short of some act of God, at this point, we can expect Trump gets the nom and then almost certainly loses the general election to Hillary.

It's a very sad day for America!

But, there is hope—and we'll discuss strategy for hope in the next segment. Hold on through the break, I'll be right back.

Segment.02 Hello. Welcome back! I'm Jerry Scheidbach, pastor at the Lighthouse, your brain masseur, and Paul Revere's lantern lighter, lighting the lamps in the church belfry arch, signaling the enemy is on the march, an enemy that would steal from us our liberty.

Okay, so, Cruz has suspended his campaign. I explained what suspension means, and why I think Cruz threw in the towel before the last round. I hope he restarts his campaign before the primary election in California—of course, I don't intend to lay any hopes on that—fact is, my hope is not in Cruz anyway. My hope is in the LORD JESUS CHRIST Who is King of kings and Lord of lords—

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and so it's time to take a spiritual look at these events. And I'll offer them in reverse order of their importance.

Third, I believe God blessed us with the Cruz campaign. About two or more years ago, I asked the church to join me in a very specific prayer request. I asked the church to pray with me that God would raise up a Christian, Constitutional, Conservative candidate that we could vote for with enthusiasm. I made it clear that I was fully aware that such a candidate would face a firestorm of opposition, that the establishment would do everything in their power to stop such a candidate from getting elected—the antichrist spirit operating in the children of disobedience would fiercely oppose him, and that I could not say such a candidate would necessarily win the election, something I'll explain in a bit—but that God would at least give us someone to vote for who was a Christian, Constitutional, conservative.

Cruz might not be the best Christian I've ever met. But that's because I've met some better Christians than me. What I wanted was someone with a clear testimony of salvation, a child of obedience to the Gospel and not a child of disobedience—

And Cruz might not have the absolutely perfect conservative record—I mean, he did support TPA before he learned what Obama was up to with it, and then withdrew his support—if he were perfect he should have known all of that before he supported it—but he is certainly as conservative as Reagan was.

And no one can question his knowledge of the Constitution, or his commitment to its principles, and to America as founded.

I can without hesitation say that Cruz was the answer to our prayer for a Christian, Constitutional, traditional American values conservative who has the courage of his convictions — to stand for

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us against the rising encroachment of liberalism, and it's cousin socialism, and fascism —

And, because I know that God judges according to the measure of a people — in other words, he "weighs [them] in the balances" — he measures the salt level of a people (as with Sodom and Gomorrah) and judges accordingly—and always judges righteously — the Cruz campaign told me that frankly, there is more salt and light in America than I feared at first.

Cruz got a lot farther along in this election than I thought he would in the beginning. As it rolled out, I began to seriously hope and believe he could win. But whether or not he could win had nothing to do with my support for him. I supported him, and continue to support him out of principle—period.

My vote does not belong to pragmatic assumptions within the limits of my own understanding — my vote belongs to GOD — Hosea 8:4 — baby. We will be JUDGED according to THIS WORD and THIS WORD says "they set up kings but not by me." I vote "by God." Your vote, many of you, is dedicated to the god of mammon — you vote your pocket book, either on the side of economic stimulation or to gain access to the pig trough —

Others of you sell your vote to the god of forces — it's all about national security, period! Nothing else matters.

Do I think the economy and national security are unimportant? Of course I think they are important. It's just that I believe our provision and protection come from God and not from man. God is my shield, my buckler, and my high tower — in the LORD do I put my trust — I trust that if I seek first the kingdom of God, and HIS righteousness, "all these things shall be provided" (a little

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Bible lingo there for you Christianettes who seem to have forgotten these things. haha).

I'm saying that, however, those whose vote is owned by the god of mammon, or the god of forces, can be easily manipulated into voting for the candidate of Satan's choice—who will lead them into tyranny! In fact, I will guarantee you that the god of mammon and the god of forces will always bring you under a tyrant.

If you vote character and biblical principles—period—you will always end up with someone who will promote the greatest amount of economic, and national security with protection of our LIBERTIES.

But many American Christians do not operate by faith, they operate by sight, and so they lean on their own understanding and as a consequence with each passing election, they are voting this nation nearer to hell. (Psalm 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." And, at the risk of being accused of sounding like Jeremiah Wright, according to the Bible it may be that God will one day say to America, it's time for you to go to hell—and that day may be nearing—nevertheless, I don't think we are there yet, and I think, as ironic as it may sound to you, that the Cruz campaign shows us there are many millions who desire to serve as salt and light in this country.)

So, whether God proffers undeserved mercy on this nation, and somehow, miraculously delivers us from the nationalistic socialism of Trump or the international socialism of Hillary—I'm grateful there is enough salt left in this land to have gotten a Christian, Constitutional, conservative this close to the White House.

Second, remember that even though the current Congress and Senate and White House seem to have forgotten this, the fact is,

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the President is limited in how much damage he can do. Even Obama, with all the help he has had from the GOPers — has not been able to do all he wanted to in his effort to transform America into a dictatorship—we still have some liberty remaining, and enough to make a difference if we will use it.

The conservative movement has gained considerable strength over the last decade, and I believe we can pray and work to continue that growth, and even see revival — something I'll be speaking to Sunday morning, by the way—as a special Mother's Day message in honor of all God Fearing Moms—10:30 am, at the Lighthouse.

If Trump wins the White House, he is susceptible to pressure to nominate decent Supreme Court Justices—(someone suggested Ted Cruz for the Supreme Court—actually, it's possible he could do more good for us there than even in the White House)—and if Hillary gets elected, we can stop her from appointing godless, reckless progressives if we send people like Cruz to the Congress with the courage to stand up to her.

In other words, our focus turns to stopping these socialists by sending strong conservatives to both houses of our Congress.

It does make you appreciate the concept of the separation of powers.

And finally, FIRST — Jesus rose declaring "all power (authority and the strength to enforce it) is given unto me in Heaven and in earth." Matt. 28:18, and he did not get voted down in this primary process.

He is the ordaining power of Romans 13, and the Sovereign ruler of all the kingdoms of men as stipulated in Daniel 4:17, 25—and will set over it whomsoever He will. While it is possible to put

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together a pretty convincing argument that if Christ allows Trump, or Hillary, to become President, He is signaling His displeasure with this nation and releasing it to the grip of Hell (that's biblical, by the way, Psalm 9:17) a first step to an outpouring of divine WRATH—it's also possible that since we continue to have the Constitution, and freedom to petition government for a redress of our grievances, and many of our liberties remain in tact, sufficient to continue extending the influence of our salt and light into our communities—it's possible we can see a spark of revival among God's own people that He will favor with a resurgence of this One Nation Under God — or at least with wonderful demonstrations of His glorious power protecting His own while He drops His wrath upon the disobedient.

So, where do we go from here?

A couple of pastor friends of mine wrote to me this morning, and I thought they were encouraging.

Pastor Marshal Stevens, of Calvary Baptist Church in American Canyon wrote, "I must admit the disappointment I felt when I heard that Trump had won Indiana. That was nothing compared to the disappointment I felt when I heard that Cruz had dropped out of the race.

But not long after that, I could almost hear the Lord saying to me that the two on the road to Emmaus said “we trusted that it should have been he which redeemed us.” I realized that my emotions were walking by sight and not by faith. Who do I have my trust in? A political candidate? If that candidate withdraws does my God have no more options?

My disappointment has been replaced with anticipation that if we will trust Him we will see great and mighty things. Who knows

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what the Lord wants to do with this election. Shouldn't the death of a dream of ours make us realize this is God's specialty? I mean, doesn't He display His power against the backdrop of the impossible? Wasn't the horribleness of His death taken away in the gloriousness of His resurrection? Isn't that the power we are looking for? Is He only limited to a certain candidate or a certain route to the White House?

It is not time for us to stop praying and trusting. God is not thwarted. If anything, a stage is set for His power to be seen.

Some may say I am an eternal optimist; often I am. But don't we serve the God who said, 'with men it is impossible; but not with God; for with God all things are possible.'

I don't want the Lord to upbraid me for my unbelief." Amen!

And then, from Pastor Marvin McKenzie from Bible Baptist Church in Puyallup Washington said, effectively—that after the news of Cruz' suspension, while in his devotions he meditated on Hebrews 11:30, referring to the walls of Jericho coming down by faith.

He said "Maybe no event mentioned in the Hall of Faith demonstrates the ethereal nature of faith more than does this."

He pointed out that it does not say by faith Israel tore them down.

"It does not say it was by the faithful marching in cadence (as I have heard suggested before) that the walls succumbed and fell down."

"The Bible says it was completely totally and absolutely by faith alone..."

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He went on to point out that this did not mean Israel was idle. "They did not sit at camp and sip tea." And he points out that this brings up the enigma, or paradox of faith — how much of God's work is His part and how much depends on our part. The answer is that it is all of God's power, but that He has sovereignly determined He will act through our obedience of faith. God brought the walls down, but did so in response to the faithful obedience of His people.

The pastor then said, "An application of immediate practicality comes to mind just now. Last night Ted Cruz announced that he will suspend his bid for the presidential election. It places many of us in a quandary because we do not want to vote for either Clinton or Trump but we do not want to throw our vote away either. To not vote for Trump, logic and the pundits tell us, is to vote in defacto for Clinton. Faith, one preacher said today, will lead him to vote for Trump as a moral vote against Hillary. That seems to me like the same reasoning that has to find some physical answer to the walls of Jericho falling down." I agree!

Faith would never release us to act contrary to God's expressed will and there is no way Donnie qualifies for the Christian's vote as per Deuteronomy 17:15-17. Remember Hosea 8:4.

Pastor McKenzie tells us "There is another way to approach this thing" and he essentially suggests we unite to do vote according to our conscience as it is instructed and informed by the Scripture and trust God to take care of Jericho's walls. "We could band together in prayer and action, to write in the presidential ballot a candidate not nominated by the big two parties. We can do the godly thing and not the expedient thing."

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He rightly reasons that this does this guarantee our walls fall down. He explains that the point of faith is acting on what we believe to be right and not on what we assume will work. And while this approach might end up with a Hillary presidency, remember, ultimately it is the prerogative of God to decide who "gets the kingdom" and like this dear pastor, I want to ensure God's pleasure rests upon us "for acting out of faith and not pragmatism." Again, amen—

Come Sunday am for Mother's Day—a special tribute to God Fearing Patriotic Moms—how mother's shape a nation.

I have lit the lamps in the Church belfry arch and now you let me know if you see them. You say LIGHTS ON if you see the LIGHTS ARE ON and you will ride like Revere and spread the warning, (essentially, it means you agree with what I'm saying) or you say LIGHTS ARE OFF — which means you reject what I'm saying and disagree strongly with me. So, what will it be today, lights on, or lights off?

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If you are in a hurry, you can give me a lights-on or a lights-off and then hang up. If you will, please leave a message, tell me what you think of the show, positive or negative, either way.

God bless you. God save America! I'll see you in Church.