

“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.” - Prov. 29:2

Paths of Justice

Supporting Victims

I'm very encouraged by this congregation's compassion for victims of sexual abuse. Supporting the benefit event at the Long Street Studio Friday, September 21st for OneVOICE4freedom was one way some of you were able to add your voice to those who are speaking the life-giving words of Jesus to those trapped in desperate circumstances.

We hope you enjoyed the music, were challenged by Nicole and Mary's ministry presentation, and encouraged by the devotional and invitation.

In total, the event raised \$1,300!

Compared with the enormity of the issue of sex trafficking and the limited resources of each of us, as Jesus did with five loaves and two fish, may he multiply what was offered in miraculous ways. - Tony Ticknor

Electing Leaders for Our Community

We are fast approaching November 6 when we will again go to the ballot box. Why are we talking about this in the Path newsletter? Paul tells us in Romans 13 that there is no authority except from God, that government is established under God's authority, and that whoever resists that authority resists what God has arranged. When Paul was writing this, as in many places today, the rulers were established by might. Our country was established so that the power is supposed to reside in the people. When it works correctly, the people direct the government by choosing their representatives and the government protects the people. We then

do with voting as we do with everything in life, and vote according to our sound, Christian worldview. God directs us from his Word, by wisdom from people around us, by the abilities He's given us, and by enlightening us. We then must act on these ideas in order to accomplish His will for our lives and His world.

This November we will vote for a Senator, Congressional Representatives, Governor, State Senator, State Representatives, Judges, probably city offices, and whether to raise taxes. How do we decide who to elect?

Pastor Nick reminded us a week or two ago that God doesn't want to share His position in our lives. We need to judge rightly when we cast our votes, remembering that He created our government structure through the Founders. He is above all; the people serve God and the government serves the people, not the other way

around. Our government is mainly tasked with keeping the people safe.

This fall, a number of justice issues are on the ballot. We won't vote directly on these issues but for people to represent us. The people that are elected will make policies and law that will affect how we live.

The first issue is abortion. The current policy is that it is up to the mother to decide whether she wants to carry her child to term or to have that life ended. There is no governance on why the decision to end a life is made. Without reaching out for help, some feel that they have no other option. Some say that they cannot afford a child or they don't want to bring a child up in the way that they live. Maybe the child would just be inconvenient or reduce their career opportunities. Not since the Ammonites offered their firstborn as a burnt sacrifice to Molech in order to secure



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Definition of injustice: Injustice occurs when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure, or livelihood.

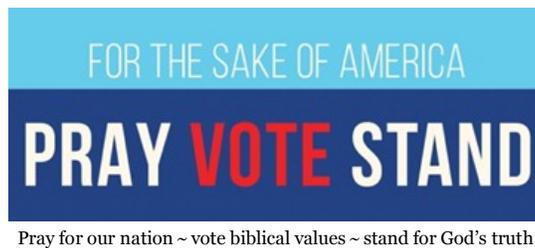
“...be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
- Eph. 6:10-12

Electing Leaders for Our Community- Continued

safety for themselves has it been so easy to destroy a child's life. God says, "Do not murder" (another recent sermon topic). When choosing for whom to cast your vote, decide which candidate is most likely to protect the unborn.

This issue is expanding into the end of life. Some want to follow those European countries that have legalized euthanasia, such that society would authorize and promote the practice of people killing themselves. This has put older and disabled people into a situation where they feel pressured to end their life and not be a "burden" on society.

The next issue is slavery, otherwise known as trafficking, and abuse. This issue fits our definition for injustice since children are abducted in order to be initiated into either the slave labor or prostitution trade. Steps have been taken to protect these victims by a February 9, 2017 executive order titled, "Enforcing Federal Law With Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking." This order identifies human trafficking, drug smuggling, financial crimes, cyber-crime and corruption as "a threat to public safety and national security." While this has helped to gain some recognition politically, it is necessary for Congress to give more law enforcement tools to combat trafficking. Our votes for people who would address this ugly stain on our culture are important.



Pray for our nation ~ vote biblical values ~ stand for God's truth

The last issue that we have space to address is the free exercise of religion. In the last few years, local and state agencies have sued shopkeepers for electing to follow their religious convictions and not provide a specially-designed product to support an event that they believe grieves God. Not long ago the Federal government passed a law to ensure that people could follow their faith. Unfortunately, courts have turned that law on its head and used it

to make people conform to unbiblical ideas. As voters, we need to learn how the candidates will stand on these issues. Everyone seems fine with allowing people to worship within a building, but some do not appear to

want Christians to take their faith into the workplace.

It is important that as Christian citizens we vote. In choosing our candidates we should choose the ones that best align with God's position on how we should live so as to treat everyone as being equally made in God's image.

O house of David, thus says the Lord: Administer justice every morning; and deliver the person who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor, that my wrath may not go forth like fire and burn with none to extinguish it, because of the evil of their deeds. - Jeremiah 21:12

Opportunities / Activities / Resources

- Our second SOAR survivor group for ladies is continuing through November 12. Please pray for a time of healing, community, and growth. Also, we are planning another one to begin in January.
- Did you miss the recent Values Voters Summit? Go here to catch up and hear from people like VP Mike Pence, Dr. Ben Carson, Ohio's Elizabeth Johnston, David Daleiden, Jack Phillips, and many others: <http://www.valuesvoterssummit.org>.
- Register to vote online here: <https://olvr.sos.state.oh.us>. Go here for voting information: <http://home.ivoterguide.com>, and we'll provide more as we get closer to the election.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meetings where prayer happens, plans are made, and investigations continue.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities.