

## Voting According To The Bible (Part 2)

After the debate last Tuesday, I was ready to throw in the towel on this series. Between a candidate who makes really good decisions but can't control his tongue, and a candidate who sounds good but is liberal to the core, I was beside myself. Mad and discouraged.

But the stakes are so high, we *have* to press on. We have to fight for what's best and vote according to the Bible. Because everything from the moral fabric of our laws to our constitutional freedoms are on the line. Even our form of government. I believe that.

➤ I started last week by addressing **4 Objections** to even *talking* about voting. To remove some barriers that might keep you from listening. Objections like . . .

“The church should stick to **Kingdom** matters.”

“It's **against** the law.”

“It **violates** the separation of church and state.”

“You should just preach the **Bible**.”

4 objections that don't hold water.

Then I began to lay out some biblical principles. Because when you get right down to it, it's not what *we* think that's important, but what God thinks. It's not how *we* see the world, but how God sees it.

The first principle, was . . .

### 1. **Vote**

The well-being of our nation *depends* on it, and far too many don't. Even though . . .

- **It matters**

As our nation goes, we go. Jeremiah 29:7. Vote because it matters and vote because . . .

- **It's easy**

Leaving us with no excuse.

Which brings us to a third reason:

- **It's our responsibility**

Just like mowing your yard is your responsibility as a *homeowner*, voting is your responsibility as a *citizen*.

Responsibility, because it's one of our *roles* in this form of government. We should vote, **to fulfill our role**. Our role in the form of government that *God* has established.

This democratic republic isn't some construct of man that God had no part in. Nor is it a product of chance that we can just slough off. Romans 13:1 says:

*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority [no government] except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God [established by him].* (ESV)

The governments that exist in our world, have been ordained and set up by God. That's what it says. *There is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.* Started and established. Ours included.

And we are to be *subject* to it. *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.* Submit to the government.

As long as the government doesn't force us to do something wrong, or keep us from doing what's right, we ought to make every effort to do what it asks. Including voting. When the government that God has put in place gives us the opportunity to vote, we ought to vote.

Especially so, because God has *placed* us here. Each and every one of us. *He made from one man [Adam] every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.* (Acts 17:26)

We're not here, at this time and place, by accident. We're here by God's decision. Under a government of God's doing. A form of democracy where we choose our leaders by voting. Fulfill your role.

➤ Second, it's our responsibility **to do what is good**. Vote, because it's our responsibility to do what's good. A way to be salt and light as Jesus said it (Matthew 5:13-16). A way to *seek the welfare of the city where he has sent us* (Jeremiah 29:7); seek its good. A way to seize the opportunity; like it says in Galatians 6:10. *As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone.* Put all that together, and voting is a responsibility to do what is good.

And as if *that* wasn't enough to spur us on, there's James 4:17. Applicable to *all* of life. *[17] Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

Failing to vote is wrong. Because it doesn't seek the *welfare* of our country, it doesn't do *good* to everyone, and it's a failure to do what's *right*. Which makes it a responsibility of the highest order.

And last here, vote because . . .

- **It's needed**

It matters, it's easy, it's our responsibility, and it's needed.

Needed first of all, **to oppose foolish people**. 1 Peter 2:13-15.

Similar to Paul in Romans 13, Peter addresses the issue of government. Saying in v13: *[13] Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, [14] or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. [15] For this is the will of God, that by doing good [in this case, by following our leaders and exercising our right to vote] you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.* People who don't know any better, or people who *do*, but have an agenda.

Voting is a good, that's needed to oppose foolish people. To oppose and expose those who advocate unbiblical philosophies and foolish actions.

Things like socialism – redistributing private property and personal wealth through government mandate. It's unbiblical and foolish. Or how about indefinite welfare to those who are able to work? Or defunding the police. Abolishing ICE. Government-run healthcare. Environmental extremism. Judicial activism. Packing the Supreme Court. “Burning the system down.”

Those things have either never worked, or they're unbiblical. And voting is needed to oppose them. If we don't, tyranny will triumph. The tyranny of foolishness. Tyranny fills

the void of apathy every time.

➤ Second, voting is needed **to preserve our way of life.**

A peaceful and quiet life as Paul says it. 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*

At stake is a *peaceful and quiet life* that's *godly and dignified in every way*. And it starts with voting. Putting the right people in positions of leadership in the first place. That's where our way of life continues or stops.

And now more than ever, it's at risk. From riots and looting to doxing and intimidation, it's at risk. From viewpoint discrimination to religious restrictions, it's at risk. From anger to hatred, and everything in between, it's at risk. And if we're going to preserve it, we have to vote.

And when you do, don't waste it. Don't vote for someone who has no chance of winning, because you can't stomach the thought of voting for someone who *can* win. That's just a vote for the eventual winner that other people pick; sometimes foolishly. Because it's one *less* vote to oppose him.

Vote, and vote well. Because it matters, it's easy, it's our responsibility, and it's needed. That's the first principle.

The second, is to . . .

## **2. Vote biblically**

Which sounds all good, but if I polled a hundred of you, I'd probably get 50 different answers as to what it means. Or no answers at all.

And yet it's right in front of us. Literally. Voting biblically means to . . .

• **Align your decisions with God's Word.** It means to vote for the candidate or party whose values, policies, and agendas most closely align with the Bible. It means thinking about the issues as *God* thinks of them; seeing them as *he* sees them. And then voting for the candidate who is most closely *aligned* with his perspective.

It's not voting according to the donkey or elephant, but the Lamb. If you profess to be *saved* according to the truth of Scripture, you should *vote* according to Scripture. After all, it's our rule of faith. Our guide for life. Our instruction manual.

➤ For instance, the Bible is clear that abortion is wrong. Taking the life of another human being, for no justifiable cause, is wrong. So to vote for a candidate or party that advocates or *supports* abortion, is also wrong. It's not aligning your decisions with biblical principles. In fact, it's a *contradiction* of those principles. And offensive to the God who wrote them.

Same thing for transgender issues. God created us male and female. Biologically. So to vote for someone who advocates or supports transgender bathroom use, or transgender participation in sports, or transgender indoctrination in schools, is wrong. It's not voting biblically.

Same for religious freedom. Voting for someone who thinks that a Christian baker is obligated to custom design a cake for a gay marriage, is wrong. It's not voting biblically. Neither is voting for a candidate or party that thinks your freedom of religion is a cover for discrimination. Or that it should be confined to the 4 walls of a church. Oh, they don't say those things *explicitly*, but others do; for them. And the laws and policies they advocate certainly *insinuate* them.

And the list goes on. From illegal immigration and open borders, to ongoing riots and increasing crime. Voting for someone who takes a "live and let live" approach to those things, is not voting biblically. And only results in more crime; more chaos. Which ends up diminishing the freedoms for all of us.

To vote biblically is to surrender your thinking to God's thinking. His Word. Not that any candidate is going to line up perfectly. But that you're going to have to choose the *most* biblical. The most biblical platform and the most biblical perspective. Even if that means choosing the lesser of two evils.

Align your decisions with God's Word.

### • **And don't rationalize**

That's the second part of what it means to vote biblically.

I am so disheartened these days, by the number of believers who are trying to rationalize their vote for someone, who advocates and supports abortion. Like the article I just read this morning: *We Are Pro-life Evangelicals For Biden* (Christian Post, 9/2/20). No kidding.

And if the contradiction of that *headline* doesn't bother you, the rationalization that follows, should. Saying that poverty, climate change, and racism are more important than abortion.

At least those in poverty have a chance. At least climate change is reversible; even if it *is* as bad as the alarmists say. And racism isn't killing a thousand black people every day like abortion is. So to say that you're a pro-life, Bible-believing follower of Jesus Christ, who supports a pro-abortion candidate for office, is a rationalization. And wrong.

➤ Even worse are believers who rationalize their support of a pro-abortion candidate, just because they don't like the personality of the *pro-life* candidate. Or think the abortion issue is a lost cause. "So vote for whoever you want. It's okay."

You know what that's like? That's like voting for someone in 1860 who ran against Lincoln and supported *slavery*, because you thought Lincoln was kind of dull. "And you're not going to get rid of slavery anyway, so you might as well stop being a one-issue voter." It's an *unthinkable* rationalization today. And yet people are doing it with abortion right and left.

Just like many Christians did it in Germany with the holocaust. Turning a blind eye toward the crematoriums because "there are other issues you know."

But perhaps the worst, is the rationalization that voting for a party or candidate who opposes abortion on every front, by every legal means possible, "may not be the best way

to end it.” That’s what some people are saying. Even some “Christian leaders.”

Which is exactly what people said to William Wilberforce, the great abolitionist in England. “Come on, William. Do you really think lobbying Parliament, influencing culture, and trying to pass laws is the best way to address the issue? You’re going to offend people. And upset the apple cart.”

It’s disheartening, it’s maddening, and it’s wrong. All of it. When all along, it’s crystal clear in the Bible that all issues do not carry the same moral weight. Some sins are worse than others this side of heaven. Murder being first and foremost. Because “if *life* isn’t sacred, nothing is.” (Chuck Colson) Don’t rationalize.

Align your decisions with *God’s* Word, and vote biblically.

### 3. **Vote wisely**

Knowledgeably. Rationally. Sensibly. Like Solomon said. *Be wise, and direct your heart in the way* (Prov 23:19). The way that’s right. The way that’s best. Because *the wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace*. Prov 3:35. If we don’t vote wisely, we’ll get exactly what we deserve. Disgrace, dishonor, and dysfunction.

You say, “Great. How do I do that? How do I *vote wisely* so that our country inherits honor, and walks in the way of righteousness?”

First, is . . .

#### • **By thinking critically**

Vote wisely by thinking critically. Not negatively, but thoroughly. Deeply. Considering more than your initial reaction and first impression. More than what meets the eye.

Thinking critically means looking past the glittering generalities and clever clichés, to the substance. If there is any. Thinking critically means differentiating between impossible promises, and realistic goals. It means turning down the political pundits, and turning up your *own* thoughts.

It means dispensing with identity politics, where you vote a certain way because everybody else you know does; and coming to your own conclusions. That’s the first way to vote wisely. By thinking critically.

The second, is . . .

#### • **By getting informed**

An ignorant electorate is the downfall of democracies. Because apart from information, and information that’s true, people are easily swayed and easily misled. That’s why we have a *Voter Resources* page on our website. To help inform you.

If you get most of your information about politics from social media, you’re not informed. If you get most of your thoughts about a candidate from YouTube or late night comedians, you’re not informed. And if you can’t put your Candy Crush Soda down long enough to read a voter guide, you definitely won’t vote wisely. You just as well let your *neighbor* decide your future.

Get informed so that you can vote with your head and not just your heart. Get informed so

you can vote based on facts instead of feelings. Policies instead of personalities. Substance instead of style.

Because those are the things that will last. Personalities will come and go. Styles will change. But the laws and policies and substance will stay. For better or for worse. Vote wisely by getting informed.

And third, vote wisely . . .

#### • **By looking ahead**

What will the agendas and positions of the parties and candidates *lead* to? *After* the election. Look ahead by considering the *long-term* implications of your vote; not just who wins or loses.

Will they promote virtue or vice with their policies? Order or chaos? Capitalism or socialism? Generosity or obligation? Freedom or tyranny? Look ahead. Because the erosion of our rights has already begun. Not to mention our *moral* decay. And you only get to vote for socialism once. Vote wisely.

And last . . .

#### 4. **Vote prayerfully**

Seeking *God’s* will for your vote. *God’s* will for our country. *God’s* will for our leaders. Get on your knees and pray fervently.

Look at 1 Timothy 2:1-2 again.

*First of all, then* [Paul says], *I urge that supplications* [petitions, requests], *prayers* [appeals], *intercessions* [to God, on behalf of others], *and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*

Key to voting biblically and wisely, is voting prayerfully. Praying that God will guide *your* vote, and the votes of others. Praying that he will establish the *best* leaders for our country. Praying for his *mercy* on our nation. Praying that he will *continue* to “shed his grace on us. That’s voting prayerfully. And not just *at* the polls, but before the polls and after the polls.

4 principles to vote according to the Bible. Vote, vote biblically, vote wisely, and vote prayerfully.

Prayer – Lord, our eyes are on you. Will you guide us in *our* decisions? And do the same in others? Will you establish the *best* leaders for our country? For such a time as this? Will you pour out your grace and show us mercy? Impress these truths on our hearts, that we may vote according to your Word. We pray in Jesus’ name, amen.