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Inglis to GOP: 'Lose Stinking Rot of Self-Righteousness'

Jonathan Weisman *reports on politics.*

South Carolina Rep. **Bob Inglis** made a name for himself in the late 1990s as one of **Bill Clinton's** most zealous pursuers, an impeachment "manager" who attacked the moral failings of the president with a gusto that earned him a devoted following in the staunchly conservative "Upstate" of conservative South Carolina.

But with his governor now felled by similar temptations, Inglis sees an opening for the Republican Party, a chance to "lose the stinking rot of self-righteousness" and "to understand we are all in need of some grace."

This is not "Bob Inglis 1.0," the one that was a "self-righteous" expletive, he said in an interview with Washington Wire today. It is a Bob Inglis that is, if anything, more Christian, more attuned to the Gospels, he said.

His last conversation with Gov. **Mark Sanford** was about the hundreds of millions of dollars in stimulus money that the uncompromising governor was trying to refuse for his impoverished state. Inglis had voted against President **Barack Obama's** \$787 billion stimulus bill, ardently, he said.

But he said he told the governor, now that it was approved, "for goodness sake, take the money." It might just help.

Indeed, Sanford's political fall could be a saving grace for what remains of his governorship, Inglis suggested. "This may be an opportunity to extend a little grace to other people, to realize that maybe it's not 100% this way or that way," Inglis said.

Unfortunately for him, the attitudes of "Bob Inglis 2.0" are not all that popular among many of the voters who once adored him. He now has five primary candidates fighting his re-election, and another conservative independent, should he clear the primaries.

"They want me to walk around saying I am the paragon of virtue," Inglis said. "But that is unrecognizable to the Gospels."

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