Thankful for Mitt Romney

February 9, 2020

People gather in support of Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, at the Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020. Republicans in the state are unusually divided on the president, so while some were heartened to see Romney cast what he described as an agonizing vote dictated by his conscience, Trump supporters were left angry and frustrated. (Francisco Kjolseth/Salt Lake Tribune via AP)

Photo: Francisco Kjolseth, MBI / Associated Press

Regarding “Senate Republicans make wrong choice,” (A15, Feb. 6): The hypocrisy exhibited by many of faith must stop. It doesn’t matter if you are a President Donald Trump supporter or not. Whether you are a Christian, Jew, Muslim or any other religion, one thing is undeniable. It
is simply wrong and unacceptable for the president of the United States, referencing Senator Mitt Romney’s authentic and heartfelt justification for conviction (grounded in his faith), to arrogantly say as he did Thursday morning at a National Prayer Breakfast: “I don’t like people who use their faith as justification for doing what they know is wrong nor do I like people who say, ‘I pray for you,’ when they know that is not so.”

Those who are religious and believe in sacred moral principles should condemn this unequivocally and emphatically.

But even condemnation is not enough. Those of faith must do more than merely give lip service to their beliefs. They should act on their religious convictions, recognizing that the ends don’t justify the means. Just because one agrees with Trump’s policy positions (e.g., abortion, school prayer, etc.) or concur with his appointment of conservative federal judges does not justify supporting a president whose words and behaviors contradict so many foundational religious principles. The time has come for more persons of faith to vote against someone who defies and contradicts so many of their spiritual precepts.

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