

Voting in This Election
10/18/20

Introduction -

- Politics and religion are two of the most emotional and divisive subjects in our country
- As a Christian how we vote or whether we vote is not a matter of our personal choice.
- My responsibility is not to tell you for whom to vote, but it is to give you a biblical frame of reference from which you are to choose
- Why do we look to the Bible for guidance and instruction on these choices?

Voting is both a privilege and responsibility of being a citizen of a nation that gives us the right

Most nations do not give its people a right to vote for their leaders - precious privilege

The nation to which you belong determines these privileges and responsibilities
The Constitution of the US sets forth these for voting
Only citizens of the US have this privilege

As a Christian, where is my citizenship, for that will determine my rights and responsibilities?

I am a citizen of the United States - I was born here. Some of you have been nationalized

When I asked Christ into my life, I became a citizen of God's kingdom

As a citizen of the US, I have the privilege of voting according to my opinion

As a citizen of God's kingdom, I have the responsibility to vote according to the principles of God's kingdom - what represents Him and furthers His purposes

1 Pet 2:9-10 describes the nation or kingdom to which we now belong

Chosen generation -

chosen by God

Generation - GK = ethnic group or race - having the same lineage

Royal priesthood - belonging to The King

Holy nation - set apart for God's own purposes

Purpose - proclaim His kingdom - His values and His purposes

We were once not a combined people, but now we are

1 Tim 3:14-15 - one of the purposes of the church in the world

Pillar and ground of the truth

Pillar - columns that hold up and undergird something else - **Show image**

"Ground" - GK= solid, unmovable foundation that provides support

No matter how our society changes its view of truth, the church is responsible to maintain God's values

The church is to provide this for God's truth in this world

2 Cor 5:14-20 what happened when we came to Christ

Vs 15 - we are no longer to live for ourselves but for Him who died and rose for us

Voting in This Election

10/18/20

Vs 16 - we are not to evaluate according to the flesh anymore but from spiritual view

Vs 17 - we died to who we use to be in the world

Our opinions and values

Our rights to do what we think

We are a “new species of being” IN HIM

Vs 20 - we are His ambassadors in this world

Ambassador is a citizen of another country

He represents his country in the nation to which he is sent

He can only act and speak as his nation direct

How does this perspective apply to voting in this, or any other, election?

1. Whether to vote:

“I don’t like either candidate, so I am not going to vote”

Your vote is an exercise of authority given by God for which we are responsible

Choosing not to vote is refusing a responsibility given you by God

“My vote doesn’t really count”

Our responsibility is to exercise this right God has given us regardless of the results

Usually just an excuse because we are lazy or indecisive

2. As a Christian, I don’t have the right to vote based on personality or who I like or don’t like

You can’t really know what the person is like, unless you have personal experience

The image we have of them comes to us through the filter of the media

Pictures and videos are chosen by media & can make powerful difference

Recordings of their words are chosen and edited so we hear what others want

Trend to popularity contest started with election of 1960 - Nixon & Kennedy

First televised presidential debate that changed campaigning into image making

Campaigners learned the power of television images to form opinions

Although the character of a candidate is vital, the issues they stand for and what they are committed to is more important than whether we like them.

3. Each candidate stands for a series of principles adopted by its party called the party platform

Each platform represents the values and policies its candidate is committed to

The personality contest distracts us from the real issues

Our responsibility is to measure each of these platforms against God’s values and purposes

4. Everything that is happening in our nation, especially this election has behind it a spiritual battle.

Voting in This Election
10/18/20

Eph 6:12-13 - these spiritual forces are working behind what we see to carry out the plans and purposes

We need to have our spiritual eyes opened to understand what is really at stake
This nation is at a crossroads - critical juncture

5. You need to pray

Seek GOD'S wisdom for whom you should vote - He gave it to you for His purposes

James 1:5 - ask God for His wisdom, but must want to hear what He says
Pray for God's will and plans to be carried out through this election

Next week we will talk about the issues that are important to God through the lens of the Bible