

BALLOTS AND BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITY

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENT SUCCESS

*"If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life,
set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.
I speak to your shame."*

~ 1 Corinthians 6:4-5

1. False Conclusions and False Accusations

- a. Every few years Christians suffer political hysteria that hinders their judgment.
 - i. (Another example of the results of covenant kingdom confusion in the church.)
- b. Elections tend to produce a propensity for painful proof texting and shaming.
- c. Barna (ACU CRC survey): 32 million churchgoers to abstain from voting. (39%)
- d. The outcry: *"Blame the Christians!" "Blame the pastors!" "God judges non-voters!"*
 - i. But... what is the average voter turnout in America? (Shhh... 55-58%)
 - ii. Most church-attenders did not want their church teaching on 8/10 issues.
 - iii. False assumption: All churchgoers/evangelicals are saved/wise/informed.
 - iv. *"5 million... likely to vote just by exhortation"* – for whom? All the same?
- e. There is more outcry about Christians voting, than Christians knowing God's will.
- f. What does the Bible say about voting/ballots/elections and are "duty to vote"?

2. Ballots and the Bible

- a. Is God's means for change in this world the ballot box?
- b. When it comes to "setting a king" it is God who chooses in Deu 17:14-20
- c. The only time "choose" comes up in the NT is when Paul chooses life/death – Phi 1:22
- d. Paul "gave my voice" against the believers – Acts 26:10
- e. Pilate took a verbal democratic vote and it did not end well – Matt 27:17-25
- f. Church does not cast ballots for apostles/bishops/deacons. 1Ti 3:1, 12, 2Ti 2:2, Ti 1:5
- g. Political calculation: do we vote values first, or for most popular/likely to get elected?
- h. Ballots and elections are foreign to the Bible. There is no commandment. 1 Cor 1:18-25

3. Biblical Responsibility

- a. Biblical admonition that should affect your decision to vote:
 - i. "Put not your trust in princes..." – Psa 146:3
 - ii. "Render ... to all their dues...owe no man any thing..." – Romans 13:7-8
 - iii. "If thou mayest be made free, use it rather." – 1 Cor 7:21
 - iv. "... their conscience being weak is defiled" – 1 Cor 8:7-8
 - v. "to be ready to every good work" - Titus 3:1
 - vi. "pray for...all that are in authority..." - 1 Tim 2:1-4
- b. The problems with "it's a Christian's duty":
 - i. Our responsibility is first to the Lord Jesus Christ, before our country.
 - ii. It is not our responsibility to bring in God's kingdom come to earth.
 - iii. Our God-given responsibility is faithfulness to this: 1Ti 2:4, 1Co 2:2, 4:1, Ep 3:9
 - iv. Our Biblically political position is 'ambassador' not citizen of Earth. 2 Cor 5:20
 - v. The wisdom of God is found in his grace (church) not law (gov't rulers) today.
 - vi. Our message is higher, deeper, wider, longer than "the most important election"
- c. Do the stated will of God. Let God's grace inform your responsibility. Titus 2:10-12

4. Who's Responsible?

- a. In government? Nobody ever is. Who should be? Everybody.
- b. Responsibility to govern rests on the governors before God - Rom 13:1, 1Th 4:6
- c. Only in America do the governed get blamed for what the governors do.
- d. No one votes saying, "I want life to be worse for me."
- e. You also have responsibility to get a will, keep a budget, invest wisely, clean your room.
- f. Affections set on this earth will consume your life/ministry. Eph 5:16
- g. Submit people to Christ and the result will be a changed heart/mind/duty.
- h. Preach integrity, honesty, truth, knowledge of the will of God (things foreign to politics)
- i. Vote with knowledge ... more impactful: sheriff, commissioner, governor, 538 votes.
 - i. "Just go vote" is the cry of those who want your hands not your heads.
 - ii. If it's as important as ~~Republicans~~ Christians say, then it must be done right.
 - iii. Vote your conscience: let your conscience be changed by God's grace.
- j. Do not vote to respect persons (male/female), to follow a leader, to steal you're your neighbor, undermine freedoms to speak (preach), assemble (church), believe (religion)
- k. Do not vote because you think you are fulfilling God's will through American politics.
- l. Beware of ignorant blaming about evils. You show yourself approved unto God.