The Christian Duty in Voting

Timothy 2:1-4

11/6/22

This upcoming Tuesday is “Election Day”. Now whether you’ve voted, have yet to vote, or are thinking of not voting we want to look this morning, from a biblical view, what the Christians duty is when it comes to voting.

There are questions that float around especially today that we need to address as Gods people, as Christians:

* Should Christians vote?
* Should we become involved with politics?
* In the end, do our votes make any difference?

The short answer is yes to all. Yes, Christians should vote, yes Christians should be involved with politics, and yes, in the end your vote does make a difference.

Prior to Roe v. Wade, which was a landmark legal decision issued on January 22, 1973, and overturned this year, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas statute banning abortion, effectively legalizing the procedure across the United States, these questions began surfacing in the early 1970s.

The horrendous slaughter of millions of unborn babies that ensued produced a tidal wave of moral indignation that swept through American evangelicalism and resulted in the Moral Majority movement and others, registering more than 10 million previously unregistered voters. Not only had these evangelical Christians not been voting, they were not even registered to vote.

And they made a difference. As a direct result of their activation and participation in the political process, Ronald Reagan, a pro-life candidate, was elected president in 1980. Did that solve everything? No, of course not, but just think of how much worse things would have been had he not been elected. The country as a whole made a major turn in a better direction.

When people tell me that we shouldn’t be involved in politics and public policy because it doesn’t make any difference, my reply is: Compared to what?

* It is foolish and wrong to compare things the way they are to how you would want them to be. You have to compare things the way they are to the way they would be if Christians had not involved themselves and made a substantial difference.

Believe me; things could be far, far worse than they are if Christians didn’t involve themselves in the public square & voting booths.”

Church mark this down…***Christians have a sacred duty to vote, and when we vote, we should vote our convictions, our beliefs and our values***.

Now before we look at what the Bible says about voting, let us look at: ***How our individual votes count.***

Song of Solomon 2:15 says, “Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.”

* Foxes sometimes, in search of food, would enter into the grape orchards and devour the grapes and spoil the crop. However, the little foxes were too small to reach the grape bunches so they would chew on the vines and it would kill the whole vine. Instead of the farmer just losing his crop, he would lose his vine which was more disastrous. Spiritually some things we do or allow that we might think are little or insignificant can also be disastrous for us.

Here's some “little foxes” that generally keep us from our civic responsibilities, in the area of voting.

* “My one vote doesn’t count anyway.”
* “I’m disillusioned by the whole political process.”
* “I’m already too busy to take the time to cast an informed vote, so I just don’t vote at all.”
* “Politics are corrupt anyway and as a Christian I don’t want to be involved.”

The devil uses these lies and others so that he can keep godly men and women away from the polls and get the candidates of his choice elected. If we do nothing, it makes it easy for the enemy to push through policies and those people who could become the wrong direction for our nation.

Now these are just some of the excuses that people use to justify their failure to exercise their civil responsibility to vote. Only heaven will reveal the many opportunities that we had to change things for the better in this nation, yet, we failed to do so because we failed to use our right to vote. Maybe we do not realize the privilege we have to be able to have a voice in the choice of “who shall be our leaders and what kind of laws should govern our land.” If we were to go to a country that did not afford its people this right and live under the usual dictators that rule those countries, we might be more thankful for this advantage.

**What the Bible Says About Voting…**

The heart of God is expressed in the Bible as to His concern for government leaders and leadership by telling us as Christians that we should pray & should take this very seriously.

* *Timothy 2:1-4*

*I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them.****2****Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.****3****This is good and pleases God our Savior,****4****who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*

We are called to pray for our leaders so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in godliness and honesty. If God wants us to pray for those in authority, then surely, He wants us to pray about who we should vote for in every election. Because we may have friends who are on both sides of the political aisle & who are Christians, I want to share some basic things when making any political choice for candidates of the political office, local and national, and vote with those precepts and principles in mind.

Our vote should not be based on someone’s skin color or ethnic background, traditional background, or whether they are male or female, or Democrat or Republican, as there are good and bad people in all of these categories. The most important thing when voting is not whether we are a Republican or Democrat or any other party, but rather what Biblical principles are we following when choosing any candidate and voting on law or propositions. Here are some guidelines that I pray will be helpful.

***1 Timothy 2: 1-2 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.***

1. **Are the candidates qualified for the particular office they are running for**?

* *Hosea 4:6a: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge— “*

You would not what someone operating on you that was not qualified to do the surgery, neither do you want someone who is not qualified, nor experienced in governmental matters to be in a position of authority they are not qualified for or they do not have enough knowledge and experience for the job. Without experience and the proper qualifications, bad decisions made by those in power will affect all of the people adversely and sometimes it is years before they can even be reversed, if ever.

1. **What have they said? What is their past voting record?**

* *Proverbs 12:19: “The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.”*

For all of us, the words we say and the deeds we do determine who we really are. Talk is cheap, as that is probably the main problem the average person has with most politicians as they promise much and delivered little. Certainly, we need to allow politicians to have their opinions in certain areas. But when they “promise things” is it a matter of them saying something in order to get votes or win favor at the moment.? Some politicians and political ads for the Props will lie for the moment just to get into office or get passed, so we must check for the truth and the facts in controversial matters.

1. **Who do they associate with?**

* *Proverbs 13:20: “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”*

The old adage of “birds of a feather flock together” reveals our own nature. People we associate with or have been associated with, definitely have an influence in what we believe. We all hang out with the people we like and whom we have things in common with. The choice of our friends and associates reveals our own beliefs, and ideology. We even use the expression, “Look at the crowd they are running with.”

4.) **How do they stand on the life and death issues like abortion?**

* *Proverbs 6:16-17: “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood.”*
* *Deuteronomy 27:25: “Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person.”*

In essence the answer to these questions will determine their integrity and character. Character is very important to me personally and what they believe about abortion is of major concern to me as anyone who does not see that abortion is murder has either bad character, flawed judgment or is grossly deceived and I would not want that person in a position of authority.

There is a Prop (Prop 1) on the ballot Tuesday, here in California for the freedom in abortions which “will ensure that people have the freedom to make their own medical decisions with their health care providers — based on scientific facts, not a political agenda.”

I think the Bible is very clear that who should be in charge of life and death situations regarding birth and death...His name is God. The Bible clearly states we will come under judgment for this action of abortion. As Christians, if we vote for someone or a policy in favor of those who believes in abortion, then we share in the guilt of this crime and the Bible says we will suffer a curse on our land for it and that curse is death in our land. How it must grieve the heart of God how we’ve become numb to this tragedy.

5.) **It is very important to saturate our decisions in prayer**.

* *Philippians 4:6a - Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything...*

This way we can get the Holy Spirit’s approval to our choices since He sees the hearts of men and can warn us if we are leaning in the wrong direction in our decisions. We must remember we are not voting for perfect people or perfect policies, but certainly some people and polices are better than others and the Holy Spirit can give us spiritual insight as to who and what these might be. Candidate ads and Prop ads can fool people by their persuasive rhetoric, but they cannot fool God and if we stay close to God, He will guide us in the best choice for each person and props being offered. Remember, “by their fruits ye shall know them.”

6.) **We must understand as we vote, we are voting or agreeing to the things they are proposing.**

If these things are not in agreement with the Word of God, then be careful because we are siding against God and His Word. If we give support to anti-Biblical things or support to anti-Biblical ways of implementing them, then we are going against Christian principles. The Word of God is very clear that when we agree with God we will be blessed, but when we agree with things that are against His Word then we will receive a curse.

Scriptures tell us as Christians that we are to be good citizens and pay our taxes as well, and as good citizens here in the U.S.A., we should not leave the operation of the government to ungodly men & women. How can we prevent that? GO OUT & VOTE!

* We need to use our votes wisely.
  + We will be accountable before God as to how we voted.
  + Did we spend the time in study and prayer so that we could vote wisely for the proper candidates, as well as the right issues?

This may hurt a bit, but if we have complaints about how things are going, those in leadership that are immoral or any new law or Prop they’re trying to pass that are stupid, offensive, and anti-Biblical; we might need lay some of the complaint at the steps of the church?

In closing this morning, you may be sitting there I don’t care for any of the candidates or props being proposed…One is this way, and the other is that way…Ok…I understand, but that’s even more of a reason that we need to pray, study, and be prepared before we mark the checkbox.

This is an interesting mid-Term election to say the least, one that has never been like any other. But at the end of the day, we need to look as Christians to the biblical & moral ways we want to see in America, and as Americans how we want this country to move forward as a nation. A Nation under God, or A nation against God?

So, this morning, what about our responsibility’s as good citizens?

* Are you registered to vote?
* Will you take time to study the propositions, laws, and the representatives on the ballots?
* Of the candidates being voted on, which one most closely follow Bible standards?
* Will you set apart some time to pray about your decision?

So, what we need to take with us is this: **“It is our duty as Christians & Responsible Citizens to let our vote be made.”**