

WISDOM:

A Prelude To

LIBERTY

**Ryan
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**By
Ryan Liedtky**

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I would like to dedicate the book to every person who has ever stood for their beliefs, every soldier who has ever taken a battle field, and to my friends and family.

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The Preface

I sat down at first to write about my own experiences in the political landscape, but soon discovered that was not possible as instead my mind was instantly transformed from discussing my own self worth. I became engaged in the broader spectrum of general ideas.

I have never been one to follow the rules, though I would hardly consider myself a rebel. It has always seemed imperative to consider carefully the choices placed before me at each turn so that I might make whatever decision I deemed most fit. However, unfortunate circumstances beyond our control often dictate the courses we take, so free will is limited by our social interactions with other people, and with nature. My choices were limited in availability, dictated by God.

Thus, none of us can truly be revolutionary thinkers. In fact, none of us can be revolutionary at all. We are merely the interpreters of God's design: interpretation rather than self gratification seems a far better approach for this manuscript. While I may not be the most qualified to write this, it is mine to write just the same; not by my choice, but by the circumstances surrounding my life.

As I wrote this I came to conclude that the words were also not chosen by me, but by my understanding of what I observed and experienced. All of my opinions were formulated by carefully analyzing each subject, debating with peers, professionals, and from time to time various politicians, and discussing with close confidants to discover working theories which might prove practical and good for the American people.

I began my political career shortly after, while in college, being denied student aid by the government after numerous attempts over the course of years. Finally, I

wrote my congressman asking what was needed in order to qualify and if any stated reason for refusal of government aid was possible to receive. I never got a response and so immediately went into action attempting to reform FAFSA. I got a positive response from my US Senator, but he refused to be bothered taking it any further than agreeing with the concept.

After careful consideration and weeks of headaches I decided to run for political office, but did not know what I wanted to run for. I was merely 22 years of age, so options were limited. I decided to run for county council. At that time I considered myself Republican, but was informed that no “outsider” or person who was not personally liked by the county “leadership” would be offered any support, and that every attempt to stop me in the primary would be made. I was further informed that my belief that homosexual couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples was a dividing line that would result in a request for my removal from the party if I were to donate, which was “required” of any potential candidate, and also choose to run in the primary.

I soon concluded this system of exclusion was equally as bad as the misgivings I had from the FAFSA paperwork and federal government’s lack of response to the filing of that paperwork. I sought out other options, but could not fully reconcile my political standings with all of those held by the Democratic Party. I began my search on the Internet for other options, and stumbled upon two choices: Constitutional Party and Libertarian Party.

The Constitution Party, however, had an exclusionary clause in their platform that one must be a Christian in order to join, and that the Constitution was an extension of the Christian Bible. Seeing as I believed in separation of Church and State, and the fact that many of the Founding Fathers made historical efforts to prevent any

relationship between government and organized faith led me to believe the Constitution Party was, in fact, wrong in its statement, and I could not bring myself to join a party so disproven by history, and so prone to claim historical inaccuracies.

I joined the Libertarian Party, ran for county council, and lost. It was a seven candidate race, for three open positions. I received a meager 4% of the vote, but received votes from roughly 16% of the people of the county. Since I was the only Libertarian on the ticket, this led me to believe that 16% of the people specifically sought me over the other two parties, and cast their other two votes for one of the other candidates. A reality that stung, because it showed that I was, in fact, a viable option, but was hindered by the placement of six other candidates on the same ballot. The Democrats placed three candidates on the ballot less than an hour before the deadline, and had they not done so I would have had to have beaten only one candidate, a much easier task, that could have put me on the county council.

After the election my brother became ill with a rare infection and was taken to a hospital in Indianapolis. It was during this time, early in 2009, that I learned of the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home, and its pending closure. I agreed to get involved to the best of my ability, and soon found myself helping to lead the effort to save it from the state of Indiana's wrath.

In the process of fighting for the children of that Home, I was nominated to the Libertarian Party of Indiana's State Central Committee. I had new ideas and a new vision that started with pushing aside what I viewed as extremists within the party. I made this my ultimate goal, and accompanied that with saving the ISSCH, working to reform the education system, and making strides to fight poverty.

I gained local fame, friends, and a growing enemies list, mostly made up of angry Republicans. I angered Republicans the most when I wrote a letter calling them hypocrites for campaigning on the premise of small government, condemning the federal government for overly large budgets, and at the same time asking the federal government for a large grant to fund a metro-net project in a small northern Indiana county. The local government, which was comprised entirely of Republicans, grew angry, and chastised me to anyone who would listen. I concluded my letter by asking the Republicans to send thank you notes to “every tax-payer in the nation”.

I was attempting to make a larger point, that the Republican Party should not condemn the spending practices of Democrats while asking the Democrats to spend money on them! It seemed, and still seems, hypocritical; a political maneuver that does not respect the taxpayers or voters. Such insane posturing is precisely why so many people feel they cannot trust their elected officials. So in my exploration of politics I propose possible explanations for why the people continue to vote Republican or Democrats, and what I feel can be done to curb the continued power-play by the monopolizing politicians in office.

I was subsequently threatened by several Republicans that either my financial well-being or the physical well being of my family was at risk unless I stopped campaigning. I did not. The county government made efforts at manipulating, lying, falsifying, harassing, threatening, and coercing friends and family in a concerted effort to “punish” me, as it was later described. I had no place to turn since the elected officials were the judges, the sheriff, the prosecutor, and even several of the county police officers who served on the county council or county commission. Who do you trust when everyone is on one

team and you, insignificant, are left on your own with no assistance? Even Jesus had 12 disciples to help him, though a corrupt system turned on him, executing, as far as many people can tell, God. Does the story of Jesus' life and the Bible itself not give us fair warning that a corrupt government, manipulating laws based on their own religious or moral beliefs, is capable of killing God?

The ever expanding laws of the land lend themselves toward a more corrupt system, rather than the more perfect system of governance our nation was built upon. The theory behind the creation of our government was that, kept in check, the government would get better at serving the people and defending their rights. But the system has changed, and now the government is better at stealing from the people, and forcing them into unethical, stressful, and obnoxious compacts that strip them of their humanity in an effort to force them to fall in line with "the rule of law", while protecting and defending large corporations. Gone are the more inquisitive instincts of our nation's birth, replaced with callous men who seek to promote their own personal ethics to create what they view as a society of only "perfect" people. Clearly, there seemed a connection between big money, lobbyists, and the demand by government that people fall in line.

Thus, with frustration, a tired and broken heart, my stress, though continued, is now expressed to the fullest degree possible.