

CAN GOD USE & ORDAIN IMPERFECT CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICES?

INTRO: RECAP FROM LAST WEEK

- We are to seek benefit of nation

“And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.” Jeremiah 29:7

- We are to pray for our leaders

“Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2

- We are to select Godly leaders

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.” Proverbs 29:2

“You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.” Deuteronomy 16:18

- We must understand each parties' platform positions on the issues (watch video)

I. WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THIS ELECTION

A. This election that currently before us is much more than about Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton.

- Both candidates being voted for are fractured and greatly lacking on several fronts.
- This election is not only about the executive branch, but also the legislative and judicial branches. Both candidates are only one person, yet carries great influence and authority to do much good or damage.

B. There's a political and prophetic shift taking place in the earth today. Citizens of nations are rising up and to decrying unjust laws and practices that seek to enslave the people to the government, making government the master and its citizens the slaves. The English Brexit and the Colombian Peace Treaty referendums were soundly defeated against all odds. The people arose in spite of overwhelming government favored propaganda that sought to make their position law. Many key prophetic voices feel that this election before us is spiritually signifying a prophetic shift taking place in American government.

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- C. What are we to do when we are faced with two imperfect candidates running for the most powerful position in our nation, the Presidency? What are some of the key Apostolic and Prophetic leaders saying?
- Franklin Graham - *"We may have to 'hold our nose' when we go to the polls because no candidate is perfect. Vote for the one who will listen to the plight of Christians and appoint judges who could have a positive moral impact on this nation."*
 - James Dobson - *"I am more concerned about America's future than Donald Trump's past."*
 - Cindy Jacobs - *"I've felt something tipping while in prayer. America will either become very socialist, or it will go back to its roots of freedom and liberty envisioned by our founders."*
 - Tim Wildmon (American Family Association) – *"Secular progressives are on the warpath against Christianity, and they will continue to come after us in many ways, should they win the White House. Yes, God cares about these things. America has been a beacon of light for the world in so many ways based on her Christian heritage."*
 - Dutch Sheets (Appeal to Heaven Tour) - *"We have to pray. If we do, God is going to give us grace because God wants a strong America."*
 - Franklin Graham (Decision America Tour, Pray-Vote-Engage, 50 states) - *"Our country has shifted, the shift is the moral decline of the nation and even the moral decline of the church. I felt the only hope for this country was the people of God beginning to pray and maybe he would give us some leaders that would help us turn the nation around morally. We need to pray."*

II. KEY ISSUES WE MUST CONSIDER

- A. When voting, each voter must be aware of the position candidates are committed to supporting. Especially position on issues that clearly violate biblical values. (see the voter guide)
- B. The issue of Appointing Judges:
- Hillary Clinton/ DP - *"I want a Supreme Court that will stick with Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to choose...I would not appoint someone who didn't think Roe v. Wade is settled law... I want to appoint Supreme Court justices who understand the way the world really works, who have real-life experience..."*

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- Donald Trump/ RP - *"The most basic duty of government is to defend the lives of its own citizens. Any government that fails to do so is a government unworthy to lead...We are also going to appoint justices to the United States Supreme Court who will uphold our laws and our Constitution...The replacement for Justice Scalia will be a person of similar views and principles. This will be one of the most important issues decided by this election. The politicians have talked about it; I'm going to do it."*
- The Bible is clear on what kind of Judges we are to elect. Judges who judge justly. Judges who will pass laws that will enable the nation to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

"And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you." Exodus 18:20-22

"Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die." Proverbs 31:8

C. The issue of the Sanctity of Human Life (abortion):

- Hillary Clinton/DP
 - Calls for government funded abortion on demand through all nine months of pregnancy, by "repealing the Hyde Amendment," which currently bars federal money for elective abortion.
 - Will overturn federal and state laws and policies that impede a woman's access to abortion.
 - Will continue to stand up to the Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood.
- Donald Trump/RP
 - Supports the "Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act"
 - Bans abortion at 20 weeks, when the unborn babies feel pain; abortion based on sex or disability; dismemberment abortion in which unborn babies are literally torn apart limb from limb.

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- Bans the sale of any fetal body parts; ban on the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion that fund organizations like planned parenthood.

- The Bible

“Listen, O coastlands, to Me, and take heed, you peoples from afar! The Lord has called Me from the womb; from the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me.” Isaiah 49:1-2

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

“And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.” Luke 1:41-44

D. The issue of Defining Marriage:

- Hillary Clinton/DP

Supports the redefinition of marriage through the courts judicial activism in "Obergefell" that recognized the LGBT people's right to marry the person they love.

- Donald Trump/RP

- The American family is the foundation of civil society, in the cornerstone of the family in natural marriage, the union of one man and one woman.
- We condemn the Supreme Court's ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges and we urge its reversal, whether through judicial reconsideration or a constitutional amendment returning control over marriages to the states.

- The Bible:

“Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:22-24

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He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD."

Proverbs 18:22

"But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh." ***Mark 10:6-8***

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." ***Ephesians 5:22-34***

<http://downloads.frcaction.org/EF/EF16I163.pdf>

III. HOW CAN GOD 'ANOINT' THE UNSAVED OR THE CARNAL BELIEVER TO LEAD A NATION?

- A.** Would God be okay for Christians to vote for a flawed candidate? Could it be possible that God wills for Christians to vote for one flawed candidate over another? Could God use men/women whose background and past have been marred by immorality? Scriptures reveal that God in His wisdom is the one who sets one individual up in leadership and removes another. God is able through the prayers of God's people to turn the hearts of leaders that they may comply with His eternal will.

"For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another." ***Psalms 75:6-7***

"This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men." ***Daniel 4:17***

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“Jesus answered, ‘You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.’” John 19:11

- B. William Wilberforce, who ended the slave trade in the British Empire, often worked with other parliamentarians he knew to be vile and immoral in their personal lives.
- C. Winston Churchill: was a pompous, cigar smoking, offensive politician, yet he recognized that divine providence had called him and selected him to leave England for the purpose of defeating Hitler's Nazi Germany.
- D. Samson: Samson's physical strength did not help him overcome Satan. Satan is not frightened by anyone's physical strength. Our defense against Satan is the Word of God. Samson failed to bring his passions under control. He did not practice self-control. He would resist a Philistine army, but he could keep himself from lusting after a Philistine woman. Samson refused to listen to the wise counsel of his parents as they advised him against such a marriage. Samson's response was, "Get her for me: for she pleases me well" He did not consider what would please his parents, or more importantly, what would please Jehovah! Yet despite his weakness, Samson was chosen and anointed by the Holy Spirit to lead Israel. In the end, Samson did repent and turn his heart to the Lord. You can read Samson's story in Judges chapters 13-16.
- E. Rahab the Harlot: Though not the leader of a nation, yet she was used by God to destroy one nation and give victory to another. The book of Joshua introduces us to one of the most thought-provoking and astonishing heroines of the Old Testament. Rahab, the prostitute of the Canaanite city of Jericho, ultimately is noteworthy for her great faith and for her place in the lineage of Jesus Christ. But a closer examination of the life of this remarkable Gentile woman can lead to deeper insights into God's plan for His church and His dealing with individual believers in grace and mercy. You can Rahab's story found in [Joshua 2-6](#).