

10132024 A biblical Perspective on Voting....As a Believer in Jesus you are called to live it out in all areas of your life his word. The world will see that as an Authentic Christian, which means your profession and Life, are a Harmonizing of Word and Deed. . . we do not strive to live a Christian life to be saved, but because we are saved...and we know to influence the world around us toward God.. it is most important to live it...for you are the bible most people will read...it is a principle found all through out scripture

- **Listen good government cannot save us but bad government will destroy us...affecting public policy has a long history in the bible...look at the prophets of old...Moses, Elijah, Daniel, Isaiah, Jermiah, Rahab, Esther and on and on...**
- **They all spoke God's truth to those in power...they all confronted Kings, national laws, they also influenced social conscience.**

But also in the NT to the governors and kings in power...

John the Baptist: *NIV Matt 14: 3 Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, 4 for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her."*

Paul was told... *NIV Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.*

And as we Saw last week in Rev 10...

NIV Rev10:10 I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. 11 Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.

- John heart was bitter for the condition of the world in the time of the great Tribulation...
- which Jesus spoke of.....and we are living it

MT 24: 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

- And the Apostle Paul spoke of life of individuals at that time:

2TI 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—

- we are right next to that coming time period of the Great tribulation and soon return of the Lod...
- Oh...but we are not be of those who to live alarmed nor shrink away.....we are to be watchmen on the wall...loving the world enough to actively engage in helping it know or at least be influenced toward God loved and warned.....

ESV Eze 33:1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, 3 and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet

and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. ⁶ But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

- **This is a reference** about ancient Israel, how they would select a person to watch out for any approaching enemy , or any potential attack against that city.
- And if the watchmen saw an impending disaster coming or some threat on its way: the watchman would blow a trumpet , then it was up to the people if they were going to heed the warning or not.
- If they would heed the sound of the warning than they would save their lives. If they ignored the warning then their lives or freedoms might very well be required of them. And the watchman would not be responsible...
- In our country voting is a watchmen responsibility not just to vote according to our feelings but vote according to which candidates aline most closely with what the Word of our God teaches... it is a watchman job

*****How do we do this? We are the salt and light ...Jesus gave this description in the context of what his people are to this world...**

NLT Matt 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a

basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Jesus said you guys are the real deal...you are salt to this world...so let what you are be displayed...he did not say you are to live in a salt shaker...but like real salt it must be poured out...he did not say you are a light in a little home just giving light in the confines of your comfortable Christian environment...no a light on a hill! To be seen from all around you...

Lets start with salt...

- Salt or sodium chloride is an essential life promoting and sustaining mineral in the diet of all human and animal and plant life.
- Most biological tissues and body fluids contain a varying amount of salt.
- The concentration of sodium ions in the blood is directly related to the regulation of balanced and healthy body fluids
- Humans are unusual among the primates in secreting large amounts of salt by sweating...because of that when severely dehydrated
- Saline water with 1% salt is what they give you at the hospital to replace lost salt in our body fluids, to treat dehydration to prevent hypovolemic shock. That small percentage of salt halts decay..and it is conductive...capable of carrying electrical current and are also called “Electrolytes”
- The average American consumes 7 pounds of salt a year and 500 pounds during their lifetime.

1. Christianity is to life what salt is to food... salt is a preservative...it is what is called aseptic...it halts decay...it is not antiseptic which promotes healing...the chlorine. wherever you are decay should be halted...you will not change a corrupt heart but your influence will help stop it's spread...

2. Salt is a flavor enhancer...food without salt is insipid...blah... Christianity ought bring out the best flavor to life

Wherever we are we the flavor of Jesus' love, compassion and warning of the danger that the decay causes

Jesus said we are the salt of the earth...but he also added a warning...

NLT MT 5: 13 "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

- *Influencing culture according to God's ways is a primary responsibility*
- *Voting is a primary way we can express Kingdom values!*

If we choose to not be what we are...a preserver and flavor enhancer to the world...Than what good are we to the world?

- **My dad used to say if your not part of the solution your part of the problem...**

***Not only are we salt were also light...

MT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

- When Jesus stated that his followers were lights to the world he said they were to be like him to the world Jesus goes on to explain some things about light...

One ..the lamp is lit by someone else...the lamp is lit by a light...Jesus the lighter...we are the lamp...the lamp does not light itself it is lit by another

Two it is not lit to be hid...but to be visible..visible as if on a hill...not in a room hidden away...

- Basically living life in the open... we are meant to be seen...
Secondly light is used to guide...light reveals and is not deceiving it illuminates darkness .. so a light guides

Why? we live in a corrupted world becoming even more corrupted...

So we you must get out of the salt shaker and let our light shine...salt only preserves when it is applied and let our light shine in a dark world...

This is where our voice in voting comes in...as our country has been trending over the last number of decades into a very troubling future.

- One thing to understand ..do not look to someone to save us...in a political hero...our faith is in our Savior his name is Jesus..he is our only indivial hope, our nations hope, this world's hope...
- But until he comes again, not only being Watchmen, salt and light but we are also ambassodors of the Kingdom of God to this world

*ESV2 Cor 5:20Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

So we are given the opportunity and responsibility to do just that...in every area of life...including our political engagement...after all we have the truth of God...

ESV John 18:37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the **truth**. Everyone who is of the **truth** listens to my voice.”

- We speak the word of truth to a world and nation living in darkness...part of that salt and light is to promote the policies in our country that produce good and righteousness.
- **Those that most closely represent the Bible’s values. Which include praying for our elected leaders and holding them accountable...and the main way we hold them accountable is voting. If we don’t do this...what will fill that vacuum? Evil practice.**

ESV ISA 5:20 Woe to those who call **evil good** and **good evil**, who put darkness for light and light for darkness,

*****So Bringing it home to us we have the responsibility to stand for Gods truth in the upcoming election in a few weeks ...on the national state and local levels...**

So let me give you a few guidelines...that will help us advance the kingdom of God...in this election

1)God uses flawed people, sinful people

- **So will not find any candidate for who will meet meet 100 percent of your values...or the total package...after all you do not have the total package nor anyone else here...**
- **You will not like everything about anyone... nor almost any decision meets one hundred percent of your criteria? No perfect**

job, spouse, friend, church, neighborhood, no perfect candidate... God had used both righteous leaders and unrighteous leaders...some righteous leaders did unrighteous things ...some unrighteous leaders did righteous things.

- ****So it come down to whose policies most closely Aline with the word of God?

2) So Vote policies over personalities..

There are many policies here is are a couple to consider as an example

- **Judges** *ESV Isa 1:26 And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city.”*
- When you choose right judges they will being righteous decisions which will benefit the land...they will uphold the law of the land
- Don't underestimate the power of the President selecting federal judges... so in your voting consider what is the ramification to Judges...who will appoint the best...
- **Border Security...God is in favor of Borders..**

ESV Acts 17:26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

NIV Pro 25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.

- When God divided the land between the twelve tribes of Israel ..he gives them their allotments of land defined by borders.. and if God is in favor of boundaries and borders He

is in favor of defending them... Every country in the world has borders which they defend..

- **Through out History almost All wars were and are usually preceded by an massive invasion of a countries defined borders...**
- **But remember at the same time God is in favor towards the alien...**

ESV Zechariah 7:¹⁰ do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.”

- So when it comes to immigration there is a right way and a legal way...and every country in the world has immigration policies...we do too...we as a nation are pro immigration and have been ... **which candidate will protect our national borders creating security...**

• **Religious liberty**

ESV Ex 20:³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

- **The first of the ten ...summarized all the laws regarding our relationship to God.... It is our conscious clause...your allegiance is first to God...**
- **I will not submit nor bow down too anyone of anything that places God commands below the law of man... so whose policies will protect our rights to not go against our conscience in our business and personal decisions?**

5 Biological Sex...

Esv Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- If you are an adult you have freedom to chose something different for yourself.....but we must not be forced to call

what God assigned human beings at the beginning of conception wrong... nor forced to teach our children something different and opposed to what God has clearly said.

- 14 states now approve the temporary removal of a minor child from their parental custody to perform life altering gender affirming care if their parents disagree with the procedures. Whose policies best supports that?

- **Family**

ESV Psa 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

- God has entrusted our children to our care yet there are agendas that have been incrementally stripping our parental rights and placing them in the hands of the States, counties or school systems...
- **We have to make our voices heard in regard to parental rights and God given responsibility to raise our children.**
- Our children do not belong to the state they belong to God who has entrusted them to us! *It is a violations of our faith to have the state dictate to us our parenting*

- **life**

ESV Acts 3: ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life...

ESV Pro 6: ¹⁶ There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood

- Jesus is called the author of life...he was killed and the enemies desire is to kill human life...
- **Which policies will best protect innocent life... victims over predators**

- **Regarding abortion we do not have a prolife candidate in the presidential race...trump advocates a limit of 15 weeks...CDC states that 95% of abortion happen within the first 15 weeks.**
- **That is in effect saying I am for killing babies just less than the other person who is in favor of abortion without restriction up to and including the moment of birth.**
- **Both by God's standards are wrong it is not reproductive care! But you must choose**

There are numerous other issues...not mentioned that are important...I gave you these as a way to look at policies through the lense of scripture...not feelings...

Lastly Voting is not just a right it's a duty

- **Every election is about the lessor of two evils...and we have a responsibility to stand for God in all we do...**
- **I am under no illusion that man can save us...but we can influence this world ...and we must for we are watchmen, salt and light and ammbasodors to this country for God and his ways**

We have position papers available in the foyer some of the candidates...and in the state and local elections it is our duty to know the policies of the people , the measures etc.

So that can determine which line up the most with our God's standards and vote like... like a good watchman and ambassador

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