



The Good News

November 4th, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 44

To Vote or Not to Vote? (Midterm Edition)

By Michael McCleary

In two days, Americans will vote to elect new representatives, new senators, and various other officials to represent and uphold the values Americans hold dear. This voting cycle is known as a midterm election, and the last several months leading up to Nov. 6 has been rife with controversy, uncertainty, and contention as political parties vie for positioning and candidates seek to gain the upper hand among voters. So, for this week's article, we will consider how Christians should view the prospect of voting on Nov. 6th. We are going to consider words from a Gospel preacher who offered an excellent thought two years ago during the presidential election that conveys the teaching of God's Word regarding voting in the election and what our thoughts should be throughout these uncertain political times. The following comes from a Facebook post by Ryan Hasty, someone I first became associated with while I was preaching in South Carolina. He posted this on October 9th, 2016:

"Political rhetoric is at an all-time high. But what is worse are the Christians that are dividing over an election about which God assured us He is in complete control (Dan 2:21; Prov 21:1; Rom 13:1). Meanwhile, 3 people here in Auburn have obeyed the gospel in the last 8 days. Others have preceded them, more will follow. Other local churches are seeing similar results as honest hearts are seeking citizenship in the one kingdom that is "imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away" (1 Pet 1:4).

If we could just harness all of that energy expended towards lobbying for/against politicians and direct it towards preaching Christ crucified to this dying world, the devil wouldn't stand a chance in this country. Worried about unemployment numbers? The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few (Matt 9:37). Jesus is now hiring sowers, gatherers, tillers, and the like. His foreign and domestic policy is "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and

has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16).

Get it? Jesus has already won. See the book of Revelation for more details. Let us "set [our] minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col 3:2)."

In response to someone's reply, he said "By all means, exercise your right to vote if your conscience allows you. Encourage others to do the same. For those Christians who cannot in good conscience vote for either candidate, "The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent" (Ex 14:14)."

– Ryan Hasty, Facebook, Oct. 9th, 2016 10:17 PM

The reason we are considering Ryan's old post is that he offers an excellent reminder of perspective – God is in control! No, God will not override the free-will of man. But He will use whoever is in power to bring about His will. This means that, regardless of the individuals or party who wins in the House, Senate, etc., the ruler of this world will still be God. And while this midterm election cycle and its outcome should be on our minds and in our prayers, we should not forget that we are "*strangers and pilgrims on the earth*" (Heb 11:13). Why should we not forget this? "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...*" (Phil. 3:20) Whatever the outcome of the elections, it will certainly have repercussions for the entire country. But don't think for a second that God has forgotten His people or is unaware of the issues and challenges we are facing, "*For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'*" So we may boldly say: "*The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*" (Heb. 13:5-6) The Hebrew writer offers these words to the brethren in a context of reminding them to be content and trust in God. Now, and indeed all the time, we should do the same...because the ultimate issue here is not who will be our next senator or which party will have the upper hand in the government; the issue is about who God will allow to be the next senator and whether we trust in God. "In God We Trust" is on our currency...but is it in our hearts?